



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**
NEW ENGLAND
DISTRICT

PASS IT ON

April 2026

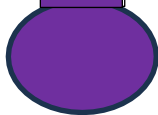
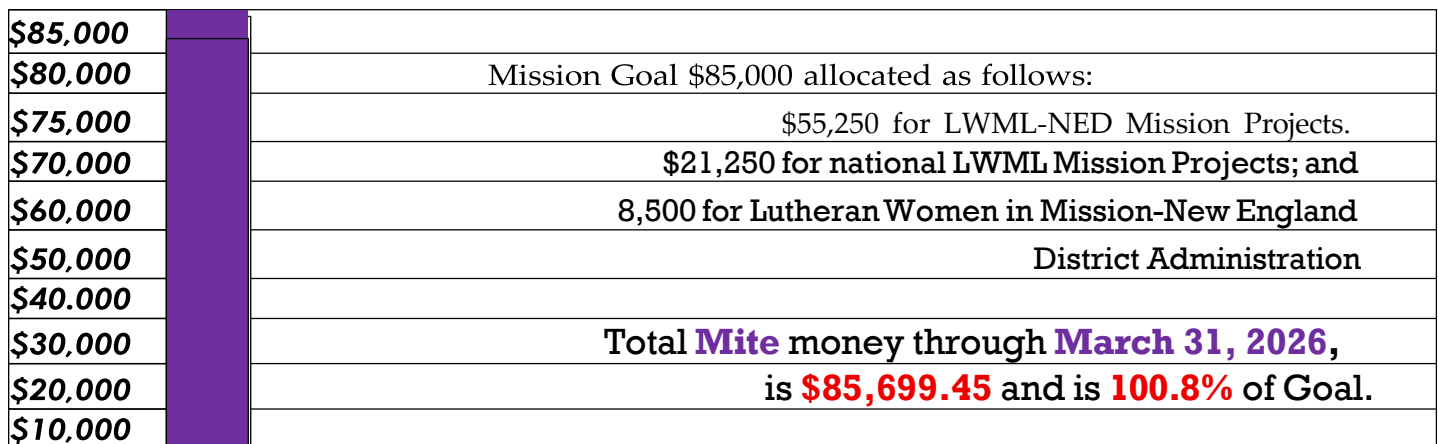


We hope you are enjoying these issues of "Pass It On" -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women in Mission-New England District (LWML-NED)** and nationally. For more news and information, visit www.lwml-ned.org

LWML-NED Mission Goal for 2024-2026 is



2024-2026 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS



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

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

WE REACHED OUR MISSION GOAL!

We ask our heavenly Father's blessing on our 2024-2026 Grants and we sing:

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."

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.

Pass It On April 2026 APRIL SHOWERS



Why do people say, “oh dear, it’s raining again”? Maybe they do not want their hair style flattened.... or their shoes getting wet.... or their outdoor party ruined. But alas, what would we do without water. Our earth’s water cycle is fascinating, and we need every drop to survive on this planet. As the rain comes down, the streams flow into the rivers which head for the lakes which empty into the ocean which evaporate into the air which allows it to rain once again. (or something like that). What a fantastic cycle and God made it all. Wasn’t He remarkable with His creation! All the details to make ‘things’ work.

Without April showers we certainly wouldn’t have May flowers. And how much would be missed without blossoms of all colors and leaves of countless shades of green. The magnificence of nature would dry up and blow away.

On warm summer days when the rain came down in buckets, our children would put on their oldest clothes and sneakers and splash through every puddle on the street. Now that is enjoying nature to the utmost. And I hope each and every one of you can enjoy God’s gift of nature also – maybe not splashing in puddles but by appreciating the exquisite views that surround us.

And God said: “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place and let dry ground appear. And it was so. God called the ground ‘land’ and the gathered waters he called ‘seas’. And God saw that it was good.” Genesis 1:9-10

What could be nicer than singing in the rain?
All flowers bloom - as from the rain they came.
Trees and bushes and grasses spring out
Easing themselves up without a doubt
Reassured God gives all that they need
We know it’s true --- God gives --- we believe!

Yours in Christian Love,

June

Dr. June Rae Merwin; President, LWML-NED
june.merwin@gmail.com



LWML District 2026-2028 Mission Grants

On April 17-18, 2026, the LWML New England District Convention will convene, and our delegates will cast their votes for the 2026-2028 NED Mission Grants.

Note: We were over our Goal by \$699.45 and this money will begin our new 2026-2028 NED Mission Grants.

Next Month we will list our new Grants in the PIO.

We pray for these delegates and the Grants they will select.

LWML National 2025-2027 Mission Grant #9

Introducing Muslims to the Savior Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global — \$100,000

About This Mission Grant



1.9 BILLION people...nearly a quarter of the Earth's population...that's how many Muslims there are in our world. They are men, women and children living in spiritual darkness and fear, starving for the love of Jesus Christ. Some have never heard of Him. For people in Muslim communities who HAVE heard and want to learn more about the Christian faith, they often face real danger and threats. For these former Muslims and searching Christians, life can be very lonely and isolated.

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) supports the mission of the church — bringing Christ to the lost so that, through the Holy Spirit and the Word, they may believe in Christ their Savior. For over 30 years, LHF has been extending the ministry of God's Word by translating and publishing Lutheran books that help explain the Bible. They have translated and published more than 1,500 titles in over 150 languages, which have been distributed at no cost to churches, pastors, individuals, and missionaries.

About a quarter of the world's population — over 1.9 billion — identify as Muslim. They are living in spiritual darkness and starving for the love of Jesus Christ.

