

Monthly Newsletter

RIO GRANDE VALLEY ZONE
WOMEN IN MISSION

February 2026

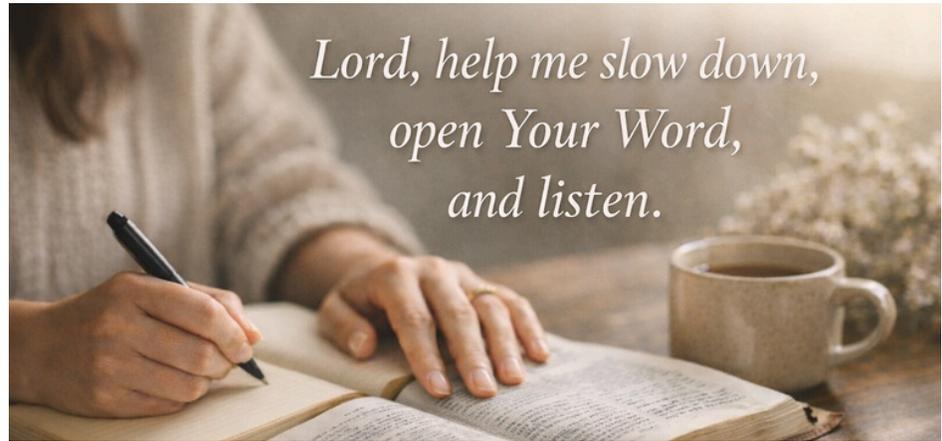
God Still Speaks

Open your Bible.
Listen expectantly.
God is still speaking.

Last month, we encouraged one another to begin the year rooted in God's Word—to open our Bibles with open hearts and expectant faith. That invitation does not expire with a new month, because God's voice is not limited by calendars or seasons. He continues to speak to His people—faithfully and lovingly. As we continue this encouragement together, we want to share a resource that simply points us back to daily Scripture with purpose and intention. Not as something new to add to an already full life, but as a guide to help us listen more closely to the voice God is already speaking. *God Speaks*, by Allison and Zach Zehnder, does just that—inviting us to slow down, open God's Word, and listen with expectant hearts.

***Interested in joining the journey?
God Speaks by Allison and Zach Zehnder
is available wherever books are sold.
Join us for the 30-day challenge as we
grow together in God's Word.***

In *God Speaks*, the authors gently remind us that hearing God's voice begins not with striving, but with returning—to Scripture. God has already spoken, and He continues to speak through His Word, which is living, active, and breathed out by Him (**2 Timothy 3:16–17**). Each time we open our Bibles, we are invited into a sacred conversation with a God who desires to be known.



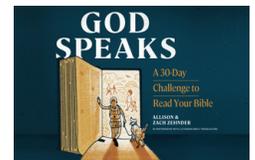
Many of us long for clarity, direction, or reassurance in the midst of our busy lives. We listen for God in our prayers and in quiet moments, yet often overlook the steady, faithful way He speaks through Scripture. As we spend time in His Word, God reveals His heart, strengthens our faith, and gently shapes us to live according to His truth.

The *God Speaks* devotional offers a simple, grace-filled way to develop this daily rhythm. Over the course of 30 days, Scripture, reflection, and small steps of obedience invite us to slow down, listen closely, and respond faithfully. It is not about perfection, but about presence—creating space for God's Word to dwell richly in us.

As women walking together in faith, imagine the encouragement of committing to this journey—opening our Bibles daily, listening for God's voice, and allowing His Word to guide our thoughts, words, and actions. If you are longing to deepen your time in Scripture, this devotional offers a meaningful place to begin—or begin again.

God is still speaking. May we take time to listen.

