Lutheran Women in Mission
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

PASS IT ON

September 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

$87,000	
$85,000	MISSION GOAL $87,000 ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:
$80,000	$55,280 for LWML-NED Mission Projects;
$70,000	$21,250 for National LWML Mission Projects; and
$60,000	$8,700 for LWML-NED District Administration.
$50,000	
$40,000	
$30,000	TOTAL MITE money through August 31, 2026
$20,000	Is $11,936.23 and is 13.7% of
$10,000	

ASTER

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

"**A word from your Treasurer**: *Dear Sisters, please encourage your congregation to give as generously as they are able to support our Mission Projects which proclaim the Gospel to New England, the nation and the world!"*

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

1b	LWML-NED Church Worker Scholarships (Amount funded to date **$4,758.55**, we **need $2,241.45** to **fully fund** project.)	$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 September 2026 – ENERGY

How much energy do you think is expended on sports?! If you are a serious athlete, you train, eat a special diet, get good nights' sleep, and prepare mentally for games. The devotion of athletes is to be commended. When we were in high school, all that energy came more easily. As we age, it takes more work to keep in shape. Of course then we can switch over to be spectators at sports events instead of being on the field – and lots of energy can go into that as well.

Just take a look at what we just experienced – The FIFA World Cup…..right here in the USA. The enthusiasm of the fans was remarkable – maybe too remarkable since the Scots drank all the beer that Boston had to offer. We had visitors from all over the world. I just heard a report that stated that the economic boost to our cities was in the billions.

So my questions are: Do we have the same enthusiam for our God? Do we use the same amount of energy to support our Lord? Do we cheer for Christ? It's time to reevaluate whether we have more energy for Sunday night foodball than we do for Sunday morning bible study. Don't lose the joy you have for your faith. God is standing right in front of us – ready to wrap his protecting arms around us if we simply ask.

Col 1:29: To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Energy drinks are the in thing
Next to caffeine, vigor it brings
Everything to make us strong
Really? But it won't last long
Go and put your energy in Christ
Yes, that's all you need – 'twill suffice.

Yours in Christian Love,

June

Dr. June Rae Merwin
President LWML NED; 860-581-0379; june.merwin@gmail.com

November 6th and 7th 2026
Come, Join Us

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 #13

Reaching God's Children in Haiti

Trinity HOPE: A Haitian feeding program that brings hope to the children of Haiti, one bowl of beans and rice at a time. The noon meal a child receives through the Trinity HOPE feeding program is life sustaining, and the Gospel message carries their eternity. Children thrive because they are receiving a source of nourishment both physically and spiritually.

Trinity HOPE, Haiti | $61,782

About This Mission Grant

Trinity HOPE began working with Lutheran schools in Haiti in 1999. Originally feeding 42 children in one school, the ministry now feeds 65,000 children, teachers, and cooks in over 265 Christian schools across the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere where more than 4.7 million people suffer from acute hunger. The children are innocent victims of gang violence, inflation, cultural insecurity, lack of jobs for parents, and the worship of Satan through the Voodoo religion.

Eleven of the 36 feeding program directors are Lutheran pastors who visit their schools twice a month to teach lessons from God's Word. Before each meal a prayer is said, and children profess their faith in Jesus. The children receive the light, love, and warmth of knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior with each meal served.

This grant will fund 160,472 meals served to children and teachers over two years.

Walking with my Lord
Lord, help me to use all that I am and have, to glorify You. In Jesus' name.

IMPORTANT RETREAT MESSAGE, PLEASE READ!

PLEASE NOTE THERE HAS BEEN A CORRECTION ON THE RETREAT POSTER AND REGISTRATION FORM IN THIS PASS IT ON. THE CORRECT PHONE NUMBER TO MAKE A ROOM RESERVATION IS 860-627-5171.

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LWML-NED Board Change

The Executive Board of the LWML-NED elected Jo Schiebel, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME to fulfill the remaining term of VP Gospel Outreach. Mary Anne Hansen, St Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford has graciously agreed to serve as Mission Grants Committee Chairman.

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LCMS women have been "influencers" in our American Culture over the years, using their many gifts and talents to share Jesus' love in their homes, families, churches, schools, and workplaces. Here are stories about LCMS women who applied biblical principles in their vocations; some names you may recognize, while others are known only to a few.

