



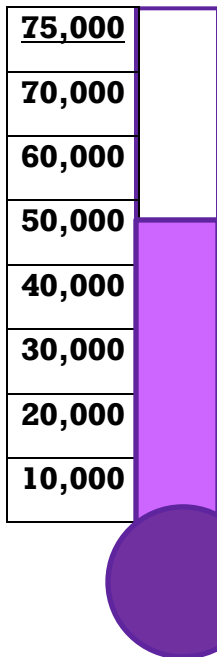
PASS IT ON

September 2023



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

LWML-NED Mission Goal for 2022-2024 is \$75,000



2022-2024 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS

Mission Goal \$75,000 allocated as follows:

\$48,750 for LWML-NED Mission Projects.
 \$18,750 for national LWML Mission Projects; and \$7,500 for Lutheran Womens Missionary League-New England District Administration.

Total Mite Money thru August 31, 2023, is

\$47,857.24 = 64% of Goal.



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: Susan Lastowski, Treasurer
 LWML-New England District
 P.O. Box 626, Holyoke, MA 01041

This is the Grant we are **currently** working:

| | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Grant 9 | God’s Word for Teenagers Worldwide--- Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI | (Rec’d to date \$1,307.21) | \$ 2,500 |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|

PLEASE KEEP OUR MITE RECIPIENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS YOU FEED YOUR MITE BOX.

*The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LWML-New England District (LWML-NED) is a part of the National LWML. Since 1942, the LWML has been encouraging women to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord with gladness and to support global missions.

NOTE: TO PRINT PIO WITHOUT COLOR, SELECT “GREYSCALE” WHEN YOU PRINT.



FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters in Mission:

We tend to fear the unknown, don't we? Jesus, knowing this and not wanting our hearts to be troubled, shared with His disciples and with us what will happen on the Last Day. It will be a day of great joy for us as He brings us to the heavenly banquet feast. We take comfort in His words, and we remain watchful and prepared.

In the *Parable of the Ten Virgins* in Matthew 25, Jesus calls five of the virgins foolish and five wise. They all take their lamps to meet the bridegroom, but only the wise take extra oil. The bridegroom's arrival is delayed. When he does come, the five wise virgins who brought extra oil trim their lamps and are ready to meet him. The five foolish who did not bring extra oil ask the five wise to share. The wise virgins refuse, and so the five foolish go to buy more oil, missing the arrival of the bridegroom.

On the surface, this could be taken as an exhortation to always be prepared for every situation and can make those of us who make lists and plan ahead feel very good about ourselves. We'd certainly have been a wise virgin in the parable! On the other hand, doesn't it sound harsh to us that the five virgins with the extra oil refuse to share? Aren't we supposed to share what we have to help others? Isn't that what LWML is all about, sharing our mites to help those in need and to share the Good News? Both of these interpretations miss the point of the parable.

Jesus tells us that He is the Bridegroom. *Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast"* (Matthew 9:15). The virgins are all church members, and the oil represents their faith. The five wise virgins who bring extra oil have nurtured their faith through the reading and study of His Word and the reception of the Lord's Supper. The hope and strength they receive from the Word and Sacrament sustain them until Christ returns. When Christ returns, it's too late to prepare, as the five foolish virgins found out. The five wise virgins could not share their "oil" (faith) with the five foolish virgins since no one can believe for another.

That is why it is so important that we share the lifesaving Gospel message now while there is still time. We want no one to hear on Judgment Day the words the bridegroom spoke to the foolish virgins as they tried to enter the marriage feast, *"Truly, I say to you, I do not know you"* (Matthew 25:12).

There are so many in our midst who need to be encouraged to listen to the Word and partake of the Lord's Supper, and so many who need to hear the saving Gospel message for the first time.

Please join us for our November retreat where your "oil" will be refreshed through the study of God's Word, where you will be able to serve others through participation in service projects and in your donation to "Gifts to the Heart", and where you will be able to donate to mites to help share the Gospel message with others. Come and bring a friend whose "oil" needs to be refreshed, or who needs to hear the Gospel's life-saving message for the first time.

