

Praying Mothers

A Legacy of Faith and Prayer

What is the best gift a mother can give her child? I believe it is to pray for that child and surrender them to the Lord as Hannah did with Samuel. We obviously will not physically surrender our children to the local pastor, but we can lay their lives at Jesus' feet. We can pray for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

I have been blessed to have the wonderful heritage of a prayer warrior for a mother. As my dad served in World War II, my mom and dad prayed "the soldier's prayer", Psalm 91, every day until he came home from the war. To this day I see it as their theme Bible verse. When children came, the prayers increased. I know that over the years and even today I am the object of a lot of my mom's prayer time with her Lord.

I still have the vision in my head of my mother on her knees in front of her "prayer chair" interceding for me or someone else. What power in prayer to the one true God! Today at 91 years of age, my mom can no longer get on her knees.



However, she now sits in her chair and continues to intercede for her family, so many others, and me. She remains head of her church's prayer chain keeping her connected with her church family. What an example!

"For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord"

(1 Samuel 1:27-28a)



Praying God's Word Over Our Families

Over the years as a mom myself, some of the sweetest words I have heard from my daughter have been *"Mom, will you pray with me now?"* Jesus loves to hear those words from us too! He doesn't care where we are when we pray. It can be as we change a diaper, sit at a stop light, while we cook or throw that millionth load of laundry into the washer – just talk to God. He loves to hear us say, *"God, can I talk to you now? Thank You for listening to my problems! Can You help me and show me Your way? Thank You for Your blessings today!"*

So, as you pray for that loved one, entrust them to the Lord, surrendering them to God. We have loving examples of this in the Bible: Hannah giving Samuel to the Lord; Mary offering up Jesus, her beloved firstborn; and ultimately, the way our loving Father sent His Son, and gave Him to die for our sins on a cross to save us. So, trust in this loving God who will never ever fail you. Enjoy the journey God will take you on as you pray in all things.

Praying Mothers Written by Lynn Batchelder, New Ipswich, NH
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2013
lwml.org

"Will You Pray with Me"

Pray with someone this week (not just for them)
Ask a child/grandchild: "Can I pray with you today?"

7 Days of Prayer for Those We Love

- Day 1 – Children
- Day 2 – Grandchildren
- Day 3 – Church
- Day 4 – Community
- Day 5 – Leaders
- Day 6 – Those hurting
- Day 7 – Thanksgiving

Prayer in Everyday Moments

- While folding laundry » pray for your family
- At a stoplight » pray for someone on your heart
- Before bed » thank God for the day

Thank You Lord for sending Jesus to die for my sins and for being able to talk to You at any time. I am so happy I am Your child. Help me to bring my cares and needs to You as I pray for myself and others. Give me the peace that only comes from You as I trust in Your answers. In Jesus' name, Amen





As part of the devotion we sing

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield
thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.
Text: Public domain

“What does this
hymn mean to you?”



UPCOMING Events

June 11-13

Doubletree by Hilton, Austin Texas



Texas District 44th Biennial Convention

Saturday, November 7

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.

January 29-30, 2027

602 Morgan Blvd., Harlingen

Women's Retreat

Our annual Women's Retreat is in the planning stages. If you would like to participate in the planning of this event please join us for our next Zone Executive Meeting to be held on May 2nd at 10:00 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 602 Morgan Blvd. Everyone is welcome!!!

LWML RGV ZONE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2026

Present: Dawn Tighe, Joy Madero, Imelda Loreda, Mary Bilderback, Peggy Elder, Diane Schubert, Doris Pickering, Leslie Harris, Mirta Rodriguez, Krista Pena

Opening Mirta opened the meeting with prayer. Texas District Mission Goals: Dawn announced that the Texas District met their mission goals for this biennium.

Texas District Convention: All groups must submit the names of their delegate for convention by May 1st. All delegates must participate in a Zoom Meeting on May 18th at 7:00pm and a link will be provided soon regarding the proposed by-laws. that will deal with the proposed by-laws. All delegates must attend the Orientation on June 11th at 2:30pm in the Phoenix Ballroom. Gift from the Heart information is available on the Texas District LWML website along with the Mission Grant Video proposals. Mission Grant voting will be done prior to the convention. YWRs will meet on June 11th. For more information, check the District website under the Convention. As Krista will be needing her own room at the Convention, a motion was made and seconded to cover the full cost of Krista's room.

