



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**  
NEW ENGLAND  
DISTRICT

## PASS IT ON

March 2026



We hope you are enjoying these issues of "Pass It On" -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women in Mission-New England District (LWML-NED)** and nationally. For more news and information, visit [www.lwml-ned.org](http://www.lwml-ned.org)

## LWML-NED Mission Goal for 2024-2026 is



### 2024-2026 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS



Please **save and remit** your **Mite** donations payable to **LWML-NED**

Our Mission Grants enable us to share the love of Christ locally, nationally, and internationally.

**SEND MITES TO:** Barbara Lis, Treasurer  
LWML-New England District  
P.O. Box 932, Niantic, CT 06357



**God bless  
you as you  
serve Him  
with  
gladness!**

## Only March remains to reach our goal!

Grants 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, and 10e are the remaining grants of 2024-2026. Page 3 contains the list and amounts for each.



**PLEASE KEEP OUR MITE RECIPIENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS YOU FEED YOUR MITE BOX.**

NOTE: TO PRINT PIO WITHOUT COLOR, SELECT "GREYSCALE" WHEN YOU PRINT.



PIO March 2026

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ:

So, what does March mean to you? Ohhhhh, lots of things! The name for the month of March came from “Mars” (the Roman God of War). The March birthstone is an Aquamarine, and the Zodiac sign is Pisces. Then there is St Patrick’s Day with parades and streets painted green. Of course, we cannot forget March Madness – the NCAA basketball tournament. I am glued to the television every night for weeks. Go UConn Girls & Boys! The dictionary has several definitions: MARCH - To walk with steady rhythmic steps. To walk together like in a parade. A band can play a peppy “march”.

But what do we Christians do at this time of year --- we zero in on “Lent”. The day before Lent is called Shrove Tuesday. Shrove comes from the word ‘shrive’ meaning to confess (to prepare for Lent). Different ethnic cultures eat specific treats prior to the beginning of fasting. The Polish people eat filled doughnuts call ‘paczki” while the Germans eat pffannkuchen, the Pennsylvania Dutch eat fastnachts, and the English enjoy pancakes.

Then we proceed into Lent - Ash Wednesday often arrives during March. It marks the first day of Lent in Western Christianity, serving as a solemn day of repentance, fasting, and reflection. We spend the next 40 fasting days thinking and praying about what our Lord Jesus Christ does for us. Finally Palm Sunday arrives and we praise Christ as He rides into Jerusalem with everyone bowing down to Him and waving palms. However, we get a better understanding as we walk through Holy Week. Maundy Thursday arrives with celebration of The Last Supper. Next comes The Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal, the trial and Good Friday leading to His death on the cross. A solemn time! BUT as Christians, we all know it does not stop there. Easter Sunday and the empty tomb appears!

This year, as every year, use the Lenten season as a preparation leading up to Easter. For that is when our Lord graciously, selflessly gives His life for our eternal life.

**M**arch right into life, sure of your goal  
**A**lways knowing that God has our soul.  
**R**ich we are from all God's gifts  
**C**ome to us, always giving a lift  
**H**e stands by us every day of the year,  
He's our greatest support – it's so very clear.

Yours in Christian Fellowship, **June**

Dr. June Rae Merwin,  
President, LWML NED

Flowers of March



# LWML District 2024-2026 Mission Grants



10a	Support LCMS in Field, Mission Central (received to-date \$704.45)	\$ 704.45
10b	Proclaiming God's Word, Lutheran Public Radio (received to-date \$704.45)	\$ 704.45
10c	Seminarians for Haiti, Ministry/Mission (received to-date \$1,400.47)	\$1,760.83
10d	Unequally Yoked, POBLO Intl (received to-date \$0.00)	\$1,760.83
10e	Freezer Friends, Our Savior, Topsfield, MA (received to-date \$0.00)	\$ 704.44

## LWML National 2025-2027 Mission Grant #8

**THIS GRANT IS FULLY FUNDED –  
ALL PRAISE AND THANKS TO JESUS CHRIST.**



### Building a Place of Care

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota — \$60,000

#### About This Mission Grant



The Ranch is called to give each child the chance to meet Jesus, learn about Him, and discover how His love, grace, and peace can help them find and become their best selves.

Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has touched the lives of more than 43,000 at-risk children and their families. They bring Christ-centered hope and healing to children who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and other heartbreaking traumas.

