

Monthly Newsletter

RIO GRANDE VALLEY ZONE
WOMEN IN MISSION

October 2026

Called to Serve, Called to Encourage

"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people..."

Hebrews 6:10

Behind Every Sunday

There are prayers being prayed, sermons being prepared, lessons being studied, people being visited, phone calls being answered, meetings being attended, families being comforted, and countless details being handled.

Much of church work happens quietly and unseen.

This October, may we remember not only the ministry we see, but also the faithful service we may never know about.



October is often set aside as a time to recognize and appreciate pastors and other church workers. It is a good reminder to thank God for those He has placed among us to preach His Word, teach the faith, care for His people, encourage the hurting, guide the young, and serve in countless ways that we may never see.

But perhaps October can remind us of something else, too.

God has called each of us to a life of service.

Most acts of Christian service are not grand or noticeable. They happen quietly.

They happen when someone prepares a meal for a family going through a difficult season. When a woman notices that another woman is sitting alone and chooses to sit beside her. When someone teaches a child about Jesus, visits a friend, sends an encouraging card, prays faithfully for another person, helps with a church activity, washes dishes after everyone else has gone home, or simply stops long enough to listen.

The world may never notice these things.

But God does.

Hebrews reminds us that God does not overlook the love we show for His name when we serve His people. What a beautiful promise! The things we do in faith—even those that seem small—are seen by our heavenly Father.

And our service does not begin with us.

Jesus first served us.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

At the cross, Jesus gave us the greatest picture of service the world has ever known. He did not simply tell us to love. He loved us completely. He did not simply tell us to sacrifice. He gave Himself for us. Because we have first been loved and served by Christ, we are free to love and serve others.

That includes the people who spend so much of their lives serving us.

Our pastors and church workers need encouragement too. They carry responsibilities, worries, long days, unexpected phone calls, difficult conversations, and burdens that we may never know about. One of the most meaningful ways we can appreciate them is not simply through a gift or a card—although those are wonderful—but by remembering them in prayer and encouraging them in their work.

continued.....

Paul Writes

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

What if we made that our challenge this October?

Look for the person who needs encouragement.

Church workers are servants of God, but they are also people who experience busy days, disappointments, weariness, and struggles. Be generous with patience, kindness, and encouragement—and remind them that their work in the Lord matters.

Thank someone whose service often goes unnoticed.

Much of church work happens when no one is watching. Recognize the preparation, phone calls, visits, planning, teaching, cleaning, organizing, and countless other acts of service that often go unseen.

Pray for your pastors and church workers by name.

Ask God to strengthen them, give them wisdom, protect their families, and keep them joyful and faithful in their calling.

Offer your hands when there is work to be done.

One of the best ways to appreciate those who serve is to serve alongside them. Volunteer, take on a small task, bring a meal, help with an event, or simply ask, “Is there something I can do to help?”

Speak words that build up rather than tear down.

A simple, sincere “Thank you” can mean more than we realize. Tell them specifically how their ministry, teaching, kindness, or service has blessed you.

And when your own service feels small or unnoticed, remember: God sees. God knows. God remembers.

We do not serve so that others will notice us. We serve because Christ has loved us. And sometimes the smallest act of kindness, encouragement, or service becomes the very way God reminds another person that they are not walking alone.

This Month’s Challenge

Choose one church worker to pray for each week in October. Send a note, make a phone call, offer a word of encouragement, or simply tell them, “I thank God for the way you serve.”

And then look beyond our church workers. Ask God each morning:

“Lord, who can I encourage and serve today?”

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

1 Peter 4:10



A Prayer for Those Who Serve

Gracious Lord,

Thank You for Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and who gave His life for us. Thank You for the pastors, church workers, teachers, volunteers, and faithful servants You have placed among us. Strengthen them when they are weary, encourage them when their work feels unnoticed, and keep them faithful to Your Word.

Give us eyes to see where help is needed, hearts willing to encourage, hands ready to serve, and words that build one another up. Remind us that no act of love done in Your name is ever forgotten by You. May our lives point not to ourselves, but always to Christ, our Savior and Servant King.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Table Stories:

Moving the Mission Forward

Friday, October 2, 2026 | 6:30 PM

The Table Church —

1000 N. Crockett St., San Benito, TX

BBQ Dinner • Stories from The Table

• Featuring Noemi Guerra, Evangelist
Development Leader, Texas District LCMS

**Hello friends and supporters of
The Table Church, San Benito,**

Dinner is on us.

For years, The Table has been a place where people have found a seat at Jesus' Table again, after spending time away from His community. They have found The Table's story to be their story. And that's been especially true over the past year in our new digs and a new neighborhood.

