

Thinking outside the mite box



By Frances Molitor
Financial Secretary

The old idiom “think outside the box” is often still used to encourage exploring ideas that are creative or unusual — to entertain ideas not controlled by rules or tradition.

The mite box has long been the traditional means for LWML members and supporters to gather offerings for mission grants and operating expenses. It has proven to be, and will continue to be, a valued foundation for us.

But why should we not also “think outside the mite box”? We are blessed to have women from several generations willing and seeking ways to serve the Lord in a manner conducive to their generational thought processes. How can the LWML provide additional opportunities to fund the mission at hand? As a member, society or zone, are we always on the lookout for these creative means? Take stock of the generational makeup of your respective groups. What can you do to facilitate easier mite giving in this day and age?

LWML, in conjunction with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, has provided us with one such method. Are you aware of Joyful Response®? Have you wondered what it is and how it works?

Anyone can sign up for a scheduled automatic withdrawal from their checking or savings account. Lutheran Church Extension Fund, through a third-party company, will initiate the withdrawals you scheduled. The funds get deposited into an interest-bearing account established by the LWML Texas District. Quarterly, the district financial secretary pulls the funds from that account to distribute for their intended purpose.

What are the benefits?

- ▶ Our aging members no longer able to attend regular meetings can continue to support the LWML.
- ▶ A woman who doesn't carry cash and relies on plastic as her currency can use this as an online mite box.
- ▶ Society members who do not meet monthly can continue to give monthly.

- ▶ It can simply be another way of giving above and beyond mite box collections.

How are these funds accounted for?

The enrollment form allows you to designate the society you wish to receive credit for the mites, or it can be recorded as an individual contribution.

At the end of the biennium, the statistical report will reflect those assignments.

How can you sign up?

Contact the district financial secretary and request an enrollment form. Once completed, return it to her for submission to LCEF. It is that simple. Currently, there is no online registration available for the district Joyful Response electronic mites program.

Based on the 2018-20 Work Program figures as approved at the district convention in Waco, our projected need for this biennium is **\$350,900**. To meet this goal, mite offerings per month should average \$14,621.

Taking into account the summer slump in giving (and using figures available at the time of this writing), that needed average has increased to \$15,596 over the remaining months to make up for the deficit. Our faith in the Lord's provisions is our mainstay. May that faith be what drives us to continue to think both inside and outside the mite box.

Working on your banner design?

Feb. 6 will be here before you know it and we can't wait to see your designs! The banner will represent the LWML Texas District at the LWML 38th Biennial Convention June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala.

For more information, check out the 2018 fall edition of *Linked by Love* at lwmltxdist.org/linked-love.

Stay connected

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Send LWML news and photos to Cindy Carter at districtnews@lwmltxdist.org





Our Savior Lutheran Church LWML, Sulphur Springs, celebrated LWML Sunday.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Encouraging mite offerings



“And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.”

— Mark 12:42

The mite box is based on the biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). For 90 years, Lutheran women have used the mite box to collect voluntary offerings to fund district and national mission grants and implement LWML programs.

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel. This issue shares ideas to support LWML in a variety of ways. Some ways will cost you nothing, such as AmazonSmile and Thrivent Choice®.

Whether you stoop to pick up those pennies you find for your mite box, choose to electronically transfer funds to LWML through Joyful Response® or write a monthly check to your society, we thank you. If your society has found a way to creatively encourage mite offerings, I'd love to hear from you. (For more information, go to lwml.org/more-ways-to-give.)

Serving with JOY • Debbie Curry

District has scholarships for church-work students

Are you a woman considering a career in our Lutheran schools? Are you a woman who wants to be a director of Christian Education? These goals require a degree from an LCMS college or university. The LWML Texas District can help you achieve your goal!

The district grants scholarships to women who are members of district congregations seeking careers as professional church workers. To



apply, visit lwmltxdist.org. From the “About Us” tab, select “Scholarships” from the drop-down menu and download the Eligibility and Application packet. For more information, contact Marlene White, Scholarship Committee chairman, at wjmmwhite@embarqmail.com.

Completed applications must be sent to Marlene, postmarked by March 31.



As Christian women, we say these words often — and we mean them. Our leaders in the LWML Texas District acted many years ago and established two endowments that help others. Both funds were the recent focus of our 75th Anniversary Campaign that concluded in 2017.

The **LWML Texas District Scholarship Endowment** was established in 1992. To date, 85 scholarships have been given to young women who are studying at LCMS institutions to prepare for full-time church work. Thanks to you, \$76,975 has been used for this purpose.

The **LWML Texas District Mission Inreach Endowment**, established in 1998, helps district members defray the costs of spiritual enrichment, member development and leadership training. You have made it possible for many women by providing \$12,410.

Although the anniversary campaign has ended, the needs continue. Our president has established a task force to carry forward the goals of the LWML through these endowments. Task Force members are Joyce Best (chair), Frances Molitor and Kathy Walther.

For more information about the endowments and how you can help continue this blessing, visit lwmltxdist.org. Go to the “Giving” tab and select “Give Endowments.”