

LWML Texas District 41st Biennial Convention

June 18-20 • Omni Corpus Christi



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am thrilled to invite you to Corpus Christi for the 41st Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Texas District! The Coastal Bend, Mid Coast and Rio Grande zones have been diligently working to provide a time for you to reaffirm that our hope is anchored in Christ in an ever changing world.

I pray that you will be *Recharged* through the Divine Service with Holy Communion on Thursday evening, with Rev. Michael Newman as proclaimer. You will *Rest in God’s Word* and His sure hope as we study God’s Word with our pastoral counselors, keynote speaker Deb Burma, the enrichment session leaders, the Wake Up with the Word speaker and the Mites in Action speaker. We will be *Re-energized* to share our hope in Christ with others as we bring our Gifts from the Heart and offerings, and participate in on-site and off-site servant events and the Mission in Motion Prayer Walk for mites.

Please plan to join us and make our new schedule successful. Our servant events are

planned for early Thursday afternoon, before the convention officially begins. To make these successful, we need people to arrive and register early. Our local organizations are looking forward to our servant events that we have planned for them.

The convention concludes by noon on Saturday, giving you plenty of time to spend the rest of the weekend exploring the many attractions of Corpus Christi, like the beautiful bayfront and beaches, the Texas State Aquarium and the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay. Watch the sunrise over the bayfront from the Omni Hotel and enjoy fresh seafood.

So make your plans now to come to Corpus Christi and be *Recharged*, *Rest in God’s Word* and be *Re-energized* to share your hope in Christ with others as we reaffirm that our hope is anchored in Christ!

If you have any questions or needs, contact me at Corpus2020@lwmltxdist.org.

Judy Kunkel
Convention Host Committee Chairman

“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

- Heb. 6:19-20

Gifts from the Heart

Ingathering items for this convention and the recipients are:

- ▶ **Body wash and deodorant for boys and girls** for Rainbow Rooms, which are emergency resource centers available to Child Protective Service (CPS) case workers to help them meet the critical needs of abused and neglected children.
- ▶ **Diapers (all sizes) and wipes** for Pregnancy Center of the Coastal Bend, a ministry that empowers others to embrace life for their unborn child.
- ▶ **Gift cards from H-E-B and Walmart** for Rio-MAC, an outreach effort of the LCMS in the Rio Grande Valley.
- ▶ **Canned meats and peanut butter** for Coastal Bend Food Bank, a nonprofit organization serving 11 area counties.

Off-Site Servant Events

Events will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Thursday with staggered start times. There is no cost to participate and transportation is provided. The Human Care Committee will contact you for your preference of site if you indicate yes on your registration form.

- ▶ **Coastal Bend Food Bank:** Participants will help sort, inspect and box food products at the warehouse.
- ▶ **Holmgreen Center at Brookdale:** Participants will have the opportunity to sing, lead Bingo games, read to residents and paint residents’ fingernails at this assisted living, rehab and nursing center.
- ▶ **Alameda Oaks Nursing Center:** Participants will have the opportunity to sing, lead Bingo games, read to residents and paint residents’ fingernails.
- ▶ **Hi Again Resale Shop** (part of the Pregnancy Center of the Coastal Bend): Participants will help sort and mark donated items and clean the shop.

Convention Information

Registration

The 41st Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi, 900 North Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, June 18-20. Registration opens on March 1, and registrations must be submitted or postmarked by May 1 to take advantage of the discounted registration fee.

Online registration is available at lwmltxdist.org/convention with payment by credit card through June 1. The registration form is available on the website to be completed, printed and mailed to the registrar with payment (check to LWML Texas District or credit card information). American Express will not be accepted by LWML Texas District for registration or at the convention, including the LWML store.

Registration check-in at the Omni will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, and from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. Please contact registrar Beth Franke at registrar@lwmltxdist.org with questions.

Agenda

The convention will open at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, with a Divine Service with Communion in the Corpus Christi Ballroom at the Omni. The first business meeting will begin with singing at 8:15 a.m. on Friday. There will be business meetings on Friday afternoon, evening and Saturday morning, which will include keynote speaker Deb Burma, a Mites in Action speaker, Bible studies, song leader Allison Ulmer, and an entertaining convention Interrupter. The convention will conclude at noon on Saturday.

Lodging

The Omni Corpus Christi is now accepting reservations. The group rate for a deluxe room is \$142 plus tax and is good for one to four people per room. There is an additional charge for premier view rooms. The convention rate will not be available after May 27.

For online hotel reservations, go to omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/lutheran-womens-missionary-06162020 or use the direct link at lwmltxdist.org/convention. Reservations can also be made by calling the Omni at 800-843-6664 — ask for the Lutheran Women's Missionary block.

If you need assistance or a roommate, please contact Housing Coordinator Melissa Childs at 361-944-1515. The hotel will honor the rate for three nights before and after the convention based on availability if you would like to stay and visit the Corpus Christi/Padre Island area.

Travel

Guests flying into Corpus Christi International Airport and staying at the Omni need to call 361-887-1600 for free shuttle service to hotel. Pick-up is outside the baggage claim with a wait of about 15 to 20 minutes. If you plan to

drive and stay at the Omni, you can park in the Omni garage for our special rate of \$5 per day with in-and-out privileges. Valet parking is available at the prevailing rate. Entrance to the garage is located on North Water Street. There is an entrance to the lobby from the garage. The Omni Water Street lot will have complimentary self-parking.