Friday night, October 2, we're inviting **you** to celebrate with us. Join us for an evening of barbecue (no cost to you — dinner is our gift), honest storytelling from our own people, and a word from one of our Table friends, Noemi Guerra, on what it looks like to keep moving the mission forward. You'll hear where we've been, see where we are, and get a clear picture of what's next.

Mission involves community. Which means we'll also share how you can be part of that next chapter.



One more thing: as you think about who to sit with that night, consider bringing someone along — a friend, a neighbor, someone you think might want a seat at this table too. Some of our best stories started with someone else's invitation.

Seats are limited — we'd love to save yours. Whether you've walked with The Table for years or you're just getting to know us, this is a night to see the mission up close — and to prayerfully consider your part in it.

**RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 28
BY CONTACTING THE
TABLE BY
FACEBOOK MESSENGER
OR PHONE (956-254-0294)**

UPCOMING Events

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.

Save *the* date | 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 **October 10th** at 11:00 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 602 Morgan Blvd. Everyone is welcome!!!

January 29-30, 2027

602 Morgan Blvd., Harlingen





LWML-RGV Zone FALL RALLY

Hosted by:
Sociedad Femenil
El Buen Pastor Lutheran

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

Time: Registration - 10:30 a.m.
Program - 11:00 a.m.

Place: St. Paul Lutheran Church
Parish Hall
300 Pecan Blvd.
McAllen, TX 78501

Gathering of Items for:
Comfort House

See list of household and
food items needed



Celebrating Lives From the Past Thirty Seven Years

In 1989, Comfort House Services, Inc., began its ministry to the dying under the auspices of the Diocese of Brownsville. Volunteers signed on to provide care in a three-bed home close to downtown McAllen. In 1992, the Diocese transferred oversight to a new community organization, Comfort House Services, Inc. (CHSI). Building programs in 1994 and 1997 increased our capacity to ten beds. However, we retained our homelike atmosphere and volunteers are still the heart of CHSI. We are licensed as a 501C3 non-profit Special Care Facility for the terminally ill who have a prognosis of four months or less to live.

Comfort House is a community-wide ministry of compassion to our residents whose mission is to provide a peaceful, homelike environment where a person may die in peace and with dignity while surrounded by loved ones. Our staff of committed, loving caregivers and volunteers assist residents and give hospitality to families. Our Caregivers provide twenty four hour palliative care for all of our residents. We do our best to make sure that no resident is left alone during this transitional phase of their life.

CHSI does not bill for services. The families of the residents are asked to make donations as they are able. Additional support comes from the community, memorial gifts, fundraising activities and foundation grants.

2023 is our thirty fourth year anniversary and we have proudly housed close to three thousand individuals. We remember each of these individuals daily and ask you do the same through prayer and well wishes towards our organization.



Sister Marian Strohmeier
9/10/1927- 4/17/2012

Sister Strohmeier is the founder of the Comfort House. Her diligent efforts and hard work allowed her to care for many and provide a home for individuals with the AIDS diagnosis when our doors first opened. The Comfort House now houses individuals with all types of terminal illnesses. Her legacy will live on and the path she paved continues to resonate in many hearts.



Contact Us

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Fax: 956.630.6423

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Laundry Detergent
- White Vinegar (large jug)
- Trash bags (small and 13 gallon)
- A/C filters (20x20x1, 16x20x1, 24x24x1)
- Multi Use Copy Paper
- Plastic or Styrofoam cups
- Gallon storage & freezer bags
- Liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer
- Paper ware (bowls, spoons)
- Fabric Softener
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Pillow cases
- Twin size bed sheets
- Kitchen and bath towels
- Dish washing soap
- Disinfectant Spray

FOOD ITEMS

- Beef & ground beef
- Chicken
- Fish
- Cold cuts
- Bread
- Canned & fresh fruit
- Cream of Chicken/Mushroom
- Beans (dry)
- Canned & fresh vegetables
- Bottled water
- Juices
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Coffee creamer
- Cake/brownie mixes
- Pudding
- Saltine crackers
- Olive oil

Gift cards from Wal-Mart, HEB, Home Depot, Office Depot, Lowe's, Costco, and/or Sam's Club, are welcome.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR HEARTBEAT!



