



PASS IT ON

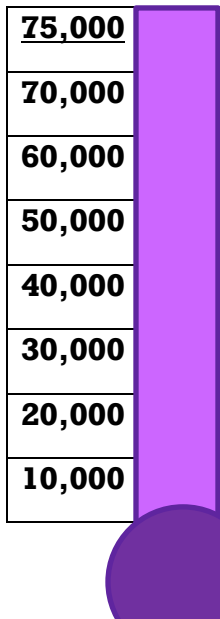
January 2024



Carnation

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 **December 31, 2023**, is

\$76,719.33 = 102% 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



PER OUR TREASURER: The mite contributions for December...have met and surpassed our biennium goal of \$75,000.

All mission grants have been funded, and we have \$1,719.33 toward our next biennium.

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:

I have blessed news to share with you this month! With your generous outpouring of gifts of love to mites in December, we have not only met our 2022-2024 biennium Mission Goal of \$75,000, but we have exceeded it by \$1,719.33! *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* (LSB Hymn #805). Thank you for heeding God's call to share the rich blessings that He has bestowed upon you so that others may hear the Good News and share in the joys of heaven. All thanks, praise, honor, and glory to God!

Our theme for our upcoming April convention is, *Songs in the Night*, based on Job 35:10, "Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night." As Paul and Silas sang in prison, we, too, are able to sing during the trials of our lives knowing we are in God's care.

We are so blessed to have such a rich hymnody in our church both in text and music, and I thought I would direct our attention to some of these hymns in the next few months leading up to our convention. This month, let's look at a verse from, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.*
LSB #686 v. 3 Public domain



Oh, to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be. God's grace to us sinners is amazing. Did I just reference another hymn? Out of His great love for us and through no merit of our own, He gives us the free gift of salvation earned for us by our Lord's death and resurrection.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. What do we often do with this unfathomable grace? We toss it aside to do things our own way. *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all* (Isaiah 53:6).

Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee. We normally don't think of a fetter in a positive light as we associate it with prisoners. A fetter of iron is placed around the ankles of prisoners to restrain them. A prisoner in fetters and attached to something else isn't going anywhere. No running away. No escaping. We admit in this hymn that while we love God, our sinful nature often leads us away from Him. What a beautiful picture this hymn paints of a fetter, as we pray that God's abundant grace keeps us tightly bound to Him. *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:38-39).



FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above. In ancient times, letters were sealed with clay and then the signer made an imprint with a personal seal so the letter could not be opened. But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked (Esther 8:8).

The Lord's seal is placed upon us in our baptism, and we become His children and heirs of eternal life. *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire the possession of it, to the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:13-14).*

Our response to this unmerited and unimaginable gift of grace is to sing our praise to God.

*Come, Thou Fount of eve'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Calls for song of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fill my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.*
LSB #686 v. 1 Public domain

Serving the Lord with gladness,

Sharon P. Dever
LWML-NED President



Lutheran Women in Mission Participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade



Lutheran Women in Mission President Eden Keefe spent New Year's Day riding on the Lutheran Hour float in the Rose Parade. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has had a float in the Rose Parade for 73 years. Their Petal Pusher volunteers helped decorate eight floats in the parade this year. The theme for this year's LHM float was **"Make a Joyful Noise unto the LORD."** If you missed the parade live, you can watch the KTLA broadcast on YouTube.



President Eden and her husband Brad arrived in Pasadena a few days early and worked as **Petal Pushers** to decorate the float. Past LWML President Patti Ross brought some Petal Pushers this year and told President Eden, "Skip that cup of coffee in the morning" for a more comfortable ride on the float.

Eden shared the response to "Jesus" along the route was both humbling and exhilarating! "It was such an honor to work on a float that joyfully proclaims Christ."

A Thank You Note



Your Mite Offerings at Work

The Rev. Timothy Sandeno, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gorham, ME, sent the following thank you letter and update on the LWML-NED Mission Grants that the NED Missions Department received. Thank you, Pastor Sandeno, for sharing the impact that our mite offerings have had in sharing Christ in the New England District.

Beloved Ladies of the New England District LWML,

I thank God for you and the wonderful, faithful, and fervent work that you perform giving testimony to your love of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This past year, the NED Missions Department has much to be thankful for and you are right at the top of that list. Through your mite collections, you have supported the church planting efforts of the New England District with two \$5,000 grants: one for the Ethiopian Outreach of Boston and the other for New England District Church Planting in general. Praise God for all His benefits and the manner by which His servants support the Church and her mission and outreach endeavors.

I am pleased to inform you that the Ethiopian Outreach has now formed and chartered as a congregation of the LCMS. Bethel Oromo Lutheran Church is collocated with Mt. Calvary in Acton, MA. In December, they extended a call to Rev. Adam Teferi, who had been serving them as a missionary-at-large for the district. Thanks, in part, to your support, Bethel and Rev. Teferi will continue to serve the Oromo immigrant population.

The Lakes Region Lutheran Fellowship in central New Hampshire continues to meet twice each month for a Divine Service. They will begin looking for a new location in 2024 to better serve the area with a Sunday morning service. Your support will help make this possible.