Meals

All meals are secured with registration only. On Friday and Saturday mornings, a full breakfast buffet is available at a cost of \$20. The buffet consists of sliced fresh fruit, hot breakfast entrée, assorted muffins and Danish, juice, coffee (regular and decaf) and hot tea. Friday's box lunch will feature ham and turkey sandwiches, chips, cookie and drink for \$15.

The Pastors Lunch on Friday will be served at Trinity Lutheran Church for a cost of \$15 per person (Hoegemeyer's Barbecue brisket, potato salad, coleslaw, tea and peach cobbler). All clergy are invited and transportation will be provided if needed. On Friday evening, a plated dinner of lemon thyme glazed chicken breast with a house salad, seasonal vegetables, roll, tea and crème brûlée cheesecake will be available for \$44. All listed prices include gratuity. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free meals are available but must be noted on the registration form and preordered. No meal orders will be accepted after June 1.

Please note there are a limited number of restaurants in the area surrounding the Omni and most are not within walking distance. The area has many tourists, so prices may be high and wait times can be long. Information on available restaurants will be available at registration.

T-shirts

The 2020 Convention T-shirts are light heather gray and unisex, cut with short sleeves. The convention theme logo will be featured on the back in red and navy blue with the LWML Texas District logo on the front, top left. Please purchase all convention T-shirts with registration. The price is \$15. Registration forms submitted after May 15 will not be eligible for a T-shirt. Contact Marilyn Hensz at henszmarilyn@gmail.com with questions.

Special Opportunities

Special opportunities are available on Thursday, so make plans to arrive early. Exhibits, stores, human care and the prayer room will open at 10 a.m. Exhibits and human care activities will end on Friday at 1:15 p.m.

Prayer Room

The prayer room will be available throughout the convention in the Matagorda room. There will also be a memorial prayer book available in the Prayer Room for convention attendees to add the names of our LWML sisters in Christ who have passed away.

Service of Dedication and Blessing

Our district pastoral counselors will lead us in prayer as we ask for God's blessings on all the activities of the convention at 3 p.m. on Thursday in the Corpus Christi Ballroom.

Meet the Candidates and Officers

All convention attendees are invited to meet the current officers and candidates for office, while reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday in Nueces Ballroom A.

Human Care

Several servant events will be available on-site:

- ▶ **Trimming canceled postage stamps** to defray shipping costs for Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts.
- ▶ **Marking Bibles** for Coastal Bend Detention Center in Robstown.
- ▶ **Tying fleece blankets** for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Ronald McDonald House Charities of Corpus Christi, and New Life Refuge Ministries, Corpus Christi.
- ▶ **Tacking quilts** to be sent to LWR and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Corpus Christi.
- ▶ **Writing notes** of hope and encouragement for families with children diagnosed with congenital heart disease.
- ▶ **Writing notes** of thanks and encouragement to military personnel, missionaries, law enforcement personnel and first responders.

Choir

If you are interested in singing in the choir during Thursday evening's worship service, please check the appropriate box on the registration form. Practice will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday. Music and additional details will be sent after the registration form is received.

Prayer Walk

A Mission in Motion Prayer Walk will begin with prayer at 7 a.m. on Saturday at the Bayview Room on the first floor of the Omni. You will have the option of walking and praying around the air-conditioned inside perimeter of the room, or walking outdoors along the seawall by the bayfront. Pledge forms to request donations to support mites will be sent to those stating yes on the registration form. There is no charge to participate.



Attendees at the 2018 LWML district convention in Waco mark Bibles.

Teens

We are excited to invite teen girls (ages 12-17) to the convention. We have a fun-filled and servant-minded agenda planned just for them! These events will include a scavenger hunt, pool party and an on-site service project. The teen program will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday. Teens will pay a special registration rate of \$55 (or \$75 if submitted after May 15), which includes Thursday's supper, Friday's lunch and supper, and supplies. Teens will be responsible for their own breakfasts. An adult mentor/leader must attend the convention for every 1 to 4 girls registered. Contact Linda Hoehne at linda.nvi@hotmail.com with questions.

Young Woman Representatives

All 25 zones are encouraged to send one or more Young Woman Representatives (YWR) to the convention. A YWR is any mature young woman who is preferably between the ages of 22 and 35 and a member of an LCMS congregation. Information on the Committee on Young Women and the Zone YWR forms are available at lwmltxdist.org/young-woman-representatives. The YWR program will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday and conclude at the end of the convention at noon on Saturday.

The Committee on Young Women will be present from noon to 9 p.m. on Wednesday to welcome each Zone YWR. There will be opportunities for service, Bible study, fellowship and training. On Thursday, YWRs will have the opportunity to teach Bible stories, lead crafts and singing at Upbring's Bokenkamp Children's Center (transportation provided). A Zone YWR is expected to sit with her zone president and delegation during the convention on Friday and Saturday. She will need to register for the convention and order the Friday box lunch (her zone should cover the cost). Contact Abby Faske at abbylwml@gmail.com for more information.

Young Women Lunch (ages 18-40)

On Friday at noon, all potential, current and former Young Woman Representatives are encouraged to order the Friday box lunch and bring it to the Nueces Ballroom A to enjoy sharing ideas, experiences and fellowship.

Heart to Heart Sisters Lunch

All Heart to Heart Sisters are encouraged to purchase the Friday box lunch and join the H2H Sisters district leader in the Aransas room for a program at noon on Friday.

Exhibitors

Exhibitors are by **invitation only** and must complete the Exhibitors Registration Form (sent by the convention coordinator). The Bayview Room on the lobby floor of the hotel will be the main exhibit area. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, and 7 to 8:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Friday.

Questions?

Please contact Host Committee Chairman Judy Kunkel at corp2020@lwmltxdist.org.

