

# MISSION SERVICE

**Mission service** includes everything we do as individuals or as an organization that demonstrates the love of Jesus to others. Anytime we reach out in love to meet a need that God has brought to our attention, we are involved in mission service. God has used us to serve others in His name. As Lutheran Women in Mission we are to use our “gifts in ministry to the people of the world” whether they live next door or across the oceans. Everything we do should point us forward, reaching out in love.

**The LWML Texas District Mission Service Committee** is served by an appointed chairman. At the district as well as, the national level, it is part of the Gospel Outreach Department and reports to the Vice President of Gospel Outreach. The chairman's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Accepting her appointment with joy and enthusiasm.
- Recruiting two or more service minded LWML members to serve on the Mission Service Committee.
- Communicating with the site coordinators to assist with the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering held annually in the Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio areas.
- Serving as the main point of contact to the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager.
- Reporting regularly to the VP of Gospel Outreach and support her any way possible.
- Keeping the mission service page updated on the LWML Texas District website.

**Mission service at the group or zone level** can be a mission service chairman, or whomever has a heart for those in need, and she should:

- Accept her election or appointment with joy and enthusiasm.
- Help her group develop an active mission outreach.
- Promote the LWR Ingathering.
- Keep mission service in front of the congregation, involving them as much as possible.
- Keep groups and zones informed of *Lutheran World Relief Bulletin* updates.
- Research and promote mission service ideas. Ideas and resources can be found on the *lwml.org* website under the service tab — mission service activities.

**Mission service activities** are a way for us to share Jesus' love in action. If you are looking for new activities and ways to share, check out the LWML Mission Service Activity of the Month on their website at *lwml.org/mission-service-activities*. Use this site for ideas or projects for your zones and groups. Each activity includes a project idea, material list, service event instructions, the Gospel focus, a devotion, and a prayer. Take pictures of your mission service activities and submit them to the Mission Service Committee Chairman at *missionservice@lwmltxdist.org* to share on the district's media formats and publications.

**If you have any questions or would like to serve** on the LWML Texas District Mission Service Committee, contact the chairman at [missionservice@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:missionservice@lwmltxdist.org) or contact the Vice President of Gospel Outreach. They both would be delighted to hear your ideas or answer any questions you might have.

## **Lutheran World Relief**

**Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and LWML Texas District** partner to conduct the LWR Ingathering each year. It is for all Texas Lutherans (LCMS, ELCA, WELS, etc.) to collect parish projects for LWR. The ingathering includes quilts, school kits, baby care kits, fabric kits, and personal care kits. Complete information regarding assembling and packing these kits can be found on the website [lwr.org/kits](http://lwr.org/kits). Detailed information on quilts can be found at [lwr.org/quilts](http://lwr.org/quilts).

**LWR collection sites** occur in Dallas (Plano), Houston, and San Antonio (Marion) areas. Specific dates vary from year to year, but Texas ingatherings are usually held during the first two weeks of November. Specific information is included in the *Lutheran World Relief Bulletin* which is posted online at [lwmltxdist.org/mission-service](http://lwmltxdist.org/mission-service) and on the [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) website. Navigate to Get Involved Find an Ingathering.

**Best practices for donating to LWR** include calling other churches in your area and combining loads. Let site coordinators know you are coming and give them an estimate of arrival time and number of boxes you are bringing.

**Volunteer to help** on the day of the ingathering to load the trailers. Contact the site coordinators and/or the Mission Service Committee Chairman to volunteer or just show up to help, which is always appreciated.

### **Pack your boxes for LWR:**

- **USE STRONG BOXES!** Packed boxes should weigh no more than 30 pounds. The smaller and lighter the box the better.
- Completely fill boxes or cut to fit packed goods (try sitting on the box, it should not collapse). Volunteers at the collection site will have to repack any box that is not full.
- Tape boxes securely with mailing tape around all the sides, corners, and anything that is not closed. **NO MASKING TAPE!**
- Tape over any holes or openings on the box. Think like a BUG — if a BUG can get in tape it closed.
- Sort goods, packing only one type of item per box, counting the items and writing it on all sides of the box (example: 5 Quilts or 8 School Kits).
- Label the boxes according to the instructions in the *Lutheran World Relief Bulletin* and use the labels provided (available on the district website). It is very important that all sides of the boxes are labeled LWR in big block letters (volunteers at the collection site will have to do this if you do not).

**Don't forget to report your Lutheran World Relief projects** by completing a *Lutheran World Relief Report* form, provided online at [lwmltxdist.org/mission-service](http://lwmltxdist.org/mission-service). Individuals, groups, and churches bringing items must bring a report form to the

collection site. Best practice is to make three (3) copies — one to give to the site chairman, one to submit to your zone, and the other to be kept for your files.

**Consider making a monetary donation** to help with the over \$1.5 million it takes annually to operate the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry to distribute over \$15 million worth of quilts and kits each year. The LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund helps with this cost. Go to [lwr.org/donate/shippingfund](http://lwr.org/donate/shippingfund) to see how much it costs to send kits and quilts and make a donation accordingly by sending directly to LWR. DO NOT bring money to collection sites.

### **Orphan Grain Train**

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Orphan Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

For more information visit their website [ogt.org](http://ogt.org).

For a complete list of items to donate or donate monetarily, go to [ogt.org/donate](http://ogt.org/donate).

Recent *Orphan Grain Train Highland Lakes of Texas* newsletters can be viewed at [lwmltxdist.org/mission-service](http://lwmltxdist.org/mission-service).

<b>Orphan Grain Train Donation Sites</b>		
Location	OGT Highland Lakes of Texas Genesis Lutheran Church	Houston Branch OGT Container at Zion Lutheran Church
Address	15946 E. Highway 29 Buchanan Dam, Texas 78609	5040 E. Sam Houston Pkwy S Pasadena, Texas 77505
Contact	Byron Hobbs <a href="mailto:ogt.hltx@gmail.com">ogt.hltx@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://ogt.org/branches/highland-lakes">ogt.org/branches/highland-lakes</a> 512-755-4703	Mike Rathje <a href="mailto:ogthouston@gmail.com">ogthouston@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://ogt.org/branches/houston">ogt.org/branches/houston</a> 281-840-3166
Donations Accepted	Tuesday morning 9 a.m.–noon (year round)	Saturday morning 8 a.m.–noon (year round)
Volunteer Opportunity	Sort and pack donations Call for volunteer opportunities	Sort and pack donations Call for volunteer opportunities