



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**
NEW ENGLAND
DISTRICT

PASS IT ON

June 2026

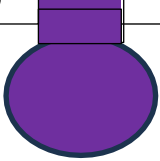
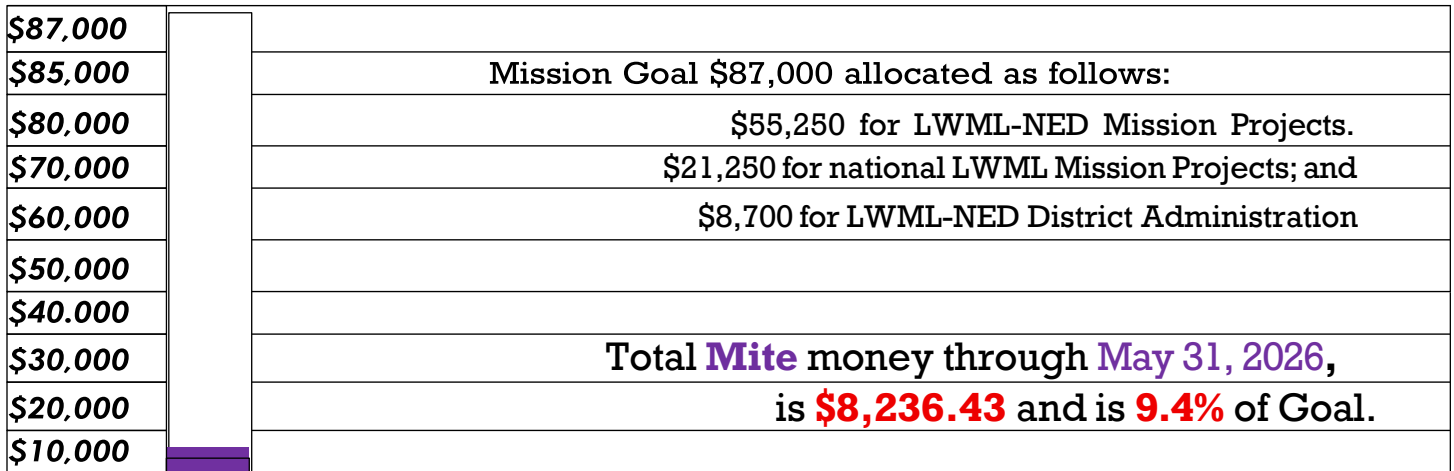


We hope you are enjoying these issues of "Pass It On" -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women in Mission-New England District (LWML-NED)** and nationally. For more news and information, visit www.lwml-ned.org

LWML-NED Mission Goal

for 2026-2028 is \$87,000

2026-2028 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS



God bless
us as we
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.

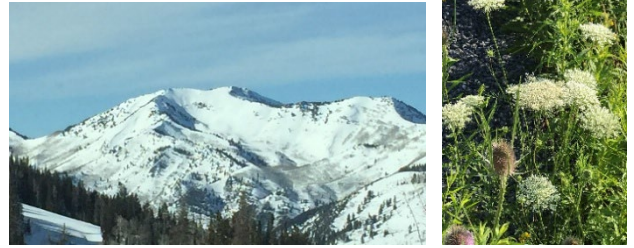
SEND MITES TO: Barbara Lis, Treasurer
LWML-New England District
P.O. Box 932, Niantic, CT 06357

We are now working on the 2026-2028 LWML-NED Mission Grants:

1b	LWML-NED Church Worker Scholarships (Amt funded to-date \$2,353.68)	\$7,000
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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 June 2026 **The Changing Nature**

When I was a little girl, I used to become very agitated when friends would sing “June is busting out all over”. At the time, all I could think of was getting chubby and bursting my pants seams. Of course, as an adult, I realized that I wasn’t splitting my stitches open. I became aware that everyone was happy because summer had arrived and indeed nature was busting out all over.

Jim and I just returned from a drive out west where we watched the different stages of nature adjusting to the temperature change. As we went through the Pennsylvania mountains, we could see the hillsides becoming fuller with various shades of green. Continuing west, we saw the farmers tilling their acreage. Some early crops were peaking up through the soil. We drove on, heading for the Rocky Mountain passes – lo and behold – SNOW. Isn’t nature remarkable! And wasn’t God remarkable when He created nature. He knew that we need the snow runoff in order for the crops to grow. I write a lot about nature, flowers, mountains, the ocean, etc, etc, etc. I can’t help it. I am enamored with nature, the countryside, wildlife, flora, fauna; the environment in general.

