

# The Lone Star Connection

"Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16a)



September 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 4, Issue 9

## Homecoming in Heaven

September marks the time of year when many high schools celebrate homecoming with big pep rallies, football games, parades, and dances. Even though I attended them while in high school, I have to admit I have never been back to my school's homecoming events after graduation. Sometimes



Pastor David Bailes  
Senior Pastoral Counselor

that was due to being very far away, even living outside of the country. Other times it was due to being very busy. This homecoming season got me to thinking about a different kind of coming home. In Ephesians 2:19, Paul reminds us, "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." If you are like me, you may have never been back to your high school homecoming, but one day you will experience coming home to a place that you belong to, but have not yet been to. There your Savior, Jesus Christ, has prepared a place for you. (see John 14:2--3). I'm not sure there will be pep rallies and parades in heaven. Yet, I am certain that it will be your best homecoming of all!



## District Pastoral Counselor Corner



## Focus Corner

**Proclaim Christ:** Add a Bible verse to your email signature.

**Support Missions:** Collaborate with your group to create a one-month mite calendar and then challenge all to complete it.

**Equip Women:** Facilitate a Bible study using a *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* issue and connect it with a simple craft or service project.

**Serve Others:** Create comfort bags for children in a shelter or a daycare who have lost family members.



## 42ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 8–11, 2027

### Volunteers Needed!

As one of the four host districts (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas), we need everyone to prayerfully consider volunteering as we welcome, assist, and direct all attendees who will come to the convention next summer. You can

serve in many ways before and during the convention. To date, Lisa Snow, Personnel Data Management Chairman, has received 68 volunteer applications with 36 of those being from Texas. However, we still need more volunteers to be able to complete all the work involved with the convention. A total of 400 volunteers are needed from the host districts. If you feel called to volunteer, please visit our website, [lwmltxdist.org/lwml-convention](http://lwmltxdist.org/lwml-convention) and complete the [Call for Volunteers application](#). This application is returned to Lisa Snow (Texas) for processing. Thank you for volunteering and helping to make this a successful convention.

Watch for more information each month from the OKC Host Committee and visit our district website often to see any updates.

## From Around the District



Front: Barbie Schreckengost, Dorothy Wachsmann, Donna Arldt, Alice Birnbaum, Adelynn Perez, Rilynn Perez, and Amy Perez .  
Back: Paige Schreckengost, Linda Wachsmann, Sandy Birnbaum, Doreen Woelfel, Judy Faske, Tonya Pinson, and Kathy Hern

### Ebenezer Hops on the Train in the Post Oak Zone!

Ebenezer LWML at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Manheim of the Post Oak Zone collected items and monetary donations for backpack school kits on behalf of Orphan Grain Train (OGT). Through the generosity of congregational members and a Thrivent Action Grant, the group assembled one hundred thirty backpacks on July 26. These were taken to OGT Houston the following day. There was an immediate need for over half of the backpack school kits which were distributed at a community service event. The group also donated twenty quilts to OGT.



Paige Schreckengost, Dorothy Wachsmann, Sandy Birnbaum, Judy Faske, Alice Birnbaum, Kathy Hern, Doreen Woelfel, and Amy Perez.



### Celebrating "Mommies to Bee" in the Trinity Zone!

Twisted Sisters in Christ, St. John, Mansfield, had our first *Embrace Grace* group with two women completing the class. Each class culminates with a baby shower, which we hosted on August 1. *Embrace Grace* is a Pro-Love movement that comes alongside single pregnant girls enabling them to choose life for their babies by giving them support. We show them grace, love, and friendship. We show up with Jesus when women are at their lowest points. We found that this was an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Both of our ladies had difficult pregnancies and we were able to support them in many ways, going beyond the regular support groups, where we shared the gospel weekly. God's miracles overflowed every week and it was such a blessing to get to watch Him work! *Embrace Grace* is an international ministry that started in Texas and now is in all fifty states and several countries.

Our second group begins January 2027.



