

The Lone Star Connection



July 2025

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 3, Issue 4



Growing in Grace – Reflections from Omaha

What an unforgettable experience! Over 3700 of us gathered around the theme of “*Growing in God’s Grace*,” the mission speakers, Bible studies, and enrichment sessions covered a variety of topics, offering valuable insights and inspiration. For me, the highlight was carrying our district banner in the opening procession. Y’all it was really cool! It was an incredible honor to represent Texas alongside our new YWR’s (Amy Perez and Mikayla Heckmann). There were so many beautiful banners, each unique and creative.

The new mission grant goal of \$2,622,270 is truly a bold act of faith, providing funding for 33 mission grants that will support important work both in the U.S. and around the world. Delegates selected mission grants prior to convention, amended Bylaws, and elected new officers. But it wasn’t all business, Tee Up 4 Mites golf outing and the Bi-State Mission Walk gave us a chance to move and raise more than \$85,000 combined for mission grants.

The invitation to the 2027 LWML Convention was energetic and fun. I wish I had a camera on the stage to take a picture of all the yellow shirts. It was a wonderful way to look ahead to the next convention. With Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri joining us in hosting, there will be so much to do over the next two years. Stay tuned for exciting opportunities to get involved. Your support will make all the difference.

If you want a closer look at all the amazing moments, head over to lwml.org/convention.

Growing as the Living Body of Christ



The first and last major gatherings of the body of delegates and guests of the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha were worship services. During both of those times, I found myself engaged in worship while also running a parallel train of thought in my head. (Yes, I admit it. My mind did wander a bit.)

Although Peter’s final words inspired the Convention Theme of “*Growing in God’s Grace*” (2 Peter 3:18), it was Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 12, where he speaks of the body of Christ being made up of many parts, that were on my mind during the opening service. I thought to myself, “Here in this opening worship service is a fine example of the body of Christ coming together to worship — each one doing his or her own part, serving as hands, feet, and voices as needed to his glory.”

During the sending service, my mind drifted into the words of Paul once again. This time in Ephesians 4. Christ Jesus is the head, “from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the *body grow* so that it builds itself up in love.”

It was a joy to see these words of Peter and Paul come to life as I gathered with so many wonderful Lutheran Women in Mission. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Junior Pastoral Counselor!

2025 Key Dates

September

4–6 EC Meeting
10 Deadline Retreat Registration

October

LWML Sunday observed
10–11 District Retreat, Waco

November 1

Deadline for Texas District
Officer Nominations

Deadline for Texas District
Mission Grant Proposals



Visit the LWML website to download all the [2025 Prayer Service](#) information.

2025–2027 LWML Mission Grants

Total Mission Grant Goal Voted — \$2,622,270

1. Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers — LCMS Office of National Mission, Disaster Response Ministry, U.S. — \$81,500
2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons — Orphan Grain Train, Europe — \$100,000
3. Portable Laundry Trailer — Forged by Fire Services, U.S. — \$100,700
4. The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. — \$100,000
5. Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print — Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. — \$100,000
6. Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients — Phil's Friends, U.S.— \$100,000
7. Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers — A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin — \$75,000
8. Building a Place of Care — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota — \$60,000
9. Introducing Muslims to the Savior — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global — \$100,000
10. Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling — Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, U.S.— \$100,000
11. NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis — Lutheran Family Service, Iowa — \$92,500
12. Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field — Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S. — \$100,000
13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti — Trinity HOPE, Haiti — \$61,782
14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel — The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia — \$100,000
15. Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA — Concordia Publishing House — Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S. — \$125,000
16. The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia — Project: Pastoral Education West Africa — \$86,000
17. Mobilizing After School Care for Teens — Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska — \$69,500
18. Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses — Tanzania — Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Africa — \$100,000
19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber — LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic, North America — \$10,000
20. Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry — LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S. — \$84,500
21. Shining a Bright Gospel Light — Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Alabama — \$78,675
22. Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois — \$100,000
23. Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers — Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas — \$38,800
24. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat — Arizona, U.S.— \$100,000
25. Pastoral Wellness: Pastor Family Week — Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina — \$15,000
26. Developing Capable Christian High School Leaders — Sioux Falls Lutheran School, South Dakota — \$100,000
27. Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped — Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana — \$12,000
28. Mission Opportunities for a New Generation — MOST Ministries, Global — \$50,000
29. Sharing God's Love and Changing Lives of Families — Camp Restore Detroit, Michigan — \$81,313
30. Increasing Access to Lutheran Counseling Services — Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., Indiana — \$100,000
31. Speaking Truth Around the Table — Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, U.S.— \$75,000
32. Proclaiming Christ in Honduras — Mission Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras, Central America — \$25,000
33. Reaching Out with God's Love in a Safe Place — Forward, a Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska — \$100,000

