

The Lone Star Connection



September 2025

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 3, Issue 5



Terri Wenzel
VP Organizational
Resources

Growing in Grace – Membership

Oh, the blessings in a plethora of purple as a sea of sisters participated in worship, Bible study, meals and fellowship, voting, offering, serving, walking, and learning together! The LWML Convention in Omaha taught us about *Growing in God's Grace*, as we wait patiently on God's perfect timing, share the Gospel, and welcome opportunities to serve in faith.

Lutheran Women in Mission continue to grow in grace as we serve the Lord with gladness and tend to the business of the LWML and updates to our membership directory. Annual group and zone membership records should reflect accurate information as the roster determines number of eligible voting delegates for the June 2026 LWML Texas District convention in Austin.

Group and zone presidents should anticipate receiving new membership forms, completing, and returning them by the required deadline (October 20). As you prepare for zone rallies this fall, it is important to tend to the information in a timely manner and respect the deadlines imposed, which affect membership reporting at all levels: zone, district, and national. Zone Rallies — Membership Reports — *Growing in God's Grace*!



District Pastoral Counselor Corner



Pastor Dustin Beck
Senior Pastoral Counselor

Stewardship

"Stewardship" can be a scary word in "church lingo." It usually brings to mind financial giving. And for some reason, it only seems to come up when that giving is below the threshold needed to make budget. But stewardship is so much more than just giving. The thing we've got to remember is that stewardship is not ownership. God owns all things. He created them. All possessions, money, the cattle on a thousand hills, the hills themselves—and yes—we belong to God, too! But part of being created in the image and likeness of God is that He has given us stewardship over a great number of things in this life. The hours, days, and years of our lives are given to us by God. The same is true of the people entrusted into our care, the skills, talents, and interests that comprise our personality, and the dollars and the cents that pass through our hands are given to us by God. And so, in every area of our

lives, we are stewards—caretakers—of those things God has graciously given us. And it is our joyous charge as His redeemed people to be faithful in our careful use of these many gifts. Stewardship can be a struggle, though. It's easy to think that we deserve the things we have, that we have earned them, or that we won't get by if we give more of our time or money. God certainly forgives our stubbornness, but still He promises to give us daily bread, to provide better food than that of the sparrows, better clothing than that of the lilies. In other words, He eases our fears of stewardship through His loving care for us—so have no fear!

Save the Date!

June 11—13, 2026

Texas District 44th Biennial Convention

In Austin, TX

Hilton Doubletree Hotel



2025 Key Dates

October 5—LWML Sunday

October 10–11—District Retreat, Waco

November 1

Deadline for Texas District Officer Nominations

Deadline for Texas District Mission Grant Proposals



Focus Corner

Proclaim Christ – Start a monthly coffee meet-up where women invite a friend and share one story of God's faithfulness.

Support Missions -Host a tasting from recipes from countries LWML supports . Include a prayer for that region with each recipe.

Equip Women - Organize a fun, low-pressure gathering where women practice sharing the Gospel in everyday scenarios.

Serve Others – Organize a walk through your neighborhood to pray for homes, schools, and local businesses.

Mission Grant Highlight



Texas Volunteers processing Braille pages on the Braille press

Proclaiming Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) exists to bring the Word of God to the 338 million people throughout the world who are blind or visually impaired, completely free of charge, in braille and specialized large print. In over 80 years of ministry, LBW has produced and distributed over 15 million volumes of Christian material, in 40 languages, to people in 164 countries. LBW has never charged a recipient to receive these materials as they believe in freely sharing God's Word!

Men, women, and children find hope in the Light of Christ through the Bible and other Christian materials provided by LBW in multiple languages in every part of the globe. LBW is one of the last remaining free resources available to them in which the Good News of Jesus is shared quickly and in high quality formats.