*The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.*

*The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.*

Hymn 515 v. 2-3 Public domain

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Sharon P. Dever, LWML-NED President

9 God’s Word for Teenagers Worldwide---Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI \$2,500



When sharing the Gospel with teenagers, many missionaries and pastors are searching for new ways to connect them to God’s Word. A Bible storybook called, **GOD’S WORD FOR YOU**, has been written in an easy-to-understand way and colorfully illustrated in a comic book style that especially appeals to teens. Lutheran churches in countries like Muslim Indonesia and Buddhist Thailand are asking for this book to be translated into their languages. At a cost of just \$5 per book, this grant will provide 500 teens and their families in Southeast Asia with the Gospel. Books will be distributed free of charge. The total project cost for this project is \$16,500.

LCMS-NED 2024 District Convention

APRIL 26-27, 2024, MARRIOTT HOTEL, TRUMBULL, CT



Theme: “SONGS IN THE NIGHT”

Based on: Where is God my Maker,
who gives songs in the night, (Job 35:10)

*Recall that when Paul and Silas were in prison, they sang.
When the Israelites were going into battle, they prayed for guidance.
God told them to **send the choir first.***

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Katie Schuermann, musician/writer, and retreat Leader

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 2024

Traditionally celebrated the **first Sunday in October**, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.

Will Your Society/Church Participate?

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!



Lift up your heads, O gates! ...The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! (Psalm 24:7-10)

2023 Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday downloadable materials, authored by Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., are now available www.lwml.org/lwml-sunday.

October is Church Worker Appreciation Month



October brings changes in our busy schedules. The transition from summer to fall is done and all activities are in full swing. That busy time hits our church workers — fittingly enough, it is also Church Workers Appreciation Month, a time to reflect on God’s goodness and mercy and the gift of church workers in our church and school.

Recognize the important work they do by saying thank you and expressing your appreciation in special ways. You know your church worker best, but if you need new ideas, go to [Church Workers in Mission webpage](#) on the LWML website for information designed to assist you in supporting, acknowledging, and nurturing church workers.



IT’S TIME FOR FALL ZONE RALLY’S

Mountain Laurel Zone Fall Gathering, Saturday morning, **October 14th, 10:00am** at **The Lutheran Church of Madison**, 9 Britton Lane, **Madison, CT**. Author Susan Evans will discuss “Mighty Wind, Rushing Waters,” her story of an American Indian boarding school in 1890’s Montana. *Susan Evans is the pen name of our LWML-NED Treasurer and friend - Susan Lastowski!* We’ll also have a thoughtful devotion by our Counselor Reverend Mark Clow. Our **ingathering** of new feminine toiletries will help the **Women and Family Life Center in Guilford CT** support and empower women and all families during challenging life transitions. Questions? Email MtLaurelZone@lwml-ned.org **See Calendar** for more...

Koinonia Zone Fall Rally, Sunday, September 24th at Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, Ct. Registration will be 2:00-2:30 PM. Presentation will be on “Adventures in Equipping Leaders” based on Hebrews 13:20. Presenters will be June Merwin, Megan Hollrah, and Pastor Heide. Followed by Bible Study and desert

Eastern Zone Fall Rally, on Saturday, September 30th at St Luke’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dedham, MA. Registration (\$10) begins at 12:30 PM followed by the guest speaker Rev. Kevin Mongeau from Hands of Grace. To RSVP contact Leslie Colligan at (617) 759-6769 or colliganl@yahoo.com.

Mid-Valley Zone and Northern Zone Rally’s, please watch the PIO and your email for more information about each Rally, coming soon.



...Don’t miss reading the Summer/Fall 2023 BEACON!

Read and learn all about the 2023 National Convention.

Read the article from our Young Women Representative and her experiences at Convention.

So much good reading...you can find it online at LWML-NED.org; Department/Communications

LWML-NED 2023 Fall Retreat



NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2023

SPEAKER: REV. WILLIAM WEEDON

Blessed in Christ: Unpacking the Riches of Ephesians

The Rev. William Weedon is currently the Assistant Pastor and Catechist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel, IL. He is also the host of *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever*, a daily podcast of *Lutheran Public Radio*.

