

NID-Bits

A COMMUNICATION
FOR WOMEN OF THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS
DISTRICT OF
LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN MISSION

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Kindness and Compassion

By Beverly Bayes, LWML NID Strategic Plan Facilitator

Our LWML NID theme for 2026 is “Kindness and Compassion” based on Ephesians 4:32. *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* (NIV)

Our goals for the year will be to accept all people from all walks of life, comfort others, pray for others, and smile and greet strangers.

What is your one act of kindness for today?



New Ideas for the New Year

By LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn

This NID-Bits article is inspired by a fellow District President, Cherie Endrihs from the Gulf States District. She wrote a recent Lutheran Women in Mission “2-Minute Tuesday” article titled “Not Your Mama’s Group.” What she had to share may assist you as you re-launch your LWML groups for 2026.

In it she said that “if ladies are coming, God’s Word is shared, and the mission is expanded—Hallelujah!” But can we spice it up a bit in the new year? I am quoting Cherie’s following suggestions:

- Use all forms of contact to encourage all capabilities—paper, email, text, Facebook, Instagram, phone call.
- Pick up those who need a ride.
- Plan to find the day and timeframe that fits most people and continue to try out new times.
- Offer babysitting by approved caregivers.
- Schedule your business meeting separate from your fellowship or mission times.
- Purposefully, in your business meeting, have each woman pick a person to invite personally. Follow up and take meaningful time to get to know them.

Pray for growth!

And remember it does take time, effort, patience, intention, prayer, and love to grow your group.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6).

Please know that I pray for each zone and your groups (societies). My prayer plan is to pray for each zone by the day of the month. On the first of the month, I will be praying for Zone 1, second of the month—Zone 2, etc. Please do not hesitate to send me specific prayer requests and celebrations.

Serving God,
Gayle Thanepohn, LWML NID President

LWML NID Convention: September 18-19

By Marilyn Hess, LWML NID Convention Chair

The LWML NID Convention is September 18-19, 2026, at Cross Lutheran Church, Yorkville. Activities are currently being planned, but you can expect service projects on Friday afternoon, as well as a Mission Walk/Run for mites. An evening meal will also be served. The opening service will be held Friday evening, with the convention, mission displays, breakout sessions, voting, and more on Saturday.

Our keynote speaker will be Karen Morrison, whose biography is on the following page.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

LWML NID Convention Keynote Speaker: Karen Morrison



Karen lived in Wichita, Kansas, and now in retirement calls Apache Junction, Arizona, home. She and her husband, John, love to see new places and visit family in their Class C Motorhome. Karen currently serves as president of the Mountain View Lutheran Church LWML group in the Pacific Southwest District.

Karen and John, married for 30 years, have four grown children, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, and twelve grandchildren, ranging in age from college to an almost one-year-old. She loves watching as each one grows into the person God intends them to be.

Karen was not born in the Lutheran church, but joined the LCMS when she was 13 years old, with her family, and through confirmation. She has been an active member in every church she has attended.

When she joined LWML in 2000, she jumped in with both feet. Karen has served as Zone Secretary, Zone Bylaws committee, Zone Vice President of Christian Life, District Public Relations Committee, District Vice President of Communication, District Bylaws Committee, and Kansas District President from 2012-2016. She has served nationally on the Group Development Committee, the Nominating Committee for the 2019 Mobile convention, the Gospel Outreach Committee, and as Vice President of Gospel Outreach, 2021-2025.

God prepared her heart to be a part of His LWML purple mission army long before she placed her first mite in a Mite Box. Karen thinks of herself as a mite. On her own, she is like a single coin, but when joined together with all the other ladies in her group, zone, district, and nation, she has the mission opportunity to reach the entire world.

Karen's life verse comes from Mark 5:36: *Fear not, only believe*, from the story of Jairus and his daughter. She wrote an I Love to Tell the Story article about how she received this life verse when she was 19 years old. In whatever situation she finds herself, Karen tries to be a reflection of God's love, hope, and promise.

How Might You Serve?

By Barbara Himley, LWML NID Nominating Committee Chair

At the LWML NID convention in September 2026, officers for the positions listed below will be elected. Before you think “not me,” consider how God might be inviting you to serve the church in another way. Pray about your time, talents and abilities; perhaps they are well-suited to one of these positions.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| President | Vice President of Special Focus Ministries |
| Vice President for Gospel Outreach | Corresponding Secretary |
| Vice President of Organizational Resources | Treasurer |

Nominating Committee: We need one woman from each region of the district—N,S,E,W. This committee serves two-years terms.

