

MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Helping children ‘shine’ in Austin



Students at Let It Shine enjoy some of the items that were purchased with an LWML mission grant. The staff purchased a sensory swing, a light table for sight-impaired students, manga-tiles, river stones, paint brushes and many other items to help students learn and communicate.

By Joy Cowan
VP of Gospel Outreach
and

Teresa Danner
Director, Occupational Therapist
Let It Shine Enrichment Academy

Our Lord Jesus has instructed parents to bring up their children in the way of the Lord. He asked that the little children be brought to Him and not be hindered. Let It Shine Enrichment Academy, located at Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin, has taken this instruction to heart and created a place for children with special needs.

Two years ago, Bethany members partnered with Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) to begin a ministry and preschool that addresses a child’s special needs. The program is an answer for parents whose children are unsuccessful in other preschools. Let It Shine provides a Christ-centered learning environment with self-regulation, mindfulness, positive reinforcement, self-confidence and the sharing of Jesus’ love, along with individual therapies and education plans.

The parents and staff of Let It Shine are very appreciative of the LWML Texas District for the first installment of the mission grant for 2018-20. Let It Shine staff were able to purchase many age and skill appropriate materials to help with the children’s development and further their relationship with Jesus.

By focusing on the child’s development and individualizing each child’s care, Let It Shine is able to meet the child where he or she is at rather than forcing a square peg in a round hole.

Many of the children at Let It Shine have been kicked out of other preschools. Families do not know

where to go and do not have many options. Let It Shine supports both the family and the child to create a nurturing and accepting environment. One Let It Shine family would get called daily at their previous school to pick up their child early because of “poor behaviors.” Let It Shine sees the behaviors as a form of communication and gives the child the tools to communicate appropriately, self-regulate and succeed.

It is exciting to see where the Lord will take this program and these children in the years to come. They wish to give a big thank you to the LWML Texas District for its support and help.

Stay connected

LWML
★ Texas
District



lwmltxdist.org

Send LWML news and photos to
Cindy Carter, *District News* editor at
districtnews@lwmltxdist.org

LWML 38th Biennial Convention

June 20-23 • Mobile, Ala.

Early
registration
is now
open!



lwml.org/convention

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Going to convention?

Have you ever attended a national LWML convention? If you have, I know you are as eager as I am to go to Mobile, Ala., June 20-23. If you haven't, would you consider joining me? Registration opens on Feb. 1 and will be discounted \$20 until March 14. In addition, this year a \$25 deduction from full registration fees will be applied to enable more people to attend (thanks to the LWML Endowment Fund).

Attending the convention provides opportunities to worship, be inspired by the speakers, study God's Word together (Donna Pyle is the featured Bible study leader), see your mites in action through the eyes of recipients and be in fellowship with your LWML sisters and brothers. Laura Davis Hemminger (daughter of Rev. John Davis, pastor, Memorial, Katy) will be one of the mites in action speakers.

Biennially, we meet in convention to conduct the business of LWML, including the selection of mission grant recipients and new officers for the next four years. Texas has two candidates on the ballot — Lois Teinert for vice-president of Organizational Resources and Whitney Lee for Nominating Committee.

Registration forms and more information can be found at lwml.org/convention.

The convention goal statement is: "Led by God's power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations." Come with me to Mobile "In Praise to the LORD!"

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth!
Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations."

—1 Chron. 16:23–24a

Serving with JOY • Debbie Curry



Blessing for animal shelter

Melissa Kunschke, left, and Abby George have been helping the Comfort Makers — the quilters of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Plano — with a special project the past few months. They have been assembling pet pillows made from donated fleece scraps and stuffed with quilt batting scraps. They delivered nine pillows to the Plano Animal Shelter.

Apply for scholarship



If you are a female and will attend an LCMS institution of higher learning in the 2019-20 school year, apply now for a Texas District LWML scholarship.

Scholarships are awarded to women from Texas District congregations studying for full-time professional church work in the LCMS.

To check out eligibility requirements and to apply, visit lwml/

txdist.org. Click on the "About Us" link, click on the "Scholarships" link and download the eligibility and application packet.

For more information, contact Marlene White, Scholarship Committee chairman, by clicking her link at lwmltxdist.org/contact-your-district-officers.

Applications must be sent to Marlene, postmarked by March 31.

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering dates

April 22
Epiphany
Houston

April 24
Texas Lutheran University
San Antonio
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 27
Messiah
Plano
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, visit lwmltxdist.org/human-care.



LWML Texas District
2018-20 mite goal:
\$350,900

Mites received through November:
\$108,713

Mites still needed to meet goal:
\$242,187

Mission grants paid through
November: \$58,250

Send mites to:

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT
FRANCES MOLITOR, FINANCIAL SECRETARY
P.O. Box 820; ANDERSON, TX 77830