

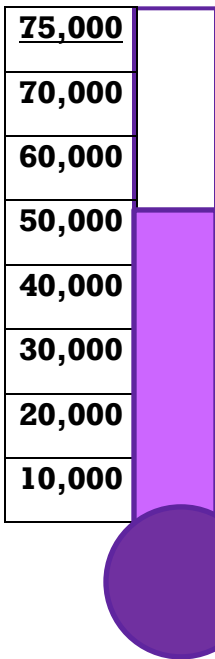


PASS IT ON

October 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 **September 30, 2023**, is

\$49,929.90 = 67% 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 10	Sea Containers for Haiti Earthquake Response, Ministry in Mission, Chesterland, OH (Rec'd to date \$154.44)	\$ 5,000
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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 "GREYSKALE" WHEN YOU PRINT.



FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters in Mission:

When my husband and I lived in Arizona, we found such beauty in the desert. We marveled at God's creation and a landscape so very different from the East Coast. We loved to visit Saguario National Park and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, where we enjoyed learning all about the cacti that grew in the Sonoran Desert.

We found the saguaro cactus to be the most majestic and the most beautiful, especially when it flowered in the spring. The saguaro was magnificently designed by God to collect and store water. The saguaro has one root that extends deep into the ground to collect water. It also has an extensive shallow root system stretching out in all directions allowing it to easily collect rainfall. The stored water helps the saguaro survive the harsh desert climate.

The beauty of God's creation reminds us how we are *fearfully and wonderfully made* (Psalm 139:14). It also reminds us how God cares for all of His creation, including us. *Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toll nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these* (Matthew 6:26, 28-29).

This also brings to mind the man described as blessed in Psalm 1. *His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither* (Psalm 1:2-3). Just as water is necessary for all living things, so the Word of God is necessary for us to remain spiritually alive. We need to drink water every day, so, too, we need to be in the Word and in conversation with our Father daily.

As the saguaro stores water for the times of drought in the desert, so we meditate daily on God's Word, storing it up for the times of drought in our lives. We all face trials in this life, and the Holy Spirit strengthens us through the Word to face these trials with hope, peace, joy, and comfort.

The stored water not only helps the saguaro survive the times of drought, but it enables it to produce flowers and fruit. The fruit is a source of food for desert birds and animals. In the same way, when we are fed daily by the Word of God, it produces in us the fruit of good works, as we stay connected to Jesus, our Vine. *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing* (John 15:5).

LWML is committed to encouraging you to be daily in the Word and provides resources to assist you. You can find a "Read Through the Bible in One Year" calendar for each month on the LWML website (lwml.org) under "Gospel Outreach Resources." You can also find Bible studies, devotions, and more under the "Word" tab on the website.

The LWML-NED is equally committed to encouraging you to be daily in the Word and invites you and your family and friends to join us for our annual retreat next month. At the retreat, we will study the book of Ephesians with the Rev. William Weedon. Rev. Weedon provides you with another opportunity to be daily in the Word. Listen to his daily Bible study podcast, thewordendures.org.

Just a reminder that we are now at the halfway point of our October Matching Grant Mite Challenge! An LWML member has graciously offered to match every gift given to mites during the month of October up to \$5,000! Can you imagine the joy of hearing it announced at the retreat that we have added \$10,000 to our mite total? Please consider what you might be able to give to help us share the Gospel with the lost and show mercy to those in need.

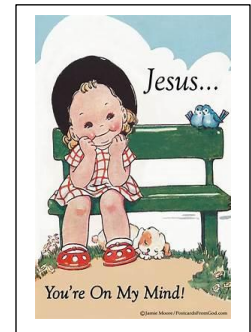


FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)



Lord, Your words are waters living
 When my thirsting spirit pleads.
 Lord, Your words are bread life giving;
 On Your words my spirit feeds.
 Lord, Your words will be my light
 Through death's cold and dreary night;
 Yes, they are my sword prevailing
 And my cup of joy unfailing!
 Hymn 589 v. 3-4 Public domain

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
 Let Your words in me take root.
 May Your Spirit e'er be near me
 That I bear abundant fruit.
 May I daily sing Your praise,
 From my heart glad anthems raise,
 Till my highest praise is given
 In the endless joy of heaven.



