

LAUNDRY LOVE

“I know who Jesus is but does He know where I am since I live with my Daddy in a car and move so much?” This is the question an 11-year-old girl asked Susan, a volunteer for Laundry Love. How wonderful that Susan was able to answer her, “Yes, He is always with you wherever you go! And here is a children’s Bible to help you read and hear His Word for yourself.”

Laundry Love is a ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church, San Antonio. Once a month, St. Paul members visit the laundromat and pay for washer/dryer use and supplies for anyone who comes in. The volunteers also provide food for all and activities for the children. More importantly, they listen to the customers, share the love of Jesus and offer reading materials for their new friends to take home.

There are people who count on this ministry and return every month, and there are always new faces too. Some local residents consider this their church. There have even been baptisms at the laundromat.

A regular visitor is a mom with 13 children. She is not only very happy to have their clothes washed for free, but also to have help with the kids as she tends to her laundry. The children are able to do crafts, play games and hear the Gospel. Mom is able to accomplish a chore while being able to visit with adults.



Clockwise from top: St. Paul volunteers and laundry customers pray during a Laundry Love event; Joy Cowan (left) presents a mission grant payment to St. Paul senior pastor Rev. Dave Murillo and member Susan Pennington; Pastor Murillo greets a man outside the laundromat in 2017.

Another regular is Ray, who has recently started attending services at St. Paul. It is encouraging and uplifting for Ray and St. Paul parishioners to get to share together the gifts of God in the liturgy.

Every Laundry Love event includes Bible study and closes with prayer. God is using this ministry to bless the community and the people of

St. Paul. Many thanks are given to LWML Texas District for the mission grant that helps fund this project as the members of St. Paul seek to serve materially and spiritually, as Jesus says in Matt. 25:35: “For I was hungry and you gave me food.”

Joy Cowan
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach



Who doesn't need help paying college tuition? If you know of a female member in your district congregation studying to become a full-time LCMS professional church worker at an LCMS college or university, inform her that the LWML Texas District Scholarship Committee is awarding scholarships for the 2022-23 school year.

For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit

lwmltxdist.org. Go to “Committees” and choose “Scholarships” from the drop-down menu.

For more information, contact Joyce Martinets, Scholarship Committee chairman, at scholarship@lwmltxdist.org.

Completed application packets must be sent to Joyce, postmarked by March 31.

Melissa Houchin • Scholarship Committee

Mercy in times of disaster

“Why is this happening to me or my community?” This is a common question after a natural disaster. When someone comes to help, it may be followed with “Why are you helping me?” The Bible tells us in Gal. 6:10a: “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone.”

Lutheran Disaster Care, Inc (LDC) is a ministry to the whole person (body and soul) and part of the outreach is providing Bibles and devotional materials for spiritual care. Just being present is also a special gift to those in need. Gift cards are often provided to meet some of the physical needs of disaster victims.

Funds from LWML Texas District mites have allowed LDC to respond to hurricanes Laura, Delta and Ida, along with other natural disasters. LDA has partnered with congregations to reach hurting people with timely gifts, Bibles and prayers. Partnering with the congregation provides an opportunity for ongoing spiritual connections.

In addition to the Bibles and gift cards made possible because of your mites, Lutheran Disaster Care helps with tree removal, clean up, interior rebuilding while offering prayers and a witness. Another aspect of the mission is Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT), which prepares individuals to provide help following a disaster.

There is no telling how many people the Holy Spirit has and will reach through this ministry. God’s Word is powerful, and LDC is blessed to share it with those they are helping.

Joy Cowan • Vice-President of Gospel Outreach



From left, David Ricks, Rev. Andrew Schlund, Rev. Tim Schutt and Dan Cown shared blessings with those in need near New Orleans and Metairie, La., following Hurricane Ida.



▲ When the need and devastation seem overwhelming, God sometimes sends His love through human hands.

▲ Tree removal often provides an opportunity to witness for Christ as this cross reminds all of our Creator and His presence.



Another successful Lutheran World Relief ingathering was held at Epiphany, Houston – thanks to the volunteers who gave of their blessings so others could be blessed. Shown are some of the volunteers loading boxes, from left, Nikki Miller, Susan Lewis, Jean Webber Linda Brown and Sandy Miller.

2020-22 MITE GOAL
\$377,500

Mites received through October: \$295,450

Mites still needed to meet goal: \$82,050

Mission grants paid through October: \$171,434

Please include a remittance form when submitting your mite offerings to:

LWML Texas District
Attn: Kathy Walther, Financial Secretary
PO Box 124, Giddings, TX 78942

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lwmltxdist.org

Send news and photos to **Joanna Roche**,
District News editor, districtnews@lwmltxdist.org.