Zone Presidents: please send names of women in your church or zone who would be willing to serve the district in an office or on a committee.

For descriptions of the duties of each office, contact Barbara Himley, Nominating Committee Chairman. nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org



Kindness in Ordinary Places

By Rev. Roger A. Drinnon, LWML NID Junior Pastoral Counselor and Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Bourbonnais and Kankakee

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:32).

When we think about kindness and compassion, we often imagine something like we see in a Hallmark Christmas movie: magnanimous acts of charity, heroic acts, dramatic rescues, life-changing gifts. We assume that if God is really going to use us, it must be in some extraordinary way.

But Scripture tells a different story.

More often than not, God chooses to work through **ordinary people, in ordinary places, doing ordinary acts of love**, and He turns even the smallest acts into eternal blessings.

Think of Ruth.

She does not perform miracles. She does not lead armies or preach sermons. She walks beside a grieving mother-in-law and says:

"Where you go I will go... Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Then she goes to work. She gleanes in fields. She does what poor widows do to survive according to the Law of Moses.

And yet, God uses Ruth's quiet kindness to:

- preserve Naomi's family,
- bring restoration after loss, and...
- place Ruth in the family line of King David—and ultimately of Jesus Himself.

God's saving work moved forward through **faithful love that probably felt very insignificant at the time**.

In Acts 9 we meet Tabitha, also called Dorcas.

The Bible does not say she was a great speaker or leader. It says:

She was full of good works and acts of charity (Acts 9:36).

When she dies, the widows stand around showing Peter the clothing she made for them. That is what she was known for: practical kindness, stitched into everyday life.

And remarkably, God brings her back to life, not because she was famous, but because her quiet service mattered deeply to the people she loved.

Her kindness had **built a community of compassion**, and God blesses her kindness by raising her from the dead.

We Often Underestimate Small Kindness

Here's where this touches our hearts.

We often think when we serve Jesus:

- “What I do doesn’t really matter.”
- “I’m not as gifted as others.”
- “Someone else can handle that.”

And sometimes, if we’re honest, we get tired. We grow weary of doing good. We wonder if anyone even notices.

But Paul in Ephesians 4 reminds us: our natural hearts drift toward irritation, bitterness, and self-protection. Kindness does not come easily because of our sinful nature. Compassion takes effort. Forgiveness costs something.

Left to ourselves, we would rather withdraw than keep showing mercy.

Christ’s Kindness Met Us Where We Were

But then comes the heart of Ephesians 4:32:

*Forgiving each other, **just as in Christ God forgave you.***

Before we ever showed kindness, **Christ showed kindness to us.**

Before we ever had compassion, **He had compassion on us.**

Before we ever forgave, **He forgave us at the cross.**

Jesus met us not in dramatic moments of spiritual victory, but in the ordinary mess of our daily sin, weakness, and need.

His greatest act of kindness, the cross, did not look impressive to the world. It looked small, weak, and defeated. But it was there, in suffering love that He saved us completely.

And now, forgiven and loved, we are free to love others, not to earn God’s favor, but because we already live in it.

The Ordinary Faithfulness of Lutheran Women in Mission

This is where LWML shines.

Much of what LWML does will never make headlines:

- mites dropped quietly into boxes,
- quilts stitched in fellowship halls,
- prayers prayed for missionaries we may never meet,
- visits, meals, cards, encouragement given behind the scenes.

And yet God uses these ordinary acts to support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and mercy workers across the world.

What feels small in our hands becomes great in God’s kingdom.

Just like Ruth.

Just like Tabitha.

Just like countless faithful women God has used throughout history.

So when Scripture says:

Be kind and compassionate to one another...

Jesus is not asking us to be extraordinary heroes.

Jesus is inviting us to be **faithful servants of an extraordinary Savior**.

Christ's kindness has already claimed you.

His compassion already covers you.

And through you, Lutheran Women in Mission, He continues to bring His mercy into ordinary places—right where you are.



Lenten Inspiration: March 14

World Lutheran Deaf Outreach: Showing Kindness and Compassion

By Kris Blackwell, LWML NID Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

I am learning that things, myself included, move more slowly than I would like. I had hoped by now to have a complete list of all our ethnic churches and have them starting LWML societies as part of Special Focus Ministries. But progress is slowly being made, one church at a time. If you have an ethnic ministry in your zone or at your church, you can help by making a contact and then sharing it with me.

