



The **White Oak** Branch

May 2021

RUN THE RACE... LOOKING TO JESUS

I am excited to serve the Zone as your President. I would love to meet as many of you as I can. Please let me know when/if your groups are meeting and I will try to join you; with some notice I can make it happen. I will be representing you in Lexington this summer.

Please let me know which candidates and mission grants are dear to you! Also, we have two mission grants from Texas on the ballot and a very special humorous interrupter from Texas as well. If you have been able to attend either of the District Conventions in Lubbock or Waco, you would have seen Abby (Faske) Goehing entertaining us as a break from all the business. This summer she will be working along side Jan Struck! I am also driving to Lexington so will have room for Gifts From The Heart that your groups might want to send along.



God's peace, Mandy Halbert

To Dorcus Coulter

Thank you, Dorcus, for your work and dedication to the Zone. You are missed! May God be with you in your new roles serving the LWML and during this unexpected time of healing.

Have You Added These Dates to Your Calendar?

2021

- June 20 White Oak Zone Retreat Registration Due
- June 24-27 LWML National Convention – Lexington, KY
- July 31 White Oak Zone Retreat – 9am-4pm – Our Savior
- Sept. 25 2022 Texas District Convention Host Committee Meeting at Omni Convention Center
- Oct. 06 Fall Rally – 1:30pm – St. Mark
- Oct. TBD District Rest & Renewal Retreat – virtual
- Nov. 01 Nominations due for Texas District LWML Executive Committee for
VP of Gospel Outreach, VP of Communication, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and
Nominating Committee
- Nov. 01 Mission Grant Proposals for 2022-24 Texas District Biennium due
- Nov. 07 Prayer Service – 2pm – Our Savior

ZONE SPRING RALLY

St. Andrew hosted the LWML White Oak Zone Spring Rally on Sunday, April 11. The theme of the Rally was True Love, True Freedom. You can watch it all on our White Oak Zone Facebook page!



Pastor David Jung (St. Andrew) opened with a devotion about Justice, focusing on Exodus 23:6-8, Deuteronomy 24, 2 Chronicles 19:7 and Micah 6:8. God desires us to pursue justice.



Angie Goeke was our guest speaker and informed us about the truth of human trafficking in our city. The facts were shocking but there is hope.

Work is being done with volunteers and centers, awareness, and in laws and policies. Become more aware of these facts by watching her presentation from the Rally.



Concordia had the largest percentage of ladies attending so they took home the prize again! Let's see if another group can take it from them in the Fall!

The Gifts From The Heart made 30 kits plus extra items to take to The Landing for ladies who are able to step in there for needed items and clothing. Thank you to all who were able to give for this.



WHITE OAK ZONE RETREAT

Witnessing. What is it all about?

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the White Oak Zone Day Retreat **on July 31 at Our Savior.**

We will go through the program **Every One His Witness.** Participants learn: What is witnessing? Why do we witness? And the "how-to" of witnessing using the LASSIE approach — Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage. You will have the option to purchase lunch or bring your own. Babysitting will be provided as an option.

Registration is due June 20 so that materials can be purchased. Look for the registration form to come, as well as an online registration link and QR code!

YOUR NEW EC MEMBERS

MEET DONNA – OUR ZONE VICE PRESIDENT

Donna is a member of Gethsemane and has agreed to serve as the White Oak Zone Vice President for the remainder of the term vacated by Esther Roth.



Donna was born in Houston, grew up at Trinity (downtown), and graduated from Concordia, Seward. Donna and her husband, Bob, have been married 35 years (this May). They have been blessed with 2 children, Robert and Gretchen. Both are happily married and live close by.

