

The Lone Star Connection



April 2023

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Summer is almost here!



Who does not enjoy a celebration? The LWML is planning one for June 22–25, when the 40th Biennial Convention will meet in Milwaukee. Under the theme “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations,” attendees will celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament, honor God by serving our neighbors, and proclaim His message to the nations.

Please keep the LWML Board of Directors and Host Committee in your prayers as they finalize the plans, and pray for all who are preparing to attend. May the Lord bless this time together as women from across the nation worship, study, complete service projects, and conduct business in His name. May Lutheran Women in Mission remain a faithful, vibrant instrument in the sharing of the Gospel with the world.

In the month of March, the Lord of the Church so graciously blessed His dear children of the LWML Texas District with the ability to return some of their first fruits to Him and to this amazing mission organization to the tune of over \$21,000. What an incredible God we serve, and what an incredible response by the women (and some men) of this district to His amazing grace poured out in our lives for our benefit and the benefit of others through these mite offerings. What joy is ours to look forward to what our Father will do through us in the months ahead, even as we go through the traditionally leaner summer months. What an opportunity is ours to faithfully continue to support the work of the LWML with the gifts with which our God continues to bless us, even in these glorious months of summer.

You all remain on my heart and in my prayers as we, Lutheran Women in Mission, being bold in hope, continue together to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve others.

Frances Molitor

LWML Texas District President



2024–2026 Mission Grant Proposals Needed!



It's time to encourage mission-minded organizations to consider submitting a mission grant proposal for the 2024–2026 biennium! Please consider mission needs in your community and encourage organizations to submit mission grant proposals.

Any LWML Texas District member, group, or zone may submit a mission grant proposal for consideration by the Mission Grant Committee. The organizations and recipients being considered for an LWML Texas District mission grant must be sponsored by one of the above listed people who acts as the official submitter of the mission grant proposal.

The deadline for finishing the submission process is firm with **November 1, 2023**. The mission grant proposal can be submitted electronically, but hard copies must be received by the November 1, 2023 deadline.

It is highly recommended for organizations to communicate with the Vice President of Gospel Outreach by **October 1, 2023** at gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org to let her know of your intentions.

Information and mission grant proposal documents are available on the district website at lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals. Share this information with others in your area.

Please encourage members to remember the Texas District mission grants in prayer and support them through Mite Box offerings.

Patti Samsel

VP of Gospel Outreach

Meet Our New District Young Woman Representatives

We are pleased to announce the selection of our two District Young Woman Representatives for the 2023–2025 LWML biennium. Please meet Laura Fisher from Bethlehem LWML, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brenham, and Amanda Nelson, a member of Servants of Our Savior, Our Savior Lutheran Church, McKinney. Both will be attending the LWML 2023 Convention in Milwaukee in June. Watch for additional articles on these two young women. Each has expressed how honored and thoroughly excited they are to be provided this opportunity to learn even more about LWML. Once they return from the convention, zones and groups are encouraged to invite one of them to speak at an event.

Congratulations Laura and Amanda!



Laura Fisher



Amanda Nelson

Key Dates

June 22–25	LWML Convention Milwaukee, WI
2023 District Retreat	
September 8–9	Glen Lake Camp, Glen Rose
September 22–23	Ceta Canyon, Happy (near Amarillo)
October 20–21	Spiritual Retreat Center, Victoria
2023 LWR Ingathering	
November 1	Marion
November 4	Houston
November 11	Plano
2024	
June 13–15	Texas District Convention Corpus Christi

2023 LWML TEXAS DISTRICT RETREAT

Registration Now Open!

You may find information and registration forms on the LWML Texas District website lwmltxdist.org.

Dates and Locations are:

September 8–9	Glen Lake Camp, Glen Rose, TX
September 22–23	Ceta Canyon, Happy, TX (near Amarillo)
October 20–21	Spiritual Retreat Center, Victoria, TX

For more information, contact
Vice President of Christian Life
Joy Cowan at
christianlife@lwmltxdist.org.





Meet **Shirley Willie** from Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, San Antonio. She has been a member of LWML for 50 years and has served as president, vice president, and treasurer of the Mary-Martha Guild many times.

Shirley feels blessed to be a member of the LWML. She joined as a new bride, 850 miles from her childhood home and family, and she felt loved from her first exposure to the group. The LWML ladies became her surrogate aunts and sisters. She enjoys working with LWML because it is filled with willing workers who make all the activities run smoothly. The sisters in Christ she works with help her become closer to God and grow in her faith.

In nominating Shirley for this recognition, group president Lisa Gerlich states, "I have been president of the group for several years and she has been vice president for the same amount of time. I can truly say that I do not know what I would do without her advice and energy. She epitomizes what it means to serve."

