



The Beacon

Winter/Spring 2026

The New England District Lutheran Women in Mission Newsletter

Dear LWML-ers:

This time of year can (should) be very restful. The hustle and bustle of the Christmas holidays are behind us. The decorations are boxed up in the attic. The outside lights are packed away in the shed. Winter surrounds us (at least it is surrounding me today with flurries and dropping temperatures). There is a peaceful view of a snow-covered garden as I watch an occasional squirrel skirting across the yard. This period in between the dead of winter and the new blossoms of spring, is an opportunity to take respite and slow down. You have more time to catch up on bible readings that might have been shortened or skipped during the busy holiday season. The Lord knows that we need to relax, take time to recover and enjoy a gentler pace of activity. Take advantage of this opportunity to call friends, read books, play with the children/grandchildren, bundle up and take a walk. But most important – stop and share some private time with your Lord. Before you know it, Easter will be here, spring will be upon us, and living will get wonderfully busy once again.



The President's Page

Joshua 21:44 The Lord gave them rest....

Today enjoy a slower pace
Away from the ever lasting race.
Keep yourself quiet and very still
Enjoy today, say "I will"
Take the time to say a word
Include a prayer to our Lord.
Make God smile by sharing time
Everything then will be just fine.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *LWML-NED Convention April 17 & 18, 2026.* We are going to the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA. There will be Bible studies; Focus Groups; Mites in Action presentations; Saturday lunch to network and visit with LWML friends, Friday night dinner with a keynote speaker and entertainment. And ending with a communion service with your sisters in Christ. What more could you want!!!

Registration forms and other convention information can be found starting on page 5 of this newsletter. Make your hotel reservations ASAP so you get the LWML discount. Hope to see you all there!

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

June

Dr. June Rae Merwin, President LWML-NED



Save The Date

LWML-NED Fall Retreat

November 6th and 7th, 2026

Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport
1 Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT



42ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 8–11, 2027



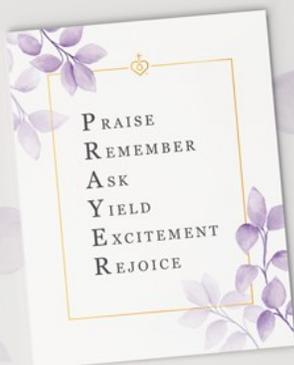
Romans 12:2

Scripture Verse:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

2026 LWML Prayer Service

P.R.A.Y.E.R. — Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice



The 2026 LWML Prayer Service, based on the acronym P.R.A.Y.E.R. — Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice — is a classic, yet updated, service from over a decade ago.

Rev. Henke wrote that the service “prompts the participants to remember that God does not speak to His children in prayer. Rather, His children speak to Him, assured that He readily speaks to them in His Word and in the Sacraments, as the Holy Spirit gives His divine counsel through very clear direction or, sometimes, His ‘nudging.’”

The 2026 LWML Prayer Service is designed to be used at any time by large or small groups. All of the downloadable resources are available at www.LWML.org/prayer-service



About Gospel Outreach...

God wants you to be yourself when sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. He has chosen you, and given you the privilege of sharing that joy and excitement of your faith with others.

Being a Christian is a blessing, and the joy of Jesus in our lives should be evident to everyone.

We want to encourage and equip you to share the Good News of Jesus' great love in your everyday living by:

- Developing a closeness to your Savior through prayer, Bible study, worship, and devotional materials

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42).

- Using every day opportunities to be God's witnesses

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).

- Reaching out, understanding that everyone is unique and loved by God

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15).



Sharing Jesus' love through action by developing relationships through activities that serve those in need. As in the LWML logo, the drop represents the blood of Christ. The ripples symbolize how we can extend the love of Christ to others by sharing the Gospel message with them.

***'Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.'* [Mark 5:19]**

Oh, the opportunities God sends to us!

