

Summer/Fall 2022

Jennifer Gierke, Editor

Beacon@LWML-NED.org



Dear Sisters in Mission:

Since the preferred means of communication today is no longer the mail, it is always exciting to find a personal card or note in the mailbox! We don't feel quite the same way on the days when the mailbox contains solicitations, bills, and advertisements. We especially don't feel that way when it contains a letter with news of a problem that needs to be resolved. I recently received one such letter. It stated that the payment I had correctly made had been erroneously applied to my account, so they had removed it and charged me a non-payment fee and interest! I immediately called to attempt to rectify the issue. There was just one problem. They were never available to take my call. I called the number every day at every possible time of day for over a month and always received the same message: "Due to a higher call volume than expected, we are unable to take your call. Please call back the next business day." Click.

I must admit to being frustrated as the days passed, and I was not able to talk to someone who could help me, but it reminded me of how blessed we are in prayer. When we turn to God in faith with our concerns, we are assured that He hears and answers us. The volume of prayers is never too high that we are put off for a day, a week, or a month! And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him (1 John 5:14-15).

God graciously invites us to pray to Him. Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7).

We pray to Him trusting that He knows what is best for us and that He wants to give us His good gifts. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you (John 16:23b).

God has promised to hear our prayers, so we pray boldly trusting that He always keeps His promises. He hears the praver of the righteous (Proverbs 15:29b).

God answers every prayer, but we know that His answer may not always be the answer we had hoped for. We've all prayed for healing for loved ones, but God's answer was to take them home to Him. We may have prayed for the healing of a broken relationship, a better job, or for a loved one to return to the faith, and we haven't seen it happen. When God says "no" or "wait," we still trust that He hears us and in His great love is working everything out for our



good. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord (Psalm 27:14)!

God loves to hear from us and delights in our praise, thanksgiving, and requests. He wants us to share our joys and our sorrows with Him. Do you want your children to come to you only when they need something? Wouldn't you prefer a daily conversation with them where they share their everyday lives, their joys, their thanks, and their struggles? Of course, and God loves the conversation with His children. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear (Isaiah 65:24).

We are to follow the example of Jesus who made communing with His father a priority. The Gospels share many times where Jesus sought out time to be alone with His Father in prayer.

- And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray (Matthew 14:23).
- In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God (Luke 6:12).

(Continued on page 2)

President's Page continued from page 1

- But he would withdraw to desolate places to pray (Luke 5:16).
- And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed (Mark 1:35).

Prayer should not be a command that we grudgingly follow and check off our to-do list each day. God's desire is that in turning our troubles over to Him, we find the true peace in this life that only He can give. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God* (Philippians 4:6).

LWML can assist you with your prayer life. You can find the 2022 Prayer Service, "Lord, Teach us to Pray," based on Luke 11:1, on the LWML website (lwml.org). It can be used individually or in a group setting so consider using it at your next society meeting. On the website there are also devotions and Bible studies on prayer as well as an idea for a Prayer Flip Notebook. Check it out!

What a gift prayer is to us! As you are daily in the Word and in prayer, may you be confident that God hears you and answers you according to His will and for your eternal good.

In closing, a well-loved hymn says it best!

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear— All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer! LSB # 770. Text and music: Public domain

Serving the Lord with gladness, Sharon Dever LWML-NED President

# Inside this issue:

President's Letter	1
Letter Cont., September to Remember	2
Counselor's Corner	3
YWR, 2023 National Convention	4
Fall Retreat Information	5
Fall Retreat, LWML Sunday	6
2022-2024 Mission Grants	7
Convention Photos	8-9
Treasurer Report, What's Your 80?	10
Zone News, District Updates	11
Mission Trip Scholarship News	12
National Mission Grant Presented	13
LWML-NED Officers/Board Members	14
Fall Retreat Reg/ Covid Release	15-16



## LWML 2022 GivingTuesday: September to Remember

Giving Tuesday - a day of giving - is celebrated by many organizations the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. LWML is celebrating this event on September 13, 2022 - our own September to Remember. This year, we will focus on "Treasures of Your Heart."

Watch for daily posts the first two weeks of September as LWML shares stories of "Treasurers of Your Heart." We encourage you to share a story about one of the treasures of YOUR heart on Facebook. For September 13th only, we invite you to donate toward the LWML Mission Goal in honor or in memory of the special treasure and pray for our mission grants. Matching gifts will double your impact!



## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER** by Rev. Volker Heide, Junior Counselor

Hello, I am Pastor Volker Heide of the Lutheran Church of Madison, CT. I am the new Junior Pastoral Counsellor for the New England District of the LWML. I was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1960, and I grew up in Henderson, which is in East Texas. I have been a pastor for over 30 years. While I thought of being a pastor when I was a young boy, I was drawn to the Merchant Marine after my family lived in Galveston for a year (My father, who worked in the oil industry, was working in the refineries in Texas City for that year.)



At Galveston, I would watch the ships entering Galveston Bay as they headed up the Houston ship channel. I was hooked by the sea. After high school, I attended the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. In 1982, I

graduated with a degree in Nautical Science and a Third Mate's Coast Guard license. During my senior year at King's Point, I met my future wife, Ellen, who was from Valley Stream, Long Island. This would change my life in ways I didn't realize at the time. Looking back, we can see how the Lord works in our life.

After a few years in the Merchant Marine, I realized that being gone overseas on voyages for nine months out of the year is something best suited for a single person. After I married Ellen in 1984, I began to reconsider my career. I began to go back to what I thought about when I was a young boy – being a pastor. As a boy, I always looked up to my pastor, Harold Wageman, of little Pilgrim Lutheran in Kilgore, Texas. He was a simple man, but when he preached about Jesus from the pulpit on Sundays, his face would light up and he would get all excited. That always stuck with me. There was something obviously very special about this Jesus, who Pastor Wageman spoke about with such enthusiasm all the time. (You never know what kind of a positive impression you might be making on someone's life. That is often how the Lord works through our witness.)

In 1986, I began attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and after graduating in 1990, I began serving at my first parish at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Corinth, Mississippi. In 1998, we came to Madison, and we have been here ever since. Ellen and I have two daughters, Melissa and Kristen, who have moved back to Connecticut after going to school on Long Island and living in New York City. As I look back on my life, I realize that God always has a plan and purpose for us. We are all called to serve the Lord Jesus in different ways and in different places. The Lord Jesus will use each of us to get excited and share his love. He lights up our lives with his grace and forgiveness, and things are never the same. Thanks be to God for his wondrous gift of our Savior. Amen!

Pastor Volker Heide

Junior Counselor

# Human Care Committee

What an honor it is to be the Human Care Committee Chairman.

I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne in 2016 with my MA in Diakonal Studies. My call is to Hope Lutheran Church in Bangor, Maine, where I was tasked to reach out and support the Veterans and active military in the area. While going through Chaplaincy Pastoral Education classes, I experienced first-hand the use of horses in healing moral injury. Since 2017 I have been working to bring therapeutic horsemanship to Central Maine.



We are isolated here in the state of Maine. Hope Lutheran is the most northeastern

LCMS church in the nation and there are only three LCMS churches in the whole state of Maine. Pretty amazing when you consider that the land masses of the other states of the NED will fit into the land mass of the state of Maine! This sometimes leads us to believe that the struggles we endure here in Maine are specifically Maine, such as isolation, loneliness, depression. But my recent travels to the LWML-NED Convention and the New England District Convention showed me that this is not true. Isolation, loneliness and depression are to be found everywhere, even with those that we perceive to be better off than ourselves.

Praise be to God, that as sisters in Christ we have community no matter where we are. We can gather weekly for Divine Service, participate in Bible studies, enjoy the daily LWML devotion through your email or on FaceBook. My favorite is the daily service from Ft Wayne, Indiana. It never fails to bring me strength and support. Be gentle with each other and with yourself and show Christ's grace and mercy to a dying world.

Deaconess Kim Slininger

# Young Woman Representative to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League National 80<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee, WI



<u>WHO</u>: a mature young woman, preferably 22-35 years of age, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously attended a convention as a Young Woman Representative; who has a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and is willing to participate in the full scope of the Convention.

<u>WHAT</u>: The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) National Convention. The Convention includes missions and missionary updates, business meeting, break-out sessions with interesting speakers or servant opportunities, Bible Study, and lots of Christian sister fellowship!

WHEN: Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

WHERE: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**HOW**: Compliments of the LWML-NED! We will pay the registration fee and for your hotel room (shared with another YWR) and airfare.

WHY: Because we love the LWML & we love you & we'd like you to love the LWML!