WHEN: November 3-4, 2023; Friday evening 7:00 PM – Saturday at 3:00 PM
WHERE: DoubleTree Hotel at Bradley Airport
16 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, CT 06096, 860-627-5171



- Please make your own reservation for Friday. The cost of a room is **\$129** and includes **two free Saturday breakfasts**. If more than two share a room, the additional occupants will have to pay for their breakfast. When reserving the room, be certain to tell them you are with **LWML-NED**.
- Booking link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/lutheranwomensmissionary/>
- The **last day for the special room rate** is **October 13, 2023**.
- The lunch on Saturday is included in your registration fee.
- Registration fee: **\$60**. First Time Attendees: Pay only **\$55!**
- Registration form, flyer, and COVID release form is found on LWML-NED.org website under Departments, Christian Life.
- **BRING YOUR BIBLE** or favorite Bible app!

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: Support our four LCMS New England District Schools: Bristol, CT, Danbury, CT, Holyoke, MA, and Keene, NH.

Please bring any of the following to the retreat with you:

- **Walmart/Staples GIFT cards, boxes of tissues, sanitizing wipes, posterboard, poster paint, packages of construction paper, colored highlighters, colored pencils, and crayons.**

Questions? Contact Christina Anop (Her contact information *button* is on the contact page) or Pat Heather Home Phone: 774-213-5745, email: patheather47@gmail.com

| Books for Mites Table | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Bibles | Christian Novels | Other Religious Books |

NOTICE to those bringing **“BOOKS FOR MITES”**
This year we are looking for 3 types of books at retreat and request you separate your books and place them in the correct location on the **“Books for Mites”** table.
We are looking for:
BIBLES; CHRISTIAN NOVELS; OTHER RELIGIOUS BOOKS

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) Announces Shipment

Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Ct. loaded a 53-foot Trailer with 20,000 pounds of needed items for Appalachia on Aug.29.



The Appalachian shipment was sent to **Manna from Heaven**, a local Mission in **Myra, Kentucky** that provides food, clothing, medical items, and other needed supplies to families in need due to the shutdown of the coal industry. Included were thousands of pounds of food to help with their meal program to feed over 800 families. Also on the shipment were pallets containing hundreds of boxes and bags of blankets, linens, clothing, household and cleaning supplies, hygiene supplies, medical supplies, diapers, appliances, and sewing machines. Over 100 pieces of furniture, other household items, hand tools, mattresses and box springs, beds and frames, boxes of books, and numerous toys. All these items had been requested by the Mission to assist the families there.

FROM THE DESK OF



Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Nancy Stinnett



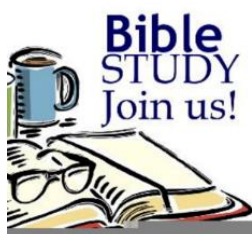
IS YOUR SOCIETY LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR A MISSION SERVANT ACTIVITY?



The Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (CTSFW) Military Project has a new service project: **TLC For Wives of Deployed Chaplains**. Director of the Military Project, Deaconess Carolyn Brinkley, states, "One of the hardest and most challenging aspects of deployment for a chaplain and his family are the months of separation. **TLC For Wives of Deployed Chaplains** is designed to bring Christ's mercy to the dear ladies who share their husbands around the world as chaplains for the Armed Forces. This service project is an opportunity to send cards, notes, and small gifts to our sisters in Christ that will not only make them feel

loved but will also cheer their husband's spirit knowing that their spouse is cared for." If your society would like to participate in this project, please go to <https://lwml-ned.org/special-focus/> and **click on the link** for guidelines.

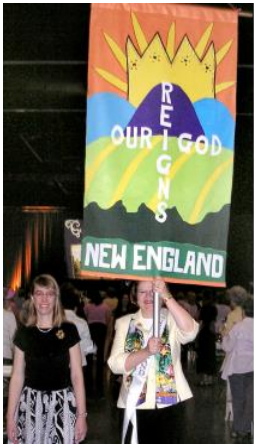
For new mission service opportunities, visit **Mission Servants' Activities** tab at the LWML-NED Website (<https://lwml-ned.org/>). Be sure to check out **New Mission Servant Activities** (<https://lwml-ned.org/mission-servant-volunteers/>) and **Mercy Ingathering** tabs (<https://lwml-ned.org/mercy-ingatherings-2/>).