In this newsletter you can expect:



Brunch and Bible

Retreat cap

District News

Upcoming Events

Financials

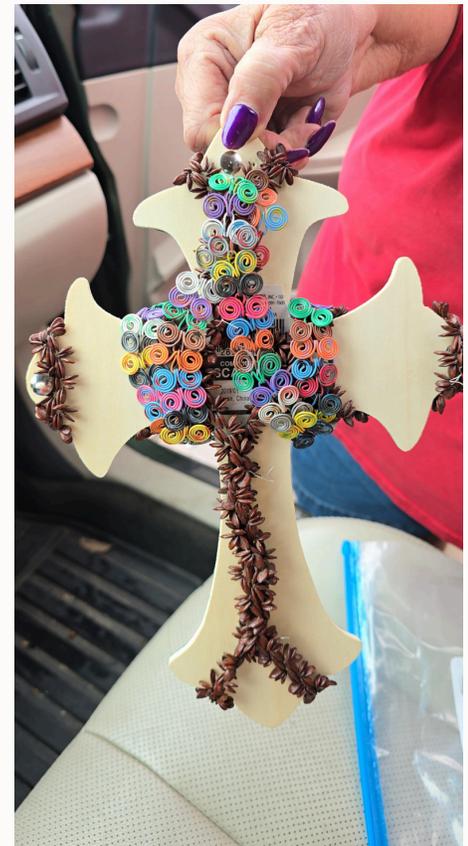
Editor/Graphics
Peggy Elder

Women's Retreat 2026 – Strong and Courageous

“The Lord is my strength and my courage.”



A beautiful weekend of faith, fellowship, and renewal as women gathered to grow stronger together in Christ.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW
MORE PHOTOS OF THE
2026 STRONG AND
COURAGEOUS
RETREAT](#)

Women's Retreat 2026 – Strong and Courageous

“The Lord is my strength and my courage.”



A beautiful weekend of faith, fellowship, and renewal as women gathered to grow stronger together in Christ.



Ladies Brunch & Bible (January)

St. Paul McAllen

Bible Reflection

Jonah & God's Amazing Grace

by Carolyn Shaver

Jonah the prophet experienced the amazing grace of God, when he quit and ran away from his job refusing to do the task God had given him of going to Nineveh and preaching repentance.

The people of Nineveh experienced God's mercy when they repented of the violence and evil they were doing. The sailors on board the ship experienced the power of God's might and His saving grace when they feared for their lives and then were saved from the terrible storm.

When God intervened in all of their lives, He demonstrated His love for each of them. All were given a 2nd chance to follow Him.

We too experience similar storms in our lives. We get into serious trouble, choose the wrong things, or even defy God.

Then God intervenes, calls us back to Him, forgives us through Jesus, stills the storm, and grants us peace.

January Brunch & Bible Gathering



The St. Paul McAllen Group of the RGV Zone hosted their monthly All Ladies Welcome (ages 16 and up) Brunch and Bible on January 17th at 10:00 a.m.

The January gathering featured a cheerful winter theme with a beautiful collection of snowman décor generously donated by Anna Burandt, adding warmth and joy to the setting.

Fellowship, study, and encouragement were shared as women gathered around God's Word as we studied Jonah and were given some very good background as well as geographical info involving his travels, in his effort to escape God's calling on his mission work

In addition to spiritual growth, the group continues to support ministry through ongoing donations that bless both the church and the wider community.



**Brunch and Bible held
3rd Saturday of each
month, October - May.**

We would like to recognize our Winter Texan, Brunch and Bible Coordinator, Ms. Carolyn Shaver. She also works closely, alongside us with our Rally, Retreat, & Rummage Sale plans.



We also recognize Ms. Cynthia Mills, a full-time member who serves as our Church's Daily Bread Coordinator, and also helps plan wonderful annual All Ladies Welcome Christmas Programs.

We ask for prayers for Cynthia Mills as she is fearlessly enduring a second round of bladder cancer treatments. Prayers also, for our Pastor Gregory Lorenz and wife Stephanie as he is recovering from prostate cancer surgery. He is recovering well so far and has family visiting to help in recovery time.

Lord, help us to recall all of the ways You have blessed us. Holy Spirit, continually remind us of the many ways you saved Jona and all the people you put in his path and our own. May we hunger and desire to do Your Will in every way, every day. Amen

District/Zone News.....

SAVE *the* DATE

*Texas District 44th
Biennial Convention*

JUNE 11-13, 2016

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

*Watch for more
information to come*



LWML Texas District Scholarship for the 2026-2027 School Year.

It's time to Apply!!

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. 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@lwmltdist.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."

[Click for Feb. Zone
Executive Board Meeting](#)



The Table, San Benito has been selected for the ballot!

44th Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District, Austin • June 11-13

Ballot Placement #19

Title: **#ShineSanBenitoMission**

Amount: **\$15,000**

Thank you LWML Texas District!