Ruth Scheumann, Vice President Gospel Outreach
ruthpc@comcast.net

Jennifer Gierke, Gospel Outreach, Committee Chair
jengierke@verizon.net



LWML - New England District Mite Report

A Note from your Treasurer, Barbara Lis

Eighty-five thousand dollars! Our \$85,000 Mission Goal will help buy scholarships for Christian schools and pastoral education, resources for missionaries, meals for the needy, a wheelchair lift, and help for the homebound and the sick. We're privileged to use our hands, our feet, our voices, our lips, our silver and our gold to extend God's kingdom. We praise Him for the opportunities and challenges He presents, and we pray for the ability to meet them.

Our immediate challenge is to meet the \$85000 Goal we voted for 2 years ago. After our recent anonymous donation, we're only \$5,000 away and have until March 31st to meet it. Our Mission Grant recipients thank you in advance. Praise the Lord!

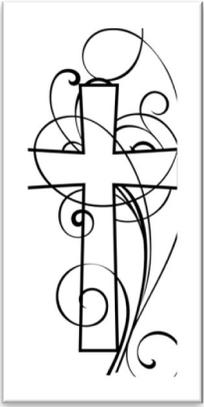


Blessings to you all,

Barbara Lis

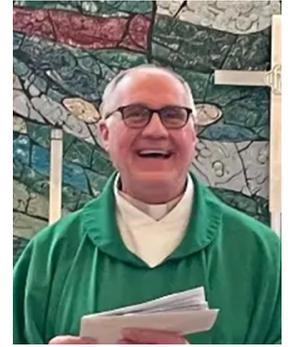
LWML-NED Treasurer

Please send your Mites to:
Barbara Lis, Treasurer
LWML-NED
P.O. Box 932
Niantic, CT 06357



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

by Rev. Volker Heide, Junior Counselor



“Behold, the Lamb of God!”

John the Baptist saws Jesus walking towards him one day, and he cried out, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Here is heaven’s answer to earth’s brokenness. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. In the Old Testament, the word “Lamb” is loaded with meaning. Lamb means sacrifice. It means blood. It means a substitute that was given in place of a sinner. It means forgiveness and deliverance.

This is especially true of the Passover lamb. Here was a lamb whose blood saved God’s people from death. This lamb died so that others could live. The blood of the Lamb brought deliverance from judgment.

John the Baptist is telling us that here is our hope. Here is Jesus of Nazareth, the perfect Lamb that God himself provides. God gives the Lamb. This is not something we have to provide or create. This is not a lamb brought by human hands, nor is it a payment we offer to God, nor something we do for God. But it is a gift that God the Father gives to us.

And what does this Lamb do? “He takes away the sin of the world.” Carefully note those words! The Lamb does not cover up our sins. He doesn’t just ignore them. He doesn’t pretend that nothing bad ever happened. No, he **takes away our sins**, and he takes them away **forever!**

Every sin. Every failure. Every regret. Every burden of guilt that follows you around is taken away and removed from God’s sight – forever! “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” This means all of your guilt, all of your shame, and all of your regrets are dealt with. They are taken away and erased forever by the blood of the Lamb. His blood removes your broken past, and he also takes away your uncertain future.

In other words, your future belongs to the risen Lord. Your entire life, from start to finish, is in his hands – those hands that were nailed to the cross, those hands that he showed to Thomas after his resurrection. The Lamb has done everything necessary to secure your future. He promises to make all things new, and that includes you! Thanks be to God for his wondrous gift. Amen!

Pastor Volker Heide, Senior Pastoral Counselor



Call to Convention

LWML New England District 2026 Convention

Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, Massachusetts
April 17-18, 2026



*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:13-14*

Convention Goal: Help participants recognize and celebrate that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, redeemed by Christ, sustained by His grace, deeply valued, and uniquely called according to His perfect design.

On behalf of the LWML New England District, I am honored to invite you to Devens, MA, for the 31st Biennial LWML New England District Convention! We invite you to join us as we gather in faith and fellowship to rejoice and praise God for His marvelous craftsmanship in creating each of us uniquely and intentionally for His divine purposes. Together, we will celebrate the beautiful truth that we are deeply known and dearly loved by Him, finding healing from self-doubt, insecurity, and past wounds as we embrace God's promises about who we are in Christ. May this special time also inspire us to renewed and joyful participation in the mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, as we share Christ's love through prayer, service, and faithful support of Mission Grants. Come and be uplifted, encouraged, and empowered as we grow together in faith and purpose!

