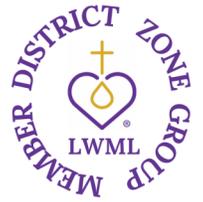


# The Lone Star Connection



February 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 4, Issue 2



Pastor David Bailes  
Junior Pastoral Counselor

## “Love Not Outdone”

It's February, so love must be in the air. At least that's what those counting on Valentine's Day sales to hit a record-breaking \$29.1 billion are hoping for this year. With jewelry, dining out, and clothing now topping the list, people, especially guys, must be trying to outdo the traditional box of chocolates and a dozen red roses in a big way!

Reading about all the extra effort and dollars spent on showing love on Valentine's Day made me think of these words from Paul: “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10, ESV). This admonition is not just for one day on the calendar. It's an enduring instruction to the church: we are to love one another as dearly as we love the closest ones in our own family. And then Paul shows how true love is expressed—by showing overabundant honor to those in our church family. In Roman culture, which highly valued honor, outdoing one another by stepping up and giving honor first, without any certainty of reciprocity, was a mighty act of humility done in faith by those living together under the cross.

Then comes Ash Wednesday—most of us will soon gather to have ashes placed upon our foreheads as a physical sign that we have not lived up to the ideal love that surpasses even the most romantic Valentine's Day loves. Those ashes recall our sin and the resultant separation from God and others. They also come with this verbal reminder: “From dust you have come and to dust you shall return.” Yet in repentance, we turn again to a love that removed the sin, the separation, and the sting of death those ashes represent. In the season of Lent, we look to the love of God in Christ Jesus that cannot be outdone by evil, sin, or even death itself. So, let us remember this love not outdone, and live with others in a way that shows the world that the love we have in Christ is worth far more than \$29.1 billion.

## Scholarship deadline March 31

Do you know of a female member of your Texas District congregation studying at an LCMS university to become an LCMS full-time professional church worker? If so, it is time to encourage her to apply for an LWML Texas District scholarship for the 2026–2027 school year.

For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org). Go to “About Us,” choose “Scholarships” from the drop-down menu, and download the 2026 scholarship application. For more information, contact Michelle Heckmann, Scholarship Committee chairman, at [scholarship@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:scholarship@lwmltxdist.org). Completed applications must be mailed or emailed to Michelle, time-stamped or postmarked by March 31.

As one of our past recipients says, “This scholarship allows me to focus more fully on my studies and future goals of being a Lutheran school teacher and coach. This opportunity encourages me to continue working hard and aiming high.”

## 2026 Key Dates

### February 18–20

Executive Committee Meeting, Camp Lone Star

### February 20–22

Board of Director Meeting, Camp Lone Star

### March 1

Registration Opens for Texas District Convention

### March 20

Mite Deadline for 2024–2026 Biennium

### March 31

Scholarship applications deadline



**Endowments**  
*Gifts Today To Bless Tomorrow*





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

### Celebrate the Goodness of God

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,  
be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12).*

**Goal Statement:** Empower Lutheran women to embody unwavering faith, abound in hope and patience and be fervently dedicated to prayer.

**Objectives:** The convention will provide opportunities for:

- Sharing our hope in Christ joyfully with others.
- Uplifting each other as the Holy Spirit enables us to be patient in tribulation.
- Embracing the power of prayer through Bible studies, servant events, and speakers. (James 5:16).
- Drawing strength from God's Word and knowing that God can do all and more than we can ask. (Ephesians 3:20).

**Registration** opens March 1, 2026. All registration information will be available on the website. 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 \$185 with Teen registration set at \$160.

All registrations include Friday lunch.

**Hotel registration** will open March 1, 2026. DO NOT call the hotel before March 1 or you will not receive the discounted rate. The convention will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin.

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

### Focus Corner

**Proclaim Christ**—Organize a group to sing songs at nursing homes for Valentine's Day.

**Support Missions**—Start a mission minute at your group meetings. Pick one mission grant and take one minute to tell about it.

**Equip Women**—Break big tasks into two or three steps so new leaders feel capable instead of overwhelmed.

**Serve Others**—Organize a clothing drive for a local charity.

### 2024–2026 Mite Deadline is March 20!

Get those mites turned in before the deadline!

Any mites received after the deadline will be credited to the 2026–2028 biennium.

Send to: LWML Texas District  
Attn: Alissa Elley, Financial Secretary  
PO Box 183  
Seguin, TX 78156

Donate online at [lwmltxdist.org/about-mites](http://lwmltxdist.org/about-mites).

To view the current mite report visit the website at [lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-mites](http://lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-mites).



Be sure to send information and pictures from your group and zone activities to Kelly Bernhardt, VP of Communication, [communication@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:communication@lwmltxdist.org).

## From Around the District

**SAVE THE DATE: March 6–7, 2026**

for the  
LWML Spring Retreat  
where the MARCH WINDS will gather  
Lutheran Women in Mission  
to the SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER  
in Victoria, Texas

Hold on to your hats  
Coastal Bend, Mid Coast, North Alamo &  
Rio Grande Valley Zones as our guest presenter,

**Sharon Daugherty**

takes us where things are...

**ALWAYS CHANGING**

**ALWAYS THE SAME**

Sharon lives in Kincaid, KS with her 7-times-retired LCMS Pastor- husband, Erv Daugherty. Her passion is Ladies Bible Studies where she desires for all to know HIS JOY and have HIS PEACE. She has endured and triumphed over much change in her life. Sharon is currently serving LWML as the Chair of the Christian Life Committee for the Kansas District and President of the Southeast Zone.

Tentative prices for this year:

\$100 for the weekend (includes 3 meals-Friday evening, Saturday breakfast and lunch)

\$75 for Saturday only (includes breakfast and lunch)

Detailed information will be sent after January 1, 2026

Please share this SAVE THE DATE with your group.

**Registration deadline will be February 14, 2026**

Invitation and Registration form are located on the following **zone pages** of the TX District LWML website: Coastal Bend, Mid Coast, North Alamo, and Rio Grande Valley.



### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TEMPLE, TEXAS

### FAITHCIRCLE, SUNSHINE ZONE, TEXAS DISTRICT

### 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Temple, Texas will be celebrating 100 years of service with a grand celebration including a service, tributes, and a catered meal to be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026. Service will begin at 10 a.m. with communion. Local and state dignitaries from the LCMS and Texas will be attending.

Immanuel has had a year-long series of events to celebrate our 100 years. Faith Circle has participated in several of the events by hosting meals at both the Advent and Lent services, doing a Bake Sale for Valentine's Day/Super Bowl Sunday and using the funds raised for mites and servant events, hosting a potluck dinner and baby shower in June for Hope Pregnancy in Temple, serving a potluck meal for the ladies of the congregation to kick-off our "year" in August, hosting our annual LWML Sunday recognizing the 76 years Faith Circle has been a part of Immanuel with scrapbooks and memorabilia collected through the years, and, serving cookies and punch at our Annual "Children's Blessings Service" in December.

Immanuel will hold a grand celebration with a huge service on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 10 a.m. at The Mayborn Center, 3303 N. 3rd, Temple, TX. Guests for the service will include our LCMS Texas District President and dignitaries from across the Texas area, and former members that are able to attend. After the service we will have a joint meal and presentation. Tickets for the catered meal may be purchased by calling the church at 254-773-3898 or ordered online at [ilmtexas.org](http://ilmtexas.org). We would like to see as many former members as possible attend this event. What a wonderful way to end our 100 Year Celebration!