LWML is also known as **Lutheran Women in Mission** and we think that phrase and our mission statement describe us perfectly: *The mission of the Lutheran Women in New England is to continue glorifying our God through acts of love, service, and encouragement toward each other and those whose lives we touch.* 

**<u>NEXT</u>** STEPS: Fill out an application\* and submit it to the Young Women Committee at <u>mrs.sage@veino.com.</u> Paperwork is due back by November 15, 2022.

We look forward to hearing from you and introducing you to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.





# **LWML-NED 2022 FALL RETREAT**

# Be Thou My Vision (for Such a Time as This) Donna Snow, Bible Study Leader

WHEN: Friday, November 4, 7:00 pm– Saturday, November 5, 3:00 pm

WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton at Bradley Airport
16 Ella Grasso Turnpike
Windsor Locks, CT 06096
860-627-5171 (mention LWML—last day for special room rate is Oct. 14th)

WHAT: Bible Study Fellowship and Singing Craft Table...and much, much more

Registration Information – Registration Fee: \$50 Early Bird Registration fee (Before September 10th) and First Time Attendees: Pay only \$45!!! Saturday Lunch is included in the registration fee. Registration form is available at <u>www.LWML-NED.org</u>.

"The story of Esther is as dramatic as any major motion picture. After the past few years, we can certainly relate. Esther kept her eyes on God despite the drama that swirled around her. We will walk through her epic story to learn how we can apply those same principles to our daily faith walk as we trust God alone to be the vision for our future."

Not raised going to church regularly, Donna understands how intimidating it can be to open the Bible. Now, after walking with the Lord for 30 years, she loves to encourage others embarking on that wonder-filled path of faith.

Donna attends Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas, where she's an active supporter of LWML and mission work. Donna is a life-long Texan and coffee lover. She is an adventurous traveler, avid reader, dabbling gardener and closet chef, but home is always her favorite place to be.



Questions: email Christina Anop: christianlife@lwml-ned.org.

We will support New England District Lutheran Schools: (Holyoke MA, Bristol CT, Danbury CT, and Keene NH) by **Gifts cards** (Target/Walmart/Costco/Hobby Lobby/Michael's/Barnes & Noble/ Amazon); and/or **Clorox wipes**, **Tissues**, **Spiral notebooks**, **Card Stock** (red, white, and blue)

Please bring them to the Retreat! Thank you!



# LWML Sunday

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

"For Us and With Us," is the theme for LWML Sunday 2022 and is based on Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul tells us that each of us has faced challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength (Romans 8:31–39). But, in Christ, who is for us and with us, we are already more than conquerors through Him who loved us. This celebratory LWML Sunday will encourage all hearers of the victory which is already ours through Baptism, so we might live each day confidently trusting in Christ.

2022 LWML Sunday downloadable materials, authored by Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson, are now available on <u>www.lwml.org/lwml-Sunday</u>





# Lutheran Women's Missionary League New England District Mission Grants for 2022-2024 2022 -2024 Mission Goal: \$75,000

This Mission Goal will fund \$48,750 for LWML-NED Mission Grants, \$18,750 for national LWML Mission Grants and \$7,500 for LWML-NED administration.

- 1. Sowing Seeds for a Harvest: Vocational Training in Liberia, Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project \$5,000
- 2a. Bringing New Hampshire Families to Christ, Trinity Lutheran School, Keene, NH \$600
- 2b. YWR and Junior Pastoral Counselor to National LWML Convention, LWML-NED \$2,000
- 3. Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Trinity Lutheran Church, Ashaway, RI \$1,200
- 4. Brazilian Portuguese Language Outreach, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lynnfield, MA \$5,000
- 5. Ethiopian Outreach of Boston, LCMS-NED Church Planting and Revitalization Committee \$5,000
- 6. Ambassadors for Christ, First Lutheran School, Holyoke, MA \$1,000
- 7. New England District Church Planting, LCMS-NED Church Planting and Revitalization Committee \$5,000
- 8. Hope for the Hopeless—LCMS Life Ministries, LCMS Office of National Mission, St. Louis, MO \$5,000
- 9. God's Word for Teenagers Around the World, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI \$2,500
- 10. Sea Containers for Haiti Earthquake Response, Ministry in Mission, Chesterland, OH \$5,000
- 11. Tuition Assistance for Deaf Students, St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf, Dearborn, MI-\$2,500
- 12. Wheels for the Lord's Physically Disabled, Good Shepherd Family, Stockton, CA \$1,800
- 13a Outreach, Meals, and Bible Study Materials, Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA \$1,500
- 13b. Sowing a Missionary Mindset through Study Abroad, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN \$5,600
- 14. International Students: Making Jesus Known Throughout the World, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO \$50

## LWML Mission Grant Resources

A different mission from each biennium's grants will be featured each month. For your convenience, a monthly Devotion and Prayer Guide and Story can be downloaded for your use. Share these with your church through newsletters and bulletins. Use them in your society, zone and district to help people see their mites at work. What an honor it is for us to pray and give our mites to the furthering of God's kingdom and His glory! Visit <u>www.lwml.org/mission-grant-resources</u>.