She has enjoyed teaching everything from pre-school in Dallas, to 7th and 8th grade PE and language arts in St Louis, to 3rd grade at Trinity, Klein, to teaching residents at Good Samaritan Home in Cypress. Her last (and longest) career position was serving as a Training Assistant for 29 years at ExxonMobil Production Research Co here in Houston helping scientists and engineers develop training courses. But she says her best teaching assignment is the one she has now that she is retired. Donna and Bob are the proud grandparents to 7 grandchildren: Trace (15), Grant (13), Skylar (9), Athena (6), twins Ivy and Veronica (4) and Ada (2). “All those years teaching so many different subjects to so many different ages I never realized until now that God was training me to be a Grandmother! God’s plan for us is so much better than we could ever imagine.”

Donna is actively involved at Gethsemane serving on the Altar Guild, Bereavement Meal, LWML, Quilting Guild and has served on the Church Council and taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She has also been the executive secretary of the Houston Area Chapter of the Good Samaritan Auxiliary.

MEET PASTOR KRIEG – OUR ZONE PASTORAL COUNSELOR



Pastor Krieg is serving as our White Oak Zone Pastoral Counselor. He grew up on a working cattle ranch in Concho County Texas. He received his BA in Government from Angelo State University in 2003, his MA in Political Science from Texas State University in 2005 and his MDiv from Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne in 2017. Pastor Krieg married his wife Jennifer in 2005 and together they have three beautiful children, Giuliana Leigh, Norman Ralph, and Winston Dean. Pastor Krieg has served as the assistant pastor at OUR Savior Lutheran Church since 2017.

YOUR NEW EC MEMBERS

MEET DIANE – OUR ZONE GOSPEL OUTREACH CHAIRMAN



Diane White is a member at Our Savior Lutheran and is serving as Gospel Outreach Chairman for the White Oak Zone. She also organizes the program for the OSL Potter's Vessel group. Diane was born and raised in Wisconsin and then attended Concordia University in Chicago. She received a call to teach Spanish at Our Savior in 1996 and has resided in Houston ever since. She met her husband, Adam, at church and they married in 2000. Once their son, Christian, was born Diane stayed at home and later began to teach again at Lutheran High North where she is still teaching today. While she loves teaching her next greatest passion is traveling. She enjoys seeing the world and enjoying the many beautiful places that God has created. Diane is pleased to serve on the LWML White Oak Zone EC and to assist in a new role. Her son will graduate high school this year, and she looks forward to many new adventures as he enters college, and she becomes an empty nester.

To Tanoa Parker

Tanoa Parker has needed to step down from serving the Zone as Secretary. I would like to thank her for her time and service to the Zone. I pray that God will be with her during this time and guide her to another roll within LWML.



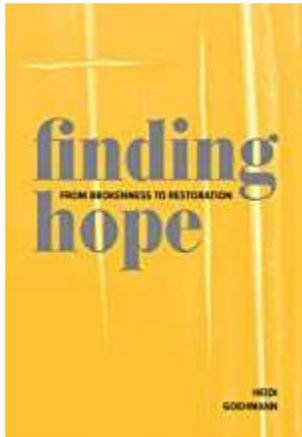
INTERESTED IN SERVING THE WHITE OAK ZONE?

Do you have mad skills at social media platforms or enjoy putting together a catchy poster? Are you interested in bringing new ladies together to share about LWML or helping to spark a flame with those that might need it? Are you organized and detail oriented and would love to share that passion with the Zone?

We are looking for a **Communications Chairman**, an **Organizational Resource Chairman**, and a **Secretary**. Please contact Mandy if you are interested in more information! The position of Secretary will be an appointed position until the Fall Rally when the Zone will vote to fill this position.

Articles for upcoming editions of the White Oak Branch can be sent to Mandy, the President of White Oak Zone. If you have received this newsletter and wish to be removed from the distribution list, please let Mandy know. Mandy may be contacted via email at mandylwml@gmail.com.

READING CORNER



[Finding Hope: From Brokenness to Restoration](#)

by Heidi Goehmann

In *Finding Hope: From Brokenness to Restoration*, start recognizing and naming the difficult parts of life. When we name and move through our brokenness, we discover how Jesus Christ is our ultimate hope—even in the broken mess.