LWML New England District President Dr. June Merwin

The voting body of the convention will vote on mission grant proposals and elect new officers for the 2026–2030 terms of office.

Attendees will learn about the mission of the LWML New England District, mission grants that have been funded as well as those to be funded by mite offerings and be grounded in Christ in order to continue serving Him with gladness.



**LWML New England District
2026 Convention
April 17-18, 2026
Devens Common Center,
Devens, MA**

Schedule

Friday:

- 10:00 a.m. Pre-Convention Tea at Messiah Lutheran in Ftitchburg
- 11:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Convention Begins
- 1:00 p.m. Business Session I
- 4:45-5:30 First Focus Forum (breakout session)
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner
- 7:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Rev. David Jacoby, Director, Camp Pineshore
- 8:15 p.m. Entertainment: Rev. Gregory Wismar— Discovering the Americans in Lutheran Service Book - A 250 Year Celebration
- 8:45 p.m. Evening Devotions

Saturday:

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Devotions—Rev. Robert Beinke, NED-LCMS President
- 8:45 a.m. Bible Study Part 1, Rev. Peter Gregory
- 9:30 a.m. Business Session II
- 10:30 a.m. Second Focus Forum (breakout session)
- 11:15 a.m. Third Focus Forum (breakout session)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study Part 2, Rev. Peter Gregory
- 1:35 p.m. Business Session III
- 2:15 p.m. Closing Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 3:00 p.m. Benediction and Farewell

*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:13-14*

Convention Hotel Information



The Northern Zone of the New England District welcomes you! We are hosting our convention at the beautiful Devens Common Center in Devens, MA. We have reserved rooms at the **SpringHill Suites by Marriott Devens Common Center, 27 Andrews Parkway, Devens MA 01434** It is easily accessible from I-495 and Route 2.

Each suite includes a mini-fridge, microwave, and coffee maker for your comfort. Enjoy a complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and access to the business center to stay productive. Keep up with your routine in the indoor pool and fitness center, and take advantage of onsite complimentary parking.

We have reserved rooms at the special rate of **\$159 plus tax** for up to 5 people per room. To receive this rate, based on room availability, reservations must be received by the hotel no later than **March 18, 2026**. Make your hotel reservations by clicking here: [Book your group rate for Lutheran Womans Mission](#) Or call 978-772-3030. Mention booking for Lutheran Women in Mission to receive the special rate of \$159 per room (for up to 5 people). Breakfast is included with your hotel reservation.



Convention Registration Information

The convention registration fee is \$150 and must be received by **March 31, 2026**. Please note this includes a buffet dinner on Friday evening and a buffet lunch on Saturday. The registration fee to attend for one day is \$120.



You may register online by clicking on this link [LWML-NED Convention 2026 Online Registration](#).

You may also register by filling out the registration form at the end of the Beacon and mailing it to the address on the form with your payment.

Gifts from the Heart



Our Gifts from the Heart recipient is Camp Pineshore. Camp Pineshore is a Bible Camp and Campground owned and operated by Messiah Lutheran Church-Fitchburg, MA. Jesus is the reason for Camp Pineshore Bible Camp. Campers will learn solid Biblical teaching that will help them grow in faith toward God and love toward their neighbors.



Click this link to access the [Camp Pineshore Amazon Wishlist](#) or scan this QR Code:

Gift cards to Walmart or Target (with the value clearly marked) are also welcome.

Thank you for your generosity!



The Lutheran Women in Mission at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fitchburg—a short 20 minute drive from the convention center—have invited all convention attendees to a Ladies Tea to enjoy a time of fellowship before the convention and to learn more about Camp Pineshore, our Gifts from the Heart recipient.

*You're Cordially Invited
to a
Ladies' Tea*

*in collaboration with the
LWML New England
District Convention*

A MORNING OF FRIENDSHIP & DELIGHT.



FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH AT 10:00AM
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
750 RINDGE ROAD FITCHBURG, MA

-RSVP BY APRIL 10, 2026
TO
LOIS_MOYO@YAHOO.COM



LWML New England District 2026 Convention

Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway

Devens, Massachusetts

April 17-18, 2026



Keynote Speaker

The Rev. David Jacoby
 Messiah Lutheran Fitchburg, MA
 "Jesus by the Campfire: How LCMS
 Camps Help Form Disciples of
 Christ"



Bible Study Leader

The Rev. Peter Gregory
 Our Savior Lutheran
 Westminster, MA



LWML National Representative

President Eden Keefe



Friday Night Entertainment

The Rev. Gregory Wismar
 Discovering the Americans in
 Lutheran Service Book - a 250
 Year Celebration

Focus Forums Leaders



Frank Sienkiewicz

Being present with the Diné, sharing
 Christ with the Navajo nation



LWML President Eden Keefe

The History of the LWML



Rev. Gregory Wismar

Coming of Age - 20 years of
 Lutheran Service Book.



Katie Coblentz

Embracing God's Design: My Battle
 with Gender Dysphoria



Jon Skov, Thrivent Financial

Transformational Gifts



Heather Watt Hannah Joy Hutchins

Building a Christ-Centered
 Learning Community
 Through Home and Church





LWML New England District

Nominating Committee Report for 2026 Convention

With thankful hearts and anticipation toward the 2026 LWML New England District Convention, the Nominating Committee announces the following slate of officers to be considered for election to the Executive Committee for the 2026–2030 term.

Treasurer: Barbara Lis, Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic, CT, Mountain Laurel Zone

VP Christian Life: Delberta Novicki, Faith Lutheran Church, Groton, CT, Mountain Laurel Zone

VP Gospel Outreach: Mary Ann Hansen, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Hartford, CT, Mid-Valley Zone

VP Communications: Jennifer Gierke, Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, MA, Northern Zone

Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran Church, West Roxbury, MA

Nominating Committee (2026-2028 term):

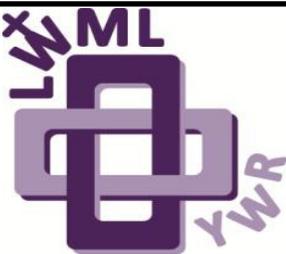
- Ruth Scheumann, Christ Lutheran Church, Troy, NH, Northern Zone
- Debra Heikkinen, Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic, CT Mountain Laurel Zone
- Gail Clayton, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Westminster, MA, Northern Zone

Please keep these faithful LWML sisters and brothers in your prayers, as they wait to see how the Lord will use them to serve the LWML New England District.

Jennifer Gierke

2026 Nominating Committee Chair

** Biographies of all nominees will be in the convention handbook.



Young Woman Representatives

Wanted for District Convention

Be on the Lookout for Young Ladies who would be blessed by serving as Zone Representatives to the District Convention in Devens, MA, April 17-18, 2026.

Do you know a young woman (preferably 22-35 years of age) who is a member of the LCMS and has a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ? If so, she could represent your zone as a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the LWML-NED District Convention.

Each of the 5 zones will be able to send one YWR to the convention in April (with costs covered by the district). She will be asked to participate in parts of the convention and any YWR planned activities. This is a wonderful opportunity for any young woman who has a desire to make a difference and serve in a sincere and dedicated manner.

Paperwork should be returned to Sage Veino, YWR Committee at:
youngwomencommitteechair@lwml-ned.org **by March 8, 2026.**

For more information and the application go to <http://lwml-ned.org/special-focus/> and click on [DistrictYWRApplication](#).



LWML-New England District Proposed Mission Projects for 2026-2028

The Proposed Mission Goal is \$87,000. Delegates may vote for up to 8 Mission Grants.

1. Project 72: Jesus Sent Them Out Two by Two – Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$4000

The church in Africa is expanding rapidly. Under Project 72, we are privileged to walk alongside visiting professors from Europe and the United States, who travel in pairs in regions throughout East Africa. These professors conduct teaching seminars that empower pastors, lay leaders and deaconesses. When these leaders return home, they become the next generation of teachers—sharing the Good News and distributing Lutheran Heritage Foundation materials to continue the cycle of learning and discipleship.

