

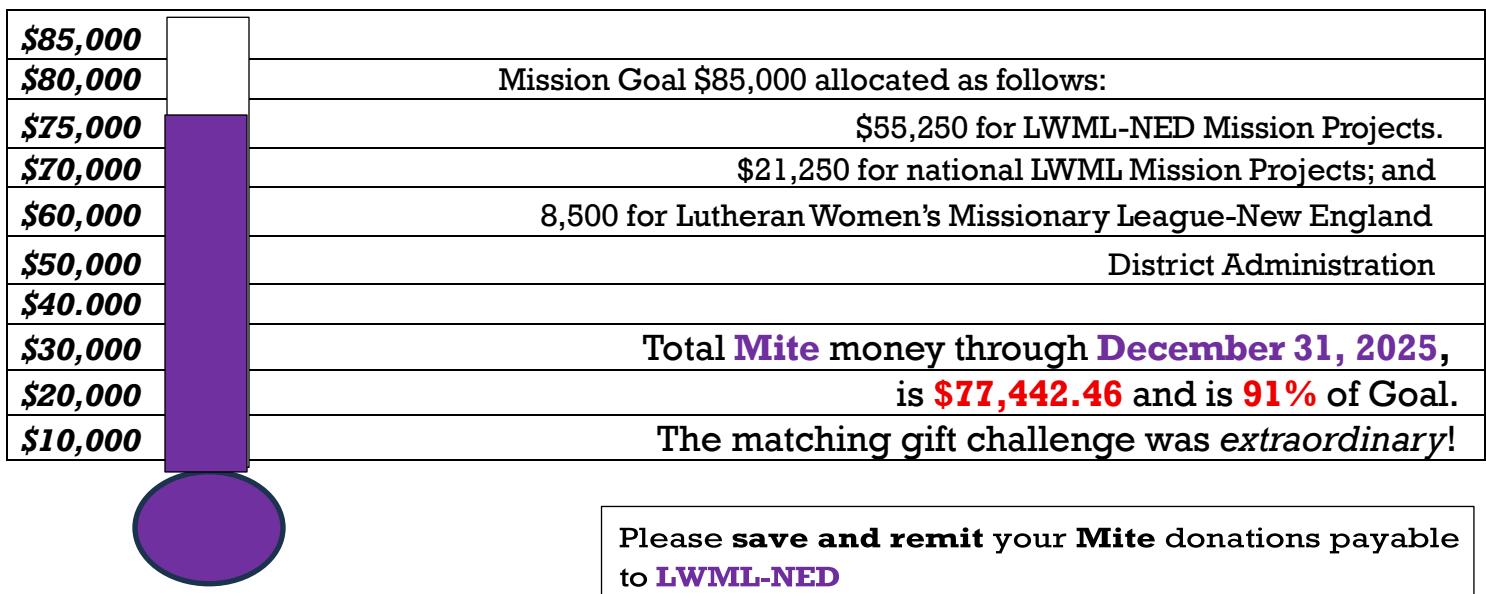


We hope you are enjoying these issues of "Pass It On" -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women Missionary League-New England District** (LWML-NED) * and nationally. For more news and information, visit www.lwml-ned.org

PASS IT ON
JANUARY 2026

**LWML-NED Mission Goal
for 2024-2026 is \$85,000**

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

The Grants we are currently working on can be found on page 3.

Grant 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.





January 2026: A House made of Ice

When winter arrives in Kiruna, Sweden, creators from around the world gather to build the ICEHOTEL in Jukkasjärvi, using the ice from the frozen Torne River. A breathtaking and unique hotel appears in new shapes each year. A marvelous experience! When we visited Alaska, we flew into Fairbanks. One of our tours included an ICE CHURCH. With everything made of ice, when the sunbeams came in through the windows, prisms and rainbows sparkled all over the edifice. There are buildings made of ice all over the Northern Hemisphere. While living in Norway, I saw many examples. The Eskimos build them as do the Laplanders, Siberians, and others.

While looking at pictures of structures built of ice, I started thinking about the old-fashioned ICEHOUSE. My grandfather had one in Western New York which was dug deep into the hard, cold earth. He took blocks of ice from the frozen Niagara River, packed them together and covered them with straw. They lasted until the next autumn. Continuing my train of thought led me to think about our CHRISTIAN HOUSE. Is it build of ice that will melt or is it constructed on the rock of Jesus Christ? Surely, we all want a house that will stand. Therefore, we must build our life with Jesus as the cornerstone. Then it will stand forever.

Isaiah 26:4: Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the **ROCK eternal.**

Ice and snow of winter, melt away each spring

Collapsing the structure - is what warm sun brings.

Each of us must decide on 'what' we build our faith

How about straw? Hay? Sand? NO wait!

Our house will stand tall on Jesus Christ our Lord.

Using God's example, keeping us in accord.

So, build your house and faith on Christ our King

Every day we praise Him and to our Lord we Sing.