Author Heidi Goehmann, as a licensed clinical social worker, mental health care provider, and deaconess, is uniquely qualified to speak to our broken parts.



scan for more info

[Anthems of Zion Series](#)

by Katie Scheurmann

It's summer break in Bradbury.

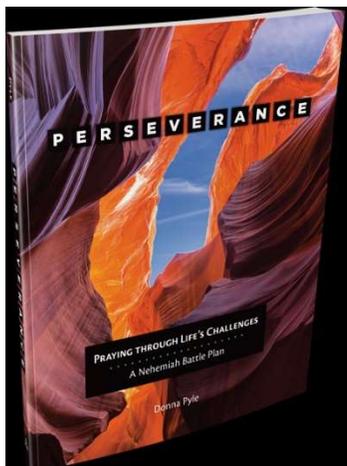


And that means cookouts, cornfields, and county fairs! But at Zion Lutheran Church, the changes and chances of life don't take a vacation. Pastor Fletcher must learn to share the parsonage bathroom. Mrs. Scheinberg must face the fact that not every problem can be solved by pie. And when a beloved member makes a life-altering announcement, the entire congregation must trust more than their crops to the Lord of the harvest.



scan for more info

Life is anything but idyllic in small-town Bradbury, but grace and mercy and potlucks abound. Join Emily, Robbie, Candice, and the rest of the dear people of Zion as they follow God's call into the scariest mission field of all: the very county where God has placed them.



[Perseverance: Praying Through Life's Challenges](#)

by Donna Pyle

What's your one thing? That one thing that's keeping you from a fuller life. Is it a habit to break? a goal to accomplish? a lingering project to complete?

In Donna Pyle's new women's Bible study on the Book of Nehemiah, see how persevering with single-minded focus can help you recognize your idols and trust in God alone to help you endure through life's challenges.

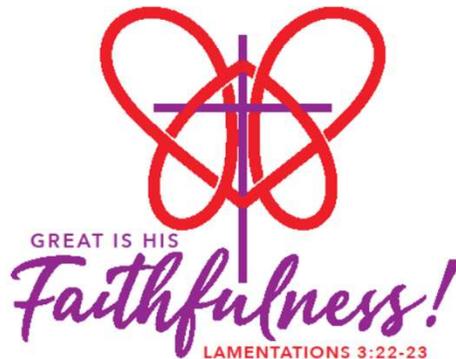


scan for more info

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

2022 Convention Host Committee Update

The Host Committee is busy completing AV Request Forms and Budgets for the Texas District Convention next summer. If you are willing to help serve on a committee, most are starting to gather lists of the volunteers they will need prior to and during the convention. Let us know your talents and we can get you in contact with the chair.



REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT POSITIONS

November 1, 2021 is the deadline for suggestions of nominees for election at the 2022 LWML Texas District Convention for these positions:

Vice President of Communication
Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Nominating Committee

Recording Secretary
Treasurer

Your help is needed to submit names of ladies who show a deep, active interest in the LWML and who are willing to devote their time and energy to serve the Lord in a leadership position. You do not need to secure their consent nor determine their qualifications. Nominations may only be made through your group or zone. Forms are available from your zone president, group president or online at lwmltxdist.org.

Nancy Beckcom, Nominating Committee Chairman
1803 CR 209, Giddings, TX 78942
409-749-4807 OR nominatingch@lwmltxdist.org

DISTRICT MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Every LWML Texas District member, group, or zone is eligible to submit proposals for consideration. There are some great missions going on everywhere that could use some assistance and prayers from the LWML Texas District. Please look around you and prayerfully ask God's assistance in recognizing and approaching these missions. Information will be published on the LWML Texas District website, lwmltxdist.org, under Mission Grants, Proposed Mission Grants. This will provide information on how to write proposals for mission grants. Mission grant submissions for the 2022-2024 biennium must be received before November 1, 2021.