

The Lone Star Connection



February 28, 2026

2026 Austin Convention

Special Edition



Convention Registration opens March 1, 2026 — come join us!

LWML Texas District 44th Biennial Convention
June 11–13, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton Austin
Austin, Texas

Host:
Capitol Zone

All convention information is available on the district website,
lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions.

*** see the **Quick Links** section on the district convention page for easy access to all forms and information***

Registration

The 44th Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin, 6505 North Interstate 35 Frontage Road, June 11–13, 2026. Registration opens on March 1, 2026. To take advantage of the discounted registration fee, registrations must be received via email or postmarked no later than April 30, 2026. Online registration is available at lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions with payment by credit card through May 8, 2026. The registration form is available on the website to be completed, printed, and mailed/emailed to the registrar with payment (check to LWML Texas District or credit card information). No American Express credit cards will be accepted by the LWML Texas District for registration. All registrations should be either postmarked or received via email no later than May 8, 2026. Registration check-in at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin will be open Thursday, June 11, from 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. and Friday, June 12, from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Please contact Registrar Peggy Turnipseed at registrar@lwmltxdist.org with questions.

Hotel Information

The DoubleTree by Hilton Austin will accept reservations beginning March 1, 2026. The group rate for all blocked rooms is \$169 plus tax and is good for one to four persons per room. **The convention rate is available until 5 p.m., May 8, 2026.** For online reservations please use the direct link on our website at lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions. If preferred, reservations may be made by calling the DoubleTree by Hilton reservations department at (800) 866-3126 and ask for the LWML Texas District 2026 Convention room block. If you would like to come early or stay late to visit the Austin area, the convention rate is good for 3 nights before or after the convention based on availability. If you need a roommate first check within your own zone. If you need additional assistance, please contact Housing Coordinator Ann Turner at conventionhousing@lwmltxdist.org no later than May 1, 2026.

Delegate Orientation

All voting members and delegates to the convention are required to attend orientation, which begins promptly at 2:30 p.m., Thursday in the Phoenix Ballroom of the hotel. Delegates will have the opportunity to meet candidates and officers during this meeting.

Mission Service Opportunities

A complete list of On-Site Servant Events can be found on the district convention page.

Slate of Candidates

The slate is not available at this time. Please check for updates on the district convention page.

Convention Schedule

A complete schedule of information for the convention will be in the registration tote bag and can be found on the district convention page.

Speakers



Keynote
and Enrichment Speaker
Deaconess Noemi Guerra,
Texas District LCMS



Proclaimer
Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther,
Texas District LCMS President



LWML Representative
and Enrichment Speaker
Eden Keefe,
LWML President 2023-2027



Mites in Action Speaker
and Enrichment Speaker
Rachel Potts
Lutheran Braille Workers



Mites in Action Speaker
Steve Harris
Orphan Grain Train, Houston



Enrichment Speaker
Cheryl Wawrzyniak



Enrichment Speaker
Kelly Shivertaker with
Martha the Comfort Dog



Full bios for the speakers are on the website and can be viewed by selecting their section.

Enrichment Sessions

Five different Enrichment Sessions have been planned for Friday during lunch at two different times, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. and 1–2 p.m. Participants should bring their box lunch to whichever session they choose to attend.

It's Not a Dog Ministry— Kelly Shivertaker is a retired Emergency Manager for a major electric utility and now the Top Dog, leading the Comfort Dog ministry for Martha Comfort Dog at Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas. She has been involved in the Comfort Dog ministry since 2015, also leading the team for Abner Comfort Dog. During this time she has responded to many crises, including Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and Santa Fe High School, El Paso Walmart shooting, Midland/Odessa shooting, and Uvalde school shooting, all in Texas. The Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry uses dogs to connect with people. She will speak about work the dogs have done, both during crises and on a day-to-day basis, as well as how to start your own Comfort Dog ministry and answer any questions you may have.

Join Eden Keefe, LWML President 2023–2027, as she leads a session *Be Encouraged — God's Got This! Do you face obstacles or challenges in your LWML service? Be encouraged to move forward with both resolve and joy. God calls and equips us!*

Join Noemi Guerra in her session *Rejoicing in Hope: Living Out Romans 12:12*. Together we'll discover how Christ empowers Lutheran women to live with unwavering faith, overflow with hope and patience, and grow in a vibrant, steadfast life of prayer.

