

# PAYING IT FORWARD

As a woman of ill repute washes Jesus' feet, He explains to the shocked onlookers that she loved much because she had been forgiven much (Luke 7). This woman paid Christ's forgiveness forward in love for Jesus. When we think of what Jesus is now doing through The Table of Los Fresnos Lutheran Church, we see people who love and want the Gospel for this city because they know how much grace they have received.

Los Fresnos is one of the fastest growing cities in the Rio Grande Valley, yet remains one of the most economically challenged regions of the country with a poverty rate 121 percent higher than the national average. The average household income is 43 percent below the national average.

The Table of Los Fresnos Lutheran Church is a community of people who are being connected to Jesus through Word, Sacrament and mission. Worship services began in 2019, and The Table quickly gained the reputation for delivering on its promises to serve residents in need while connecting civic, business, government, school and faith groups. The Table has done all of this without their own worship space. Temporary gathering locations are at high school cafeterias and the community center.

The LWML Texas District mission grant award of \$25,000 is being used to expand the capacity of The



In the summer of 2020, The Table of Los Fresnos began organizing the distribution of free food boxes. Local businesses, churches, the school district and other community leaders jumped in to help. Thousands of families in need have been served.

Table to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the families in the Rio Grande Valley. The award will be used toward the purchase of a step van, 100 chairs and chair rack, and 13 tables. The equipment is needed to increase The Table's impact in gathering and outreach.

One of the responses to the abundance of grace Jesus has lavished on those at The Table of Los Fresnos is the members paying it forward. Thanks to the LWML for this mission grant and the opportunity for The Table to expand the mission in sharing the Good News with those in the Rio Grande Valley!

**Patti Samsel**

LWML Texas District Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

I am the **Heart** of LWML

Meet **Shirley Willie**, a member of Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, San Antonio. She has also been a member of LWML for 50 years and has served as president, vice-president and treasurer of the Mary-Martha Guild many times.



Shirley feels blessed to be a member of the LWML. She joined as a

new bride, 850 miles from her childhood home and family, and she felt loved from her first exposure to the group.

The LWML women became her surrogate aunts and sisters. She enjoys working with LWML because it is filled with willing workers who make all the activities run smoothly. The sisters in Christ she works with help her become closer to God and grow in her faith.

In nominating Shirley for this recognition, group president Lisa Gerlich states, "I have been president of the group for several years and she has been vice-president for the same amount of time. I can truly say that I do not know what I would do without her advice and

energy. She epitomizes what it means to serve."

Shirley Willie is the Heart of LWML.

**2023 LWML  
TEXAS DISTRICT RETREAT**



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ONE GREAT STUDY**

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# ‘Gifting today to bless tomorrow’

Endowment contributions are the gift that keeps on giving! They truly help us with “Gifting Today to Bless Tomorrow.” Each year the LWML Texas District receives annual distributions from our three endowment funds (Scholarship, Mission Inreach and Mission Goal). These extra funds help us stay ahead of the rising costs of mission work, education and leader training.

Anyone can give at any time. Here are some members’ thoughts regarding “why give to the endowments?”

### What’s your why?

“God has used LWML to significantly impact my life at core levels. Godly mentors in the LWML Texas District with their eyes on Jesus encouraged me to become a writer, teach from God’s Word, and launch into ministry. Financially and prayerfully supporting our LWML Endowment Funds ensures that those blessings are passed forward through our mission goal, spiritual enrichment, member development, leadership training, and full-time church worker scholarships. I cannot imagine my life or our church body without the beautiful, God-anointed hands and feet of the LWML. To God be the glory!”

**Donna Snow**, Bible study author

“My planned gift to the LWML Endowments was established at the very beginning of the 75th anniversary

campaign. At the time, it was my desire to support the campaign, but my husband and I also had three children at home and 12 more years of college tuition to look forward to. For me, the best method was to assign a portion of my Thrivent life insurance policy to the LWML Texas District Endowments. It was not a large amount, but was the most appropriate way to leave a legacy with the organization that has meant so much to me. And it was so easy to do.

“Now those children are on their own and my husband and I have been discussing the need to review our investments and update our estate plan. We are in the season of life now where we are blessed to be able to increase that planned gift.

“I am forever thankful the Lord led me to attend that first LWML meeting many years ago. I urge all of you to consider leaving a part of your personal legacy to the legacy of the LWML Texas District; serving the Lord with gladness even after reaching your heavenly home.”

**Frances Molitor**, LWML Texas District president

**WANT TO JOIN** in gifting to these endowments? For details on how to make immediate or planned gifts, visit [lwmltxdist.org/endowments](http://lwmltxdist.org/endowments), or contact Legacy Deo at [info@legacydeo.org](mailto:info@legacydeo.org) or 800-880-3733.

**GREAT IS HIS Faithfulness!**



Totals as of January 31, 2023

2022–2024 Mite Goal	\$390,000
Mites Received	\$150,323
Total Mites Still Needed	\$239,677
Mission Grants Paid	\$82,782

Send your mite offerings along with a remittance form to: LWML Texas District Attn: Kathy Walther Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 124, Giddings, TX 78942

## Seeking Mission Grant proposals

Information on how to submit a proposal for 2024-26 Mission Grants is now available at [lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals](http://lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals).

Please begin thinking about and planning to submit a ministry for consideration. Proposals need to be submitted by Nov. 1.

## LWML 40th Biennial Convention

June 22-25 • Milwaukee



Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man

For more information and to register, visit [lwml.org/2023-convention](http://lwml.org/2023-convention)