2. Growing the Faith – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Smithfield, RI - \$1000

Our mission is to help God's people grow in faith through the study of His Word. Concordia Publishing House (CPH) offers bountiful resources for studying God's Word and growing in the faith through Bible commentaries, Bible Studies, devotions, books on family marriage, culture and books for youth and children. These are not easily accessible by our church members for perusal, as local Christian bookstores generally don't carry these. Not all families can afford to purchase new books on a regular basis. Through this grant, Our Redeemer will make these trusted materials readily available, encouraging members to grow in God's Word and share their faith with others.

3. Blessing Boxes – Our Savior Lutheran Church, Topsfield, MA - \$1200

The purpose of Blessing Boxes is to reach college students with the Gospel and help them stay rooted in Christ during a pivotal time in their lives. Boxes of snacks with handwritten notes from church members are handed out at the beginning of school to encourage and support new Gordon College students (located north of Boston) We follow up with students during the school year - especially during Final exam weeks. Intentional relationships are formed & students are encouraged to worship & participate in the life of the church. Rides are provided as needed. This funding will help us stretch our resources so we can continue to reach this population who are our future and to fulfill the Great commission.

4. Mission Ministry – Capstone Ministries - \$5000

Capstone Ministries objective is to reconcile the street children of western Kenya with God and family. By God's grace, the staff have been able to evangelize and disciple these children, parents and extended family through Bible studies, camps, and counseling. These grant dollars will support a mentoring program for girls, youth books for the Lake Diocese Youth, and provide home based Christian counseling to families. Capstone Ministries appreciates the LWML's support of mission efforts.

5. YWR and Junior Counselor to National Convention – LWML-NED - \$2000

This will provide funding for the LWML-NED Young Woman Representative and the Junior Pastoral Counselor to attend the LWML National Convention so they may fully understand and embrace the current 'big picture' mission and purpose of LWML.

6. LWML-NED Short Term Mission Trip Scholarships - \$3000

This funding will assist volunteers with travel expenses to participate in Short Term Mission Trips sponsored by New England LCMS congregations in spreading the Gospel according to the Great Commission. "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how He has had mercy on you." Mark 5:19

7. LWML-NED Church Worker Scholarships - \$7000

This funding will provide financial assistance to Lutheran students in our district who are attending LCMS colleges and seminaries, preparing to become pastors, teachers, and other church workers.

Continued on next page



LWML-New England District Proposed Mission Projects for 2026-2028 (continued)



8. Musical Notes for Jesus – Christ Lutheran Church, Troy, NH - \$5000

The purpose of this project is to help missionary Ben Tino form a wind ensemble at the Lutheran School of "Cristo el Savador" in Peurto Barrios, Guatemala. The wind ensemble would not only bring music into the school and church but would open up another evangelistic opportunity to share the love of Jesus. This music ministry project will develop and grow students' musical skills with the end goal of using these gifts and talents in the church leading worship and praise music. They currently have some instruments that require repair and are looking to add music stands and chairs, music, whiteboard and an air conditioner.

9. Gospel Access for Aging Adults – Worship Anew - \$ 3000

The purpose of this funding is to equip LCMS congregations in New England with resources to connect aging adults with God's Word. Each week, aging adults can hear the Gospel through a weekly worship message on Worship Anew, can grow in His Word through daily devotions in Hope-Full Living, can find understanding their circumstances through practical articles in the Broadcaster magazine, and can see God's love by receiving a care package. Through LWML-NED support, Worship Anew can connect churches to these resources that they can then share with aging adults in their congregations. This funding will provide these resources throughout New England District by providing all interested churches with a sample resource box of materials from Worship Anew and then subscribing them to resources, especially the Broadcaster magazine. This grant would support that goal.

