

# The Lone Star Connection



January 2024

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 2, Issue 1

## 2024 Key Dates

Feb. 15–16	Executive Committee Mtg. Camp Lone Star
Feb. 16–18	Board of Directors Mtg. Camp Lone Star
March 1	Convention Registration Opens Hotel Reservations Open
March 22	Last day to receive mites for this biennium
March 31	LWML Texas District Scholarship Applications due

## Important Mite Deadline March 22, 2024

Please plan to send in your mite offerings gathered so they will reach the financial secretaries mailbox by March 22, 2024. A suggested mailing date of March 15 would help ensure they would be received by the deadline.

Any offerings received after March 22, 2024 will be recorded in the 2024–2026 biennium.

All mite offerings need to be submitted to:

LWML Texas District, Kathy Walther, Financial Secretary  
PO Box 124  
Giddings, TX 78942.

You may also donate online at [lwmltxdist.org/about-mites](http://lwmltxdist.org/about-mites). Select the yellow Donate button and follow the steps. 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.



## Happy New Year! Hello 2024!

The year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four is here! There is much to be accomplished over the next six months as the 2024 Convention Host Committee continues to plan for the district convention in June. The Nominating and Mission Grant Committees will meet to finalize the ballots for convention. I will be in St. Louis for the Presidents Assembly meeting January 25–27, 2024, and the Executive Committee and Board of Directors will be meeting in February. Spring events are in the planning stages and then, in a blink of an eye, it will be time for the 2024 LWML Texas District Convention. With plenty of excitement in the air as the plans come together for the convention, there certainly is not a lack of items to be added to everyone's prayer list.

Assembly of Leaders (AOL) is a training session held every four years by LWML. Five members of the LWML Texas District attended the sessions held in October 2022. A past member of the LWML Leadership Committee now lives in Texas and is also available to assist. These attendees were tasked with taking the training back to the members of their district. Filled with fun, facts, and features, the AOL time together is a great means of providing training in leadership skills, information on all the resources available to the members, and how each department is relevant to the mission of LWML. I have encouraged the presidents of neighboring zones to work together and plan an AOL session. There are six trained leaders that can be called upon to facilitate the training. The zones provide the facilities and, of course, eager attendees!

The first training session was incorporated into the Zone Presidents Orientation held in February 2023. Zones from the Greater Houston area, which include Bayou City, Gulf Coast, New Horizon, Golden Harvest, and White Oak, conducted a successful gathering this past August. Another is planned for the south Texas area in April 2024. This takes in the Mid Coast, Coastal Bend, and Rio Grande Valley. There is much more Texas District to reach. Quoting Dr. Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Perhaps the Lord has more places for you to go. These AOL sessions are made to give you "more things to know." I encourage all women and pastors to attend the AOL session in your area. Questions may be directed to me at [president@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:president@lwmltxdist.org). The AOL team looks forward to sharing this information across the LWML Texas District that, with the Lord's blessing, each member and supporter of the LWML, when called upon, will be better prepared to **Proclaim** Christ — **Support** missions — **Serve** others.

Frances Molitor  
President, LWML Texas District



LWML  Texas District



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

Omni Corpus Christi  
**Hold Fast — Christ is Our Anchor**  
**Hebrews 10: 23–24**

*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 (Hebrews 10:23-24).*

**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

**Registration** opens March 1, 2024. All registration information will be available on the website after the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 16–18, 2024. There will also be a special edition issue of *The Lone Star Connection* published that will contain the full registration packet. We will once again accept credit card payments (exception being American Express) for registration fees.

Registration for members and guests will be \$125 with Teen registration set at \$100.

**Hotel registration** will open March 1, 2024. DO NOT call the hotel before March 1 or you will not receive the discounted rate. The convention will be held at the Omni Corpus Christi.

Additional information will be updated on the website [lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions](http://lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions).

## **New Year! New To-Do List!**

What's on your to-do list as we begin this new year? While it may already seem plenty long, the LWML Texas District Scholarship Endowment Fund Committee invites you to add one more very important "to-do" to your list — *Invite a female member in your Texas District congregation studying to become a full-time professional church worker in the LCMS while attending an LCMS college or university to apply for the LWML Texas District Scholarship!* We also encourage you to add *encourage and pray for these ladies* to your to-do list for the entirety of the year.

The LWML Texas District Scholarship Endowment Fund Committee will be awarding scholarships for the 2024–2025 school year to eligible applicants.

