



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District

40th Biennial Convention
July 5-8 • Waco Convention Center

Find more information at
lwmltxdist.org/2018-waco-convention

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" **John 7:38**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Welcome to Waco and the 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District! We are thrilled to invite you to spend time with us as we learn what it means to be "Filled to Overflow ... serving, sharing, telling" — based on John 7:38. The Sunshine and Central Texas zones have been hard at work to provide an amazing experience.

Throughout our time together, you will be **Filled** during Friday's Divine Service (with Holy Communion) with the Rev. Ken Hennings as proclaimer; during Bible studies led by Donna Pyle and our pastoral counselors; and through our Mites in Action speakers and enrichment-session leaders. You will also be provided with many opportunities to **Overflow ... serving, sharing, telling** through your Gifts from the Heart, offerings, on- and off-site servant events and the Mission in Motion Prayer Walk.

Please plan to attend the Service of Dedication and Blessing Thursday evening. This is a new event and you don't want to miss it. We will begin in the Prayer Room on the lower level of the convention center and move throughout the facility, praying for God's blessings on every aspect of the convention. Following the service, stop by the Meet and Greet for Dr. Pepper floats. Friday and Saturday are filled with opportunities for worship, Christian growth and visiting with new and old friends.

If you have time, please take advantage of the opportunity to visit some of the great places in Waco. Hop on the Silo District free trolley for a ride around the downtown area. The trolley makes several stops including Magnolia Market. It will also drop you off within walking distance of the Dr. Pepper Museum, where you can visit its soda fountain that serves Blue Bell Ice Cream and other homemade treats. Right across the street from the convention center, you can take a stroll across the historic suspension bridge or walk down to the water to feed the ducks.

If you have any questions or needs, contact us at waco2018@lwmltxdist.org or find a member of the host committee, who will be wearing red convention T-shirts. We are here to serve you.

It is our prayer that you are **Filled** while you are here so you can **Overflow** to everyone you meet in the world through **serving, sharing, telling**.

Kelli Alsup and Melissa Houchin,
Host Committee Chairmen

Filled to Overflow – Sharing Gifts from the Heart In gathering Items

Option House

Twin size bed sheet sets; Pillows; Snack foods
Walmart and McDonald's gift cards (\$5, \$10, \$15)

Care Net

Baby bath soap; Baby shampoo; Baby lotion;
Baby wipes; Diapers (larger sizes); Feminine hygiene products

Tri-Cities Food Pantry

Peanut butter; Jelly; Oatmeal; Cereal;
Cracker sandwiches; Canned and packaged meat

Filled to Overflow – Serving Human Care Activities

Service opportunities in the Human Care area at the Convention Center on Thursday and Friday will be:

- **Marking Spanish Bibles** for the Ysleta Mission in El Paso for distribution in the detention center.
- Designing and creating **greeting cards** for LCMS missionaries and their families.
- Tying **fleece blankets** for the homeless children's center, Option House, in Killeen.
- **Trimming stamps** to help defray the cost of shipping Lutheran World Relief (LWR) kits and quilts.
- **Tying quilts** for Lutheran World Relief.

Enrichment Sessions • On and Off-Site Servant Events

During **three** time slots on Saturday afternoon, you will choose enrichment session speakers (no advance registration required) and/or on-site servant events (indicate interest on your registration form to assist the committee with preparations) **or** you may request to participate in an off-site servant event for the entire afternoon (you **MUST** request an off-site servant event on the registration form and you will be contacted by the Human Care Committee for your choice of activity).

Enrichment sessions

Sharing God's Love Where You are Planted: The Rev. Gerry Harrow has a heart for reaching those not connected to Jesus. Called into ministry later in life, he is planting a church in Killeen. In this session, you will discover your uniqueness in a deeper way and consider how God is leading you to share God's Living Water.

Reaching Indians for Christ in the U.S.: The Rev. Naveen Nischal is the director of the University of Texas at Arlington Lutheran Student Center, which consists primarily of students from India, and pastor of Hope for the Nations Lutheran Church, a new church plant of Grace, Arlington. Believing the mission field has come to us, he is reaching Indians for Christ. He will inspire, equip, empower and mobilize us to share the true Living Water with those who are still in darkness.