Sharing the Gospel Beyond Sight — Rachel Potts shares more about how Lutheran Braille Workers proclaim the Gospel of Christ through the use of large print and Braille materials for those living with visual impairments.

Local International Ministry: No Language Required Except English! — Cheryl Wawrzyniak is a retired nurse and nurse educator, a forty-year active member of her LWML group at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, and has taught ESL Conversation Classes for the past three years at University Lutheran Church in Austin. Learning English is a great desire for people in the world today. Through offering English and Bible classes to meet this need, many internationals have the opportunity to hear the Gospel — some for the first time! Cheryl will share experiences and insights from her involvement in this ministry.



Brianne Stahlecker

Wake Up with the Word

Early morning riser or just want to dig into the Word? Plan to attend the Wake Up with the Word session scheduled for Friday morning at 7 a.m. LWML Texas District Vice President of Christian Life Brianne Stahlecker will be facilitating the study.

Teen Program

We are excited to invite teen girls (ages 12–17) to the convention for a fun-filled and servant-minded experience planned just for them! Teens will get to know one another with fun, crafts, and games along with being in God's Word with Bible studies, participate in on-site servant events, enjoy time in the pool, and will discover what the LWML is with activities geared toward their age group and interests. The teen program will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 11. Teens will pay a special registration rate of \$160 (or \$185 if submitted after April 30, 2026).

Friday box lunch is included with registration. Teens should purchase a Thursday box lunch option when registering and bring money for any purchase they plan to make at the stores or at the hotel (there is a Starbucks inside the hotel). NOTE: Lunches will be eaten as a teen group, but dinner/breakfast will be with parent/mentor the teen is staying with during convention. Please note, a mentor/leader must attend the convention for every 1–4 girls registered. If you need additional information, please contact Courtney Baxter at teencoordinator@lwmltxdistr.org.

Zone Young Woman Representatives

Each zone is encouraged to send one or more Zone Young Woman Representative(s) (ZYWR) to the convention. A ZYWR is any mature young woman who is preferably between the ages of 22 and 35 and a member of an LCMS congregation. Information on the Committee on Young Women and the ZYWR forms are available at lwmltxdistr.org/young-woman-representatives. The ZYWR program will begin 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, and conclude at the end of the convention on Saturday at noon. There will be opportunities for service, Bible study, fellowship, and training.

All ZYWRs will need to register for the convention. Please note the **Friday box lunch is included in the convention registration cost.** ZYWRs should purchase a Thursday box lunch option when registering. The ZYWR is expected to sit with her Zone President and delegation during the convention sessions on Friday and Saturday. Contact Christine Spofford at youngwomanrep@lwmltxdistr.org for more information.

Young Women Lunch (ages 18–40) and former Zone YWR's

On Friday at 11:45 a.m., all potential, current, and former Young Woman Representatives are encouraged to pick up their Friday box lunch and bring it to the Fourth Floor Capital room and enjoy sharing of ideas, experiences, and fellowship. LWML President Eden Keefe will be joining this special group of ladies for lunch!

Pastors Lunch

All clergy attending the convention are invited and encouraged to attend an informative lunch on Friday at 11:45 a.m. in the DeWitt room of the hotel. Pastors are asked to bring the **Friday box lunch, included in the price of convention registration.** Please check the box on the registration form so that we may plan accordingly.

Meals

All meals are secured with registration only. On Friday and Saturday mornings a full breakfast buffet is available at a cost of \$26. The buffet consists of fruit, a hot protein, scrambled eggs, assorted breads, water, coffee, and tea. On Thursday, a box lunch will be available for \$26 and includes choice of a ham and cheddar or a roast beef sandwich served with chips, a cookie, pasta salad, and bottled water. **Friday's box lunch is included in the cost of registration** for this convention. Choices for Friday's box lunch consists of a roasted turkey sandwich or a buffalo chicken wrap served with chips, a cookie, macaroni salad, and bottled water. Vegetarian and gluten-free meals are available but must be noted on the registration form and preordered. No meal orders will be accepted after close of registration. Gratuity is included in the price of all meals.