The Ranch is planning to build the Zurcher Cottage, a psychiatric residential treatment facility, replacing the current cottages. Within the Zurcher Cottage, they plan to create the Reflection Room, which will serve as a safe and calming environment to support the emotional, spiritual, and psychological well-being of the children. Not only will this room benefit the children, but it will also directly support the staff during stressful work shifts and

allow them to be more effective caregivers to the children in their care. **This grant will fund the construction and furnishing of the Reflection Room on the Ranch's Minot, ND campus.**

## **“Lutheran Women in Mission - New England District**

**asks for your help to reach our \$85,000 two-year Mission Goal.”**

**We need \$4,500 by March 31st to fully fund the Mission Grants  
we prayerfully voted to support.**

**To date, we have granted \$5,000 each to LCMS Christian schools in Bristol and Danbury, CT; \$5,000 each to outreach ministries in New Hartford, CT, Boston, MA, and Gorham, ME; and \$4,000 to short-term mission trips. These are just seven of twenty ministries we will support during this biennium.**

**Please mail Mite Donation checks, payable to 'LWML-NED,'  
To: LWML-NED Treasurer, PO Box 932, Niantic, CT 06357. For more  
information, visit [www.lwml-ned.org](http://www.lwml-ned.org) or email [Treasurer@lwml-ned.org](mailto:Treasurer@lwml-ned.org)."**

### **IN MEMORY OF OUR SISTER IN CHRIST, DOROTHY ANN WRIGHT PETTIT WEISE**



Dorothy Ann Wright Pettit Weise, 90, of Fairfield, CT, beloved mother and grandmother, entered eternal rest to be with her Lord and Savior on March 13, 2026, at Sunrise of Fairfield.

She was born in Bridgeport, CT, on March 28, 1935, to the late Edward and Anna (Palchesky) Wright. She was the beloved wife of the late Charles E. Pettit, Jr., and the late Kenneth S. Weise. She was a graduate of Lincoln School and Harding High School and worked in the insurance industry in commercial lines.

Dorothy's life was centered on her faith and her family. She was a lifelong and very active member of Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, where she taught Sunday School and VBS for many years. She was Chairman of the Board of Education, served on the Altar Guild, and was president of the Ladies Aid Society. She was also very active in the women's auxiliary (LWML) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod serving on the LWML New England Board of Directors for thirty years including a four-year term as president. She enjoyed serving on the Harding High School Class of '52 reunion committee. She was very active in her children's education, holding many offices in the PTL and serving as a Girl Scout leader.

Dorothy is survived by her two devoted daughters and their husbands who were sons to her, Sharon and Matthew Dever, and Susan and Roger Dow, all of Fairfield. She was the proud and loving grandmother of Lauren Dever and Matthew Ennis of Charlotte, NC, Jonathan and Jackie Dever of South Park, PA, and Joshua Dow of Newtown, CT.

Visitation will be at Larson Funeral Home, located at 1209 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT, on Monday, March 16, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. A Funeral Service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 612 Grand St., Bridgeport, CT, on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 11:00 AM. For travel directions or to sign the online guest register, please visit [www.LarsonFH.com](http://www.LarsonFH.com). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT. Page 4 of 14



## Sunday, March 22

11:30 am

You are warmly invited to share lunch, prayer, and a devotional Bible study with the women of St Peter Lutheran Church, Norwalk, CT.

Join in a fun activity in our first fellowship of 2026.

Immediately following 10:00 am Divine Service.

## Mission Service Activity of the Month



During emergencies or accidents, our local police, fire, and rescue teams are the first ones to respond. Many of these workers are volunteers. They bless our communities every day. We can show our love and care by lifting them up in our prayers and gifting them with Thank You Kits. Call your local precinct or firehouse and contact their chaplain to ask about the specific needs of their

officers, firefighters, or paramedics. Include your congregation in gathering items for donation. Have the children in the congregation color [thank you pages](#) to include with your kits.