Yours in Christian Fellowship, **June**

**Dr. June Rae Merwin,
President, LWML NED**

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 \$18.15)	\$ 704.45
10c	Seminarians for Haiti, Ministry/Mission (received to-date \$0.00)	\$1,760.83
10d	Unequally Yoked, POVLO 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 #6

Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients



Phil's Friends, U.S. — \$100,000

About This Mission Grant

The core of Phil's Friends mission is based on Matthew 25:36, I was sick and you visited me. In the past 18 years, Phil's Friends has sent nearly 60,000 care packages and more than one million Cards of Hope. This ministry supports anyone with cancer regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or income level.

"Facing Cancer Bravely & Beautifully."

Linda St. Myers is a faithful supporter of Phil's Friends. She was one of the first to volunteer at the Crown Point, IN Hope Center when it opened in 2017. Sadly, Linda, 66, is currently dealing with terminal brain cancer. She has a bright and beautiful spirit and loves volunteering when her health allows.

"Volunteering at Phil's Friends has become a passion of mine," Linda said. "It's just wonderful being here." Here she is with Phil Zielke, founder of Phil's Friends, standing before a wall of boxes she helped to decorate.

It costs \$100 for one year to support a cancer patient. This total includes the care package, 12 Cards of Hope, and postage. The care packages are hand-decorated, and the contents are customized according to the age and gender of the recipient. They are filled with simple, practical comfort items that cancer patients can use during their treatments. Phil's Friends is 100% donor supported.

This grant will purchase supplies for care packages and Cards of Hope and will pay for shipping and postage to support 1,000 cancer patients for one year.

Lord Jesus, let Your presence dwell in my heart at Christmas time and always. Amen.

Christmas Fairs

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Terryville CT

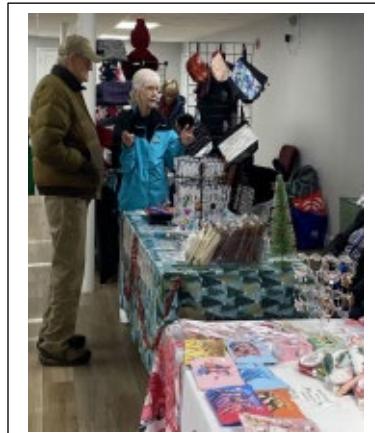
June Merwin, District President and Gail Milke, Editor of *Pass It On* visited this Fair. It was a beautiful celebration of the holiday. With mixed delights for eating by the pound; tables full of miscellaneous gift ideas; items of workmanship in sweaters, blankets, tablecloths, etc.; handmade wreaths to decorate anyone's doorway; a table of "Nuts" for snacking; and 7 types of soups to warm you when shopping was done for a free will offering. Christmas Fairs always give us a way to look for unique things to fill our homes with Love.



These are the women of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Terryville, CT

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Norwalk, CT

On Saturday, December 6, SPLC hosted our 2nd Christmas Craft Fair. We hosted 10 local handicraft vendors. The goal of the Christmas Craft Fair was to invite our neighbors into our fellowship hall hoping they will come back to worship with us. We had over 90 neighbors attend the fair and each was provided with an SPLC branded shopping bag which contained information on our worship times and December activities. Children were invited to make crafts in the nursery. This year we had a table with SPLC information and refrigerator magnets with members speaking to our neighbors about Jesus, our faith, SPLC, and their prayer requests. Please pray that our neighbors are moved by the Holy Spirit to start worshiping and remember that we are here to worship with them.



SOCIETY NEWS Continued

Cookie Exchange

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Norwalk, CT



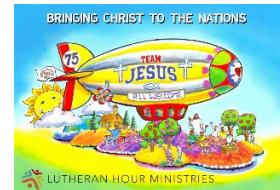
On Saturday, December 13, SPLC hosted our third annual Cookie Exchange. A baker's dozen +1 of bakers shared a light lunch and exchanged tasty treats with a multinational flair.



Also, on December 13th 8 intrepid **carolers** set out to entertain their homebound members – they visited, sang, and delivered care packages. At The Greens they were able to spread God's message and holiday cheer to additional residents.



Did you see it?



THE LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES float in the Rose Parade 2026.

We worked on the floats with the LHM Petal Pushers with a team of 25 people from Orange Lutheran High School Missions Program yesterday. Always a wonderful way to serve!!! Blessed to see God at work around the world in this unique way!! Happy 2026!!! ...Mary Scott

Are you looking for a New Year Devotion? Look here...

 **Lutheran Women in Mission**

[Go Back](#)

Winter Resources

From Advent to Christmas to Epiphany, we have service ideas for you and your family.



[Bible Studies](#)

THE WORD ▾ MISSIONS SERVICE

- [Bible Studies](#)
- [Mustard Seed Devotions](#)
- [Program Resources](#)
- [Coloring Scripture](#)
- [Spanish Resources](#)
- [Winter Resources](#)
- [All Spiritual Growth Resources](#)

From [LWML.org](https://www.lwml.org) main menu, select THE WORD and click on *Winter Resources* from drop down menu.