UPCOMING Events

Saturday, February 7

603 S. Tarnava, Port Isabel



Rummage Sale

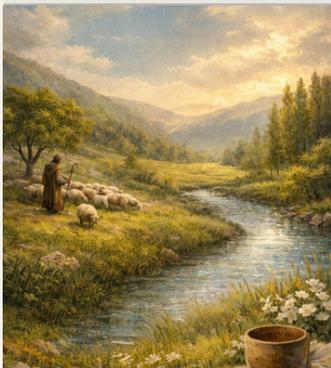
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Join us for an upcoming Rummage Sale at Fishers of Men! You'll find a wide variety of items including plants, housewares, clothing, books, baked goods, and much more. Come browse, shop, and support this great opportunity for fellowship and outreach—there's something for everyone!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 14TH CAMP RIO, IN BROWNSVILLE, TX

Saturday, March 7

300 Pecan Blvd., McAllen



Spring Rally

11:00 am

Our Spring Rally will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, McAllen, with the theme "Living in Green Pastures," based on Psalm 23. Registration will begin at **10:30 a.m.** Join us for a meaningful time of worship, fellowship, and encouragement in God's Word.

To be announced

300 Pecan Blvd. McAllen



Fall Rally

11:00 am

Our Fall Rally will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, McAllen and hosted by El Buen Pastor. Registration will begin at **10:30 a.m.** Elections for President and Secretary will be held during the business portion of the Rally.

SAVE THE DATE

LWML SPRING RETREAT 2026

March 6–7 • Victoria, Texas

When the
March winds
blow...

Women of faith
will gather for
renewal & fellowship.

*Always
Changing.
Always the Same.*

with Sharon Daugherty

Hold on
to your hats!

Coastal Bend • Mid Coast
North Alamo •
• Rio Grande Valley Zones

Inspiring messages with Sharon Daugherty

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.

*“God’s promises are unchanging,
even when our seasons shift.”*

Retreat Pricing

\$100 Full Weekend

\$75 Saturday Only

Important Dates

Details after **Jan. 1, 2026**

Register by **Feb. 14, 2026**

*Come be renewed in His **JOY & PEACE.***

Finance/ Mite Reports

National 2025-2027 Mission Goal Report

Amounts as of September 30, 2025

Mission Grant Goal for 2025–2027 Biennium: \$2,622,270.00

Amount Received in September : \$118,205.37

Total Mite Offerings Still Needed for Mission Grants Budget: \$2,532,611.55

District Mites as of December 2025

District Mission Grants as of December 2025



2024–2026 Mission Goal

\$403,000.00

Mites Received

\$326,863.75

Total Mites Still Needed

\$76,136.25

Projected 25% to LWML Mission

\$80,335.00

Mission Grant Goal

\$225,000.00

2024–2026 Mission Grant Goal

\$225,000

2020–2024 Mission Abundance

\$47,314

Total Mission Grants

\$272,314

Mission Grants Paid

\$244,064

Mission Grants Balance

\$28,250

MISSION GRANTS 2024–2026

1. Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students \$60,000
 2. New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program, Canyon Lake \$20,000
 3. Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler \$15,000
 4. Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies, Houston \$15,000
 5. Proclaiming Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (LBW) \$20,000
 6. Let It Shine Academy, Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries \$10,000
 7. Adventure Woods Day Camp Outreach, Camp Lone Star, Tomball \$20,000
 8. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships \$15,000
 9. Hereford Hispanic Outreach Program, Hereford \$25,000
 10. Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers and Maternal Assistance Program, Houston \$8,000
 11. Disciple and Mobilize Youth for Gospel Outreach, Glocal Mission, Houston \$12,000
 12. Little Lambs Parents' Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment, Sulphur Springs \$10,000
 13. Christian Education Scholarships K–12, Central Texas \$25,000
 14. Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs, El Paso (partial funding) \$17,314
- \$272,314***

Zone Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance January 2026 - \$2537.35

Income - \$1803.50 - Retreat Registration, etc.

Expenses 185.04 - Retreat Expenses

Ending Balance January 2026 - \$4155.81

ZONE BY LAW INFORMATION

Mission Grants for the 2024–2026 Biennium



2024–2026 Mission Grant Goal \$225,000
Total *includes \$47,314 mission abundance from 2020–2024