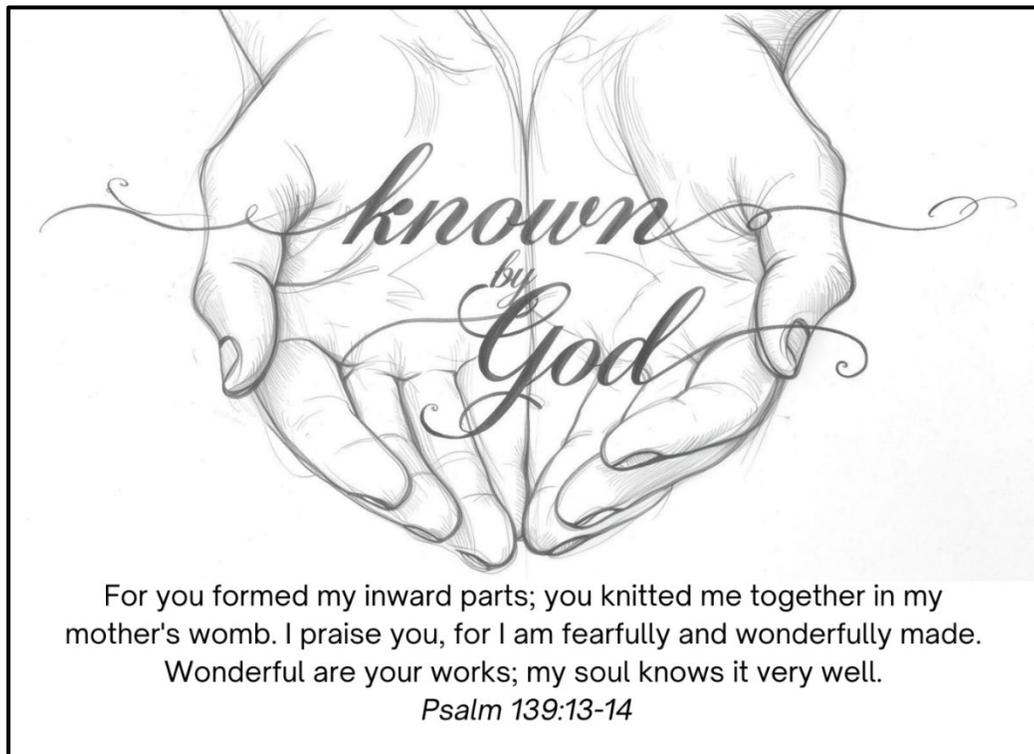
### First Responder Kit

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Drawstring bag to contain items  | 2. Hand sanitizer   |
| 3. Pocket tissues   | 4. Band-Aids  |
| 5. Beef jerky / Slim Jim  | 6. Energy bars/granola bars                                     |
| 7. Trail mix packets  | 8. Powdered electrolyte replacement drink mix                   |
| 9. Chewing gum/hard candy/mints   | 10. Cough drops   |
| 11. A gift card to a local coffee shop  | 12. Lip Balm  |
| 13. Bottled water   | 14. Small spiral memo pad and pen                               |
| 15. Mustard Seeds Simple Trust or Living in Faith from Concordia Publishing House | 16. Note of thanks with an indication you are praying for them. |

**The Lutheran Women in Mission of the Northern Zone Invite you to attend  
the 2026 LWML New England District 31<sup>ST</sup> Convention**

**April 17-18, 2026**

**Devens Common Center and Springhill Suites, Devens, MA**



**The convention goal is to 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.**

**We encourage you to save the date in your calendars. We look forward to spending time together in song, worship, Bible Study, devotions, fellowship, and conducting the business needed to continue the mission and ministry of the LWML-NED.**

**YOU WILL FIND THE TWO-PAGE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGES 13-14 OF THIS PIO.**



2026 LWML New England District 31<sup>ST</sup>  
Convention April 17-18, 2026  
Devens Common Center and Springhill Suites,  
Devens, MA

*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

**REMEMBER to RSVP for tea by April 10, 2026**



2026 LWML New England District 31<sup>ST</sup>  
Convention April 17-18, 2026  
Devens Common Center and Springhill Suites,  
Devens, MA

Special Guest will be the President of the LWML, Eden Keefe.

Keynote Speaker is Rev. David Jacoby from Messiah Lutheran Church in Fitchburg, MA.

Bible Study Leader is Rev. Peter Gregory.

### Focus Forums

- LWML President Eden Keefe; The History of the LWML-NED and LWML National
- Katie Coblenz; Embracing God's Design: My Battle with Gender Dysphoria
- Rev. Greg Wismar: "Coming of Age - 20 years of Lutheran Service Book"
- Heather Watt & Hannah Hutchins: LivingStone Homeschool Co-Op
- Frank Sienkiewicz: Being present with the Diné, sharing Christ with the Navajo nation

### Friday Night Entertainment: Hymn sing theme

"Discovering the Americans in LSB - a 250-year celebration led by Rev. Greg Wismar

### Mites in Action

- Doug Larson: Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center in Liberia
- Rev. Mark Zuchsow: Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Heather Watt & Hannah Hutchins, Co-Directors: LivingStone Homeschool Co-Op

## IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION

*REGISTER FOR A ROOM!*

**March 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 FINAL DAY TO REGISTER ON-LINE  
FOR CONVENTION**

Convention Location: SpringHill Suites, Devens, MA

Room Rate: \$159 plus tax for king or double rooms

Breakfast is included

It is connected to the convention center by a covered walkway

Newly renovated

Booking Link: [Book your group rate for Lutheran Womens Mission](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1745427804530&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink) (copy & paste below link)

[https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1745427804530&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink)

[link.mi?id=1745427804530&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1745427804530&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true&app=resvlink)



## **Proposed Grant List**

The Proposed List of Grants for the 2026-2028 created by the Executive Board and approved by the LWML-NED District Board are being given to the Zone Presidents. The list can also be found in the newly issued **BEACON**. Zone Presidents will distribute a copy of the list to each society in their Zone. Each society will determine how they handle reviewing and selecting the grants.

**IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE LWML-NED TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS LIST; REVIEW IT; SELECT THE GRANTS THEY WANT ON THE PROPOSED LIST.**

**Selections should be given to the voting delegate(s) from your Society/Zone before convention.** The delegate(s) will combine all selections and vote at Convention.

## **Convention Etiquette (IMPORTANT)**

Our Convention will follow the formal format of the LWML.

- When ascending to the microphone on the dais **for any reason**, our NED-President, Dr. June Rae Merwin **must** be addressed as “**Madam President**”.
- Our NED-President would reply with “**Your name**” and then you continue with your purpose for being on the dais.

**Gifts from the Heart** will be for Camp Pineshore, Westminister, MA.

Camp Pineshore is a residential and day Bible Camp of the LCMS established in 1947 and operated by the Messiah Lutheran Church, Fitchburg, MA. It's located on Wyman Pond in Westminister, MA, close to Mt. Wachusett. The Camp has a 75-year history of hosting weeklong overnight Bible camps for youth in New England for 2 or 3 weeks in the summer. However, in 2023, we launched our first full summer long program. This program includes 5 weeks of camps for camper's 1st grade-6th grade and 3 weeks of overnight camps for campers 3rd grade through senior in college.

**Jesus at the Center:** 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. Our camp groups are led by Camp Chiefs who are all pastors in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

## LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Function	Other Info
<b>April 11, 2026</b> <b>9:00 AM</b>	Grace Lutheran Middletown, Ct	<b>Mt. Laurel Zone Spring Gathering</b>	Contact: Janine Fagan Gifts of the Heart: State Children's Center
<b>April 17-18, 2026</b> Friday 1 PM/ Saturday until 3 PM	Spring-Hill Suites Devens, MA	<b>LWML-NED District 31<sup>ST</sup> Convention</b>  <b>"Known by God"</b> (Psalm 139:13-14)	
<b>May 16, 2026</b> <b>1:00pm</b>	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bristol, CT	<b>Mid-Valley Zone Spring Gathering</b>	Contact: Linda Slozak
<b>May tbd, 2026</b>		<b>Koinonia Zone Spring Gathering</b>	Contact: Sue Dow
<b>May tbd, 2026</b>		<b>Northern Zone Spring Gathering</b>	Contact: Lois Moyo
<b>May 30, 2026</b>	Lutheran Church of the Way	<b>Eastern Zone Spring Gathering</b>	Contact: Leslie Colligan
<b>November 6-7, 2026</b> Friday 4:00 pm Saturday 7:30 am – 3:00 pm approx.	Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport	<b>RETREAT</b>	Contact: Christina Anop

### INVITATION

**Join President Beinke for a weekly Bible study** of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday! This online study takes place on Thursday's from 7:00 - 8:00 PM on Go-To-Meeting at the following link: <https://meet.goto.com/445850965>.



### LENT – AN OPPORTUNITY

*As we open our thoughts toward God and His Lenten direction for our lives, let us examine some steps that by the power of the Holy Spirit can guide us toward Him. As we do so, may God lead us so we can better serve Him with gladness, not only during Lent but also throughout the weeks and months to come.*

**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-NED proposed amendments for 4/17/26 convention approval  
Published in the Pass It On as required before convention.

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>

LWML-NED proposed amendments for 4/17/26 convention approval  
 Published in the Pass It On as required before convention.

# 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.

**Full Registration: \$150**

**One Day Registration: \$120**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print legibly)

# Lutheran Women's Missionary League - New England District

2026 CONVENTION REGISTRATION (continued)

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 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.

Click this link to access the [Camp Pineshore Amazon Wishlist](#)