Life – Gift from God: Dr. Barbara Giestfeld, Lutherans For Life regional director of Texas and a retired veterinarian, believes we are to be Gospel-motivated voices for life. Taking us on a visual journey from conception to natural death, her presentation reveals how we can become active forces for God's precious gift of life.

Serving, Sharing and Telling Muslim Women about Jesus: The Rev. Dr. Abjar Bahkou is a professor of Arabic Language and Culture at Baylor University and holds a doctorate in Mission and Evangelism. He will share how the Quran and Islamic teaching view women and how we can share the Gospel with our Muslim neighbors, using Jesus' model in John 4:1-30.

An Evangelistic Movement to North America: the Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab, Mission and Ministry Facilitator, Area B, LCMS Texas District, is a first-generation immigrant from Africa who grew up in the mission field. In thanksgiving to the LWML for its support of almost all the mission initiatives Yohannes has started, he will share mission stories and encourage participation of the laity in the mission field of their communities.

Building a Bond of Unity in Christ in Ethnic Communities: Jan Brunette, VP of Christian Life and Heart to Heart Sister district leader, has a passion for sharing the love of Jesus Christ, particularly in working with multicultural ministries. During all three sessions, we will learn how women can impact unity and encourage fellowship together in Christ. In session 1, Jan will provide ideas for ways that fellowship with multicultural ministries can be carried out in the zones and societies. During all three sessions, participants will have an opportunity to meet and greet ethnic women who will share their stories of transition and courage, and give you opportunities to see their culture firsthand.

Engage, Encourage, Equip and Enjoy: LWML President

Patti Ross will share her vision for LWML — that it be enjoyable work, where women can be equipped and encouraged to serve in God's Kingdom. Mission grants, Christian growth materials and partnering with church workers are just a few of the activities she will talk about and share.

Covering Our Mission in Prayer: the Rev. Michael Copper-smith leads the prayer warrior's ministry for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He and his wife, Donna, will lead participants in praying for LWML mission grant recipients (past and proposed) and missionaries serving throughout the world. As they pray, participants will learn prayer activities they can implement at home to provide prayer support for LWML mission endeavors.

Strategic Planning in Our Zones and Societies: Eloise Kuhlmann and Cheryl Mattil have LWML experience at all levels and invite convention participants to bring their own questions to this session. The agenda will be very flexible and will cater to the needs of the group. **Leadership Training:** In a second session, Eloise and Cheryl will present principles of leadership to assist women to develop and enhance their leadership skills.

On-site Servant Events

- ▶ **Kids Against Hunger** — Packaging a fortified soy/rice casserole style meal
- ▶ **Blessing Bags** — Assembling bags for distribution to the homeless in Temple, Killeen and Waco
- ▶ **Personal Care Kits** — Assembling kits for LWR
- ▶ **Bible Marking** — Marking Spanish Bibles for Ysleta Mission
- ▶ **First Responder Treats** — Assembling individual bags of cookies and attaching notes of encouragement for Waco first responders

Off-site Servant Events

Participants will serve Saturday from 1 to 4:45 p.m. The Human Care committee will contact you for your preference of site.

There is no cost to participate and transportation is provided.

- ▶ **Caritas** — Working in one of their two thrift stores sorting clothes, cleaning, and helping people with their shopping
- ▶ **Care Net** — Working with young mothers teaching them life skills — in the kitchen by helping them prepare casseroles, and help with taking care of their infants
- ▶ **Nursing Homes** — Visiting with the residents, playing Bingo with them for prizes and having a devotion with them
- ▶ **Mission Waco** — Working in its thrift store sorting clothes, cleaning and possibly doing yard work
- ▶ **Salvation Army** — Painting residents' rooms in the women's shelter
- ▶ **Mission Waco Nursing Home** — Offering manicures to residents
- ▶ **Booth Garden Apartments** (operated by the Salvation Army) — Playing Bingo games with low-income seniors and people with federally defined disabilities

Miscellaneous convention information

Registration

The 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District will be held at the Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave., Waco, with check-in beginning at noon on Thursday, July 5.

