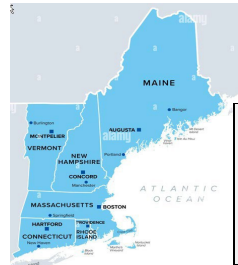




**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**  
NEW ENGLAND  
DISTRICT

## PASS IT ON

May 2026

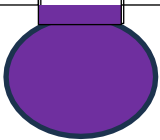
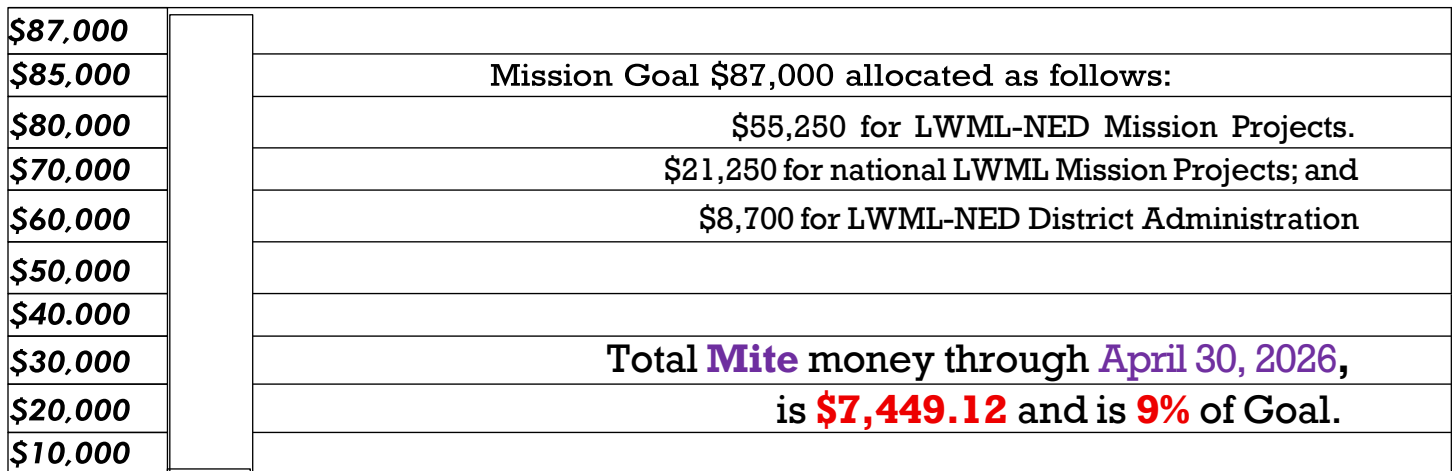


We hope you are enjoying these issues of "Pass It On" -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women in Mission-New England District (LWML-NED)** and nationally. For more news and information, visit [www.lwml-ned.org](http://www.lwml-ned.org)

## LWML-NED Mission Goal

for 2026-2028 is \$87,000

### 2026-2028 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS



God bless  
you as you  
Serve the  
Lord 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 are now working on the 2026-2028 LWML-NED Mission Grants:

1a	LWML-NED Short Term Mission Trip Scholarships <b>FULLY FUNDED</b>	\$3,000
1b	LWML-NED Church Worker Scholarships (Amt funded to-date \$1,841.93)	\$7,000

**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 May 2026 Graduation Time



For the senior in college, May is a tumultuous time of year. First it is the thesis or term paper(s) you have to research and then write. Finally turning them in one minute before midnight chimes on the clock. Then it is cramming for final exams. This becomes the number one priority: one after another, three or four in one week. Finally, you walk out the door of your last test. A weight is lifted from your shoulder. Then comes preparing for the graduation ceremony. Getting your mortarboard and gown, sending invites to family and friends --- then the day comes. You walk across the stage and shake the hand of the president as she presents you with your diploma. Accomplished!!! You accomplished it!!!

What then? You go to your first “real” job. You do your best because you want to show how smart you are; how much you learned at university. And that is a good way to start out. But I want to add that there is more to it. By your actions, those around you should not only realize how capable you are, but also that you are a good person. Can people tell that you are a Christian by your actions? Does your everyday demeanor suggest that you are a child of God? Is honesty part of your work habits or is it easier to “play the game”? It is not a stress-free event to go from college life into the business world, or the hospital, or the school or the military – but young adults who have learned about Christ, have the wherewithal to cope with the challenges of today. God is with all of us every day – everywhere - to guide us. His master plan will lead you to where you should go. Take advantage of God’s willingness to Guide.

Psalm 23: He leads beside quiet waters.....He guides me in paths of righteousness.

**G**raduation is coming – so much to do  
**R**eally what to do first – minutes are few.  
**A**t last papers done, off they go – hit “send”  
**D**uty is to study – keep calm – count to ten.  
**U**niversity over – time to step out but  
**A**lways remember God is about  
**T**ake His hand and let Him guide you along  
**E**nsured that with Him you truly belong.

Yours in Christian Love,

*June*

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



# LWML District 2026-2028 Mission Grants

## 1b. 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.

# LWML National 2025-2027 Mission Grant #10

## Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, U.S. | \$100,000

### About This Mission Grant



Leija Elezovic, Lead Child and Family Therapist at Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, demonstrates play therapy techniques. The child pictured is not an actual LCFS client.

Protecting and nourishing the mental health and well-being of children is the mission of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS). They protect a child’s integrity, self-worth, spiritual well-being, and mental health through professional compassionate Christian counseling.