To read the stories go to the LWML website (*LWML.org*). On the first screen begins the above paragraph leading to the first story of **Dorothy**…follow and begin reading *His Story through History: stories of faithful women*.

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OCTOBER - LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION - 2026 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.'"

2026 Prayer Service Downloads found on LWML website:
https://www.lwml.org/prayer-service

TECH TIP — CONTINUING TO SHARE THE NEWS

Newsletters from your LWML zone or district are one of the best ways to stay informed about what is happening in LWML in your area. If you currently use **Microsoft Publisher** to create your newsletter, an **important change** is on the horizon.

On **October 1, 2026**, Microsoft will retire Publisher. If you have existing Publisher files to preserve or reuse, Microsoft recommends converting them to PDF or Microsoft Word (docx) format before Publisher is discontinued.

So, what can you use instead?

Microsoft Word is Microsoft's primary recommendation as a replacement for Publisher. If your newsletter is especially image-heavy, **Microsoft PowerPoint** is another good option. If you prefer a program with ready-made templates, **Canva** is an excellent choice.

Learning a new program can feel overwhelming at first, but you don't have to do it alone. Reach out to someone in your zone or district — or a friend or family member — who has experience with these programs. Most people are happy to share what they know, and this can be a wonderful opportunity to introduce the mission of LWML as together we ***Serve the Lord with Gladness!***

Be Imitators

Be Imitators of me, as I am of Christ (1 Corinthians 11: 1).

In the passage above, St. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to follow his example as he followed Christ's example. As a Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) leader, whom do you seek to imitate?

Each of us has different gifts for leadership and different settings for service to our Lord and to others. However, one way we can be imitators of Christ is by following the example of faithful leaders who have gone before us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in faith as we study God's Word, both independently and within our groups, zones, and districts. Many resources, including devotions, Bible studies, and Mustard Seed Devotions are available to view and download at ***lwml.org*** under the The Word tab. Select Program Resources under the drop-down menu to see suggested resources for a given month from the two-year planner, **Seek. Pray. Serve**. You can also use the search tool (magnifying glass) to find devotions and Bible studies on a selected topic. These Christian life materials, and many other resources, are also available right at your fingertips via the free LWML phone app.

Be a Young Woman Representative!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

National 82nd Biennial Convention

July 8-11, 2027, in Oklahoma City, OK

Young Women IN MISSION

Transformed in CHRIST Romans 12:2

WHO: a **mature young woman**, preferably **22-35 years** of age, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously attended a convention as a Young Woman Representative; who has a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and is willing to participate in the full scope of the Convention.

WHAT: The **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) National Convention**. The Convention includes missions and missionary updates, business meeting, break-out sessions with interesting speakers or servant opportunities, Bible Study, and lots of Christian sister fellowship!

WHEN: Thursday, July 8th through Sunday, July 11th, 2027

WHERE: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

HOW: Compliments of the LWML-NED! We will pay the registration fee and for the hotel room (shared with another YWR), meals, and airfare.

WHY: Because we love the LWML & we love you & we'd like you to love the LWML! LWML is also known as **Lutheran Women in Mission,** and we think that phrase and our mission statement describe us perfectly: *The mission of the Lutheran Women in New England is to continue glorifying our God through acts of love, service, and encouragement toward each other and those whose lives we touch.*

NEXT STEPS: Fill out application* and submit it to the Young Women Committee at mrs.sage@veino.com. Paperwork **due by November 15, 2026**.

We look forward to hearing you and introducing you to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

*The application can be found at lwml-ned.org/special-focus/

Young Woman Representative Application

Convention (circle one): National
District Date: _____

Convention Location _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Congregation _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please answer the following questions. Use a separate sheet of paper if needed. Return your completed form and reference letter to your district president and Young Women Committee Chair by the **deadline** set within your district (**November 15, 2026**).

If you have questions, please ask the Young Women Committee (mrs.sage@veino.com) or your district president (june.merwin@gmail.com).

1) The LWML motto is "Serve the Lord with Gladness" (Psalm 100:2). How do you do this in your life and in your church? (In what groups or activities are you a participant?)

