

# Capitol Zone Capsule

First Quarter 2026

## Capitol Zone Officers

**Betsy Martino**, President  
**Nancy Ross**, VP of Christian Life & Gospel Outreach  
**Giovanna Turincio**, VP of Human Care & Organizational Resources  
**Patricia Willoughby**, VP of Communication  
**Sylvia Kokel**, Interim Secretary  
**Rosanne Capdeville**, Treasurer  
**Sarah Johnson**, ZYWR  
**Rev. Eric Borchers**, Pastoral Counselor

### NATIONAL MITE GOAL FOR 2025-2027

Mite Goal for 2025-2027 Biennium: \$2,622,270

Amount Received: \$109,216.18

Amount needed: \$2,513,053.82

Amounts as of August 31, 2025

### TEXAS MITE GOAL FOR 2024-2026

Mite Goal for 2024-2026 Biennium: \$403,000

Amount Received: \$326,863.75

Amount Needed: \$76,136.25

Amounts are through December 2025

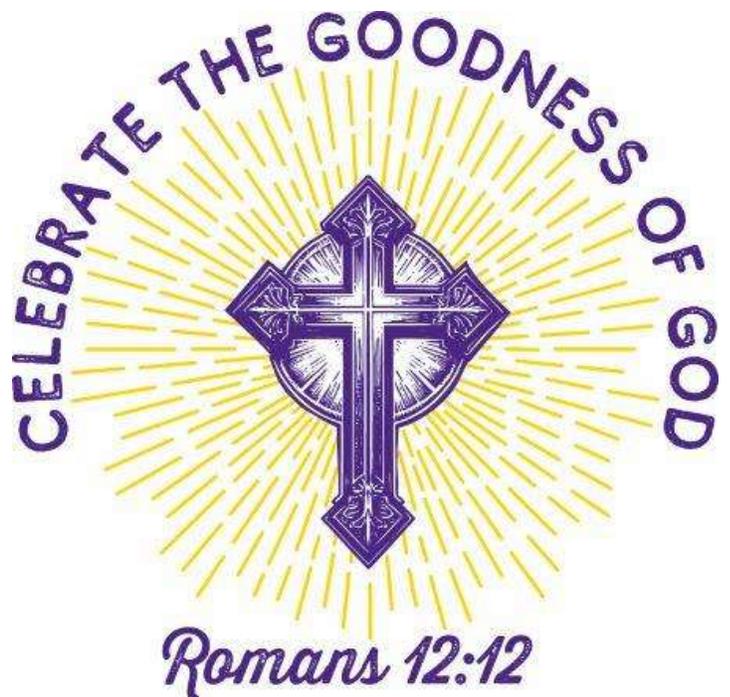
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## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT

**LWML Texas District**  
**44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention**  
**June 11–13, 2026**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**Hilton DoubleTree Hotel**

**Theme:** Celebrate the Goodness of God  
**Scripture Verse:** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12).



## Notes from the Zone President

Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ,

The ups and downs are coming so fast, I feel like I'm on a rollercoaster. One minute, I am high as a kite. The next minute, I'm bumping along in the ditch.  
How does one get out of the ditch?

Let's start with the highs:

Crafting for Christ was a huge high. About 20 women gathered and worked on their favorite craft. One sewed the binding on a quilt. Several colored cards for Phil's Friends. Some worked on sandwiching a quilt top, batting, and back. Many women cut paper flowers, hearts, and other shapes with their Cricut machines for use at a servant event at the Convention. Still others tried to learn the ins and outs of covering test notebooks with paper products to use as journals, striving also to have sample journals for the same servant event. Then there were ladies tearing sheets into strips for rolling into bandages for another Convention servant event. The breakfast and lunch food were good. The fellowship was even better.

Another high has been planning for our retreat in February. Pastor Borchers will be our presenter and will speak about what Scripture has to say about angels. All we need are participants! Y'all come.