Shirley Willie is the Heart of the LWML.



Endowments

Giftng Today To Bless Tomorrow

Just imagine giving a contribution that leaves a legacy for generations of LWML women to come. This enduring impact can easily be made through contributions (immediate and planned gifts) to one of our LWML Texas District Endowments. These endowments enable us to provide scholarships for women becoming church workers, support and training for those who serve as our leaders, and an opportunity to add to our mission goal providing a steady, consistent, and perpetual source of income. See lwmltxdist.org/endowment for more information.

Comic Relief — LWML Style — Coming to Milwaukee!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) from the North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and South Wisconsin Districts invite you to experience the LWML Convention, June 22–25, 2023, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for an experience you will never forget. The worship services, mission speakers, Bible studies, servant events, and the mission walk along the river will unite us as God's children as we "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations."

Tucked into each business session are two women with a sense of humor and a love of LWML. Participants may watch these two characters interrupt a mesmerizing discussion on bylaw amendments or pop on stage unexpectedly at any time. Jan Struck and Abby Goehring bring hilarity with a meaning to the proceedings.

Come to Milwaukee, to the 40th Biennial LWML Convention! You don't want to miss it!



"Gertie and Marcie", better known as Jan Struck and Abby Goehring provided plenty of laughs at the 39th Biennial LWML Convention.



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 2024–2028. 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 2024 Convention in Corpus Christi are President, Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Organizational Resources, Financial Secretary, 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 Debbie Curry, 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.

Lutheran World Relief

We did it and we'll do it again. We had a great outpouring of quilts, school, health, fabric, and infant need kits for the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) organization this past November 2022. Even as we filled up 5 semi-trailers, our sisters in Christ from the LCMS, ELCA, LCMC, and other Lutheran denominations were busy getting ready for 2023. Mark your calendars now for the 2023 Ingathering in your area:

Marion (San Antonio area)

St. John Lutheran Church, 600 S. Center Street, Marion, Texas
Wednesday, November 1, 2023; 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Contact: Debra Mattke at dmattke@tlu.edu

Houston

Epiphany Lutheran Church, 14423 West Road, Houston, Texas
Saturday, November 4, 2023; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Contact: Sandy Miller at miller4vs1@sbcglobal.net

Plano (Dallas area)

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1801 W. Plano Pkwy, Plano, Texas
Saturday, November 11, 2023; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Contact: Priscella Reid at reid.priscella@gmail.com



Stay Connected ...

Send LWML news and photos to the District News Editor at districtnews@lwmltxdist.org.

For website and social media, send information and photos to the Vice President of Communication at communication@lwmltxdist.org.

Visit the website often



www.lwmltxdist.org

Follow us on social media



[Facebook.com/LWMLTexas](https://www.facebook.com/LWMLTexas)

LWML Texas District

Help Us Keep You Updated, Informed, and Connected

Are you receiving the district's email news releases? Anyone can sign up to receive these, but we especially need zone and group presidents to sign up to receive current district news. Visit the homepage of our website, www.lwmltxdist.org, to sign up now.

If your email has changed since you originally signed up or you need assistance, email communication@lwmltxdist.org.

How blessed we are as a district! The Lord continues to lead our members and supporters to share graciously as we seek to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve others.

GREAT IS HIS Faithfulness!



Totals as of March 31, 2023

Thanks
be
to
God!

2022–2024 Mite Goal	\$390,000
Mites Received	\$189,201
Total Mites Still Needed	\$200,799
Mission Grants Paid	\$102,782

Keep
those
mites
flowing!

Send your mite offerings along with a remittance form to: LWML Texas District Attn: Kathy Walther Financial Secretary, PO Box 124, Giddings, TX 78942

**2022–2024 Mission Grants
Report as of March 31, 2023**

Mission Grant	Amount	Disbursed	Balance
Scholarships for Seminarians — Texas District LCMS	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Offering Women Hope — Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers, Houston	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$2,500
ACTS of Love Early Childhood Education Center — Leander	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$12,500
Orphan Grain Train — Houston	\$25,000	\$6,250	\$18,750
Let Your Light Shine — Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Homeless to Housed — LINC Austin Outreach, Austin	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
The Garden Young Adult Ministry — North Texas	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$7,500
Gospel Driven Education — Faith Lutheran High School, Warda	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Bible Brigade — Lutheran Disaster Care	\$16,000	\$3,000	\$13,000
The Table of Los Fresnos Mission Outreach — Los Fresnos	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$12,500
Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano (partial funding)	\$14,129	\$3,532	\$10,597
Total (includes \$15,129 abundance from last biennium)	\$215,129	\$102,782	\$112,347