We welcome volunteers three hundred and sixty five days a year! Volunteers are the heart beat of the Comfort House. Volunteers come throughout the week to assist with cooking, cleaning, yard maintenance, office work, to answer telephones, and simply to visit with our house guests. Volunteer packets are available and are required to be filled out prior to donating your time. We value our volunteers and they are integral part of the day to day running of the Comfort House.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Finance/ Mite Reports

MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2026–2028 BIENNIUM

Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students	ASL Jesus Signs Workshops — Texas	Sharing Our Savior, One Meal at a Time — Forged by Fire Services, Mandeville, Louisiana	Spiritual Care — Upbring, Canyon Lake, Texas	Generating Power of Christ — Camp Blessing Texas, Brenham, Texas	Bridge to Belonging — Camp Lone Star, La Grange, Texas						
\$50,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$20,000.00						
Mobile Ministry Van — University Lutheran Chapel, Bryan-College Station, Texas	Tailgate Outreach — Lutheran Student Center, Lubbock, Texas	Learning Center Flooring — Trinity Lutheran, Riesel, Texas	Deploying Lutherans Doing Life Together — Baylor University, Waco, Texas	Together We Go, Together We Grow — Expansion Mission Network, Rockwall, Texas	#ShineSanBenito Mission — The Table Lutheran Church, San Benito, Texas						
\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$15,500.00						
<table><tr><td>Spanish Resources — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, Michigan</td><td>Interactive Classroom Displays — St. Paul Lutheran, Vernon, Texas</td><td>Christian Family Discipleship — Concordia Center for the Family, Ann Arbor, Michigan</td></tr><tr><td>\$12,500.00</td><td>\$10,309.00</td><td>\$4,123.00</td></tr></table>						Spanish Resources — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, Michigan	Interactive Classroom Displays — St. Paul Lutheran, Vernon, Texas	Christian Family Discipleship — Concordia Center for the Family, Ann Arbor, Michigan	\$12,500.00	\$10,309.00	\$4,123.00
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\$12,500.00	\$10,309.00	\$4,123.00									

2026–2028 Mite Report through August 2026

2026–2028 Mission Goal	\$419,406.00
Mites Received	\$54,851.57
Mites Received Over Mission Goal	\$0
25% Paid to LWML Mission	\$9,443.79
Mission Grant Goal	\$225,000.00

Zone Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance September - \$2058.37

Income - 0

Expenses - 0

Ending Balance September 2026 - \$2058.37

National 2025-2027 Mission Goal Report

Amounts as of March 31, 2026

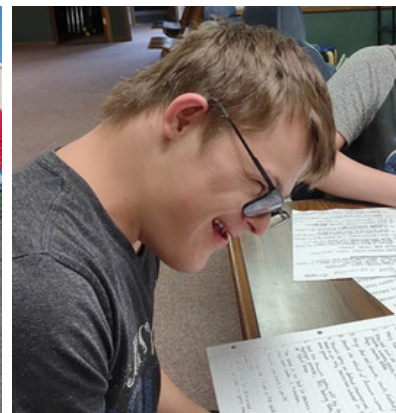
Mission Grant Goal for 2025–2027

Biennium: \$2,622,270.00

Amount Received in March : \$107,696.68

Total Mite Offerings Still Needed for
Mission Grants Budget: \$1,922,552.06





Handicapped Accessible Van for Teens with Special Needs

Our Place After School Care is a caring, Christian program for teenagers with special needs. This program was started in a church basement as there was a need for after-school care for teens between the ages of thirteen and twenty who have aged out of the area daycares. Programming designed to promote academic, social, and life skills is provided.

Our Place is open for these teenagers until their parents can get them after work. It provides a loving and safe environment, education and fellowship, but for the teenagers that are confined to wheelchairs, it is currently extremely difficult to get them from their school to Our Place.

This mission grant will provide funds for a vehicle equipped with a wheelchair lift to solve this transportation problem. This vehicle will be a huge aid in after-school transportation and would also enable possible educational and recreational opportunities within the community.

The vehicle will enhance the quality of life for the teenagers and will be a huge asset to the staff. Our prayer is that God will bless the students and staff by the addition of this vehicle with the wheelchair lift.

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:13-14).

TEACHING CHRIST TO THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS | \$12,000



Meeting Special Needs of High School Students

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans (LHS) is proud to reach students who are often left behind — spiritually, academically, socially, and culturally.

LHS provides a Christian education that is focused on teaching students how to live their lives as disciples of Christ. Students have the opportunity to pray during the day, memorize Bible verses, and learn about opportunities for potential careers in church work. It is the only Lutheran high school in the entire Southern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In 2021, Hurricane Ida caused extensive damage to the school's building. A prolonged and expensive reconstruction took three years and the faculty and students were finally able to re-enter their building in 2024. While the renovation was done with handicapped students in mind, there are renovations that need to be completed to make the building accessible for all students. This mission grant will allow the school to purchase five handicapped student desks and two lunchroom tables, install two automatic door openers, and contribute toward a pathway from the school to First English Lutheran Church.

There is one handicapped student who currently attends Lutheran High School. There are more in the community that need a Lutheran education. Having these handicapped accessibility factors in place allows families with handicapped students to feel confident that their students will have what they need if they attend LHS.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).