A key part of Special Focus Ministries is to reach out to marginalized groups. This year's focus is on those with hearing impairments. Please see the flyer on page 10 of this NID-Bits or go to LWMLNID.org and register for the Lenten Inspiration. This year's Lenten Inspiration will be on March 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle. We are trying something new—an afternoon event! This is to accommodate those with physical difficulties that make attending morning events impossible. The focus of the event will be Bible Study on our theme for the year of Ephesians 4:32—Kindness and Compassion. The rest of the day will be spent focusing on deaf ministry with a presentation from Lutheran World Deaf Ministry and breakouts about starting deaf ministry, learning sign language, and, of course, praying for the outreach opportunities within Northern Illinois District. The deaf ministry in NID has seriously declined over the years, and through our prayers we will see what God's plan is to increase His kingdom through strategic outreach to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. YOUR PART in all of this is to invite your church friends (both men and women) and your pastor to see what YOUR church could do. And best of all, the whole afternoon will be interpreted so you could bring your deaf neighbors and co-workers! Let's get inspired together to reach this unchurched population. Lunch will be served, so register now!

Please be aware that we have resources to help you to include those with cognitive disabilities to be part of your women's ministry. There are ways to adapt things for those with developmental disabilities and those with age onset memory issues. ALL LCMS women are a part of the LWML! Call me today for more information.

Email Kris at vpsfm@lwmlnid.org or call 630.234.1491.

[Register online](#) for Lenten Inspiration by Sunday, March 1.

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Subscriptions

By Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID Corresponding Secretary

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscription renewal forms were emailed to the current subscription holders' group contacts at the beginning of February. The subscription prices for 2026-2027 have changed:

2026-2027 Pricing:

- **1 to 9 copies** to a single address is **\$8.00** per subscription per year
- **10 or more copies** to a single address is **\$6.50** per subscription per year

If your society contact did not receive the emailed *Quarterly* renewal notice by February 15, you have two options:

- Contact Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID Corresponding Secretary, correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org, providing your zone number, Church Name and Church Address to request another form be emailed to you
- Use the subscription form provided in this issue of NID-Bits on page 11

The renewal form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked no later than Saturday, April 4, 2026 to be included as part of the order sent to LWML in St. Louis for the 2026-2027 subscription year. Please retain a copy of both the subscription renewal form and check for your group's records.

After April 4, groups **cannot cancel nor decrease** their number of subscriptions.

For those interested in obtaining large print or braille copies of the Quarterly, a separate subscription can be set up by contacting the Lutheran Braille Workers directly at 909.795.8977.

2024-2026 LWML NID Mission Grants

The delegates to the September 2024 LWML NID Convention voted to fund the following grants with our mites during the 2024-2026 biennium. Watch a [video about the grants](#) on the LWML NID YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@lwmlnid7730>). The grants are listed in order of votes received.

Mission Grant monies are paid in order that receipts are submitted by the benefitting organization.

Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne Food Co-op **\$10,000 (fully paid)**

The Food Co-op of CTSFW provides up to 85% of our student families' monthly grocery needs at no cost to them. We operate as an actual cooperative, where each family volunteers time monthly to receive points used to purchase grocery items. The Co-op spends approximately \$7,000 a month on fresh produce, eggs, milk, cheese, ground beef, and other grocery items to fill in the shelves. Many of our students say use of the Co-op has taken away the concern of how they will feed their family. Thank you for caring for the men and women who have answered God's call to serve Him and you.

Phil's Friends Ministry Expansion **\$18,000 (\$4,600 paid)**

After much prayer, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kankakee, will be partnering with Phil's Friends to turn their former school building into a new Phil's Friends Hope Center. The center will provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. The building, empty for most of the past 15 years, needs ministry-essential updates to prepare a friendly and hope-generating space for

volunteers to share the love of Jesus. This \$18,000 grant would provide building updates, furniture, and equipment for St. Paul's preparations for the new Hope Center.

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

\$15,000 (fully paid)

Sharing Lutheran Bible books in a Muslim school—does it sound impossible? With God, all things are possible! In Indonesia (home to the world's largest Muslim population), their founders admired diversity, and so the country does not proclaim itself an Islamic State. This pride in diversity and a certain amount of tolerance allow for the teaching of different world religions in Indonesia's public schools, where Christians can teach the basics of the faith. At a cost of only \$5 per book, we can provide 3,000 colorful Bible storybooks and Small Catechisms in the Indonesian language for Indonesia's public school students.

