

MERCY FOR THE DEAF

By Joy Cowan
VP of Gospel Outreach

In the United States, 25 percent of deaf individuals come from Spanish-speaking families. Lutheran Friends of the Deaf has a mission to reach God's children who do not have access to God's Word, especially those who are unable to hear.

This organization is working to create books using American Sign Language (ASL), Spanish Sign Language and printed words. These books can then be put on video. The videos will be distributed via scan codes that allow the books to be downloaded on a computer or phone. These scan codes are being developed now and will be available within the year.

Using God's example in Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf is bringing the



Good News of Christ Jesus, His forgiveness and His salvation to Spanish-speaking individuals in their own language. LCMS ministry partners in countries like the Dominican Republic will be able to use Spanish and ASL Bible stories in publicly funded schools for deaf children to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ into places where He is not

currently being proclaimed.

Currently two books are underway, thanks to mites from LWML Texas District and other districts, and there are five more in the planning stages.

It is a true blessing for deaf and hard-of-hearing people to learn about Jesus in their heart language.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Serving with JOY

I have always loved the LWML motto: "Serve the LORD with Gladness" (Ps. 100:2). When I began this journey to serve as your president, it was my prayer that I would serve with joy. As I write this article, we have been ordered to shelter in place and a new term — social distancing — has been introduced to our vocabulary. Never did I anticipate serving from home for weeks, using only my computer and phone. The uncertainty of holding our convention in June is ever present in my prayers and thoughts. I am craving the time when we can



be together and hug one another.

If asked what I love most about LWML, I would answer the fellowship with my sisters in Christ. I know I should put spending time in God's Word, missions and serving first. And yes, those are just as important to me. But when I reflect over the past four years, it is the relationships I have formed that I will remember and treasure. God created us to be relational with Him and with others. I have experienced God's love through you. I thank you for your many prayers, notes of encouragement, gifts and love.

It has been a privilege to serve as LWML Texas District president. I thank God for the many opportunities He provided to "Joyfully

serve the Lord, Openly confess the Gospel and Yearn to grow in God's Word." My journey in the LWML has not ended and I am certain there will be many more opportunities to serve with JOY. It is my prayer all Lutheran Women in Mission experience JOY in fervent love for God and each other.

Debbie Curry

(Debbie shared the mission of LWML on an Engaging Truth radio program titled "JOY" on March 22, which can be found at elmhouston.org/houston-christian-talk-radio-programs.)

Correction

Sharon Sampson is a candidate for the LWML Texas District Nominating Committee. Her name was spelled incorrectly in the May issue.

South Plains hold retreat

The South Plains Zone Retreat was held March 6-7 at Mercy Retreat Center in Slaton. Rev. Michael Heckmann, zone pastoral counselor, led Bible study for 30 ladies from the South Plains West Texas and Panhandle zones and four ladies from New Mexico. The theme was “Count Your Blessings.”



Millie Maxson shared about her ministry using prayer partner potholders.

Linda Moldenhauer shared information about the Follow The Leader conference.

Marie Holman led the group in a craft and led two skits about counting your blessings.

Tamara Klatt presented a fun group experience of exercising to Ray Stevens’ song “Mississippi Squirrel.”

Offerings of \$340 were sent to the district for mites. All praise to God!



Pancakes and pennies

Redeemer LWML, Lubbock, held a “Pancake and Pennies” fundraiser on Feb. 23. About \$400 was collected. Ten percent was sent to the district for mites and the remainder was sent to Soysambu Conservancy in Kenya for children’s meals. The group received a donation from Thrivent Financial for the expenses. About 50 people attended.

PRAISE GOD!

Mite goal exceeded for 2018-20!

Mite goal for 2018-20 biennium: \$350,900

Mite offerings received: \$369,870

Amount above and beyond the mite goal: \$18,970

All thanks and praise to our Triune God, from whom all blessings flow! Through faithful and prayerful mite offerings, God enabled us to exceed the mite goal in order to fund all 11 mission grants. To read more about the ministry of furthering our Lord’s kingdom through these 11 grants, visit lwm-ltxdist.org/mission-grants.

2018-20 Mission Grants	PAID IN FULL	Amount (all paid in full)
Scholarships for Seminarians — Texas District LCMS		\$50,000
Let It Shine for Children with Autism — Lutheran Special Education Ministries		\$10,000
DCE Scholarships — Concordia University Texas		\$24,000
ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center — Leander		\$20,000
Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with God’s Love — Lutheran Braille Workers		\$18,500
Forward in Faith — Funding the Ministry of Faith Lutheran High School		\$10,000
Multi-Ethnic Ministries of North Texas		\$25,000
Navigating Life and Faith — LINC Austin		\$10,000
Spanish and American Sign Language Bible Stories — Lutheran Friends of the Deaf		\$5,000
Alamo Hills Children’s Ministry (Shepherd of the Hills Church Plant) — San Antonio		\$4,285
Expanding the Mission at Lutheran Student Center — Arlington		\$3,215
Total		\$180,000
2016-18 Mission Grant paid this biennium		\$5,000