10. Malayalam Translation of Lutheran Study Bible – India Bible Study - \$5000

Funding received will go toward the publishing of The Lutheran Study Bible in Malayalam, a language spoken by over 30 million India citizens and 3 million diasporas, including approximately 280,000 in the United States. This will provide a proven resource with Lutheran-based commentary and notes to guide inquirers to the Good News of the Gospel, and help believers establish and grow their faith based on the Word of God.

11. Food Co-op Freezer – Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne - \$5000

The CTSFW Food Coop, celebrating 50 years of caring for seminary students and their families, is preparing to build a new and improved Food and Clothing Co-op to better serve and provide for the families' food and household needs. This funding will allow the purchase of a walk-in cooler to hold the fresh meat and food donations provided to the students to help offset their financial burden. CTSFW relies on congregations, individuals, LWML groups, Sunday Schools and organizations across the LCMS to provide additional funding for this freezer.

12. Discovering God's Creatures – Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Ashaway, RI - \$1500

Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Ashaway RI has been guided by Christian values committed to sharing the Gospel Jesus Christ by providing Christian education to the children of our church and community. We provide students with a variety of learning centers, and we desire to enhance our Science and Discovery learning environment by providing opportunities for exploration, both indoors and outdoors. Through this funding, we can purchase activity books, bug vacuums, critter habitat cases, experiment tools, binoculars, specimen viewers and color mixing glasses, among other things, our preschoolers can begin to know the wonders of God's Creation. Using these tools, God's little lambs can learn, observe, explore, investigate, and experience hands on learning opportunities to make learning fun and meaningful. "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."

13. Feet on the Ground – MOST Ministries - \$5000

The purpose of this project is to encourage LWML members to take their first mission trip with MOST Ministries. Funding will provide financial help and personal encouragement to mission-minded LWML women to take their first step into international mission work. Hopefully, after serving on one short mission team, they will be inspired to return for future trips in sharing the Gospel in Word and in Deed with people in need.

Continued on next page



LWML-New England District Proposed Mission Projects for 2026-2028 (continued)



14. Ministry Scholarships – Shepherd’s Canyon Retreats - \$5000

Shepherd's Canyon Retreats provide week-long counseling retreats and has successfully helped hundreds of ministry workers over the years in various stages of burnout, stress, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds, and some even ready to give up life before a Retreat. This funding will be used for pastors, ministry workers and spouses who have need of scholarships for extra financial assistance to attend a retreat.

15. Serving the Least Among Us — The Next Step - God Cares About You Mission, Albuquerque, New Mexico - \$2500

At God Cares About You Mission, we seek to share Christ's love and Gospel in Albuquerque's International District with an ethnically diverse and disadvantaged population, transforming lives both now and for eternity. Six Lutheran churches work together to provide clothing, meals, groceries, laundry services, Bible study, and worship. Small group discussions are held each Friday to build relationships and affirm that God loves them. Showing God’s love is sometimes a bus ticket for people who need to move out of the area and return to their homes. Each day they seek to honor the people they serve by knowing their names, hearing their stories, and sharing God’s love. They serve 50–100 people daily through their various programs. God Cares About You wants to provide their services in a more focused and comprehensive manner by hiring parttime staff. This grant will fund the salary of part-time staff and numerous office supplies.

16. Equipping All God’s Children in a Lutheran School – Child of God Lutheran School, St. Peters, MO - \$2500

The mission of Child of God Lutheran School (COGLS) in St. Peters, Missouri, is to provide Christ-centered education for the community. Historically, Child of God has welcomed students who have been turned away from other Christian schools due to their learning needs. As such, 25-35 percent of the school’s population receives special education services. The state norm and the local public school district both have a special education population of 15 percent. A fulltime special education teacher is needed to continue to offer quality education for children of families who desire a Christian education for their diverse learners. In these needs, COGLS treats each student as unique and valuable in God's eyes and provides the necessary educational support in a nurturing Christian environment regardless of their challenges or abilities. This grant will help provide funds to hire a full-time special education teacher to offer Christian education for children with diverse learning needs