As we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord at Christmas and that He has come among us, we continue to celebrate His presence with His Church and the saints that share this good news in Word and Sacrament.

The Lord bless and grant joy to the LWML-NED as you successfully close out your biennium and provide hope in the plan for the next two years.

Merry Christmas and Blessed Epiphany,
Pastor Sandeno



ALL 2022-2024 MISSION GRANTS ARE FULLY FUNDED.

LWML National 2023-2025 Mission Grant #4

Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment

Lutheran Braille Workers — \$100,000

About This Mission Grant

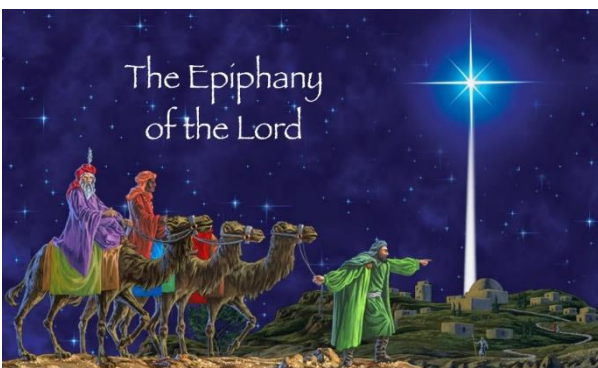


Church Worker and professional musician Brooke Pernice reading a devotional in Braille alongside her guitar.

Having been blind since birth, growing up in the church, and having earned her master's degree in church music, Brooke knows firsthand the challenges in finding rich, theologically sound, and Scripturally-based Christian resources in Braille and Large Print.

Brooke's face reflects her experience of feeling God's love directly in her heart by reading the Scriptures with her fingertips!

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. There are millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. They seek to strengthen their Christian faith while coping with isolation and dealing with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials. This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired. Because LBW works with every Christian denomination, these materials would be available for outreach and evangelism at no cost to those who are blind or visually impaired regardless of faith or belief.



JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD

"In Him was Life, and that Life was the Light of Men" John 1:4

We celebrate Epiphany, the Gentile's Christmas. Stars shine for all to see – Christ came for the saving of all mankind.



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: author, speaker, and musician

Topic: Pew Sisters: Let's gather and celebrate our true sisterhood – our pew sisterhood – and discuss what it means to be a woman in the church.

Focus Forums:

Katie Schuermann - Topic: When God's People Suffer: Why do bad things happen to Christians? Let's talk about what life looks like when lived under the cross of Christ.

Rev. Gregory Wismar - Topic: Eternal Anthems: Stories of our well-loved hymns

Rev. James Krikava, Associate Executive Director of the LCMS Office of International Missions - Topic: Mission work of the LCMS

Kathy Pavelock, LWML Vice President of Communications - Topic: LWML Mission Work and Resources

Bible Study Leader: The Rev. Nathan Erb, Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Trumbull, CT

Marriott Hotel Reservations call **1-203-378-1400** or use the direct booking link:

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1690568111474&key=GRP>. Rooms special rate \$149 plus tax for up to 4 people per room. When calling for reservation identify yourself as being with the **Lutheran Womens Missionary League**. All reservations must be received no later than **March 26, 2024. REGISTER EARLY!**

GIFTS FROM THE HEART will support Birthright of Danbury, CT.

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



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!

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.

NEXT STEPS: Fill out an application found at <http://lwml-ned.org/convention/>, scan, and submit it to our Young Women Committee at mrs.sage@veino.com. All paperwork is due by **March 1, 2024**.



IT's a New Year – Check Your Calendar

LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Function	Other Info
02/03/2024	Zoom Meeting 10:00 AM	Executive Board Meeting	Questions: Sharon Dever at president@lwml-ned.org
02/17/2024	Zoom Meeting 10:00 AM	District Board of Directors Meeting	Questions: Sharon Dever at president@lwml-ned.org
04/26-27/2024	Trumbull Marriott, Trumbull, CT	2024 LWML-NED Convention Theme: <i>"Songs in the Night"</i> 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. Questions: Sue Dow at KoinoniaZone@lwml-ned.org
11/01-02/2024	Hotel UMass, Amherst, MA	Retreat Speaker: Donna Snow Topic: Meant for good: a Study of Joseph	Questions: Christina Anop at ChristianLife@lwml-ned.org
06/26-30/2025	Omaha, Nebraska	41 st Biennial LWML Convention	Hosting Districts – LWML Nebraska North and LWML Nebraska South



LWML Songs Available on PowerPoint

It's easier than ever to include Lutheran Women in Mission songs as part of your local, district, or zone events! You can now download the following songs on free ready-to-use PowerPoint slides at [LWML songs](#), or search "songs" on the LWML website.

- **"Serve the Lord with Gladness"**
- **"Lutheran Women One and All"**
- **"In League with Our Lord"**
- **"Praise, Love, Serve"**
- **"With Joy We Come Together"**

Additional songs will be coming soon.