This grant will fund publication of over 20,000 Lutheran books, like the *Small Catechism*, *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, and devotions translated into the Arabic, Farsi, Bahasa Indonesian, and Kazakh languages that will

be distributed in the United States and worldwide.



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
Hope for Healing
Recognized as an LCMS
Recognized Service
Organization**

Hampden, Maine — Hope for Healing, a Veteran-led nonprofit serving rural Maine, has been officially recognized as a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Founded and directed by **Deaconess Kim Slininger**, Hope for Healing provides Christ-centered care through therapeutic horsemanship, peer support, and vocational engagement for

Veterans and others experiencing trauma, grief, and moral injury. The organization’s Spirit Warrior program integrates equine-assisted interactions with a Lutheran theology of spiritual care, emphasizing presence, trust, and restoration in Christ.

Recognition as an LCMS RSO affirms that Hope for Healing operates in harmony with the doctrine and confession of the LCMS while extending mercy care into underserved rural communities across central and eastern Maine.

“This recognition is not simply organizational—it is confessional,” said Deaconess Slininger. “It affirms that the care being offered in the field, beside the horse, remains grounded in Christ and His promises.”

Hope for Healing is actively developing a Therapeutic Equine Campus that will expand its capacity to serve Veterans and their families through structured programs, job training, and community partnerships.

The organization invites congregations, LWML societies, and individuals to partner in this work through prayer, volunteer support, and mission engagement. For more information, visit Hope for Healing at hope4healing.us.

Congratulations!

ZONE NEWS

Mountain Laurel Zone, Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Gifts From the Heart were for the **Albert J. Solnit Children's Center– South Campus** in Middletown, Ct a state-administered Psychiatric facility for Connecticut's children who are 13 to 17 years of age. The Solnit Center provides comprehensive care to children and adolescents with severe mental illness and related behavioral and emotional problems who cannot be safely assessed or treated in a less restrictive setting.



Our gifts were for this age group (toiletries, hair combs/brushes, hair products, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and age-appropriate gifts). The women got so creative - hoola hoops were some of the gifts.

Latoya Newman from the Center talked to us about the children and what they try to do for them. They work hard to preserve what they can and hope the work is impactful. Every day is hard, but communication is her best quality.

There are behavioral challenges; they must learn to live in a community (boys and girls); and they must learn to interact. They try to build them up and, in some cases, they find the young people that they reach are very talented. Building confidence, caring about each other, respecting each other are values they foster. They are also taught to give to others. Birthdays are special occasions (where usually they have not celebrated this important date at all).

Our District President, Dr. June Merwin, spoke of her goals to attend as many society events during her term as possible.

Based on this, she *invited herself to be invited* by each Mt Laurel society event, where she will share her LWML presentation and experiences with everyone.

We all began the day sharing a welcome of light snacks and after all the zone business was concluded, a light lunch.

The theme of the Bible Study was "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER? YES. And it was led by Pastor Robert Hass, Zion Lutheran Church, Wallingford, Ct. We read through the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-12) to identify what God asked of Cain; what question did Cain ask; Did God answer Cain's question; and what consequences did God give to Cain. We further went on to study verses where God commands people to look out for others.

Followed by our prayer. ALL NEED YOUR HELP IN BECOMING OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER. PLEASE GUIDE US IN CARING FOR AND LOVING OTHERS. IN JESUS' NAME, WE PRAY.

THANK YOU WOMEN OF THE MT. LAUREL ZONE!



Examples of our delicious luncheon.



Deb H. and Latoya Newman check out some of the *Gifts from the Heart*. Notice: the Hoola Hoops!

OFF WE GO - TO CONVENTION -- REMEMBER

1. Your Bibles.
2. Your "Gifts from the Heart" for Camp Pineshore, Westminster, MA.
3. 10:00 AM Ladies Tea at Messiah Lutheran Church, 750 Rindge Road, Fitchburg, MA *Directions needed*
4. Note containing "Prayer Requests" for basket.
5. Be on-time for Focus Forums and other scheduled activities.
6. Check "board" for Focus Forums times and locations, or your Convention Booklet.
7. Don't forget Breakfast.
8. Check out our Vendors in hallway.
9. Anything else I missed putting on this list.



Pack your bags and drive up to the SpringHill Suites Devens Common Center for the Convention!



LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS



Date	Location	Function	Other Info
April 17-18, 2026 Friday 1 PM/ Saturday until 3 PM	Spring-Hill Suites Devens, MA	LWML-NED 31ST Convention "Known by God" (Psalm 139:13-14)	
May 3, 2026 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danbury, Ct	Koinonia Zone Spring Gathering Bible study on Psalm 130 – Hope in the Depths Led by Rev. Robert Morris, Christ the King, Newtown, Ct	Contact: Sue Dow
May 16, 2026 1:00pm	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bristol, CT	Mid-Valley Zone Spring Gathering	Contact: Linda Slozak
May 30, 2026	Lutheran Church of the Way	Eastern Zone Spring Gathering	Contact: Leslie Colligan
Nov 6-7, 2026 Friday 4:00 pm Saturday 7:30 am – 3:00 pm approx.	Hilton-DoubleTree at Bradley Airport	RETREAT Speaker: author Sharla Fritz	Contact: Christina Anop
July 8-11, 2027 Thu, July 8 th thru Sun, July 11 th	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	42nd Biennial Convention "Transformed in Christ" Romans 12:2	



42nd Biennial Convention
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
July 8 to 11, 2027

The **convention logo** showcases how we, as children of God, are transformed by the blood of Jesus and through the guiding work of the Holy Spirit. The **Convention Goal Statement** is that God's renewing Spirit transforms us to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve Him and Him alone. Planning for the Oklahoma City convention is underway with four hosting districts ready to welcome attendees.

