

44th Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District

June 11–13 • DoubleTree by Hilton Austin



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I invite you to Austin for the 44th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District. The Capitol Zone Host Committee has been prayerfully and tirelessly planning an uplifting convention where we can all come together to "Celebrate the Goodness of God." We pray everyone is blessed by our time together and leaves ready to joyfully share our hope in Christ with others.

We highly encourage you to arrive on Wednesday, June 10, so that you can fully participate in our impactful pre-convention activities on Thursday. These include several on-site servant events, visiting the exhibits, and meeting potential Mission Grant recipients and finding out more about their ministries, as well as doing some shopping, all before



the convention officially begins. Time to do these things on Friday is limited.

I pray that you will be spiritually uplifted through the Divine Service with Holy Communion on Thursday evening, as well as our Bible studies led by our pastoral counselors during convention. We will have many opportunities throughout the weekend to honor God with our Gifts from the Heart, offerings and participation in servant events.

The convention concludes by noon on Saturday, giving you the rest of the weekend to stay and explore the vibrant Austin area and its many highlights. Consider enjoying nature and scenic views by kayaking or walking the trails around our beautiful Lady Bird Lake or strolling through the stunning Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. If shopping is more

your style, The Domain includes over 100 upscale and popular stores, including department stores and luxury boutiques. Or you can explore the Texas Hill Country wineries for tasting tours. The options are endless!

Make your plans now to attend the convention. We will "Celebrate the Goodness of God" together and return home abounding in hope and patience, ready to share that love of Christ with others.

Sincerely, Laurie Bellard
2026 Convention Host Committee Chairman

All convention information and registration forms are available at lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions.

Convention highlights

We are excited to welcome Deaconess Noemi Guerra as our keynote speaker and enrichment session leader. Since 2021, Noemi has served the LCMS Texas District as Evangelist Development director. In this role, she trains and mentors evangelists statewide. She also co-hosts the *Sentido Latino* podcast and writes daily Spanish devotions for Lutheran Hour Ministries, and since 2025 has served on the Lutheran Church Charities Board of Directors.

In addition to welcoming Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther, LCMS Texas District president, as our worship preacher and Eden Keefe, LWML president, as our LWML representative and enrichment session speaker, this convention will also welcome the following two servants as Mites in Action speakers, who will share how LWML mission grants are actively at work:

- Steve Harris serves as assistant branch manager of Orphan Grain Train-Houston. He helped establish the Houston branch in 2018. He brings decades of disaster response and community service experience to this ministry.
- Rachel Potts is director of Strategic Partnerships and Ministry Relations with Lutheran Braille Workers. She counts it a blessing to help share the Gospel with people who are blind or visually impaired, and brings a rich background in education, ministry and community leadership.

Serving our neighbors

Gifts from the Heart gathers items that bless local ministries, and this year giving is going green with QR codes. We will also offer on-site servant events. Full details are available at lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions.

Enrichment Sessions have been planned for Friday during lunch:

- *It's Not a Dog Ministry* — Kelly Shivertaker, leader of the Comfort Dog Ministry at Bethany, Austin
- *Be Encouraged* — *God's Got This!* — Eden Keefe
- *Rejoicing in Hope: Living Out Romans 12:12* — Deaconess Guerra
- *Sharing the Gospel Beyond Sight* — Rachel Potts
- *Let's Dream Big: Our Legacy and Our Endowments!* — Tiffany Harmon, LWML Texas District Endowment Committee chairman

Hotel information

The DoubleTree by Hilton Austin began accepting reservations March 1. The group rate is \$169 plus tax and is good for one to four people per room. The convention rate is available until 5 p.m. on May 8.

Reservations may be made by using the online link at lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions or call 800-866-3126 and ask for the LWML Texas District 2026 Convention room block.



Deaconess Noemi Guerra



Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther



Eden Keefe



Steve Harris



Rachel Potts

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Laurie Bellard, Host Committee chairman, at austin2026@lwmltxdist.org.