LWML Omaha Convention Highlights



President Sally Krueger carries the district banner during the opening processional. Walking with her are the new District Young Women (DYWR), Amy Perez (left) and Mikayla Heckmann (right).

The banner was designed and crafted by Waldean Richter, Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball.



Christine Spofford Joins the Humorous Interruption Team

Over the years, Christine has faithfully served in various roles — holding office and participating on committees at the local, zone, and district levels. She and Abby Goehring have worked together as a humorous duo in Texas, and she brings that experience and a background in theater, to the national level.



Current and past district presidents in attendance. Pictured left to right, Peggy Turnipseed, Eloise Kuhlman, Lois Teinert, Sally Krueger, Debbie Curry, and Frances Molitor.



Texas attendees following the district caucus meeting.



Texas District LCMS President, Jon Braunersreuther showing his support with the new Lutheran Women in Mission tie presented to him by President Sally Krueger.

LWR Ingathering Dates

We did it! We had a great outpouring of quilts, school, health, fabric, and infant kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in 2024. Let's do it again! Mark your calendars now for the 2025 ingatherings.

November 1 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Houston
Epiphany, 14423 West Road

November 5 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Marion (San Antonio area)
St. John, 600 S. Center Street

November 8 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Plano (Dallas area)
Messiah, 1801 W. Plano Parkway

Visit www.lwmltxdist.org/mission-service.

A listing of kit items and quilt specifics can be found at www.lwr.org

FOLLOW US!



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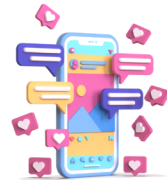
On YouTube:
 @lwmltxasdistrict8339



Questions? Send an email to:
communication@lwmltxdist.org



Lutheran Women
in Mission
 TEXAS DISTRICT



Prince of Peace LWML, Amarillo, hosted a patriotic craft day on June 14. Following the door hanger craft, the congregation was invited to a free hot dog lunch provided by the LWML. It was a fun way to celebrate Flag Day and fellowship with each other.



Fashion Your Life in Christ LWML Spring Rally- Bayou City Zone

LWML Group – Lady Fishers- hosted the Bayou City Zone Spring Rally on Saturday, April 26, at Fishers of Men Lutheran Church. 38 women attended from the Bayou City Zone. Pastor Ridley opened our event with a message of being “Clothed in His Righteousness”. Abigail Robert shared her testimony of her grandmother who served as a missionary in New Guinea being “Clothed in Compassion”. Tracie Hollis shared news and events from LWML, and we concluded with a luncheon and fashion show. Models

wore spring fashions from Fabulous You Boutique in Sugar Land, TX. We were encouraged to **“Serve the Lord with gladness, as we Fashion our lives in Christ!”** (Ladies pictured from left to right – Debbie Buvinghausen, Cookie Murray, Geri Zamora, June Anderson, Heather Coulter, Mimi Nelson, Tracie Hollis, and Lisa Hunter)

Mission Grant Highlight

Keeping the Orphan Grain Train Rolling!

God is at work through the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) in South Texas. After five years of waiting, OGT has been blessed with a beautiful building to expand its mission of sharing Christ's love with those in need. A \$15,000 mission grant from LWML Texas District has provided funding to purchase supplies and distribute donations to local charities. The support and interest from LWML groups and zones have been invaluable.