17. Light, Food, and Hope — A Life-Saving Mission, Orphan Grain Train Maryland Branch, Africa - \$2500

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Christian volunteer network that ships donated items to impoverished people, both in the United States and around the world. Orphan Grain Train is headquartered in Nebraska, and the Maryland Branch is one of 27 branches located across the United States. All branches depend on donations and are staffed by volunteers. Internationally, the Maryland Branch provides direct support to Christian missions in Cameroon, Liberia, South Sudan, and Ghana. They support churches, schools, Bible schools, sewing schools, orphanages, hospitals and clinics, leper colonies, and prison ministries. While each of these countries has unique needs, solar lights are continuously requested by the missions. These countries also suffer from food insecurity, and the OGT Maryland Branch would like to include dry-food meals in all shipments. This grant will help to purchase solar lights and dry-food meals to be included in shipments and help defray shipping costs.

18. Lutheran School Modernization/Expansion Project, Good Shepherd Lutheran School of Gulf Breeze, Florida - \$2500

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School has been serving Santa Rosa County’s military and civilian populations since 1963. The school offers classes from early childhood through fifth grade. During their education, each student is building a personal relationship with Christ. The school is growing and upgrades to the current building need to be made. Some of the improvements planned include upgrading the technology and security systems, transforming storage space into classrooms, transforming the fellowship hall into a school cafeteria, and securing the sanctuary for classes. The improvements will allow the school to grow and teach more children about the love of their Savior. The grant will help them meet the expenses of the modernization and expansion of the school.

The Proposed Mission Goal is \$87,000. Delegates may vote for up to 8 Mission Grants.

LWML-NED Proposed Amendments to be Considered for Approval at April Convention



LWML New England District Bylaws

Proposed Date of Approval: April 17, 2026

Proposed Amendment for ARTICLE XV – GRANT PROPOSALS AND GRANTS

Rationale: National has approval of Board of Directors and Presidents Assembly for the mission goal before setting it at Convention. We feel now that this mission goal should appear in the LWML NED Bylaws because it now is silent in our bylaws. Also, including the Board of Directors in this process gives a broader base in the passage of the amendments.

| Existing bylaws read: | If adopted, will read: |
|---|--|
| Section 2 | Section 2 |
| The LWML-NED convention shall approve grants from a multiple list submitted by the Executive Committee after approval by the Offices of the LCMS-NED. | The LWML-NED convention shall approve grants from a multiple list submitted by the Executive Committee after approval by the Offices of the LCMS-NED. <u>Also, the LWML -NED convention shall approve the mission goal for the next biennium based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.</u> |

LWML New England District Bylaws

Proposed Date of Approval: April 17, 2026

Proposed Amendment for ARTICLE X – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rationale: Concerning “setting a mission goal” the addition of duties for the Executive Committee dovetails the responsibilities for both legislative authorities with the LWML structures and shows current practice.

| Existing bylaws read: | If adopted, will read: |
|---|--|
| Section 3 | Section 3 |
| h. review suggestions for mission grants; | h. review suggestions for mission grants <u>and recommend a list of grants and a mission goal to the Board of Directors;</u> |

Greetings, Everyone,

It is now the time to place the 2026-2027 orders for the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* magazine subscriptions and for the *Beacon*, our district publication. Please mail your 2026 subscription orders to me (with payment) by March 27, 2026.



The *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* subscriptions are for four (4) issues—Summer 2026 through Spring 2027, and orders can be increased/decreased from what was last year's total. Because LWML (national) plans their printing expenses for the *LWQ* a year in advance, orders can be decreased at this time only. However, increases to the *LWQ* subscriptions can be made at any time during the year.

The *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* is a terrific value for such a great publication, and it would be great to see a substantial increase in the subscription numbers for our district for the year ahead. The *LWQ* is \$8.00/year for each of the 1st to 9th subscriptions, all mailed to the same address. If 10 or more subscriptions (sent to the same address) are ordered, the price goes down to \$6.50/year per subscription.

The *Beacon* order consist of two (2) issues: Summer/Fall 2026 and Winter 2026/Spring 2027. Each subscription is \$7.00 (for the 2 issues). Our New England District *Beacon* brings us vital information about our region with inspiring messages from our pastoral counselors as well as news and photos of our zones, societies, members, and events.