2) What do you know about the LWML? Have you been involved at any level?

3) Why do you desire to be a Young Woman Representative?

4) What do you feel your special interests, talents, and gifts are?

5) Your district is making a financial commitment to send you to the LWML convention. It will be an exciting and spiritually inspiring event with very little free time. You are expected to participate in the full scope of the convention. Are you able to do so?

6) Are you willing to serve in some capacity in your district after the convention?

Please ask someone who knows you well, perhaps the person who encouraged you to apply, to answer the following question, "Why do you feel this woman would make a good LWML Young Woman Representative?"

Ask this person to answer on a separate sheet of paper and include their name and relationship to you. Attach their sheet to your application form or have them return it separately to the email addresses above.
Thank you for applying!

ZONES

Lutheran Women Fall Gathering on **September 26th** Saturday morning at 10:00am at Zion Lutheran Church, 235 Pond Hill Road, **Wallingford, CT.**

Our theme is **Praying the Hymnal** *"Can I use the beautiful lyrics of our hymns in my prayers? Let's find out together!"* **Join us for the morning program and a light lunch.**

Gifts from the Heart: Please bring women's products or toiletries for donation to Master's Manna, a Food Pantry and Family Dining Room serving the greater Wallingford/Meriden community.

Questions? Email MtLaurelZone@lwml-ned.org

Koinonia Zone Fall Rally

Guest Speakers –
Rev. Timothy & Lisa Sandeno
Missionary/Church Planters in Germany
The Sandenos will speak about the unique need of bringing the Gospel to the Land of Luther & share their experiences.

October 10th 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

LWML New England District

You are invited to

LWML EASTERN ZONE FALL GATHERING

Saturday, October 3, 2026

1:00pm – 3:00 pm

St Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

950 East Street
Dedham, MA

Guest speakers: Rev. Miguel Barcelos
Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry

There will be a door offering for LWML-NED Missions

In-gathering: Dedham Food Pantry

Lunch will be provided.

$10 suggested registration

We look forward to seeing you all!

For questions, please call 617-759-6769

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Gifts of Love
Gift Planning

Gifts of Love Gift Planning offers free, confidential guidance to help you create a charitable estate plan that blesses your family and supports the missions you care about. We celebrate those who have included LWML in their estate plans or have made a special gift. Your support allows us to continue spreading the message of Christ and empowers ongoing mission outreach.

Carol von Soosten/800-741-4138 x 1 *Sarah Seying*/800-741-4138 x 2

GOD BLESS OUR SCHOOLS AND THE CHILDREN

LWML-NED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	LOCATION	FUNCTION	OTHER INFO
SEPT 12, 2026 12 Noon	St. John's Lutheran 60 Broad Street Westfield, MA 01085	FALL RALLY Mid Valley Zone Speaker: Sue Lastowski	Contact: Linda Slozak "And the truth will set you free."
SEPT 26, 2026 10:00 AM	ZION Lutheran Church, 235 Pond Hill Rd Wallingford, CT	FALL GATHERING Mt. Laurel Zone "Praying the Hymnal"	Contact: Janine Fagan
OCT 3, 2026 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	St. Lukes Evangelical Lutheran Church 950 East Street Dedham, MA	FALL GATHERING Eastern Zone Guest speaker: Rev. Miguel Barcelos	Contact: Leslie Colligan Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry
OCT 10, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Immanuel Lutheran Church 18 Clapboard Ridge Rd Danbury, CT	FALL GATHERING Koinonia Zone Speakers: Rev. Timothy and Lisa Sandenos	Contact: Sue Dow Missionary/Church Planters in Germany
OCT 10, 2026 9:00 AM Registration followed by Bible Study, lunch and business mtg	Lutheran Church of the Savior Bedford, MA	FALL CHRISTIAN GATHERING Northern Zone	Contact: Lois Moyo **"Stones to Remind us"** Deuteronomy 32.7
NOV 6, 2026 2:00 PM	Hilton-DoubleTree At Bradley Airport	LWML-NED BOARD MEETING	Contact: June Merwin
NOV 6, 2026 Friday 4:00 PM Saturday 7:30 AM –3:00PM	Hilton-DoubleTree At Bradley Airport	**2026 FALL RETREAT** Speaker: Sharla Fritz Theme: Healer of my Soul	Contact: Delberta Novicki
JUL 8-11, 2027 Thu, Jul 8th thru Sun, Jul 11th	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	**42nd BIENNIAL LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION** "Transformed In Christ"	Contact: June Merwin Romans 12:2