In this busy life of ours, I hope that you take time to smell the roses, watch the waves, blow a dandelion puff and thank God for His marvelous gift of nature.

1 Timothy 4:4 – “For everything God created is good”

Never underestimate God’s creative power
All He ever made, a mountain, an ocean, a flower
Turns out to be a beautiful creation
Using nature as a continued celebration
Remember always to enjoy God’s gift
Every day, it can give you a wonderful lift.

Yours in Christian Love,

June

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



LWML District 2026-2028 Mission Grants

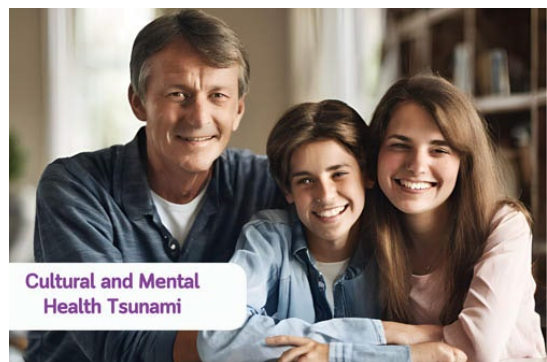
1b. LWML-NED Church Worker Scholarships – \$7000

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 #11

NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis

Lutheran Family Service, Iowa | \$92,500



Mental health problems, suicide attempts, gender identity confusion and transition, alienation from family and church ... the number of young people and their parents who are devastated by this cultural and mental health tsunami is rising every day, destroying faith, lives, and families. The number of people who identify as transgender has doubled in recent years. Those who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are more likely to have mental health problems and suicidal thoughts and attempts.

About This Mission Grant

The number of serious mental health problems, suicide attempts, gender identity confusion and transition, and alienation from family and church is impacting young people and their parents. These cultural and mental health issues are destroying faith, lives, and families. Because of the stigma surrounding these topics, it is often difficult for Christian families to ask for help. They would like care that is scripturally sound, and Gospel-focused.

Lutheran Family Service (LFS) provides teams of LCMS pastors and licensed Christian mental health therapists who bring help through in-person and virtual education events, lead support groups, and provide individualized Gospel-focused care to the increasing number of families facing these mental health issues. Many LCMS parents facing these circumstances feel isolated and alone and are at risk of

leaving the church.

This grant will fund teams of LCMS pastors and licensed mental health therapists to provide Gospel-focused care for families.

Lutheran Women In Mission STRUCTURE



National

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League or Lutheran Women In Mission is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The object of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among the women of LCMS through mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service; and to gather funds for mission grants either directly sponsored or approved by LCMS boards or LCMS district presidents, especially those for which no adequate funding provision has been made in LCMS national or district budgets.

- [Learn more about the national level of LWML.](#)
- [LWML Bylaws](#)
- [LWML Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2025](#)

Districts

The district is usually the state in which you live, with some states having more than one district and some states combined to make one district. Districts initiate programs and projects as well as implement those of the LWML.

- [Learn more about the district level of LWML.](#)
- [Bylaws for Districts](#)

Zones

A zone is a group of local LWML groups and individual members in the same geographic area united to promote the object of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League — mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission grants.

- [Learn more about the zone level of LWML.](#)
- [Bylaws for Zones](#)

LWML Local Groups and Individual Members

Local groups (societies) and individual members are the foundation upon which the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is built. The entire LWML program begins with participants at the congregational level.

- [Learn more about the local level of LWML.](#)
- [Bylaws for Local Groups](#)

The purpose of the Structure Committee is to:

- Keep the LWML Bylaws and related resources flexible while maintaining the legal status of the organization.

You may contact us by sending an email to depor@lwml.org.

LWML Local Groups and Individual Members

LWML begins with participation of individual women and groups at the congregational level.

PURPOSE

A woman's involvement in LWML usually begins through the local organization. Local groups:

- help each woman draw closer to the Lord;
- encourage and equip women to use their God-given talents in sharing God's love; and
- provide opportunities for service within the congregation and for outreach to the community and world.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is available to any woman who is a communicant member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Application, in accordance with the district bylaws for both individual and group membership, is made to the LWML district in which the person or group is located.

