

Capitol Zone Capsule

Second Quarter 2024

Capitol Zone Officers

Betsy Martino, President
Giovanna Turincio, VP of Christian Life & Gospel Outreach
Sherry Pettit, VP of Human Care & Organizational Resources
Patricia Willoughby, VP of Communication
Courtney Baxter, Secretary
Sylvia Kokel, Treasurer
Rev. Eric Borchers, Pastoral Counselor

NATIONAL MITE GOAL FOR 2023-2025

Mite Goal for 2023-2025 Biennium: \$2,350,000

Amount Received: \$1,302,279.90

Amount needed: \$1,047,720.10

Amounts as of March 2024

TEXAS MITE GOAL FOR 2022-2024

Mite Goal for 2022-2024 Biennium: \$390,000

Amount Received: \$387,764

Amount Needed: \$2,236

Amounts are through March 2024

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LWML Texas District 43rd Biennial Convention
June 13–15, 2024
Corpus Christi, Texas
Omni Hotel

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:23–24).

Convention Highlights The convention opens on Thursday, June 13, with a Divine Service with Communion at 7:30 p.m. in the Corpus Christi Ballroom of the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel. All business sessions will be held in the Corpus Christi Ballroom. Friday's session will begin at 8:15 a.m. The final session will be held Saturday morning with the convention concluding at 12:00 p.m. The sessions will include our keynote speaker, LWML Past President Debbie Larson along with two Mites in Action speakers. Pastor Chad Bresson is serving The Table of Los Fresnos, a grant recipient from this biennium. Pastor Dave Murillo serves St. Paul Lutheran Church in San Antonio, a recipient from our prior biennium. There will be Bible Studies led by our pastoral counselors along with Wake Up with the Word on Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend two of the three enrichment sessions being offered. Enrichment Session leaders will be Debbie Larson, LWML Past President and keynote speaker, Kayla Winkler, member of the Christian Life Committee, and Ruth Meyer, an author and speaker who is quickly becoming one of our district's most called upon presenters.

Letter from the District President



Alleluia and Praise the Lord!

But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge (Psalm 71:14–15).

I know many have been waiting to hear and the news is fantastic! Although the mite goal of \$390,000 was not met, the LWML Texas District has been blessed to accomplish so much this biennium. The final mission grant payment was delivered in March and all operating costs have been paid. The final total of mites received for the 2022–2024 biennium was \$387,764!! Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

What love poured out from our members and supporters when the call went out in September when there was a large deficit in the mite offerings. To go from where we were in September of 2023 to where we were at biennium end genuinely reflects the desire of our supporters to boldly step forward in the hope we have in Christ Jesus. All the prayers and extra effort in sharing your blessings has once again proclaimed the deep faith of you, the members, to wholly trust in the Lord for our every need.

Not only are we blessed to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord during this Easter season, but we are also blessed to celebrate the end of a wondrous 2022–2024 biennium. What a ride it has been!! I will forever be thankful to have been on this ride with you.

Frances Molitor
President
LWML Texas District

LWML Texas District Mission Grant Report

Mission grant goal for 2022–2024 is \$215,129 (includes mission abundance of \$14,527 from the 2020–2022 biennium and \$602 interest from the Mission Goal Endowment).

Mission grants highlighted in blue have a Mission Grant Spotlight article.

Mission Grants	Amount	Disbursed	Balance
Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students	\$50,000	\$50,000	PAID IN FULL
Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers, Houston	\$10,000	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Acts of Love Early Childhood Education Center, Leander	\$25,000	\$25,000	PAID IN FULL
Orphan Grain Train, Houston	\$25,000	\$25,000	PAID IN FULL
Let Your Light Shine, Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries	\$10,000	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Homeless to Housed, LINC Austin Outreach, Austin	\$10,000	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
The Garden Young Adult Ministry, North Texas	\$10,000	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Gospel Driven Education, Faith Lutheran High School, Warda	\$20,000	\$20,000	PAID IN FULL
Bible Brigade, Lutheran Disaster Care	\$16,000	\$16,000	PAID IN FULL
The Table of Los Fresnos Mission Outreach	\$25,000	\$25,000	PAID IN FULL
Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano (partial funding)	\$14,129	\$14,129	PAID IN FULL
Total	\$215,129	\$215,129	PAID IN FULL

ZONE NEWS

The Capitol Zone is looking for a few good women! We are looking for ladies to be on the ballot on October 6 for President, Treasurer, and a new Nominating Committee. If you are willing to serve, please contact Mary Dobrasko, 337-794-0778, med450@hotmail.com.

Letter from the Zone President

Dear Women of the Capitol Zone LWML

Such a swirl of activities! The Spring Rally, individual group meetings, and the LWML Texas District Convention in Corpus Christi are coming up, followed by the prayer service in August and the Fall Rally. While searching through my files for something I needed for one of these events, I stumbled upon notes for a short talk I gave to my home congregation on LWML Sunday in 2020. Its theme was "Why I Love the LWML".

There were many reasons to be involved: LWML is mission-minded, loves the Lord, and serves Him with gladness. Mites, conventions, Rallies, fellowship, fun, singing together, and Bible study together all form a common bond. A sweet sisterhood is one of the most significant reasons.

But there is more. I studied the list and found it wasn't quite complete. It is each of *you* who makes LWML what it is. Each of *you* contributes to your group and every level of our wonderful organization. Each of *you* is the Heart of LWML.