And save the date for April 18. That will be a high for sure as we come together for our Tittering Tea Party. Abby Goehring will be our humorous speaker. There will be no business meeting, per se. But I'm sure there will be an encouraging report about our June convention. Bring a younger friend or two so we can tell them all the wonderful things about LWML. Our prayer is that we will grow our membership.

The biggest high for me was last Sunday, January 18. Hope Lutheran Church celebrated the installation of our new pastor, Mark Hunsaker. There were lots of pastors, each with a blessing for Pastor Mark. There was a lot of music: hymns, choir singing, piano, organ, and a bell choir. Of course, there was good food afterward. It was a glorious service. I could go on and on.

And now that I am reveling in all the highs, I have forgotten all about the downs. Thanks be to God!

I am truly,

Rejoicing in the Lord.  
Betsy Martino  
Capitol Zone President.

## VP of Communication Corner

The next deadline is **April 15, 2026**. Please email your news and photos to [czlwmlvpcomm@gmail.com](mailto:czlwmlvpcomm@gmail.com). The 2nd Quarter issue will go out around **May 1, 2026**. Thank you in advance for any and all submissions.

## Volunteers Needed for the Prayer Room

Intercessory prayer is vital in the life of a believer and a wonderful way of caring and showing compassion to believers that are hurting or struggling. Please do not be intimidated. You do not need to be an eloquent speaker. We need women of faith and who have a heart for people. There will be prayer books and Portals of Prayer in the room to use.

This volunteer opportunity is great if you do not want to spend a lot of time on your feet. The time requirement is 2-4 hours at a time once a day if we can get enough volunteers. So please, prayerfully consider the Prayer Room as a place to serve at this convention. If willing, please contact Patricia Willoughby at [czlwmlvpcomm@gmail.com](mailto:czlwmlvpcomm@gmail.com) or text 512-639-9043. Thank you in advance.

## Important Dates to Remember

<i>Capitol Zone Retreat</i> , Camp Lone Star	February 13-14, 2026
<i>"Tittering Tea Party,"</i> Hope Lutheran, Austin	April 18, 2026
<i>District Convention</i> , Double Tree Hotel, Austin	June 11-13, 2026

## Good News to Report

**Sylvia Kokel** has volunteered to serve as Zone Secretary for the short term. Thank you!

## Prayer Requests

Continued prayers for the District Convention. Please prayerfully consider where you would volunteer. It is going to take all of us to make this a blessing to all who attend. **Lois Teinert** will be visiting groups to tell you more about how you can sign-up to get involved. The Sign Up Genius link is now active to sign up for volunteering for work slots at our LWML Texas District convention.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B48A5AB28A7FD0-61651999-2026>

## 2026 LWML Texas District Convention News



Happy 2026, everyone! It is both exciting and a bit stressful to think that convention year is actually here! There has been a lot of activity since I last wrote, but I feel like we are still ramping up.

We have lots of great committee chairmen who are quite busy planning activities and finalizing room needs/layouts, final program schedules, meals, and registration details, just to name a few. We still have quite a lot to accomplish over the next several months, so what's next and how can you assist?

1. Pray for our planning and logistics, and for guidance as we invite attendees to join us in June. Your prayers make a difference—join us in asking for God's direction and blessings.
2. Sign up to volunteer at the convention using the Sign-up Genius link, which will be sent to group presidents. This document lists all committee needs and available time slots. After logging on, select your preferred shift times and rooms to help cover. Lois Teinert, our Volunteer Coordinator, will visit each group this spring to explain the process. Please consider signing up for multiple slots, as many remain open. Look out for further details soon!
3. Registration begins online on March 1. A link will be sent soon, and the fee is \$185.00 (including a boxed lunch for Friday). If you are volunteering in any capacity, meals will be provided in the workers' room, so do not purchase a Thursday boxed lunch separately.
4. We are going green! When you register, there will also be QR codes for the Gifts from the Heart Room. I provided details about the Gifts from the Heart organizations in the last newsletter, but you will be able to make donations to your recipient(s) of choice when you register (or anytime up to and through the convention). You may also bring Visa gift cards to the convention, if preferred.
5. You will be able to sign up for the Mites 4 Motion Activity planned for Saturday morning. We will have a yoga/chair yoga session taught by a local, licensed Chiropractor.
6. Since we are the Host Committee, please do not select a t-shirt when registering. Host Committee members will purchase their t-shirts separately at cost. I will confirm the price and ordering logistics soon and share additional details. For attire during the convention, Host Committee members should plan to wear the following:
  1. Light gray logo t-shirts (which you will purchase at cost when available)
  2. Jeans (no holes or rips), slacks, or capris.
  3. Wear comfortable shoes, as there will be lots of walking during the convention.