Dr. Rev. William and Ella Mae Griffin Community Center Food Pantry

\$18,000 (\$16,833 paid)

Dr. Rev. William and Ella Mae Griffin Community Center, a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, Chicago, opened in 2008 to meet the community's needs and serve as a bridge for Gospel outreach. The Center continues to serve over 300 individuals monthly through its weekly food pantry, clothing bank, and outreach events organized throughout the year. Over the past fifteen years, we have remained faithful to the mission of fighting hunger. By helping to close the gap between our community's need for donated food and the amount of food available through collaborative efforts, it's our mission to impact hundreds of families yearly.

Food for Thought—Feeding More Children in Belize

\$18,000 (fully paid)

By extending our Mercy outreach, our grant focuses on the transformative impact of sharing Jesus' love through hot, nutritious meals for children in Georgetown, Belize. Operating our second feeding program, hosted by a local resident, we currently serve 22 elementary students. However, the school principal identifies a pressing need for over 50 participants. Expanding our program aligns with our commitment to Christ Lutheran Church and aims to address the substantial need for nutritional support among elementary school students in Georgetown, Belize.

Worship Anew

\$18,000

Although overall church attendance has decreased amongst aging adults, the population reached by Worship Anew is growing rapidly each year. With support from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the Northern Illinois District, Worship Anew seeks to continue broadcasting our weekly, 30-minute worship program in current markets and expand into new markets, reaching thousands with the life-changing Gospel message. Our broadcast faithfully and boldly proclaims the Gospel through Scripture readings, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, hymns, and a sermon preached by an ordained LCMS Pastor. As a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, Worship Anew shares correct Biblical doctrine as presented in the Lutheran Confessions.

St. John's Lutheran Church, La Grange

\$10,400

St. John's has expanded our VBS outreach to multiple events per year—summer, winter, and spring. We minister to as many as 200 children per event, more than 80% of whom come from surrounding communities, and many with no knowledge of Jesus. We present Bibles as gifts to children who have no other access to God's Word and send their families weekly email Bible lessons following VBS. This year we are establishing a weekly outreach event for families, a fun evening of activities along with Bible lessons for all ages. We will walk our neighborhood with invitations and advertise on multiple venues. As we grow our program, the Holy Spirit grows faith from these planted seeds!

[See the Mite Thermometer on page 12 to view our progress!](#)

NID Mites Address for 2024-2026

Please make **checks payable to: LWML NID**. Please write “Mites” on the memo line.
Address for sending mites and memorials:

LWML NID
PO Box 65
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Stamps for Missions Address

Did you know that canceled postage stamps can earn money to support mites?
Learn more at lwmlnid.org/involvedwithus/stamps-for-missions/

Please send or deliver canceled postage stamps to:

LWML NID
c/o Trinity Lutheran Church
1101 Kimberly Way
Lisle, IL 60532

Calendar

- February 21, 2026 — LWML NID Executive Committee and Board of Directors **Meetings**
- March 1, 2026 — LWML NID Lenten Inspiration **Registration Deadline**
- March 14, 2026 — LWML NID **Lenten Inspiration** at Trinity, Lisle (pp. 6, 10)
- April 15, 2026 — **NID-Bits Submission Deadline** for the May—July 2026 Issue
- September 18-19, 2026 — **LWML NID Convention** at Cross, Yorkville (p. 2)

Announcements

- Zones can send meeting announcements to be posted on the LWML NID website and social media streams to president@LWMLNID.org for distribution.
- Follow the LWML NID on social media for the latest updates! Use the links below, or click the icons on the www.LWMLNID.org website.
 - Facebook: LWML NID — www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/
 - Instagram: LWML NID — www.instagram.com/lwmlnid/
 - X: LWML NID — x.com/LWMLNID
 - YouTube: LWML NID — www.youtube.com/@lwmlnid7730
LWML NID — www.youtube.com/@LWMLNID
VP Gospel Outreach — www.youtube.com/@vpgospeloutreachlwmlnid9909

Submissions

Share your group’s event in NID-Bits! Email an article and any accompanying photos to the LWML NID Publications Editor, at publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org. Please send articles for the May—July 2026 issue by Wednesday, April 15.

You can reach the NID-Bits Editor at publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org

Saturday, March 14, 2026

12 to 4:30 p.m.

**Trinity
Lutheran Church**
1101 Kimberly Way
Lisle IL 60532



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**
NORTHERN ILLINOIS
DISTRICT

Lenten Inspiration

**World Lutheran Deaf Outreach:
Showing Kindness and Compassion**

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you Ephesians 4:32*



*This is an
interpreted event*

Presenter:
**Rev. William
"Bud" Palmer**

ALL INVITED:

- women
- men
- deaf
- hearing
- those with a heart for sharing Christ
- those who work in ministry



**World
Lutheran Deaf Outreach**

Cost: \$25 - includes lunch

Online registration open at LWMLNID.org

scan QR code at right to open



**2026 - 2027 LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY
SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

Greetings from LWML NID. This form can be used for your group to submit their 2026-2027 *Quarterly* subscription order. Please enter the number of subscriptions you are requesting beginning with the Summer 2026 issue on the order form below. If your group ordered for 2025-2026, your group will receive an invoice via email from the Corresponding Secretary.