LOCAL GROUP (also known as a SOCIETY)

Women who are members of a local group affiliated with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League are members of the LWML. Members of a group may hold elective office and are entitled to full voting privileges at the zone and district levels in accordance with the bylaws of the subordinate organization.

INDIVIDUAL

Women in a congregation, with or without a local group, who wish to support the mission and ministry of LWML, but cannot, for a variety of reasons, attend group meetings, may become individual members. [Individual Membership Guidelines are available as a free download at www.lwml.org](#). LWML district presidents may be contacted for more information. Individual members have the same rights and privileges as members of groups, may serve on committees, and hold elective offices at the zone, district, and LWML levels.

ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE

The structure taken by an LWML local group depends upon the needs of the women involved. A group may adopt, but is not restricted to, one of the following patterns as its framework.

PROGRAM

An LWML group will:

- support the aims of the LWML;
- fulfill the LWML Mission Statement;
- promote the Object of the LWML;
- encourage use of the official LWML publication, the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*;
- distribute Mite Boxes and gather funds for support of district and LWML mission grants; and
- be an open, welcoming group that encourages participation and new ideas from all women of the congregation.

LWML Mid-Valley Spring Rally

LWML Mid-Valley Spring Rally Immanuel ladies hosted the Spring Rally on Saturday, May 16. We had over 35 ladies and guests, from St. John’s, Westfield MA, First Lutheran, Holyoke MA, Holy Trinity, Terryville, Immanuel, Bristol and St. Paul’s New Hartford. New England District, LWML President June Merwin welcomed everyone, along with our Mid-Zone President Linda Slozak. Immanuel Lutheran Church’s Pastor Benjamin Akers did the opening prayer. St. John’s Lutheran Church’s Senior Pastor David Riley spoke on Isaiah and Associate Pastor Jeffery Windoloski spoke on “Here I am Lord”. A collection for “Hands of Grace” were given to Immanuel Lutheran School.



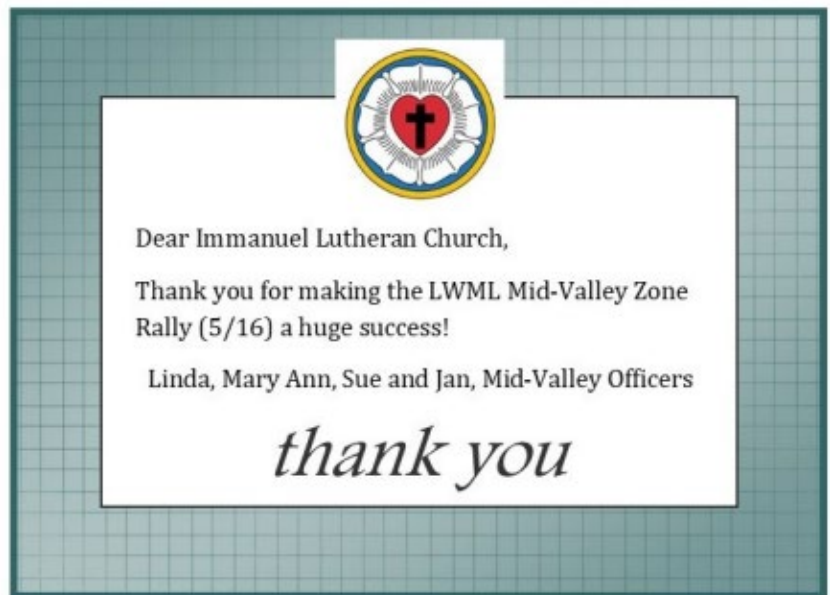
Pastor David Riley



Mid-Zone President, Linda Slozak



Pastor Jeffery Windoloski



Lutheran Women in Mission-NED RETREAT

November 6/7, 2026



Schedule the date in your Calendar **Now!**

Our Speaker: SHARLA FRITZ

Our Theme: “HEALER OF MY SOUL”



Hotel: Hilton-DoubleTree At Bradley Airport
Hotel Room Cost: \$159.00

BELOW IS A TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF OUR RETREAT AGENDA.