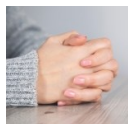
Special Opportunities

Arrive early and be part of the excitement! On Thursday, special pre-convention opportunities await you — exhibits, stores, servant events, and the prayer room will all be open from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. It's the perfect time to explore, connect, and prepare your heart for the days ahead. On Friday, they will be open from 7–8:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.–2:15 p.m. The stores will open again Friday night from 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Moving 4 Mites

Our event for mites will be a 45-minute chair aerobics class which will be held in the Magnolia room at the hotel. For those who want to make it more strenuous, the exercises can be modified. Moving 4 Mites will be Saturday, June 13, starting at 7 a.m. All pledges and donations will be in support of our mite goal. Pledges can be requested on a per-minute basis or for completing the class. The pledge forms will be sent to those stating YES on the registration form. There is no charge to participate. It will be a fun way to start your day while raising money for the LWML Texas District mites.

Prayer Room



The prayer room will be available throughout the convention in the Robertson South room. There will also be a memorial prayer book available in the prayer room for convention attendees to add the names of our LWML sisters in Christ who have passed away.

Travel

Guests flying into Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) and staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin need to either use Uber, Lyft, or one of the SuperShuttle Austin services as the hotel does not have a shuttle service. If you plan to drive, you can self-park in the hotel's on-site garage for a special rate of \$10 per day for overnight stays. Valet parking is available at the prevailing rate. The entrance to the garage is located at the front of the hotel off La Posada Drive.

Convention Offerings

Offering #1 will be gathered during the Divine Worship Service. It has been designated to the 2026–2028 LWML Texas District Mission Goal.

Offering #2 will be gathered Friday at the door of the Phoenix Ballroom entrances. It is designated to support the University Lutheran Church (ULC), which is a campus ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the University of Texas at Austin.

Offering #3 will be gathered Saturday at the door of the Phoenix Ballroom entrances. It is designated to support God of Hope Ministries which equips prison inmates for a life of hope and freedom in Christ through Faith Based Dorms focused on biblical discipleship, Christian life skills, and spiritual disciplines.

A complete list with descriptions of the convention offerings are available on the district convention page.

Choir

If you are interested in singing in the choir during Thursday evening's worship service, please check the appropriate box on the registration form. Practice time will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Phoenix Ballroom. Music and additional details will be sent after the registration form is received.

NEW — Fellowship Event

All convention attendees are invited to attend the optional Come and Go Game Night on Friday evening in the Magnolia room at the hotel. Bring a game or join in one and share in fellowship with new friends and old while enjoying a little relaxed, unrushed bit of fun.

Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the Heart is going green. Recipient information is available on the district convention page.

Mission Grant Proposals

A complete list of the 2026–2028 Mission Grant proposals with descriptions is available on the district convention page.

Special Needs

DUE TO COST we will **NOT** be offering interpreting in American Sign Language or closed captioning for our deaf and hard of hearing sisters and brothers at this convention. Please let us know of other special needs and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Childcare will not be offered at this convention due to insurance and liability constraints.

Convention T-shirts

The 2026 convention T-shirt will be a short sleeve 100% cotton tee and violet (light purple) in color. The convention logo will appear on the back of the T-shirt with the name, date, and location featured on the front top left. Please purchase T-shirts when registering for the convention. Purchase price is \$15. No T-shirt orders will be accepted after the close of registration.



Front View

Back View

A Message from President Sally:

Every convention brings its own kind of anticipation, but this year my heart feels especially full. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we have countless reasons to Celebrate the Goodness of God, and Romans 12:12 captures that beautifully: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." What a privilege it is to gather as women who live those words together.

At this convention, we'll have the chance to do just that. Through Bible studies, servant events, and time with our speakers, we'll have opportunities to encourage one another. We will share our hope in Christ with joy; lifting each other up as the Holy Spirit strengthens us to meet day to day challenges with patience. Prayer will be a natural part of our time together. Through it all, we'll be reminded that God can do far more than we could ever ask or imagine, just as Ephesians 3:20 assures us.

Whether you have been part of Lutheran Women in Mission for many years or are joining us for the first time, I want you to know there is a place for you. Come ready to be renewed, to reconnect, and to celebrate the goodness of our gracious God. Invite a friend, travel together, and let the journey become part of the joy.

I look forward to seeing you there and celebrating God's goodness together.

Questions?

Questions? Please contact Host Committee Chairman Laurie Bellard at austin2026@lwmltxdist.org.