The form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked no later than Saturday, April 4, 2026, to be included as part of the order sent to LWML in St. Louis for the 2026-2027 subscription year. Please keep a copy of the form and the check for your records.

After April 4, societies **cannot cancel nor decrease** their number of subscriptions.

QUESTIONS? contact Janice Gerzevske, correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org or call 630.294.5014

Your check payable to **LWML-NID** must be included with the order form and mailed to:

LWML-NID
c/o Janice Gerzevske
30W017 Juniper Ct., Warrenville, IL 60555-1056

Please provide updated contact information

Cut and mail to address above

Zone# _____ **Church/
Group Name** _____

**Street
Address** _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

Primary Contact:

Name _____ **Phone** _____

email _____

Secondary Contact:

Name _____ **Phone** _____

email _____

Enter Number Subscriptions	Description	Cost of Each Subscription	Total
	10 or more subscriptions	\$ 6.50	\$
	1 to 9 subscriptions	\$ 8.00	\$
Amount Enclosed			\$



Northern Illinois District

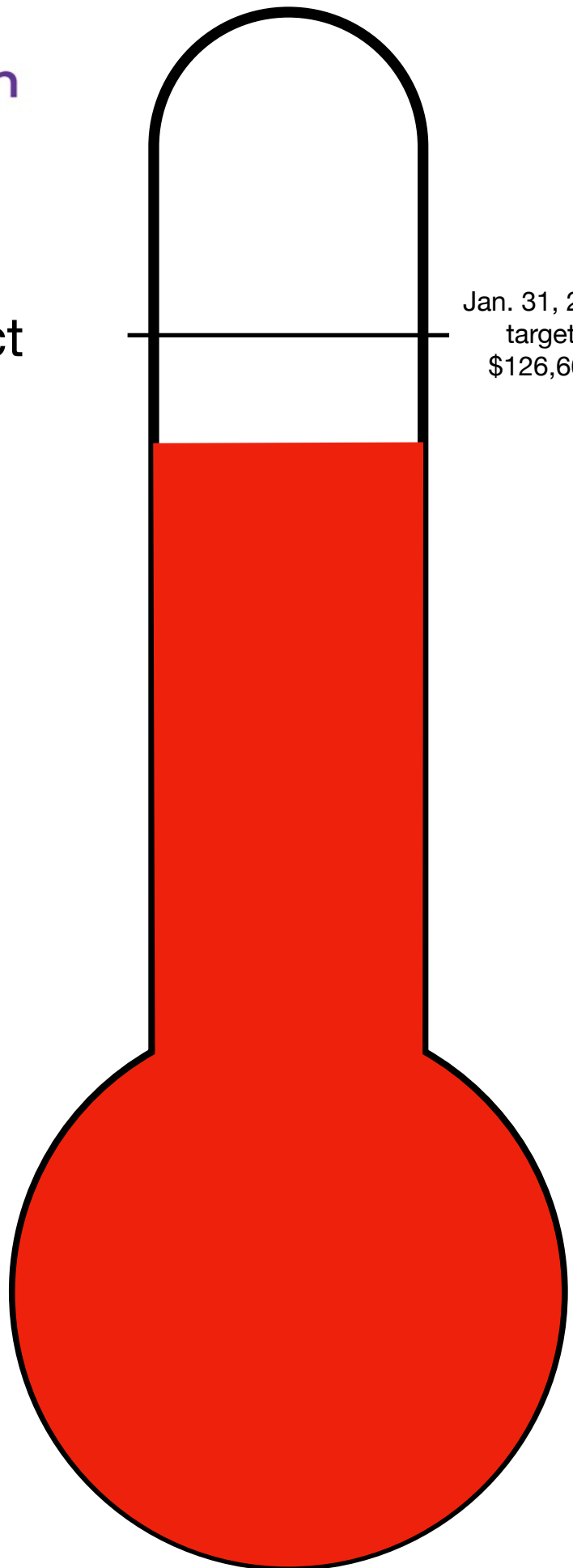
Mite Goal:

\$160,000

by June 30, 2026

Received through
January 31, 2026:

\$115,541



Jan. 31, 2026
target:
\$126,667