

The Lone Star Connection



October 2023

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 4

2023 Key Dates

October	LWML Sunday
October 20	Membership Reports and Quarterly Orders Due
Oct. 20–21	District Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
Nov. 1	Nominations Due Mission Grant Proposals Due
Texas LWR Ingathering	
Nov. 1	Marion: St. John Lutheran
Nov. 4	Houston: Epiphany Lutheran
Nov. 11	Plano: Messiah Lutheran



Fall is officially here and soon planning will begin for the Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. Before that becomes your focus, please take note of the various requests and deadlines in the newsletter. This information is relevant to several upcoming LWML deadlines as well as meetings scheduled in January 2024. It would be wonderful if our officers and committee chairmen can have these items prepared prior to Christmas. Let us see if we can help make that happen.

This newsletter has wonderful stories from two of the mission grant recipients as well as recognition of two women who represent “The Heart of LWML.” I hope you enjoy reading about and seeing your mites and members in action.

Mite offerings did slow down quite a bit this summer, which has caused a larger deficit than expected. As we celebrate our blessings during the Thanksgiving season, may the Lord lead us all to share these blessings with those to whom we wish to proclaim Christ as we support missions and serve others with gladness.

May you all have a blessed fall season as we prepare to share in giving thanks to the Lord for all our blessings, especially the gift of our Savior as we prepare our hearts and minds during Advent in anticipation of the celebration of His birth.

Frances Molitor
President
LWML Texas District



LWML Texas District
43rd Biennial Convention
June 13–15, 2024

Omni Corpus Christi
Be looking for more information
on the website soon.

Meditations and Bible Studies

Due to the Christian Life department working diligently and attending the district retreats at multiple sites, the October meditations will be delayed. The monthly Bible study will resume in November.

Have you visited the Christian Life page on the website and downloaded the monthly Bible studies or the weekly meditations? If you have not, now is the time to check out these resources to use on your own or with groups. Visit lwmltxdist.org/meditations-and-bible-studies and get started.

Your mite offerings have made an impact!

Back in August, wildfires broke out on the Hawaiian Island of Maui. Lutheran Disaster Care was there to share God’s Word and assist those in need. Many lost everything in the fires and the Bible Brigade was there to offer marked Bibles with verses to comfort the disaster victims and gift cards to help with immediate physical needs. Thank you ladies for your mites! It’s amazing to see our mission grants in action and know that we were part of God’s plan to bring these people hope and assistance!

Patti Samsel
Vice President of Gospel Outreach



Bible Brigade, Lutheran Disaster Care

Membership reports and *Quarterly* orders are due October 20, 2023

Worshipping with 3,500 of your closest friends. Sharing a meal (or more than one meal) with the ladies in line around you. Participating in karaoke, cornhole, and chair volleyball while gorging on popcorn at Friday Funfest. Entering into the Lutheran Ladies Lounge for an evening of laughter and entertainment. What fun and fellowship we had together at the Lord of All Nations LWML Convention in Milwaukee this past June. What a mountaintop experience that was! Now that we're back to reality, the fellowship doesn't have to stop. We can all be Lutheran Women in Mission right where we are. Challenges and obstacles may arise, but remaining faithful to our calling keeps us grounded in who we are.

As we turn our focus now to fall, which brings the certainty of cooler temperatures and changing colors, it also brings the time to fill out membership directory information.

This membership roster will determine the eligible voting delegates for the 2024 LWML Texas District convention next June in Corpus Christi. When you receive the membership forms, read them carefully, and return them along with your *Quarterly* order form by October 20 to your zone president. Much information is gathered from these forms at the zone, district, and national level, and deadlines are imposed on officers at all levels, so it is important not to miss the deadline.

As we gather this fall for our zone events, let's continue to celebrate the "Lord of the Nations" as Lutheran Women in Mission!



Time is Running Out! Deadline: November 1, 2023 — No Exceptions

Mission Grant Proposals Needed!

Any member, group, or zone of the LWML Texas District may submit a proposal for consideration. The member, group, or zone will serve as the official submitter of the mission grant proposal.

Proposals for the 2024 LWML Texas District Convention in Corpus Christi may be submitted electronically, but hard copies need to be received by LWML Texas District Vice President of Gospel Outreach Patti Samsel by November 1, 2023. Please note that the order in which the Mission Grant proposals are received will be the order that they will appear on the ballot.

More information and mission grant proposal documents are available on the district website at lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals. Please share this information with others in your area.

Nominations Needed!

Do you know someone that would make a great officer for LWML Texas District? That person may even be YOU! Please prayerfully consider running for an office for 2024–2028. Encourage each other to submit names of women who show a deep, active interest in the LWML, and who are willing to devote their time and energy to serve the Lord in a leadership position. As you resume LWML group and zone meetings this fall, put nominations on your agenda.

Only LWML groups and zones may submit nominations. Information on the positions and nomination process, including the nomination form, can be found at lwmltxdist.org/nominating-committee. Nominations are due by November 1, to Debbie Curry, Nominating Committee Chairman. She can be contacted at nominatingch@lwmltxdist.org.

The Nominating Committee requests your prayers for wisdom to discern God's will, and for willing and competent candidates



IS IT TIME TO UPDATE YOUR BYLAWS?