Not that any of us is perfect or that we don't have our disagreements. But all our sins are covered by the blood of the resurrected Jesus! And in grace, God moves us to be mission-minded, enables us to do what He calls us to do, blesses what we do, and fills us with Joy.

And *you* also are why I still love LWML.

Rejoicing in the LORD,
Betsy Martino
Capitol Zone President

**From the VP of Christian Life & Gospel Outreach
Rally Devotion and Host Schedule**

October 6, 2024 Fall Rally

Host - Zion, Walburg
Opening Devotions - Faith, Georgetown
Closing Devotions - Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista

News & More from Your VP of Communication

Greetings Ladies,

I thank Louis Genz, Suzanne Mueller, and Linda Peterson for sending in their pictures and group information. Please look for their contributions in the *Around the Zone* section. The Convention is just around the corner. Please take plenty of pictures and tell us about your experience. The deadline for the August issue is **July 15, 2024**. Please email your pictures/writings to czlwmlvpcommunication@gmail.com.

Important Dates to Remember

June 13-15, 2024	TX District Convention	Corpus Christi
August 3, 2024	Prayer Service	Redeemer, Austin



SAVE THE DATE

Prayer Service

August 3, 2024

Redeemer, Austin

2026 Texas District Convention, Austin, TX

June 11-13, 2026

I am blessed and honored to be on the Host Committee of the 2026 Convention as your Prayer Coordinator. If you love to pray with and for people, the Prayer Room needs you. I need volunteers to assist me in the Prayer Room. So, if you are interested, don't hesitate to contact me. My phone is 512-869-0795 and my email is czlwmlvpcommunication@gmail.com.

Patricia Willoughby

The Host Committee is looking for someone to volunteer to fill the following Committee Position:

Decorations chair

We will need volunteers for all the different committees. In the next issue we will be listing all the Host Committee members that you can contact to volunteer.

If anyone is interested in learning more about this position or wants to volunteer or suggestions for filling a role, please reach out to Laurie Bellard at 512-497-1770 or email her at laurielwml@gmail.com Also Giovanna Turincio would like a co-lead for the Mission Service Events.

Spring 2024 Rally News

To God, be the glory! Despite the torrential rainfall, there were 78 women in attendance. The Lutheran Women in Mission of Faith Lutheran, Georgetown, outdid themselves. The food they provided was superb, from the salads to the desserts. The decorations were fantastic, with purple and gold tablecloths and flowers. There were sweet little bags of chocolates with Romans 12:1-2 attached.

As for the ladies in attendance, a few said this was their first time. Yeah, God! Our Savior had 70% present! Praise the Lord! I was blessed to see friends that I had not seen for a while.

Our Ingathering was for Isaiah 117 House, a ministry that assists children in transitioning from home to foster care. Tara Thornton told us about children who were sleeping in the office of the Child Protective Service. She shared with us her story of how she got involved. An offering was collected to help build the House in Williamson County. Isaiah 117 comes from the scripture verse Isaiah 1:17.

Let's not forget about our guest speaker, Pastor Dr. James Marriott, Associate Pastor at Faith. The title of his presentation was *"How the Redeemed World is Done: The Intersection of Christian Worship and Daily Life."* He did a great job in just 30 minutes. Pastor Marriott spoke about how Christian Worship is more than just a Sunday morning service. He discussed how the Church today has become a moralistic, therapeutic Deism. He means that people attend Church to learn what is right and to feel good. But Jesus is more about the transformation of our lives. It is not about what we can do but what Jesus has done for us and in us—the good we do results from the transformation and not a means to earn our salvation. Doing good works due to the transformative relationship with Jesus Christ is a form of Christian worship. Therefore, Christian worship intersects with our daily lives, not just on Sundays.

Patricia Willoughby

VP of Communication



Rev. Dr. James Marriott and President Betsy Martino



Isaiah 117 House Representatives





Tara Thornton talking to Darlene Waiser



BLESSINGS

The sense of community and shared purpose can indeed be a profound blessing. The women of Our Savior Lutheran Church of Austin exemplify this through their dedication and spirit, creating an environment where the Holy Spirit's presence is felt, and fellowship flourishes. Such gatherings, like the spring retreat and rally, are not just events but milestones that mark the journey of faith, unity, and service. The synchronicity of topics across churches suggests a collective movement towards serving the community, guided by a shared understanding of outreach. This unity in diversity underlines the mysterious ways in which faith operates, often leaving one in awe of its power to bring people together. The rally, with its inspiring speakers and communal meals, stands as a testament to the vibrant and supportive network that is a cornerstone of spiritual life in Texas.

Grateful and blessed

Linda Peterson



Around the Zone

The Women in Mission of Hope Lutheran, Austin



After reading the scripture texts that went with each Easter symbol, The Women in Mission from Hope, Austin, put together The Story of Easter Snack Bags. The bags included pretzel sticks to represent the cross, red Craisens to represent the blood of Christ, white mini marshmallows to represent being whiter than snow, goldfish reminding us to be Fishers of Men, colored jelly beans to represent “taste and see that the Lord is good’ and the round crackers to represent the stone that was rolled aside. The Easter snack bags were handed out on Easter morning. Written by Suzanne Mueller

Redeemer Austin Dorcas LWML

Redeemer Austin Dorcas LWML provided and assembled Personal Care Kits for Orphan Grain Train for their February Mission project. Written by Louise Genz.

(pictures on pages 11 and 12)



