



The time has come!

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

As we journey through Advent and look forward once again to the celebration of our Savior’s birth in Bethlehem at Christmas, Galatians 4:4-5 reminds us of the perfect timing of this event:

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The time has also come to begin submitting applications for the Texas District LWML Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year. The scholarships are awarded through the Texas District LWML Scholarship Endowment Fund. The scholarship is available to

female members of Texas District congregations who are studying to become LCMS full-time professional church workers. Applicants most also be enrolled at an LCMS university. If you know someone who fits this description, it’s time to encourage her to apply!

For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit lwmltxdist.org. Go to “About Us” and select “Scholarships” from the drop-down menu. For more information, contact Melissa Houchin, Scholarship Committee chairman, at scholarship@lwmltxdist.org.

Completed application packets must be sent or emailed to Melissa, time-stamped or post-marked by March 31.

LWML Texas District 43rd Biennial Convention

- June 13–15, 2024
- Omni Hotel Corpus Christi



“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

GOAL

Hold fast in Christ, our source of hope, living out our faith without wavering.

OBJECTIVE

Attendees will:

- ▶ Be strengthened in faith through worship and fellowship.
- ▶ Honor God by showing love to one another.
- ▶ Witness boldly, anchored in Christ.



The LWML Texas District is fortunate to count many amazing women as members, and this month we are proud to recognize Peggy Elder. Peggy has been an active member of the St. Paul, Harlingen, Ladies Aid for 15 years. She is currently serving as LWML group president, LWML zone treasurer, and church secretary.

Peggy loves serving her Lord through mission work and loves being a member the LWML because of the mission opportunities. Dawn Tighe, Rio Grande Valley Zone president, appreciates Peggy and all the work she does for her group and the zone. She writes: “Peggy has a mission heart and is truly a sister to emulate. I can always depend on her to give me guidance and patience, and to use her creative abilities to help make my position easier. I not only appreciate Peggy, but am honored to have her as a sister in Christ.”

Thank you Peggy for your service to our Lord and the LWML. You are the Heart of the LWML.

GRACIOUS GIVING

By Rev. John Heckmann
Senior Pastoral Counselor

In this season of preparing for and celebrating once again the birth of our Savior, let us consider this life-changing event through the eyes of a giver. Without a doubt, the sentiments of this time of year revolve around giving. Mailboxes are full of appeals for Christmas offerings. Store entrances are decked out with the signs and symbols of various organizations asking for our gifts. Social media appeals and phone calls increase significantly asking for a year-end contribution.

Most of us respond to one or more of those appeals, but why? Maybe because we feel like Scrooge walking in and out of the store without placing a gift in the container. Maybe some are thinking about income taxes and what charitable contributions can do for them. Maybe some just enjoy this season and give gifts to everyone they rub shoulders with.

I am going to guess that the main reason we give in this “holiday season” and throughout the year is in response to what has already been



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given to us, promised centuries ago as God said to our sinful first parents:

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. **GEN. 3:15 NIV**

This is the Good News that motivates and empowers our giving. We respond to the gift from the greatest giver of all, our Heavenly Father, who gave us Jesus. We respond to the incredible gift Jesus gave to each of us — His life in our place to pay for our sins and the sins of the whole world once and for all, and to give us new life both now as His redeemed children and for all eternity in heaven with Him.

What is our response to this incredible news? As we think not

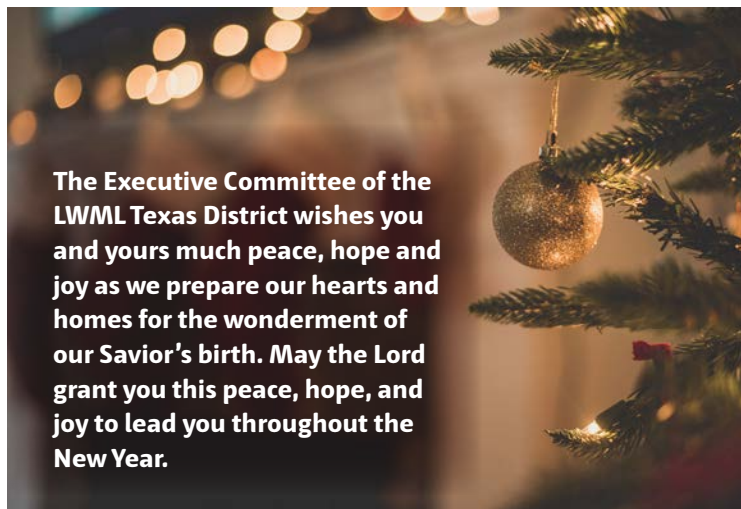
only of the events of Christmas, but also of another “holiday season” we will celebrate in a few months, I think of the words of St. Paul in Romans 8:32:

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Everything we have — everything — is a gracious gift from God. He gives graciously and would have me give graciously too. Graceful giving draws no attention to itself, but directs attention to God and seeks to glorify Him.

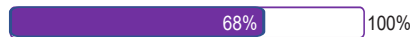
In these glorious and grace-filled days of Christmas, I would encourage you to look at your response to the incredible news of a perfect Savior — born in Bethlehem, crucified, risen, ascended and returning — as you serve your Father in heaven. We graciously serve those He places in our lives through the work of the LWML and through our mites as we proclaim the Christ of Christmas by supporting missions, both here and around the world, and by meeting physical and spiritual needs through the Good News of Christ.

For more information about donating or to donate online, please visit lwmltxdist.org/about-mites.



The Executive Committee of the LWML Texas District wishes you and yours much peace, hope and joy as we prepare our hearts and homes for the wonderment of our Savior’s birth. May the Lord grant you this peace, hope, and joy to lead you throughout the New Year.

GREAT IS HIS Faithfulness!



Totals as of September 30, 2023

2022–2024 Mite Goal	\$390,000
Mites Received	\$266,759
Total Mites Still Needed	\$123,241
Mission Grants Paid	\$162,596

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

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