Lutheran Braille Workers was awarded a \$20,000 Mission Grant at the 2024 LWML Texas District Convention. With mission grant funds, LBW, along with Texas volunteers will produce approximately 2,500 volumes of new Bible studies, devotions, or Spanish prison ministry materials, in braille and specialized large print formats, to share the Gospel and Jesus' love with people in Texas, the United States, or worldwide who are blind or visually impaired.

One major factor in Lutheran Braille Workers ability to reach thousands of people every single year is the volunteer work force dedicated to sharing the Gospel. LBW has over 3,200 volunteers engaged in this ministry across the country. Through the Lutheran Braille Workers partnership with the LWML, and the countless volunteers in Texas and throughout the country, many who are blind or visually impaired and wanting to know Jesus as their personal Savior will be able to experience the love of Christ for themselves.



A Texas Volunteer giving a Braille volume to a Texas resident who is blind.



LWML Sunday 2025

Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.

This year's theme begins a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025 we focus on Proclaiming Christ.

Everything we do as Lutheran Women in Mission begins with Christ's message of repentance and forgiveness. The Ascension text of "GO" (Luke 24:44–53) is the mission emphasis for Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025. On Ascension Day, Jesus gave his followers an assignment "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, have a responsibility to proclaim the message of Christ, to be that body which proclaims repentance and forgiveness, showing forth the merciful Christ in what we do and say. As Lutheran Women in Mission we continue to support, en-

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

Ready? Let's go!

Sign up now for Evangelist Training

Visit the president's page for details.

Our mission is to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.



The Endowment Committee invites you to
National Estate Planning Week
October 20-26

Join us on our district social media accounts to learn more about
Gifting Today to Bless Tomorrow.



A well-prepared estate plan not only protects your assets and provides for your loved ones, but also gives you the opportunity to support causes close to your heart — like the LWML Texas District Endowments.

The Endowment Committee invites you to join us on our district social media accounts for National Estate Planning Awareness Week October 20–26th to learn more about *Gifting Today to Bless Tomorrow.*

From Around the District

Central Texas Zone

On August 2, 2025, the Lutheran Women in Mission group of Trinity Lutheran Church, Riesel, Central Texas Zone, hosted a brunch event titled Blessings, Bites, and Beyond. They invited all women of the congregation, area Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) groups, and encouraged everyone to bring someone who was not a member of the LWML. Abby Goering, LWML Humorous Interrupter, spoke on her LWML journey. Information and ideas on Lutheran Women in Mission were shared, and everyone had the opportunity to create a Blessing Bag to bless someone of their choosing. Guests stepped out of their comfort zones with two ice-breakers by collecting "I.D. Cards" and they played "The Great Candy Pass." Fifty women attended with fourteen of those not being members of an LWML group. Everyone had an enjoyable time.



Panhandle Zone

On July 21, 2025, the Lutheran Women in Mission group of Trinity Lutheran Church, Amarillo, Panhandle Zone, sponsored a "Ladies Night Out". Ladies from the congregation were invited and 35 attended. The evening included a "Homemade Ice Cream Social" and a night of fellowship with our sisters in Christ.



Lutheran Women
in Mission
TEXAS DISTRICT



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. 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.

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.

FOLLOW US!



On the web:
www.lwmltxdist.org



On Facebook:
@Lutheran Women's Missionary League



On Instagram:
@lwmltexasdistrict



On YouTube:
@lwmltexasdistrict8339



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



Lutheran Women
in Mission
TEXAS DISTRICT

Mite Report through August 2025

Biennium ends March 31, 2026

If each member gives \$ 8.75 per month we will reach our goal.

2024–2026 Mission Goal	\$403,000.00
Mites Received	\$253,763.92
Total Still Needed	\$149,236.08
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	\$45,000	\$15,000
New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program, Canyon Lake — \$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler — \$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies, Houston — \$15,000	\$11,250	\$3,750
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	\$6,000	\$2,000
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)	\$191,064	\$81,250

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.

