

## Immanuel – God With Us



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Junior Pastoral Counselor

Here we are in the middle of Lent, yet I have titled this article *Immanuel*. Isn't that the message of Christmas? (Matthew 1:23). Yes, it is, but it is also the theme of Lent—God with us. When the people of Israel were exiled in Babylon, many thought that God had abandoned them. In response to that, the Lord declared, “*Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man [or woman] hide himself [or herself] in secret places so that I cannot see him?*” *Declares the Lord. “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” Declares the Lord* (Jeremiah 23:23-24). God is with you in the midst of whatever you are going through now—your messy life, your battle with cancer, your doubts, your struggle with addiction, your loneliness—whatever it is—He is right there with you. As you approach Holy Week, remember that Jesus is walking with you. You are not alone.

### Important Biennium Mite Deadline Approaching— March 20, 2026

Please plan to send in your mite offerings so they will reach the financial secretary by March 20, 2026. A suggested mailing date of March 14 will help ensure they are received by the deadline.

Any offerings received after March 20, 2026, will be recorded in the 2026–2028 biennium.

All mite offerings need to be submitted to:  
LWML Texas District,  
Alissa Elley, Financial Secretary  
PO Box 183  
Seguin, TX 78156



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

### 2026 Key Dates

#### March 20

Mite Deadline for 2024–2026 biennium.

#### March 31

Scholarship applications Deadline.

#### June 11–13

Texas District 44th Biennial Convention — Austin

**View the current mite and mission grant information on the district website, [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org).**

### Scholarship Applications — 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.”

## Mission Grant Highlight

### Little Lambs Parents' Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment

The Little Lambs Parents' Day Out shares God's love with the smallest of hearts. The two-day program at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Sulphur Springs, continues to grow through the sharing of Christ's Gospel, through the new building project now in progress, and, as God leads, toward a future five-day, full-time childcare ministry.

As the building project continues to take shape, so does the vision for a vibrant, full-time ministry that will touch the lives of young children and their families. Becoming state-certified means creating a space where even the youngest learners—those five and under—can grow, play, and thrive in safety. The generous \$10,000 mission grant from the LWML Texas District brings that vision closer to reality by helping provide safe, age-appropriate, state-approved playground equipment that will bless children for years to come.

Little Lambs Parents' Day Out remains deeply committed to serving the families of their students. Their prayer is to be equipped to welcome more children and to walk alongside their families through Christ-centered, nurturing care—care that empowers parents to work and provide for their households with confidence. Above all, they long to reflect the love of Christ not only to the children entrusted to them, but also to their families, as they support them and faithfully share the hope of the Gospel.



Sharing the Gospel is the top priority of Little Lambs Parent's Day Out ministry, from daily lessons accompanying crafts and activities, to weekly time with their pastor.

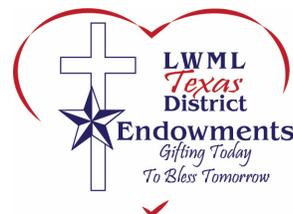


Mission grant funds will be used to replace current equipment with more age-appropriate equipment for pre-kindergarten and toddler play.

### Gifts Today to Bless Tomorrow – A Scholarship Endowment Story

I became an LWML member more than 35 years ago when a neighbor invited me to attend a meeting with her at the church. I have seen the women in action through the years as we provide a mission awareness within the church, and opportunities for spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. Serving as a zone president, quilter for missions, congregation secretary, choir member, greeter, and volunteer in a local food pantry has given me an awareness of the need for future leaders. A planned gift to the LWML Texas District Endowment Funds is one of the ways to provide for future "workers in the harvest field." To support this effort, I have designated an amount from my life insurance policy to be given to the Scholarship Endowment Fund which provides scholarships for young women from our district going into professional LCMS church work.

To learn more about *Gifts Today to Bless Tomorrow*, please visit [lwmltxdist.org/endowments](http://lwmltxdist.org/endowments).



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Time is running out to direct your 2025 Thrivent Choice Dollars® which expire March 31, 2026. Please consider designating your Choice Dollars® to us. For more information or to direct Choice Dollars®, call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” or go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

Eligible clients with membership at Thrivent may choose “**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Texas District - Salado, TX**” to direct donations to support our mission. We are so thankful for your support.

Help us meet our Mission Goal before the deadline of March 20, 2026.

### Focus Corner

**Proclaim Christ** — Share a personal faith story with younger women during an event. Encourage them to share theirs.

**Support Missions** — Join or start a quilting group to make blankets for mission outreach.

**Equip Women** — Invite speakers to lead sessions on Christian growth, time management or setting boundaries.

**Serve Others** — Babysit during Bible class or special events to support young families.



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:** 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** opened March 1, 2026. All registration information is available on the website convention page. 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.

Friday box lunch is included with registration.

**Hotel registration** opened March 1, 2026. The convention will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin.

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

## From Around the District

### Living Savior Lutheran Church, Montgomery

We had a Christmas in July party where we worked to mainly create Christmas wreaths, although we had fall and spring creations, too. The wreaths were purchased during “after” Christmas sales in early January. The decor came mainly from garage sales. The wreaths were hung in the Fellowship Hall in late October for silent bidding for about a month. We ended up with 46 wreaths, and once bidding was over, we had made a little over \$2,000 for missions.



### Bayou City Zone

Lady Fishers presented a \$1,000 donation to East Ft. Bend Human Needs Ministry (EFBHMN) from proceeds of their Advent by Candlelight event “One Extraordinary Night”. We are honored to partner with EFBHMN in service to families in our community with food insecurities. Lady Fishers also donated \$1,000 to mites from the proceeds of this event. We are blessed to be a blessing to others!



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).

### South Plains Zone

The Women of Hope Lutheran Church LWML in Lubbock had a service work day to help fund our mission projects by making snacks that were sold on Sunday, February 8, for the Super Bowl. We received money from Thrivent to help us fund the expenses and a portion of the proceeds were given to Mites.