District President Beinke's Bible Study began a new on Thursday, September 7th, 2023. This online study takes place Thursday's from 7:00 - 8:00 PM on *Go-To-Meeting* at the following <https://meet.goto.com/445850965>. The study is of readings from the 3-year series, year A, (most congregations in the District follow). These are found in the Lutheran Service Book, p. xiv. **If Thursday** is a national holiday the class **will not** meet.

“ANNIVERSARY PAGE”

During this 50th Anniversary year, we remember the many National Convention banners created by the women of our District. Here are several of the banners and the themes of their convention.



The New England District President at the 33rd LWML Biennial National Convention (2009) in Portland, Oregon. Pictured here: President Lynn Batchelder, YWR Sage Browne



The New England District President at the 34th LWML Biennial National Convention (2011) in Peoria, Illinois. Pictured here: President Lynn Batchelder, YWR Jen Seder



The New England District President at the 35th LWML Biennial National Convention (2013) in Pittsburgh, PA. Pictured here: President Leslie Colligan, YWR Christine Volkov





Check your calendar!

LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS

| Date | Location | Function | Other Info |
|---|--|---|---|
| 09/16/2023 10:00 AM | Zoom Meeting | District Board Meeting | Questions: Sharon Dever at president@lwml-ned.org |
| 09/24/2023 2:00-2:30 PM Registration | Immanuel Lutheran Danbury, CT | Koinonia Zone Fall Rally Presentation: Adventures in Equipping Leaders Bible Study w/Pastor Volker Heide | Questions: Sue Dow at KoinoniaZone@lwml-ned.org Publicity found on website under Zones / Koinonia |
| 10/24/2023 10:00 AM | The Lutheran Church of Madison Madison, CT | Mountain Laurel Zone Fall Gathering Author Susan Evans will discuss "Mighty Wind, Rushing Waters," | Questions: Barbara Lis at MtLaurelZone@lwml-ned.org Publicity on website. Ingathering - new feminine toiletries |
| 10/30/2023 12:30 PM Registration | St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church Dedham, MA | Eastern Zone Rally Guest speaker Rev. Kevin Mongeau from Hands of Grace | RSVP Leslie Colligan at (617) 759- 6769 or colliganl@yahoo.com . |
| 11/3-4/2023 | DoubleTree Hotel, Bradley Airport | 2023 LWML-NED RETREAT "Blessed in Christ: Unpacking the Riches of Ephesians" Bible Study led by the Rev. William Weedon | Questions: Christina Anop at christianlife@lwml-ned.org Publicity can be found on our website LWML-NED.org under <i>Retreat</i> |
| 02/2024 | Tbd | District Board Meeting | Questions: Sharon Dever at president@lwml-ned.org |
| 04/26-27/2024 | Trumbull Marriott, Trumbull, CT | 2024 LWML-NED Convention Theme: "Songs in the Night" Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night (Job 35:10) | We look forward to spending time together in song, worship, Bible Study, devotions, fellowship, and conducting the business needed to continue to do God's work. |
| 06/26-30/2025 | Omaha, Nebraska | 41st Biennial LWML Convention | Hosting Districts – LWML Nebraska North and LWML Nebraska South |



Isn't it wonderful that we have so much to share this month.
We hope you enjoy and pass on anything of interest.

Thank you for reading our monthly Pass It On.



YOU'RE INVITED!
GBARNGA MISSION IS CELEBRATING

10 years of blessings in Liberia

**JOIN US AS WE REJOICE TOGETHER
 AND THANK GOD AT OUR**

10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

*4:00pm – 7:00pm
 Hors d'oeuvres \ Liberian food \ Dessert*

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
*445 Elmwood Avenue
 Providence, RI 02907*

**LIBERIAN DRUMMING & DANCE
 VIDEO PRESENTATION
 SILENT AUCTION**

COST: \$50 per person

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE:
www.gbarngamission.org

ORDER TICKETS BY MAIL:
Mail in the order form on the last page.

UNABLE TO ATTEND?
*Please consider sending a gift in thanksgiving for
 these 10 years of blessings in Liberia.*

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
*Construction, furnishing, and staffing of the new
 GLTC Early Childhood Education Center*