Fall Rally: El Buen Pastor November 7 Mary stated she has confirmed that the Rally will be held at St Paul McAllen and has contacted the caterer. Menu, theme and decorations are being discussed at their group's next meeting. She will have all details to present at our September Board Meeting. Dawn stated that Legacy Deo would be willing to give a presentation at the Rally at no cost to the Zone. Dawn also suggested that each group should design a flag that would explain the what and why of their LWML group and display it at the Rally. Elections will be held for Zone President and Secretary.

January 29-30, 2027 Women's Retreat: Krista stated she has a contract ready to sign to have Christina Hergenrader be our guest speaker. Peggy made a motion and was seconded by Leslie that the expenses will be split between the Zone and St Paul Harlingen as Christina will be arriving on Friday and leaving on Sunday. The theme for the Retreat will be discussed at our May Board meeting. Fishers of Men will be in charge of the folders, St Paul McAllen will be in charge of decorations, St Paul Harlingen will be in charge of food, each church will be in charge of an activity with El Buen as coordinator of activities.

Closing: Leslie closed with prayer.

*Respectively submitted
Diane Schubert*

**Next Meeting May 2, 2026 at St Paul Harlingen
10:00 potluck with meeting to follow.**

GUEST SPEAKER **2027 WOMEN'S RETREAT**

CHRISTINA HERGENRADER

*Author, Speaker and Certified
Executive Coach*

Christina helps people find clarity, courage, and grace in their everyday lives. Her work blends storytelling, emotional insight, and a deep understanding of how faith shapes our real-world struggles. For more than 25 years, she has encouraged readers and audiences who are navigating pressure, change, and the quiet weight of daily life. Through her books and talks, Christina offers hope, humor, and a reminder that meaning is often closer than we think.

Christina holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Houston–Clear Lake and is certified in executive coaching through the International Coaching Federation. She is passionate about helping others connect their modern lives to lasting truth and purpose.

She lives in Friendswood, Texas, with her husband of 28 years, Mike, their four almost-grown kids—Catie, Sam, Elisabeth, and Nate—and a small pack of retired racing greyhounds. Her favorite place is their Galveston beach house, where she walks the shoreline and thinks about grace, grit, and what's for dinner.



Finance/ Mite Reports

National 2025-2027 Mission Goal Report

Amounts as of December 31, 2025

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

Amount Received in December : \$103,471.92

Total Mite Offerings Still Needed for Mission Grants Budget: \$2,247,656.44

District Mites as of March 2026

2024–2026 Mission Goal
\$403,000.00

Mites Received
\$424,211.24

Total Mites Still Needed
\$21,211.24

Projected 25% to LWML Mission
\$98,340.83

Mission Grant Goal
\$225,000.00

District Mission Grants as of March 2026

2024–2026 Mission Grant Goal
\$225,000

2020–2024 Mission Abundance
\$47,314

Total Mission Grants
\$272,314

Mission Grants Paid
\$272,313

Mission Grants Balance
\$0



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 April 2026 - \$3565.97

Income - 0

Expenses - 0

Ending Balance April 2026 - \$3,565.97

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

MAY

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.

Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For flowers. Bring some to a friend or neighbor.
2. For school teachers, school workers, and students.
3. For Ethiopia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For the LWML Ohio District.
5. For nurses and healthcare workers.
6. For the opportunity to be able to invite someone to lunch so you can get to know them better.
7. For the country of Guinea.
8. For godly mothers.
9. For the opportunity to help a young mom.
10. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Organizational Resources.
11. For LWML Mission Grant #11.
12. For God to strengthen ordained pastors everywhere.
13. For the country of Haiti.
14. For the many things you can be thankful for today.
15. For our national LCMS Council of District Presidents.
16. For the country of Hong Kong.
17. For the LWML English District.
18. For Mite Goals in all the districts.
19. For friends and strangers you meet today.
20. For the country of India.
21. For flower and vegetable gardens.
22. For firefighters.
23. For LWML Mission Grant #12.
24. For the country of Indonesia.
25. For the LWML SELC District.
26. For your neighbors and for ways to serve them.
27. For an opportunity to buy someone a cup of tea or coffee.
28. For the country of Israel.
29. For the armed forces who gave their lives and for their families left behind.
30. For the LWML Eastern District.
31. For the country of Latvia.