To check out eligibility requirements and apply, visit [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org). From the menu bar click "Committees," choose "Scholarships" from the drop-down menu, and download the 2024 scholarship application packet. For more information, contact Melissa Houchin, Scholarship Committee Chairman, at [scholarship@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:scholarship@lwmltxdist.org).

Completed application packets must be sent or emailed to Melissa, time-stamped or postmarked by March 31, 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the zone presidents for their work in gathering membership information from each of the groups and individual members in the LWML Texas District.

Thanks go out also to the group presidents and contact persons for their assistance to their zone president.

These reports are used to compile our membership directory and the group numbers are very important for proper planning of the upcoming LWML Texas District Convention in Corpus Christi, June 13–15, 2024.

As we begin this new year, the LWML website is a great resource for creative ideas and encouragement to use in your local groups or zones.

Check out the group and leadership development resources at [lwmltxdist.org/membership](http://lwmltxdist.org/membership).

<b>Membership</b>	<b>12-31-2023</b>
<b>Groups</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Individual Members</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Members in Groups</b>	<b>2,412</b>
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>2,427</b>

Debra Heckmann,  
VP of Organizational Resources



Featured stories of women who are the Heart of LWML throughout our district have been published in the *District News* and are available on our district website at [lwmltxdist.org/i-am-heart-lwml](http://lwmltxdist.org/i-am-heart-lwml).

Thank you to all who submitted articles to recognize these LWML servants.

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](http://lwmltxdist.org) to sign up now.

If your email has changed since you originally signed up or you need assistance, email [communication@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:communication@lwmltxdist.org).



## WonderFull World Retreats

LWML Texas District held three retreats in 2023. There was a great group of ladies in attendance at each location; Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose had 45, Ceta Canyon Camp & Retreat Center in Happy had 27, and Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria had 46.

The three retreats were based on the story of Jesus and the woman. *And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well (Matthew 9:20–22).*

Through a variety of activities and speakers, 118 ladies explored God's love. We sang, discussed, and read Bible verses and stories which pointing to the answers He gives in His Word, and through our fellow Christians.


We were reminded that God loves us, He is always with us, and we can rely on Him in good times and in tough times. You can trust Him with your past, present, and future, too!




### Stay Connected ...

Send LWML news and photos to the *District News* editor at [districtnews@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:districtnews@lwmltxdist.org).

For website and social media, send information and photos to the Vice President of Communication at [communication@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:communication@lwmltxdist.org).

 [www.lwmltxdist.org](http://www.lwmltxdist.org)  
Visit the website often

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

We did it again! The Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Trucks rolled out of Texas in November 2023 on their way to LWR warehouses packed full of care and compassion for distribution to those in need around the world in the form of the following:

Location	Quilts / Blankets	School Kits	Personal Care Kits	Baby Care Kits	Fabric Kits	TOTAL ITEMS PER SITE
Marion - St. John Lutheran	7,704	4,460	4,417	987	153	17,721
Houston - Epiphany Lutheran	4,006	3,155	3,874	550	195	11,780
Plano - Messiah Lutheran	4,345	1,831	4,266	214	106	10,762
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,055</b>	<b>9,446</b>	<b>12,557</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>40,263</b>

We thank all our sisters (and brothers) in Christ from all denominations of the Lutheran church for sewing the quilts, collecting the kits, packing the boxes, and loading the trucks that make the Texas Ingatherings such a success each year. To God be the Glory!

*Tentative* dates for next year's ingatherings are Houston – November 2; Marion – November 6; Plano – November 9, 2024.

### 2022–2024 Mission Grants — Through November 30, 2023

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	\$10,000	\$0
ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center — Leander	\$25,000	\$18,750	\$ 6,250
Orphan Grain Train — Houston	\$25,000	\$18,750	\$ 6,250
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	\$10,000	\$0
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	\$25,000	\$0
Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano (partial funding)	\$14,129	\$10,596	\$ 3,533
<b>Total (includes \$15,129 abundance from last biennium)</b>	<b>\$215,129</b>	<b>\$180,096</b>	<b>\$35,033</b>

### GREAT IS HIS *Faithfulness!*



#### Totals as of November 30, 2023

<b>2022–2024 Mite Goal</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>
<b>Mites Received</b>	<b>\$315,870</b>
<b>Total Mites Still Needed</b>	<b>\$ 74,130</b>
<b>Mission Grants Paid</b>	<b>\$180,096</b>

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](http://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).

For additional information or if you need assistance, contact [financialsecretary@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:financialsecretary@lwmltxdist.org).