# LWML-NED 29<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention Highlights

## April 29-30,2022



NED Young Women's Representatives - Lydia, Emily and Megan

Representatives from Lutheran Church of Madison



324 pairs of black shoes were collected for the Gbanga Mission





LWML-NED Executive Board Installation

Comfort Dogs Leah and Lydia were on hand and ready to make new friends.





Deaconess Kim Slininger shares about the Spirit Warrior Program in Maine and how it ministers to veterans.

Meeting up with old friends is always one of the best parts of conventions



National Representative Karla Koehler shares LWML news



Mission Advocate David Fiala



LWML-NED LCMS MEN had their own table at convention



Pastoral Counselor Rev. Ed Harkey



Past Presidents Lynn Batchelder, Leslie Colligan and Barbara Lis



Comfort Dogs Leah and Lydia with some of their friends



Beacon Editor Jennifer Gierke and PIO Editor Gail Milke



# **LWML - New England District Mite Report**

## News from the Treasurer, Sue Lastowski

Our New England District has had a very strong start to our new biennium. Since the convention, our women have already gathered \$15,628 in mites and we have sent an additional \$4,492 to the LCMS's response for Ukrainian Relief.

Our first four mission projects have been fully funded:

\* Vocational Training in Gbarnga

\* Outreach to New Hampshire Families through Trinity Lutheran in Keene, NH

\* Funds for our YWR and Jr. Pastoral Counselor to attend the LWML National Convention

\* Enrichment Activity Funds for Trinity Lutheran Preschool in Ashaway, RI

I have also noticed many more individual donations in the last four months. Even LWML-ers who don't have an active society where they worship are donating! The faith and steadfastness of our women never ceases to bless me.

Thank you to all of you who write me notes and update me on your lives every month. Your letters always have uplifted me and have shown me what a true "Fellowship of Believers" is all about.

Blessings to you all,

Sue Lastowski, LWML-NED Treasurer

Please continue to save and remit your mite donations. Our Mission Grants enable us to share the love of Christ locally, nationally and internationally and they continue even during COVID-19.

Please send your Mites to: Sue Lastowski LWML-NED Treasurer P.O. Box 626 Holyoke, MA 01041



In thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission.

Some ideas to get you started might be:

- 80 items in an ingathering
- 80 cans of food to an emergency shelter
- 80 hours of visiting shut-ins
- 80 religious books donated to libraries
- 80 bottles of shampoo, bars of soap, etc. to a homeless shelter
- 80 pennies, \$80, or even \$800 in an extra mite donation
- 80 lap robes to a nursing home or baby quilts to a crisis pregnancy center





Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven . (Matthew 5:16)

# Women in Mission—Zones in Action

**The Eastern Zone** is looking forward to their fall rally. Watch for more details coming soon. Contact Zone President, Leslie Colligan, with any questions: <u>EasternZone@lwml-ned.org</u>.

**The Mid-Valley Zone** is looking forward to a Zone Gathering this Fall! We will meet at one of our churches on a Saturday or a Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours of fellowship, devotions, an ingathering collection of items for a local charity, light refreshments, and perhaps a guest speaker or a Bible Study. Ideas are welcome! Please contact the Mid-Valley President Vickie Bohn for more information or to share ideas: <u>Mid-ValleyZone@lwml-ned.org</u>.

**The Mountain Laurel Zone** The Mountain Laurel Zone is having a Gathering at Christ Lutheran in Niantic, CT on Saturday morning October 15th. We hope to see you there. Contact Zone President, Barbara Lis, with any questions: <u>MTLaurelZone@lwml-ned.org</u>.

**The Northern Zone** The Northern Zone is looking forward to their fall rally, Watch for more details coming soon. Contact Zone President, Peggy Wang, with any questions: <u>NorthernZone@lwml-ned.org</u>.

First Timers and Gifts from the Heart at the Northern Zone Spring Rally in Westminster, MA.