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION – NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

2026 FALL RETREAT

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2026

SPEAKER: SHARLA FRITZ

THEME: HEALER OF MY SOUL

About the author

Sharla Fritz has been described as an amazing eye-opening speaker and author. She helps women who feel they are pulled in a hundred different directions find soul rest by helping them connect to Christ–the Healer of souls. By delving into God's Word, she helps her readers discover their next step of faith.

Sharla makes her home in the Chicago area where she is also a pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, musician, and confirmed chocoholic. And if she isn't sitting at her piano or computer, you might find her stalking fabulous fashion finds at the local resale shop.

Retreat will be held at the Hilton-DoubleTree Hotel at Bradley Airport
16 Ella T. Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, CT 06096

HOTEL REGISTRATION

Contact the Reservation Desk: 860-627-5171 and **remember** to mention you are with the LWML RETREAT to get the discount room price of **$ 159.00 plus tax = $182.85**.

Each Hotel Room can hold up to 4 women. Saturday lunch comes with Registration.

NOTE: **R**egistration **F**orms must be **submitted no later than** **M**onday, **O**ctober 26, 2026.

RETREAT REGISTRATION will open at **4:00 PM** on Friday and **7:30 AM** on Saturday.

Friday evening **Program** will start at **7:00 PM**. Dinner will be on your own.
Saturday – **Program** starts at **8:30 AM**. Breakfast will be on your own. Lunch will be a buffet.

Gifts from the Heart: We will support our three LCMS-New England District Lutheran Schools. Bring any of these items: Gift cards to Walmart/Staples, boxes of tissues, sanitizing wipes, poster board, poster paint, packages of construction paper, colored highlighters, colored pencils, and crayons.

Crafts, etc.: Please donate crafts, appropriate books, jewelry, handwork items, home canned pickles, relishes, butters, etc. All proceeds will support our Mission Grants.

Silent Auction: One wrapped Gift Basket from each Zone will be in the Auction. However, anyone who wants to bring a basket of gifts may join the Auction.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION - NEW ENGLAND

2026 FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 6/7, 2026

Lutheran Women in Mission NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Speaker: SHARLA FRITZ

Theme: "HEALER OF MY SOUL"

Name:	
Street Address:	
City:	State: Zip Code:
Home Church:	City: State:
LWML Zone:	Phone: (h)
Email:	(c)

REGISTRATION: $65 **NO One-Day Registration.** **FIRST TIME ATTENDEE: $60**

Send CHECK (payable to LWML-NED) and **Registration Form** to:
Patricia Heather at 606 Waverly Road, Middleboro, MA 02346
Registration Forms ***must be submitted no later than*** **Monday, October 26, 2026.**

RETREAT REGISTRATION STARTS at 4:00 PM FRIDAY and 7:30 AM SATURDAY.
Friday Program starts 7:00 PM. **Saturday Program** starts 8:30 AM. **Check-out** Saturday 11:00 AM.

List food allergies/health issues: _____.

Your Signature_____**Date**_____

SATURDAY: Breakfast will be on your own. Registration comes with a buffet lunch.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: The retreat will be held at **Hilton-DoubleTree at Bradley Airport**, 16 Ella T. Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, CT 06096. Make your reservations by contacting the **Reservation Desk**: **860-627-5171** and **remember** to mention you are with the **LWML RETREAT** to get the discount room rate of **$ 159.00 plus tax = $182.85**.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: Please support our three LCMS-NED Lutheran Schools. Bring any of these items to retreat: Gift cards to Walmart/Staples, boxes of tissues, sanitizing wipes, poster board, poster paint, packages of construction paper, colored highlighters, colored pencils, and crayons.

SILENT AUCTION: Each Zone to bring a wrapped Basket of Gifts for the Silent Auction. If anyone wants to bring a Gift Basket to add, you may. There will be Crafts tables, proceeds go to Mission Grants!

CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE A FIRST TIME ATTENDEE: _____