In 2024, OGT Houston distributed over 6,000 boxes for children's homes, homeless outreach programs, veterans' support services, and disaster relief efforts. God continues to connect OGT with those who help with emergency foster programs, faith-based addiction recovery centers, and community assistance initiatives. These connections demonstrate how God is weaving OGT's mission with others to its impact.

Supporters often ask how they can help. Specific needs in the Houston area include new underwear and socks, twin-sheet sets and pillows, hygiene kits and school kits. OGT is also developing comfort kits for children who are experiencing difficult situations. Each kit will include a backpack, a stuffed animal, and a children's book to provide comfort to vulnerable children through local organizations.

OGT Houston is excited to witness how God will continue to guide and grow its ministry, and is thankful for the prayers and support of the LWML Texas District, which enables them to carry out their mission.



OGT Houston board members joined with the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. From left, Erika Adams, Bernice Wolf, Mike and Marti Rathje, Holly and Steve Harris, Greg Balfany and Jeff Bibler.



lwmltxdist.org/endowments

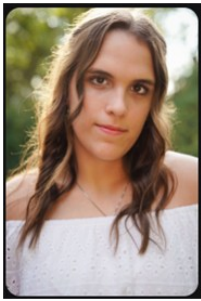


Need a Zone Rally speaker?

The Endowment Committee is here to help! We are available to share on the impact of LWML, its legacy in our churches and communities, and our endowments. Coordinating Bible study facilitation options are also available.



Congratulations to these five young women, who have been selected by the LWML Texas District Scholarship Committee to each receive a \$2,100 scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you to all of the amazing women who applied for the scholarship. Please lift these young women up in prayer as they pursue the plans God has in store for them.



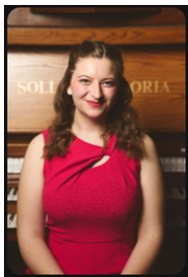
Caroline Browning
St. Paul, Fort Worth
Sophomore, Concordia University Nebraska

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of the LWML Texas District Scholarship. I am truly honored and appreciative of your support. This scholarship will be a great help in supporting my education and will allow me to focus more fully on my studies and future goals of being a teacher and coach. This opportunity encourages me to continue working hard and aiming high. Thank you again for your generosity and for investing in my future.



Elizabeth Crawford
Faith, Plano
Junior, Concordia University Nebraska

Thank you so much for gifting me this generous scholarship! It will be a great benefit to me as I continue my studies at Concordia University, Nebraska, to pursue God's calling to serve as a Lutheran school teacher and to study music. Thank you for supporting me and others who desire to serve through various church work vocations. I appreciate your generosity and welcome your ongoing prayers!



Olivia Thaelke
Our Savior, Houston
Senior, Concordia University Irvine

I am so grateful to LWML Texas District for choosing me as one of the recipients of the 2025-2026 LWML Texas District Scholarships. This will allow me to focus on my schooling all the more as I prepare for church work as a director of parish music. Thank you so much for your generous support and prayer for me as I finish my studies at Concordia University Irvine.



Rebekah Bowman
Our Savior, Centerville
Sophomore, Concordia University Nebraska

Thank you for this opportunity! This will greatly help me as I continue my education at Concordia Nebraska. Thank you again for supporting me as I pursue church music.



Sheralynn Weider
CrossRoad, Katy
Senior, Concordia University St. Paul

Thank you for your generous support of me and my studies! I am so thankful for the many opportunities that I've been given, and the doors that this scholarship will open for me. The Lord has been so generous to me! I look forward to following God's call for me in college and beyond.

Interested in financially supporting these scholarships? The LWML Texas District Scholarship Endowment Fund provides 100% of the funding for these scholarships through yearly fund distributions. Gifts to this endowment are never spent, but are invested and grow the amount of the distributions. The larger our endowment principal balance, the more scholarships we can give! To learn more about all of our endowments and how to give, visit the endowment pages at lwmltxdist.org/endowments

DISTRICT RETREAT — Registration Deadline September 10

The LWML Texas District retreat that will take place October 10–11, 2025, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1301 Hogan Lane, Waco, Texas.