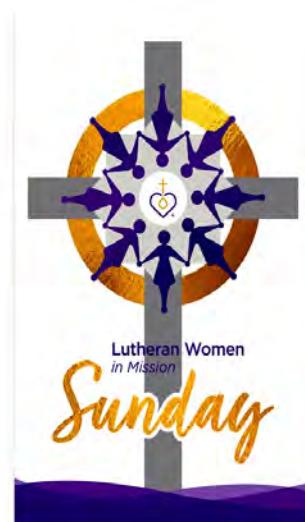
## Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday — Support Missions

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

This year's theme continues 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 2026, we focus on Supporting Missions.

Christ Jesus our Lord asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts. St. Paul, while proclaiming the Gospel, was also concerned for those who suffered. There were so many mission efforts taking place. As believers today, we also are eager to follow the example of Christ and aid those in need. The Spirit of God places that eagerness to serve upon our hearts. We can't be everywhere to aid the missions, firsthand, that are set before us. The Lord does allow us to support those efforts that go forth in His name. May the Lord grant to us supportive hearts.

2026 Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday downloadable materials, authored by Rev. Mark Maas, are now available at [lwml.org/lwml-sunday](http://lwml.org/lwml-sunday)



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Questions? Send an email to:  
[communication@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:communication@lwmltxdist.org)



Lutheran Women  
in Mission  
TEXAS DISTRICT

### Got spare change? Send in your mites!

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

Donate Online at: [Mites | LWML Texas District](https://www.lwmltxdist.org)

### Endowments

Endowments transform a single gift into a perpetual gift that blesses our work together now and for generations to come. The LWML Texas District has three endowment funds that provide additional funding toward our mission grants, scholarships, leadership training, and more! If you are interested in learning how to join in "Gifting Today to Bless Tomorrow", scan this QR code to visit our district website's endowment pages.



## The Happening Hub!

### 2026:

Sept. 17-19: Executive Committee  
Meeting, Camp Lone Star

Any Sunday

In October: LWML Sunday

### 2027:

Feb. 10-12: Executive Committee  
Meeting, Camp Lone Star

Feb. 12-14: Board of Directors and  
Zone President Orientation,  
Camp Lone Star

July 8--11: LWML Convention,  
Oklahoma City, OK

### 2028:

June 8--10: District Convention, Dallas



## LWML Texas District Mission Grants 2026–2028

Lutheran Women in Mission Texas District mission grants are supported through voluntary contributions. As a thank offering to God, LWML supporters place gifts in a Mite Box and pray for our world-wide mission efforts. These contributions are distributed with 75% supporting the mission grants and budget of the LWML Texas District and 25% supporting LWML mission grants and operating expenses at the national level.

|                                                                  | Disbursed       | Granted            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students                       | \$12,500        | \$ 50,000          |
| ASL Jesus Signs Workshops                                        |                 | \$ 15,000          |
| Sharing Our Savior, One Meal at a Time — Forged by Fire Services |                 | \$ 7,500           |
| Spiritual Care — Upbring                                         |                 | \$ 10,000          |
| Generating Power of Christ — Camp Blessing Texas                 |                 | \$ 8,000           |
| Bridge to Belonging — Camp Lone Star                             |                 | \$ 20,000          |
| Mobility Van — University Lutheran Chapel, College Station       |                 | \$ 20,000          |
| Tailgate Outreach — Lutheran Student Ministry, Lubbock           |                 | \$ 15,000          |
| Learning Center Flooring — Trinity Lutheran, Riesel              |                 | \$ 20,000          |
| Deploying Lutherans Doing Life Together — Waco                   |                 | \$ 20,000          |
| Together We Go, Together We Grow — Expansion Mission Network     |                 | \$ 24,000          |
| #ShineSanBenito Mission — The Table Lutheran Church              |                 | \$ 15,500          |
| Spanish Resources — Lutheran Heritage Foundation                 |                 | \$ 12,500          |
| Interactive Classroom Displays — St. Paul Lutheran, Vernon       |                 | \$ 10,309          |
| Christian Family Discipleship — Concordia Center for the Family  |                 | \$ 4,123           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                     | <b>\$12,500</b> | <b>\$ 251,932*</b> |
| 2026–2028 Mission Grant Goal \$225,000                           |                 |                    |
| *(includes \$26,932 mission abundance from 2024–2026)            |                 |                    |

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:20–21).