Friday

- 4:00 PM Registration opens in Hotel Lobby
- 4:30-6:50 PM Friday evening dinner is on your own
- 7:00 PM Greetings – NED President Dr. June Merwin
- Opening Prayer and Devotion
 - SESSION 1 – “Healer of My Soul” Sharla Fritz, Christian Author and Speaker
 - Mites in Action
 - Closing Devotion and Prayer
- 9:00 PM Good Night and enjoy fellowship with your LWML Sisters

Saturday

- 6:30-8:30 AM Breakfast on your own in hotel restaurant
- 7:15 AM Registration in Hotel Lobby
- 8:15 AM Singing praises to our Lord
- Greetings and Announcements
 - Opening Devotion
 - SESSION 2 - “Healer of My Soul” Sharla Fritz, Christian Author and Speaker
 - Coffee Break, 25 minutes to socialize & shop
 - Mites Challenge
 - Crafts
 - Recognition of First Timers
 - Mission Projects
 - Luncheon Buffet – Table Prayer
 - SESSION 3 – “Healer of My Soul” Sharla Fritz, Christian Author and Speaker
 - Silent Auction; Recap of MITES collection; Mite table sales
 - Dedication of Gifts from the Heart; Prayer Requests; Closing Devotions
- 3:00 PM Closing Remarks – LWML-NED President Dr. June Merwin
God’s blessing as you travel home to your family.

COME, join us as Lutheran Women in Mission

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN Announces Assistance to the Jamaican Mission Terryville, CT




On June 4, Volunteers from the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct. loaded a Box truck with items for a Mission in Jamaica. The local organization in Waterbury, God Provides, was collecting medical items to fill a container of aid being prepared.

The items loaded were 20 commodes, 10 wheelchairs, 15 boxes of bed pads, 15 pairs of crutches, 20 bedpans/urinals, 20 boxes of Catheters, 5 Walkers, 5 Rollators, and 4 boxes of orthopedic supplies. These items will be added to the container being prepared for shipment to assist those in need in Jamaica. OGT works with various Charities to help them complete their outreach efforts.

Other shipments have gone to missions in countries on 4 continents as well as Appalachia and hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida, Kentucky and North Carolina. The Branch also helps those locally in New England, giving medical items that have been donated to individuals in need and through the visiting nurse and hospice care organizations of the area. The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church, and OGT is a 501(3)(C) charity affiliated with the church and supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran in Terryville and Immanuel Lutheran in Bristol and is open to all who want to help others. For more information, please call Holy Trinity at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the OGT.org website.

Saluting service.
A community event
for our veterans.

Cross On The Road
June 27th 2026



Our Thrivent team, led by Jon Skov at Crossroads Financial, is introducing our new program. This year we are taking a trip for an incredible experience working on repairs for a veteran-led equine therapy for veterans, **Hope For Healing**. Hope For Healing is in Hampden, Maine. We would be repairing a run-in for the horses and cleaning around the property. Have fun and connect with servant-hearted volunteers for this memorable experience. Share your passion for helping and bring a guest.

Saturday, June 27th AM-PM Hope For Healing, Main Rd S Hampden, Maine, hosted by Jon Skov. **Please email** Barbara Bosworth at barbara.bosworth@thrivent.com to let us know you would like to attend.



LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Function	Other Info
Nov 6-7, 2026 Friday 4:00 pm Saturday 7:30 am – 3:00 pm	Hilton-DoubleTree at Bradley Airport	LWML-NED 2026 RETREAT Speaker: author Sharla Fritz Theme: Healer of my Soul	Contact: Delberta Novicki
July 8-11, 2027 Thu, July 8 th thru Sun, July 11 th	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	42nd Biennial National LWML Convention “Transformed in Christ” Romans 12:2	Contact: June Merwin

Sending our Graduates Off with God’s Blessings and Love

Our senior high students have graduated. Some will move away, and some will commute from home as they work or continue their education. Research shows college-age students tend to discontinue church attendance and distance themselves from their faith family, worship, and prayer. They can use as much encouragement and love as we can give them. Many messages from the media and their peers can leave teens feeling hopeless, lonely, and inadequate. The loving messages of His hope, love, acceptance, and forgiveness will support these young men and women.

Gospel Focus

Be strong and courageous ... it is the Lord your God, who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Prayer as You Plan and Prepare

Heavenly Father, we bring our youth before You. Lord, give them wisdom, enabling them to always look to You in everything they do. You know their challenges. Help them, Lord; give them Your peace and joy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