The retreat will offer optional fellowship Friday evening from 6:30–8 p.m. Saturday, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the retreat will end at 3 p.m.

Our speaker will be Christina Hergenrader with a theme of “Faith Over Fear.” She will connect that to Psalm 23:4b, *...I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* Christina will focus on one of her popular speaking topics — “Live a Better Story.” In her sessions, she will focus on the truths of Psalm 23, encouraging us to move from fear to faith by trusting Jesus as our Good Shepherd.



The registration cost of \$50 includes Friday night fellowship activities, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and all retreat materials. While we are not organizing the housing for this retreat, a block of rooms with a reduced rate has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Waco Northwest (1801 N Development Blvd, Waco). Registration forms and information are available on the District Retreat page of the website at lwmltxdist.org/district-retreat.

This retreat format could make a great weekend away with your Lutheran gal pals. You can come to the retreat and spend time in God’s Word and in fellowship with one another. You can also see the different attractions in Waco like Magnolia and the Dr. Pepper Museum.

Officer 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 2026–2030. 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.



Offices open for election at the 2026 Convention in Austin are Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Vice President of Communication, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee. Nominees shall be active members of the LWML. It is not necessary to solicit their consent or to determine their qualifications. This is the duty of the Nominating Committee.

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 Robyn Tarnowski, Nominating Committee Chairman at nominatingch@lwmltxdist.org.

Mission Grant Proposals Being Accepted for the 2026-28 Biennium

Mission grant proposals for the LWML Texas District are now being accepted. Proposals need to be submitted by **November 1**. It is strongly recommended you communicate with the VP of Gospel Outreach by Oct. 1.

Any LWML member, group, or zone of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Texas District may submit mission grant proposals.

Do you have a ministry that could benefit from a mission grant? If so, the ministry should:



Be mission-focused. Applicants must demonstrate clearly how the mission grant will promote or support the proclamation of the Gospel to all.

Align with the goals and objectives of the Texas District LCMS.

Be current and ready for implementation.

Be ongoing in nature, with a plan for continuance after the mission grant money has been expended.

Be well-documented.

Request funding for no more than two years to correspond with the LWML biennium.

Agencies, organizations, and programs that help people to serve, grow, and spread God’s Word will be considered.

Forms and information are on the Texas District website at lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals.

Mite Report through June 2025

Biennium ends March 31, 2026

2024–2026 Mission Goal	\$403,000.00
Mites Received	\$228,711.43
Total Still Needed	\$174,288.57
Projected 25% to LWML National Mission	\$80,335.00
Mission Grant Goal	\$225,000.00

2024–2026 Mission Grants

Mission Grant	Disbursed	Still Need
Seminarian Scholarship for Texas Students — \$60,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program, Canyon Lake — \$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler — \$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies, Houston — \$15,000	\$7,500	\$7,500
Proclaiming Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (LBW) — \$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
Let It Shine Academy, Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries — \$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Adventure Woods Day Camp Outreach, Camp Lone Star, Tomball — \$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships — \$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Hereford Hispanic Outreach Program, Hereford — \$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers and Maternal Assistance Program, Houston — \$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Disciple and Mobilize Youth for Gospel Outreach, Glocal Mission, Houston — \$12,000	\$9,000	\$3,000
Little Lambs Parents' Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment, Sulphur Springs — \$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Christian Education Scholarships K–12, Central Texas — \$25,000	\$12,500	\$12,500
Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs, El Paso — \$17,314 (partial funding)	\$17,314	\$0
Total — \$272,314* 2024–2026 Mission Grant Goal \$225,000 *(includes \$47,314 mission abundance from 2020–2024)	\$165,314	\$107,000

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

Mites can also be given online. Simply follow the instructions under the “Donate” button. Our new QR code will take you to the website. The “Donate” button is at the top of every page.

Please include group or individual name, church name, and church city in the note section in order for your LWML group to receive credit for your mite donation.

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.