The outpatient child therapy clinic was expanded in August 2023 and the number of children served by LCFS grew beyond capacity in six months. The clinic needs to expand its services again to meet the demands and needs of countless children in the greater Milwaukee community.

As children get better and stronger, the lives of parents, siblings, and other family members often improve. LCFS also deploys trained therapists to respond to community crises and offer Christ’s healing.

This grant will increase the number of therapists working in the clinic from five to seven, purchase therapeutic toys, and develop promotional materials to present to LCMS churches and groups.

# 2026 LWML-NED CONVENTION

## 31<sup>st</sup> NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

**Sponsored By: Northern ZONE**

**THEME: KNOWN BY GOD**



**VERSE: “For you formed my inwards 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**

### Photos:

Madam President opening Convention



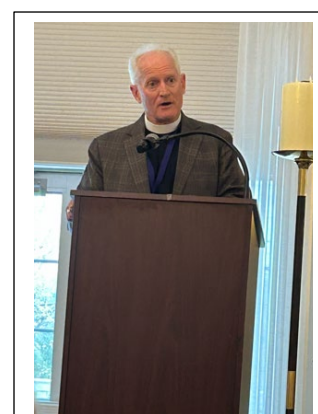
Dr. June Merwin



Ruth Scheumann, VP of Gospel Outreach;  
Dr. June Merwin, President LWML-NED;  
and President Edén Keefe, LWML National President



LWML National President  
Edén Keefe



Reverend Robert Beinke  
NED-LCMS President



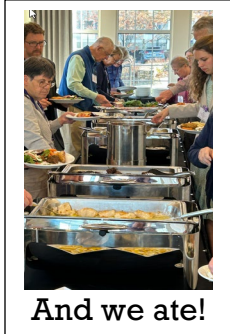
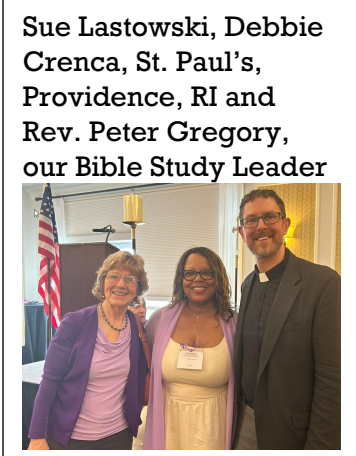
PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE CONVENTION ROOM

# 2026 LWML-NED CONVENTION

## 31<sup>st</sup> NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION



Photos Continued



# 2026-2028 LWML-NED MISSION PROJECTS

## MISSION GOAL: \$87,000



### **1a. LWML-NED Short Term Mission Trip Scholarships – \$3000 FULLY FUNDED**

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

### **1b. 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.

### **2. 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.

### **3. 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.

### **4. 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.

### **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. 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.”

# 2026-2028 LWML-NED MISSION PROJECTS

## MISSION GOAL: \$87,000



### **7. 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.

### **8a. 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

### **8b. 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

### **9. 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 Salvador” 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.

### **10. 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.

### **11. 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.

# 2026-2028 LWML-NED MISSION PROJECTS

## MISSION GOAL: \$87,000



### **12. 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.

### **13a. 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.

### **13b. 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

### **14. Malayalam Translation of Lutheran Study Bible – India Bible Study – \$1350**

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.

There were 40 voting members at Convention.

Convention offerings were:

Offering #1	Central Food Ministry, Lowell, MA	\$1,112.65
Offering #2	2026-2028 Mission Grant Goal	\$2,437.88
<i>Special Offering</i>	for Camp Pineshore, Westminster, MA	\$ 658.00 [Printer]

## Mission Service Activity



Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has shipped to 73 different countries and 40 states, sharing God's mercy and love by meeting the needs of the hopeless.

Would your society like to support the work of OGT by assembling hygiene or school kits? Maybe you have members that have the gift of sewing and would like to make pillowcase dresses or feminine hygiene kits.

Please see the LWML-NED website and the OGT website to find detailed information on kit instructions.

<https://lwml-ned.org/mercy-ingatherings-2/>

<https://www.ogt.org/special-projects/>

With the help of a Thrivent Action Team card, your sisters in Christ at Our Redeemer, Smithfield, RI were able to put together 22 kits.

It made for a fun activity at their March meeting.



Katy, Liz, Corinne, Deb, Janet  
Sue, Suzanne, Esther

Heavenly Father, give us thankful hearts. Give us eyes to see the needs in our community. Help us gather items that will bless those in need. Let our works reflect Your love. Use our efforts to bring others to You. Help us make our churches welcoming places to those in need. Thank You for the daily bread with which you bless us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Date	Location	Function	Other Info
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, Raynham, MA	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: Delberta Novicki
July 8-11, 2027  Thu, July 8 <sup>th</sup> thru Sun, July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	<b>42nd Biennial Convention</b> <b>“Transformed in Christ”</b> <b>Romans 12:2</b>	

## LWML-NED RETREAT

**November 6-7, 2026**


Hilton-DoubleTree  
At Bradley Airport

Registration: 4:00 pm Friday  
Saturday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm

Our speaker will be Sharla Fritz  
Theme: “HEALER OF MY SOUL”



Schedule in your calendar **Now!**



Sharla Fritz

As a Christian author and speaker, I love helping women who feel they are pulled in a hundred different directions to find soul rest in Christ.