Registration opens on March 1 and in order to take advantage of the discounted registration fee, registrations must be submitted no later than May 15. Online registration is available at lwmltxdist.org/2018-waco-convention with payment by credit card or PayPal at no extra charge. A fillable registration form is also available on the website to be completed, printed and mailed to the registrar.

Exhibitors are by invitation only and must complete an Exhibitor's Registration form (sent by convention coordinator).

Hotel Information

Hilton Waco and Courtyard by Marriott Waco are accepting reservations. The group rate for Hilton Waco is \$145 plus tax. The group rate for Courtyard Waco is \$135 plus tax. Both rates are good for one to four people per room. The convention rate will not be available after June 4. For online hotel reservations go to lwmltxdist.org/2018-waco-convention and follow the link to access the secured website of the hotel of your choice. Reservations can also be made by calling Hilton at 254-754-8484 or Courtyard at 254-752-8686. Be sure to indicate that you are a Lutheran Women's Missionary League participant. Please note that part of our contractual agreement with Hilton and Courtyard includes a financial obligation to book and use a specified number of guest rooms. If you need assistance or a roommate, please contact Housing Coordinator Sylvia Winkler at 254-770-7236 or sawinkler@embarqmail.com.

Hotel rooms for Teens, Young Woman Representatives and Host Committee — A block of rooms is being held at Courtyard to enable you to be close to your venues. Please contact Sylvia for the specific code to reserve your room. You must reserve your room by May 1 to be in this block of rooms.

Travel

Guests flying into Waco Regional Airport and staying at Hilton need to call 254-754-8484 when arriving at the airport for free shuttle service. Guests staying at Courtyard need to call 254-752-8686 for free shuttle service. Guests flying into Love Field or DFW need to contact Waco Streak Airport Shuttle at 254-772-0430 or waco-streak.com for more information about shuttle services, schedules and prices. If you plan to drive, there is ample free parking at the hotels and convention center.

Convention T-shirts

The 2018 convention shirts will be sapphire blue, unisex cut with short sleeves. The logo design will be featured in two colors on the front with the theme Bible verse in white on the back. Please indicate quantity and size on the registration form. Registration forms submitted after May 15 will not be eligible for T-shirt ordering. Contact Mellissa Boswell at mellissaboswellcc@gmail.com with questions.

Prayer Room and Dedication

The Prayer Room will be available throughout the convention. A new Service of Dedication and Blessing will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday near the Prayer Room. Our pastoral counselors will lead us in prayer as we move throughout the convention center.

Meet and Greet Event

Everyone is welcome to this time of fellowship at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 5, in McLennan Hall. Dr. Pepper floats will be served and there will be an opportunity to visit with exhibitors and candidates as well as friends old and new.

Meals

All meals are secured by registration form only.

- ▶ Friday boxed lunch will feature a ham and turkey sandwich, cookie, chips and a drink for \$10.
- ▶ Saturday boxed lunch will be a turkey club croissant, chips, cookie and a drink for \$8.50
- ▶ Saturday Pastors Lunch will be at Coach's Smoke (within walking distance) at 11:30 a.m. The meal will be a barbecue buffet with brisket, pulled pork, chicken, potato salad, brown beans, coleslaw and a non-alcoholic drink for \$14, which includes meal and tip. All clergy are invited.
- ▶ Saturday Evening Buffet will consist of beef and chicken fajitas, beans, rice and all the trimmings (includes dessert) for \$17.

Entertainment

Our entertainment on Saturday evening will be open to all registered convention attendees and will feature Wendysue Fluegge, song leader for the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. She will also be our convention song leader.

Choir Participation

If you are interested in singing in the choir during Friday evening's worship service, please check the appropriate box on the registration form. Music, practice time and additional details will be sent after the registration form is received.