Serving the Lord with gladness,

Sharon P. Dever
LWML-NED President



LWML-NED Members Serving the LWML

The LWML Board of Directors met in August to select committee members for the 2023-2025 biennium, and the New England District had two appointees.

- Lynn Batchelder was appointed a member of the GOSPEL OUTREACH COMMITTEE, and
- Jennifer Gierke was appointed the chairman of the GROUP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

They will be traveling to St. Louis at the end of the month for training and planning. Please keep these women in your prayers as they serve their Lord and the LWML in these new roles.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION OCTOBER 2023



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

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., www.lwml.org/lwml-sunday.



October MITE CHALLENGE – See Page 8



LWML District 2022-2024 Mission Grant #10



10 Sea Containers for Haiti Earthquake Response, Ministry in Mission, Chesterland, OH \$5,000



Ministry in Mission has been working in Haiti for almost 15 years through all of the disasters such as the 2010 earthquake, hurricanes, COVID, political unrest, and general poverty. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and medical care for this desperate population is less than acceptable. The medical professionals in Haiti are few and not well trained, and medical supplies are lacking. A Ministry in Mission Board member is a physician and leads medical teams to Haiti. As the mission teams travel from the US to Haiti supplies are carried in 50-pound suitcases, but they are unable to carry enough to last even a day. It has been reported by our medical missionaries that gauze is picked up off the emergency room floor and reused several times. A **sea container** full of medical supplies would go a long way toward containing infection and saving lives. Shipping containers to Haiti is very expensive with the cost ranging from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Grant Paid:

9 God's Word for Teenagers Around the World Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI \$2,500

LWML National 2023-2025 Mission Grant #1

Orphan Grain Train Servant Center

Orphan Grain Train, U.S. — \$100,000



This is the front entrance to the new Service Center, looking west on 6th Street.

About This Mission Grant

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has carried out the mission of the Lord for thirty years by providing humanitarian service. They work through the church, so the Gospel always accompanies their service. They have assisted orphans, carried out domestic disaster relief, gathered, sorted, packed, and distributed food, clothing, medical supplies, equipment, and educational materials for those experiencing poverty in the U.S. and internationally.

The original facility in Norfolk, Nebraska, is outdated and lacking adequate space to carry out their expanding work. They need to build an additional facility to increase their mission capacity and increase the safety level for volunteers. With an increased work area, larger groups of volunteers can work on donations received and the output of mercy meals can double to 10,000,000 meals annually. This grant will help OGT complete their building project.

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



- Read retreat information in the publicity on our website [New England District | Christian Life \(lwml-ned.org\)](http://New England District | Christian Life (lwml-ned.org))


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

Craft Tables: We are looking for homemade canned goods such as pickles, etc. Handmade ornaments. Handmade crafts, Baked goods, and a gift basket for silent auction from each zone. Anything else you can think of?





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.***

* * * * *

Young Woman Representative to the
Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
New England District
28th Biennial Convention

Friday & Saturday, April 26-27, 2024
Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, CT



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 26th @ 1 pm to Saturday, April 27th @ 4 pm

WHERE: Marriott Shelton, 180 Hawley Ln, Trumbull, CT 06611

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 form found at <http://lwml-ned.org/convention/>, scan, and submit it to our Young Women Committee at mrs.sage@veino.com.

Your reference may send their form to that email address separately if need be.

All paperwork is due back by **March 1, 2024**.

We look forward to meeting you and introducing you to the
Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.



“ANNIVERSARY PAGE”



During this 50th Anniversary year, we remember the many **Retreat** programs that nourished the women of our District.