To God be all the Glory!

Laurie Bellard

2026 Host Committee Chairman

**LWML Texas District 44th Biennial Convention**

**June 11–13, 2026**

**Austin, Texas**

**Hilton DoubleTree Hotel**

## Volunteer Information

The Sign Up Genius link is now active to sign up for volunteering for work slots at our LWML Texas District convention.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B48A5AB28A7FD0-61651999-2026>

The convention will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton (6505 Interstate Hwy 35 N, Austin) June 11-13, but a few volunteers are actually needed starting on Wednesday, June 10. You must be registered (this starts March 1) for the convention to volunteer. Feel free to sign up in several areas and/or days. You will be given instructions so don't fret about stepping out of your comfort zone. Signing up early has its advantages, enabling you to serve when and where you'd like; but if a conflict develops, you can always go back and edit your sign-up. Contact Lois Teinert ([LoisLWML@gmail.com](mailto:LoisLWML@gmail.com) or 512-496-7340) with questions.

The Workers Room needs food and drink items as well. You do not need to be registered for the convention to donate these items. You may sign up on the same Sign Up Genius link (under Wednesday, June 10 sign-up). Monetary donations and Thrivent Action Team cards are welcome if you prefer this route. Joy Cowan and Denise Rowland, our Workers Room coordinators can answer questions about this. Joy's contact information is [cowanjoy1@gmail.com](mailto:cowanjoy1@gmail.com) or 817-229-8151. Checks can be sent to Joy at the following address any time before June 1.

Joy Cowan

6927 FM 972

Bartlett TX 76511

### Sip, Savor, and Snicker

A Tittering Tea Party for the Light-Hearted Lutheran

Pull up a chair, pour a cup, and prepare for holy hilarity with **Abby Goehring**, our featured humorist who proves Lutherans can laugh loudly.

We'll gather for treats, tittering, and a joyful time of fellowship; all steeped in grace and good company.

🌸 Feel free to bring a friend who's new to Lutheran Women in Mission — the more giggles, the merrier!



*...serve the Lord with gladness*



📅 Saturday, April 18,  
2026  
🕒 2:00-4:00 PM  
📍 Hope Lutheran Church  
6414 North Hampton Dr,  
Austin, TX 78723

## Crafting for Christ Pictures

The Lutheran Women in Mission of the Capitol Zone were busy at their Crafting for Christ event, preparing for the Mission Service event at the Texas District Convention in June. Participants tore sheets into strips to roll bandages for Global Health Ministries and prepared materials to make journals for young ladies. Others created cards for Phil's Friends. There were 24 ladies present, and we thank each one for her help. (Photos by Giovanne)



## AROUND THE ZONE

### Faith Lutheran Joy Mission Circle

The Lutheran Women in Mission of Joy Mission Circle at Faith Lutheran Church in Georgetown held their annual fall fundraiser. They called it Harvest Market and Bake Sale. The money collected goes toward their various missions, such as the Orphan Grain Train and Youth Scholarships, among others. Joy Mission Circle was blessed with a sum of \$2,054. Many thanks to Nina Klinkenberg and Amy Cox for their hard work and contributions. All glory and thanks be to God!