Yours in Christ, as together we gladly serve Him,



Priscilla Keurulainen
News Circulation Manager – LWML-NED (PDK48@me.com)

PLEASE MAIL YOUR 2026 SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS NO LATER THAN MARCH 27, 2026 to:

Priscilla Keurulainen, 15 Calvin Road, Dedham, MA 02026

Checks are to be made payable to: LWML-NED.

(To avoid lost checks in the mail, I will be sending the checks to our LWML-NED treasurer in bulk after the deadline.)

Order Form for 2026 *LWQ* and *Beacon* subscriptions:

Lutheran Women's Quarterly

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 copies @ \$8.00 each (circle number) total (for 1-9 copies) \$ _____

or for 10 or more _____ (specify number of copies) @ \$6.50 total (for 10 or more) \$ _____

New England District Beacon _____ copies @ \$7.00 each total \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Society / Church _____

Name/Address (where copies are to be sent) _____

Contact: _____

Name email address phone number

(E-mail addresses – preferred and Phone Numbers are helpful to clear any confusion that might occur)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League - New England District

2026 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

April 17-18, 2026

SpringHill Suites by Marriott, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens MA 01434



For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
Psalm 139:13-14

Convention begins on Friday at 1:00 pm and will end on Saturday at 3:00 pm

Full Registration (includes Friday Dinner, Saturday Lunch): **\$150**

One Day Registration (Friday Dinner **or** Saturday Lunch): **\$120**

Registration must be received no later than March 31, 2026.

The Room rate will not be guaranteed after March 18, 2026.

Meals will not be guaranteed after April 7, 2026. Registrations are non-refundable after April 10, 2026.

SEND REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK (payable to LWML-NED) TO:

Elizabeth Jacoby, Messiah Lutheran Church, 750 Rindge Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420

HOTEL reservations should be made directly with the SpringHill Suites Hotel, 27 Andrews Parkway, Devens, MA 01434. Use this link: [Book your group rate for Lutheran Womens Mission](#) Or call 978-772-3030. Mention booking for Lutheran Women in Mission to receive the special rate of \$159 per room (for up to 5 people). Breakfast is included with your hotel reservation.

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|---|--|
| <p><i>I am a (choose only one):</i> Voting District Board Member & PDP ____ Delegate ____ LWML Member ____ YWR ____ Guest ____ Pastor ____ Vendor ____ (organization)</p> | <p><i>My Zone is (choose only one):</i> Eastern Zone ____ Koinonia Zone ____ Mid-Valley Zone ____ Mountain Laurel Zone ____ Northern Zone ____</p> |
|---|--|

Full Registration: \$150

One Day Registration: \$120

Name: _____

Home Church: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

(Please print legibly)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League - New England District

2026 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

April 17-18, 2026

SpringHill Suites by Marriott, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens MA 01434

Other Information:

___ This is my First LWML-NED Convention!

___ I have special dietary needs:

___ Vegan

___ Gluten-free

___ Soy-free

___ Dairy-free

___ Lactose-free

___ Other _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Who should we notify in case of a medical emergency? Please list two persons with different telephone numbers who are not members of LWML.

Contact number 1: _____

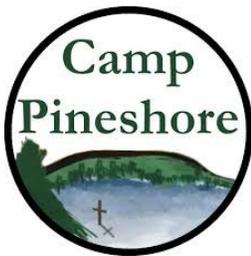
Telephone number: _____

Contact number 2: _____

Telephone number: _____

**Since LWML will be taking photos and videotaping proceedings and activities, your registration for this event gives LWML permission to use your image and comments in educational, informational, and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media.

Signature _____ Date _____



Our Gifts from the Heart recipient is Camp Pineshore. Camp Pineshore is a Bible Camp and Campground owned and operated by Messiah Lutheran Church-Fitchburg, MA. Jesus is the reason for Camp Pineshore Bible Camp. Campers will learn solid Biblical teaching that will help them grow in faith toward God and love toward their neighbors.

Scan this QR to access the Camp Pineshore Wishlist