Mission in Motion Prayer Walk

The walk will begin near the convention center at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. Participants will be encouraged to pray at various locations along the walk. 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.

Teen Information

We are excited to invite teens (girls ages 12-17) to the convention, and have a fun-filled and servant-minded agenda planned just for them! Teens will pay a special registration rate of \$60 (or \$80 if submitted after May 15), which includes Friday's lunch, Saturday's supper and entertainment, supplies and transportation to Waco-area attractions. The only meal teens need to register for on the registration form is Saturday box lunch (include payment of \$8.50 with registration fee). Please contact the housing coordinator to reserve the hotel room at Courtyard, as the teen meeting room will be at that hotel. An adult mentor/leader (convention attendee) is requested for every 1 to 4 girls registered. Contact Amy Cox, coxa@georgetownisd.org with any questions. More information will be printed in next month's *District News*.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT 40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Waco Convention Center • 100 Washington Avenue, Waco, Texas • July 5 – July 8, 2018

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

(Each registrant must complete a separate registration form.)

Badge Name: _____
Last First

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail _____

NOTE: Your e-mail address will not be shared. It is needed only for registration confirmation. Please print legibly.

Society: _____

Church: _____

Church City: _____

Zone: _____

Please indicate: first time LWML Texas District Convention attendee

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

- Society Delegate
- General Registration – LWML Member
- Guest (Spouse, Non-LWML Member)
- LWML Texas District Board of Directors
- Past LWML Texas District President
- Pastoral Counselor/Clergy
- Young Woman Rep (Zone or District)
- Teen (age 12 to 17) Indicate age _____
- Program Participant or Special Guest
(please identify)

Note: Exhibitors must complete
Exhibitors Registration Form

Registration Choices (Includes tote bag and manual):

- | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| 1. Registration – includes Saturday Entertainment | \$ 95.00 | \$ _____ |
| 2. Late Registration– includes Saturday Entertainment (postmarked after May 15, 2018) | \$ 115.00 | \$ _____ |
| 3. Teen Registration – includes Saturday Entertainment | \$ 60.00 | \$ _____ |
| 4. Teen Late Registration – includes Saturday Entertainment (postmarked after May 15, 2018) ... | \$ 80.00 | \$ _____ |
| 5. Friday Only Registration | \$ 75.00 | \$ _____ |
| 6. Saturday Only Registration – includes Servant Events and Entertainment | \$ 75.00 | \$ _____ |
| 7. Friday Box Lunch | \$ 10.00 | \$ _____ |
| 8. Saturday Box Lunch | \$ 8.50 | \$ _____ |
| 9. Saturday Pastors’ Lunch (at Coach’s Smoke) | \$ 14.00 | \$ _____ |
| 10. Saturday Evening Buffet. | \$ 17.00 | \$ _____ |
| 11. Convention T-Shirt (indicate quantity) ...S___ M___ L___ XL___ 2XL___ 3XL___ @ | \$ 12.00 | \$ _____ |

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

Saturday Events (see “Human Care Opportunities” sheet for information) **Please circle your choices:**

- Would you like to participate in the **Mission in Motion Prayer Walk**? (pledge sheet will be provided) Yes No
- Would you like to participate in an **off-site servant event** in place of the enrichment sessions on Saturday (1-4:45 p.m.)? Yes No
- Would you like to participate in an **on-site servant event** at the Convention Center on Saturday during one or more of the enrichment sessions? Yes No
- Would you like to **donate blood** at the Convention Center on Saturday? Yes No

If singing in the choir at Friday evening Divine Service, please indicate: Soprano 1 Soprano 2 Alto

List any special needs (including dietary): _____

Please make checks payable to **LWML Texas District**

Note: Keep a photocopy of your completed registration form for your records. Mail form and payment to Convention Registrar:

Kelly Bernhardt
 8107 Coronado Trail
 Amarillo, TX 79110

Telephone: (806) 676-9354 E-mail: registrar@lwmltxdist.org

Confirmation will be e-mailed to all who register prior to June 18, 2018. NO REFUNDS AFTER JUNE 20.