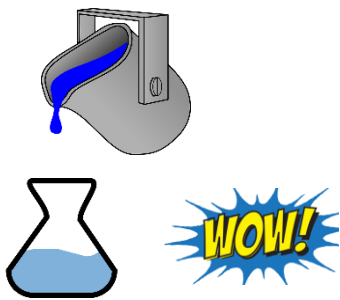
- 1993 *Vessels in Service*, led by Marie Meyer at Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA.
- 1998 *Live with More Life*, based on John 10:10b. Led by Jay Reed, DCE at Mt. Calvary, Acton, MA, in Holyoke, MA.
- 1999 *Empowered by the Spirit as God’s Woman to Serve*, led by the Rev. Ed Harkey, Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Way, Raynham, MA at Mont Marie.
- 2000 *Advent-ures for Christmas* held at Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA.
- 2002 *Jesus Lights the Way*; Led by Audrey Duensing-Werner, Director of Child & Family Ministries at Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina, MN at Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA.
- 2003 *God Inspires and Rewires the Heart*, based on Romans 9:16-17. Led by Beverly England, LWML Chairman of HOPE Committee. Held at Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA.
- 2004 Rev. Lane Bridges, Senior Pastoral Counselor filled in for the Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor, who had car trouble on his way to retreat at Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA.
- 2005 *Time to Pray*, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Led by Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, The Bronx, New York at Quality Inn, Vernon, Ct.
- 2006 “*Handling Life’s Problems*” led by Rev. Lane Bridges from Bristol, CT at Quality Inn.
- 2007 *Outrageous Joy* led by Jan Struck at Crowne Plaza, Enfield, Ct.
- 2008 *Oh Holy Wisdom from on High*, based on Proverbs 31 Living as Christian Women in today’s World – Led by Rev. Dien Taylor at the Crowne Plaza, Enfield, Ct.
- 2009 *Faith in the Midst of the Jungle*, based on Hebrews 11:1. Led by Elaine Bickel, at the Crowne Plaza, Enfield, Ct.
- 2010 *Walking in the Light*, based on Isaiah 2:5b. Led by Phyllis Wallace host of Woman to Woman at the Crowne Plaza, Enfield, Ct.
- 2011 “*CHOCOLATE BOUTIQUE*” *Where women taste and see that the Lord is good, at the*  Holiday Inn, Enfield, Ct.
- 2012 *Looking forward: Hope and a Future*, based on Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) Led by Diane Bahn at the Holiday Inn.
- 2013 *Encouraged in Heart/United in Love*, based on Colossians 2:2-3. Led by Dr. Mary Hilgendorf, Professor Emeritus Concordia University, Wisconsin at the Holiday Inn.
- 2014 BELIEVE *Jeremiah 29:11*; DREAM BIG *Ephesians 3:20*; DO *Matthew 5:16*, Led by Renata Bowers author and member of First, Holyoke, MA at the Holiday Inn.
- 2015 *Rejoice in God’s Comfort* based on Philippians 4:4-7. Led by Donna Snow at Holiday Inn.
- 2016 *Beautiful Feet* based on Isaiah 52:7. Led by Pastor David and Lynn Batchelder at the Holiday Inn.
- 2017 *The Rock Speaks*, based on 1 Corinthians 10:4 Cindy Steinbeck, author of *The Rock Speaks* and *The Vine Speaks* at the Holiday Inn.
- 2018 *Flourish! Spiritually and Vocationally* – Led by Rev. Victor Belton, Regional Representative for Advancement Concordia College, Bronxville, NY at the Holiday Inn.
- 2019 “*GRAB YOUR SHOES*  *AND RUN*” Bible Study led by Terri Bentley at DoubleTree, Bradley Airport.
- 2020 Retreat Cancelled
- 2021 Retreat Cancelled
- 2022 *BE THOU MY VISION* (In such a time as this) Bible Study, Donna Snow, Leader, at the DoubleTree, Bradley Airport.



Check your calendar!

LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Function	Other Info
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>
11/3/2023 3:30 PM	DoubleTree Hotel, Bradley Airport	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Questions: Sharon Dever at president@lwml-ned.org
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



OCTOBER MATCHING GRANT MITE Challenge Status!

We received an offer from an **LWML** member to **match every gift** donated to MITES dollar-for-dollar during the month of October up to \$5,000!

Please **prayerfully consider** what you might be able to give to mites this month.



Your donation will help us fund our Mission Projects and reach our **Mission Goal!**

\$5,000 Goal		
Date	Amt Received	% Of Goal
10/15/23	\$2,265	45.3%
10/31/23		