When was the last time your zone or group updated your bylaws? Has it been over five years? If it has, then that is too long! LWML Texas District makes it easy for you to update your bylaws. All you need is on the website at lwmltxdist.org/structure-committee-and-bylaws (found under the tab About Us, then Bylaws and Guidelines). Download the group or zone sample bylaws (barebones) in Word format and review the instructions and additional links with helpful information. Please remember to send the revised bylaws to Judy Dold, Structure Committee Chairman, at structure@lwmltxdist.org for approval before adoption by your zone or group. Judy can answer any questions.





Dayle with her LWML group from Hope, Lubbock
Dayle is in the back with the colorful apron.



Meet Dayle Sillerud from Hope Lutheran, Lubbock. Dayle makes a difference through LWML by her leadership of Loose Threads, a sewing group at Hope. She has developed relationships with several local non-profits including Upbring, the Ronald McDonald House, Unpack Lubbock, Threads of Love, the Salvation Army, and Texas Girls and Boys Ranch. In addition, she coordinates with international organizations including Operation Smile, Little Dresses for Africa, Lutheran World Relief, and Days for Girls.

When asked why she joined LWML, Dayle responded “the LWML group at Hope is active and productive, with meaningful activities. I joined because I could see the group ‘got things done’ for the congregation, our child development center, and the greater community.” She likes being with like-minded Christian women to strengthen her faith and having so many opportunities to serve the church and community.

Dayle also actively participates in the South Plains Quilters’ Guild in the charity division, making quilts for children. She also helps out with various activities at church, and participates in other members’ Thrivent Action Team projects.

Judie Jones has been a member of the King of Kings, San Antonio LWML for about 25 years and has served as president, secretary, and Christian life. Judie likes the camaraderie of the ladies as they work together to support various missions both locally and globally. She joined LWML to be a part of a group that is reaching out to help spread the word of God in a variety of ways and to show Christian love to others. She is busy serving on the altar guild and Family and Youth Education Board, teaching Sunday School, and is always ready to provide rides to those who can’t drive to church or doctor’s appointments. She also volunteers at King of King’s food pantry, Haven for Hope homeless assistance shelter, and serves on the board of directors for LINC San Antonio. Judie can always be counted on to provide refreshments at events all while prioritizing her own Christian growth by attending at least three Bible studies each week.

Lori Schmidt, president of King of Kings LWML, states “Judie is truly an inspiration to me of what it means to serve others with Christ-like love. Her focus is always on the person and their needs and not on how hard the work might be. She does it quietly without the need to be recognized or acknowledged for any of her efforts.”

Judie Jones is the Heart of the LWML.



Please remember to mail Lutheran World Relief shipping fund donations directly to Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief
PO Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21297-1061
800 597 5972

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Endowments
Gifts Today To Bless Tomorrow

Stay Connected ...

Send LWML news and photos to the *District News* editor at districtnews@lwmltxdist.org.

For website and social media, send information and photos to the Vice President of Communication at communication@lwmltxdist.org.

 www.lwmltxdist.org
Visit the website often

 [Facebook.com/LWMLTexas](https://www.facebook.com/LWMLTexas)
Follow us on social media

Are you receiving the district’s email news releases? Anyone can sign up to receive these, but we especially need zone and group presidents to sign up to receive current district news. Visit the homepage of our website, lwmltxdist.org to sign up now.

If your email has changed since you originally signed up or you need assistance, email communication@lwmltxdist.org.



Faith Lutheran Church and School in Plano, Texas hosted author Katie Schuermann September 20–21, 2023. Katie visited with faculty, enjoyed story time with the school’s youngest scholars, worked with the high school choir, talked to middle and high school students about writing and the importance of good stories, and spoke at an afternoon ladies’ tea.



Any group treasurer may contact the financial secretary at financialsecretary@lwmltxdist.org if they wish to know their mite offerings to the Lord for this biennium. If groups have not given, please begin donating to mites now. For the groups who have been faithful in their mites, we encourage them to continue their support of these wonderful mission grants. Without mites, we could not support these ministries. This is truly the heart of LWML, it has been our purpose since the very beginning, in addition to the beautiful souls who serve the Lord in our groups.

Kathy Walther
Financial Secretary

2022–2024 Mission Grants

Mission Grant	Amount	Disbursed	Balance
Scholarships for Seminarians — Texas District LCMS	\$50,000	\$37,500	\$12,500
Offering Women Hope — Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers, Houston	\$10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500
ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center — Leander	\$25,000	\$18,750	\$ 6,250
Orphan Grain Train — Houston	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$12,500
Let Your Light Shine — Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries	\$10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500
Homeless to Housed — LINC Austin Outreach, Austin	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 0
The Garden Young Adult Ministry — North Texas	\$10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500
Gospel Driven Education — Faith Lutheran High School, Warda	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$ 0
Bible Brigade — Lutheran Disaster Care	\$16,000	\$12,000	\$ 4,000
The Table of Los Fresnos Mission Outreach — Los Fresnos	\$25,000	\$18,750	\$ 6,250
Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano (partial funding)	\$14,129	\$10,596	\$ 3,533
Total (includes \$15,129 abundance from last biennium)	\$215,129	\$162,596	\$52,533

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

Remittance forms can be found at lwmltxdist.org/about-mites.

Mites can also be given online. Simply follow the instructions under the “Donate” button.

Please include group name, church name, and church city in the note section in order for your LWML group to receive credit for your mite donation. If it is an individual donation to mites, please note that. Please indicate if it is for something other than mites (endowments or retreat). You will receive an email receipt for your donation.

For additional information or if you need assistance, contact financialsecretary@lwmltxdist.org.