**The Koinonia Zone**, will be hosting the **2024 LWML New England District Convention**, and the Executive Board/Convention Committee has already met to begin their work. The convention will be held Friday to Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Trumbull Marriott in Trumbull, CT. The theme of the convention will be "Songs in the Night," based on Job 35:10, "Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night." We hope you will mark the date on your calendars, and as we continue to plan, we will be thinking of the time we will be spending together in song, worship, Bible Study, devotions, fellowship, and conducting the business needed to continue to do God's work.

# From the VP of Communications

My name is Megan Hollrah and I am the new Vice President of Communications for the LWML-NED. I live in Danbury, CT, and attend Immanuel Lutheran Church. I am very excited to share what LWML-NED groups are doing throughout the year on Facebook and Instagram! If you have any questions or information about future or past events to be posted, please email me at <u>IwmInedcommunications@gmail.com</u>, and don't forget to follow the LWML-NED on Facebook (@LWML.NED) and on Instagram (@LWML-NED).



www.facebook.com/LWML.NED



www.instagram.com/lwml\_ned



# Mite Offerings at Work

Dear Mite Collecting, Prayer Warrior Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for the LWML-NED Short Term Missionary Scholarship. It assisted in buying the craft supplies that were taken to the English Bible Camp in Konin, Poland, this year. I love teaching the crafts, sharing the Gospel in craft form, in this English Bible Camp. Returning, and serving the Lord in Poland this year was a special privilege. Due to the Covid pandemic it had been three years since we had seen the children.

Also, serving in Poland this year was extra special. With overwhelming joy, we were privileged to serve more children in camp this year, and ten of the children were Ukrainian. The church in which we serve, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, is assisting and supporting many Ukrainian refugee families.

Thank you again for the Short-Term Missionary Scholarship.

Joyfully serving the Lord,

Leslie Colligan



The children singing a favorite song.





Jesus is the Bread of Life—Baking with Leslie

Using puppets to teach the day's lesson.



Daily Selfie with Pastor Butler and Pastor Riley

#### www.LWML-NED.org

# National Mission Grant Awarded!

What an exciting day for the New England District!

On Saturday, August 20, it was my joy and honor to present a \$95,000 check for the National LWML Mission Grant # 2--Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses to Deaconess Kim Slininger of Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, ME.

She accepted the check with tears in her eyes and related how the ministry Hope for Healing was within 9 days of shutting down when word came that the grant proposal had been chosen to be funded during the 2021-2023 biennium.

It was the validation Deaconess Kim needed to persevere in this mission to serve the veterans and military community in rural Maine. Her vision now involves expanding to new locations so more people can be reached, and more therapists can be involved.

Many church members, family, friends, and community supporters all gathered for a celebration complete with ice cream sundaes at the equine facility in Hartland, ME. Those in attendance met the 6 "girls" (of the 10 horses) who are part of the program, many of them rescues. We were also introduced to Chris Hubbard, who offers occupational therapy, and Michelle Ervin, who provides physical training through the outreach of Hope for Healing.

I thank President Sharon for allowing me this opportunity to witness this special moment when our mites, gathered in the form of a paper check, were put into the hands of people who are caring for those who have served our country.

For more information and resources about this mission grant, go to the LWML website under missions and mission grants.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

Sage Veino



Deaconess Kim Slininger and Sage Veino during the check presentation. Starbird Pond is in the background where the horses go swimming.













You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others. Matthew 5:14–16a



## **Position**

President Treasurer Secretary VP of Christian Life **VP of Communications** VP of Gospel Outreach VP of Organizational Resources VP of Special Focus Ministries Parliamentarian/Structure Chair Senior Pastoral Counselor Junior Pastoral Counselor Public Relations **Beacon Editor News Circulation Manager** Christian Life Committee Chair Human Care Committee Chair Mission Grant Chair YWR Committee Chair Archivist-Historian Web Servant Nominating Committee Chair Eastern Zone President Koinonia Zone President Mid Valley President Mountain Laurel VP Northern Zone President \*Newly Elected

New England District

## <u>Name</u>

Sharon Dever Sue Lastowski **Doreen Wiese** Christina Anop\* Megan Hollrah\* Dr. June Merwin\* Cindy Zattich Deac. Tiffany Manor Jan Krampitz Rev. Ed Harkey Rev. Volker Heide\* Gail Milke Jennifer Gierke Priscilla Keurulainen Delberta Novicki Deac. Kim Slininger Sue Dow Sage Veino **Betsy Gorneau** Leslie Colligan Lynn Batchelder\* Leslie Colligan Sue Dow Vickie Bohn Barbara Lis Peggy Wang

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# We are the Heart of the LWML because we are HIS:

Held by His Word; Inspired to share His Gospel; and Surrounded by His grace.