Scroll down the list to find:

[Resolutions](#) — Epiphany, New Year

[We Begin Anew](#) — Thankfulness, Healing, New Year

[Gold, Frankincense and Me! \(Leader Guide and Worksheet\)](#) — Christmas, Epiphany, Mites and Missions

[New Beginnings](#) — Trust, New Year

2026 WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE LWML-NED



Meetings, meetings, meetings...

Get ready, here we go 2026. Starting our meeting with the Lord's blessing centers us to "Serve the Lord with gladness...".

Our Societies plan their year ahead with local society functions; Spring and Fall Gathering planning; our 2026 District Convention on April 17-18th – who will attend, who will be our YWR, how can we help, etc.; Retreat on Nov 6-7th who is going, any rides needed, any room sharing needed, etc.

Our Zones schedule their year ahead planning and participating in the Zone and society activities.

Our District schedules to keep all members up to date on Society, Zone and District activities throughout the year (see Pass-It-On PAS monthly). Updates concerning LWML-National priorities and issues where applicable.

LWML Local Society projects

- ❖ Christmas Fairs, Church coffee hours, Church dinners, Craft workshops, Bible Studies, picnics, collections to meet local needs, etc.

LWML-New England District/Zone

Spring Gathering/Zone

Fall Gatherings/Zone

LWML-NED Convention/District

LWML-NED Retreat/District

LWML-NED District Convention, *Known by God* (Psalm 139:13-14)



It will be our honor to host *Eden Keefe the President of the LWML*. This is brief information on President Eden. As President Eden began her term (2023-2027), "she shared her desire to be both purposeful and purpose filled. One outcome was the 2024 strategic planning, developed by the LWML Board of Directors and facilitated by Dr. Kurt Senske. To do this well, we need to build volunteer and office staff with specific skill sets, streamline processes, and adapt ourselves to new technology to better serve the organization. Implementing significant changes is a slow process in a large organization. By taking measured, thoughtful steps forward, we continue to evaluate structure and efficiencies, always moving closer to our goals. Streamlining processes, make it more pleasurable to *Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2)".

At the 2023 National Convention President Eden Keefe announced the organization *Lutheran Women's Missionary League* would be known as **LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**.

Our Mission Statement - *Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

Look for our new District logo in the next PIO issue

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.

**Young Woman Representative to the
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
New England District 29th Biennial Convention
Friday & Saturday, April 17-18, 2026
SpringHill Suites, Devens, MA**



WHO: a mature young woman, preferably 22-35 years of age, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously attended a district convention as a Zone 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) New England District Convention**. The Convention includes missionary updates, business meetings, break-out sessions with interesting speakers or servant opportunities, Bible study, and lots of Christian sister fellowship!

WHEN: Friday, April 17th @ 1 pm to Saturday, April 18th @ 4 pm

WHERE: SpringHill Suites, 27 Andrews Pkwy, Devens, MA 01434

HOW: Compliments of the LWML-NED! We will pay for your hotel room on Friday night (shared with another YWR), plus dinner on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

WHY: Because we love the LWML, we love you, and 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 an **application (next page)**, scan, and submit it to our Young Women Committee at mrs.sage@veino.com.



For all those wonderful carollers

Zone Young Woman Representative Application

LWML New England District 29th Biennial Convention

Friday & Saturday, April 17-18, 2026

SpringHill Suites, Devens, MA

Theme: Known By God Hebrews 139:13-14



Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Congregation _____

Zone _____

Phone/email _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate page:

- 1) The LWML motto is “Serve the Lord with gladness” (Psalm 100:2). How do you do this in your life?
- 2) What groups and activities are you involved in or have you been involved in at your church?
- 3) What do you know about the LWML? Have you been involved at any level?
- 4) Why do you desire to be a Young Woman Representative for your zone?
- 5) What do you feel your special interests, talents, and gifts are?
- 6) Your district is making a financial commitment to send you to the LWML convention. It will be an exciting and spiritually inspiring event. Do you intend to joyfully participate in the full scope of the convention?

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

Have them forward their response along with their name and relationship to you to one of the contacts below. Thank you!

By March 1, 2026, please remit to President Dr. June Merwin at President@lwml-ned.org or Sage Veino at mrs.sage@veino.com. We’re looking forward to meeting you.

LWML-NED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Function	Other Info
February 7, 2026 10 AM	Zoom Meeting	LWML-NED Board of Directors	Invitation to be sent in the New Year to Board Members
April 17-18, 2026 Friday PM/ Saturday until 3 PM	Spring-Hill Suites Devens, MA	LWML-NED District Convention "Known by God" (Psalm 139:13-14)	Application for Young Woman Representative (YWR) in this PIO.
November 6-7, 2026 Friday 4:00 pm Saturday 7:30 am – 3:00 pm approx.	TBD	RETREAT	
Zones must schedule the date, time, etc. early in 2026	TBD	Spring Gatherings	Submit to District President all information by mid-February

IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION

April 17-18, 2026

Convention Location: SpringHill Suites, Devens, MA

Room Rate: \$159 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 Womans Mission](#) (copy and paste below link)

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



When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.