# BE THOU MY VISION (for such a time as this)!! Bible Study by Donna Snow, Tomball TX

## LWML-NED 2020 RETREAT REGISTRATION @ The DoubleTree; Bradley Airport, CT November 4 & 5, 2022

Send CHECK (payable to LWML-NED), Registration Form & Release Form to:: Pat Heather, 606 Waverly Rd, Middleboro, MA 02346 Phone #: Home 774-213-5745 email: <u>patheather47@gmail.com</u>

**Registration Fee: \$50** 

Early Bird Registration fee (before September 10<sup>th</sup>) and First time attendees: Pay only \$45!!! No discount for partial participation. No Refunds after October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Name:
Street:
City/State/Zip Code:
Home Church:
Church City Location:
LWML Zone:
Phone: (H) (C)
Email:

Please choose a <u>boxed lunch</u> for Saturday! Included in registration:

<u>Box Lunch includes</u> :
Soda/Water,
Chips, Fruit & Cookie

## If you have food allergies/health issues, please leave the info at registration.

Signature\_\_\_\_

Date

Gifts from the Heart: Don't forget to support NED Lutheran Schools : Gift cards (Target/Walmart/ Costco); Clorox Wipes; Tissues; etc. Please bring them to the Retreat!

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

The purpose of this Participant Information, Acknowledgment, Assumption of Risk and Release is to identify each person ("<u>Participant</u>") who wishes to participate in a Lutheran Women's Missionary League New England District ("<u>LWML-NED</u>") sponsored event. As a condition to becoming a Participant, LWML-NED requires you to release the LWML-NED from any liability for your safety and well-being while participating in any LWML-NED sponsored event.

### **GENERAL RELEASE**

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees as follows:

LWML-NED assumes no, and disclaims all, liability for my safety and well-being while I am a Participant. In consideration of LWML-NED permitting me to be a Participant, I

- (a) acknowledge and agree that LWML-NED cannot and does not accept any (and expressly disclaims all) responsibility for my safety and well-being; and
- (b) waive all claims arising from my participation in this LWML-NED event. Knowing and understanding the risks relating to my being a Participant, I release and discharge LWML-NED and its officers from all claims, demands, actions and causes of action that I may have, now or in the future, relating to or resulting from any illness or injuries (including death), loss or damage suffered by me while I am a Participant.

### **COVID-19 RELEASE**

Without limiting the generality of the General Release above, the undersigned acknowledges and agrees as follows: LWML-NED has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, LWML-NED cannot guarantee that any Participant will not become infected with COVID-19. Therefore, on behalf of myself and my heirs, executors and assigns, I understand, acknowledge and agree as follows:

- (a) COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization; and COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact;
- (b) Federal, state and local governments and health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people, among other preventative measures;
- (c) Participating in this LWML-NED sponsored event could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19 for me and those I come in close contact with;
- (d) I voluntarily and knowingly assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in this LWML-NED sponsored event, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability and death;
- (e) I am voluntarily participating in this LWML-NED sponsored event for my personal benefit and the value of such benefit is sufficient consideration for my voluntary execution of, and compliance with, this Participant Information, Acknowledgment, Assumption of Risk and Release;
- (f) LWML-NED cannot and does not accept any (and expressly disclaims all) responsibility for my safety and wellbeing while I am engaged in any LWML-NED event;
- (g) I voluntarily acknowledge and agree to assume all risks related to COVID-19 and I accept sole responsibility for any injury to myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability or expense, of any kind, that I may experience or incur in connection with my participation in this LWML-NED sponsored event ("<u>Claims</u>"); I release, covenant not to sue, discharge and agree to hold harmless LWML-NED and its officers, from and against the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto; and
- (h) The foregoing release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions or negligence of LWML-NED and its officers, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during or after my participation in any LWML-NED sponsored activity.
- **PHOTO RELEASE:** I grant to LWML-NED and its assigns the right and permission to take photographs and audio and video recordings during my participation, and to retain, publish, and distribute, without charge or fee, such photographs and audio and video recordings. Without limiting the foregoing, I agree that these images and recordings may be used in publications, including electronic publications and websites, and in audio-visual presentations, promotional literature, advertising, and in other similar ways

### SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_