October

Mite Prayer Calendar



PRAYING FOR MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feel free to 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 Autumn and cooler weather.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #23.
3. For Poland, one of the 83 countries supported by Mission Grant.
4. For the North Dakota District.
5. For immigrants and the people who help them settle in the USA.
6. For coaches who give their time to young athletes.
7. For the country of Russia.
8. For musicians who bring us wonderful Christian music.
9. For Youth Group leaders.
10. For our LWML Meeting Manager.
11. For Mission Grant #24.
12. For the South Dakota District.
13. For the Florida-Georgia District.
14. For the country of Rwanda.
15. For our senses that allow us to enjoy our beautiful world.
16. For people who struggle to put food on the table.
17. For the country of Siberia.
18. For the Minnesota North District.
19. For our local, state, and national elected leaders.
20. For Sunday school teachers.
21. For the country of Sierra Leone.
22. For the stars God created that are too numerous to count.
23. For beautiful sunsets that bring us to the close of each day.
24. For the country of South Korea.
25. For Mission Grant #25
26. For God's promise through a rainbow after a storm.
27. For our waste and recycling collectors.
28. For food pantries and people who donate and volunteer their time.
29. For the country of Sri Lanka.
30. For the sun that brightens our days.
31. For the Lutheran Reformation.

WHY WE *Pray & Give*



Each day as you pray,
place a mite in your
Mite Box to support
district and LWML
Mission Grants.



Together our
prayers and offerings
help share Christ's
love around
the world.



Thank you for your
faithfulness in
prayer and mission!



RGV Zone Minutes

Attendees

Dawn Tighe, Joy Madero, Imelda Loreda, Mary Bilderback, Peggy Elder, Diane Schubert, Doris Pickering, Leslie Harris, Mirta Martinez, Mary Barrientos, Joyce

Prayer

Leslie opened the meeting with prayer.

Agenda

Fall Rally El Buen Pastor November 7 2026 - Registration starts at 10:30 and Rally starting at 11:00. Mary stated she is still looking for a Pastor to Open and Close the Rally. Dawn stated she would like the Business part of the Rally right after the opening. Elections to be held for Zone President and Secretary. Diane will give the invitation for the Spring Rally. A representative from Comfort House will be the guest speaker. Mary will be contacting them for items for an ingathering. Meal will be chicken cordon bleu with sides and drinks. Mary will have the program to present at the October meeting.

January 29-30, 2027 Women's Retreat - Christina Hergenrader will be guest speaker with the theme of Peace, Love & Sisterhood based on Luke 1:45 (Mary & Elizabeth)

Committee Reports

St Paul Harlingen—Food Peggy contacted Richard and Andrew for prices to cater. It was determined that Andrew's quote for Friday meal, Saturday breakfast and lunch was more reasonable and well within our budget at \$3600. **Activity**—Diane presented an inservice work project of packing School Kits for Orphan Grain Train with a budget request of \$50. Our church, group and funds from Thrivent Financial would help with donations.

St Paul McAllen—Decorations Joy presented some ideas but wasn't sure on what she would be allowed to spend. After much discussion, Leslie made a motion that decoration budget maximum should be no more than \$150. Mirta seconded. Motion carried. Budget will be presented at the next board meeting.

El Buen—**Activity** Mary stated they would have a jigsaw puzzle, sticker books and diamond painting book mark. Budget will be presented at the next board meeting.

Fishers of Men— Folders Leslie stated cost of folders and pens would be provided and no money requested. Peggy will have the program printed to be placed in the folder. **Activity**—Sun Catcher cross to be painted.

All committees should have their final reports for the Retreat ready to present at the October Board meeting.

Announcements

Dawn thanked Peggy for the work she has done on our Zone Newsletter. Peggy is looking for any submission of articles, pictures, etc that she could include.

Spring Rally will be held at St Paul Harlingen on March 13, 2027. St Paul is working on program, food and activity for the event.

Dawn gave a recap of the Texas District Convention. She encouraged all of us to consider going to either the District and/or National Convention. The National Convention will be in Oklahoma City July 8-11, 2027.

Imelda donated a beautiful wall hanging cross for a Silent Auction item for the Fall Rally with proceeds going to mites.

Peggy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectively submitted
Diane Schubert



**Lutheran
Women**
in Mission



Transformed
in CHRIST

Romans 12:2

42ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 8–11, 2027

Convention Theme:

Transformed in Christ

2027 Convention Objectives:

Each convention attendee will be:

- ▶ Inspired to proclaim Christ and study God's Word.
- ▶ Transformed and equipped by Christ to serve Him.
- ▶ Encouraged to support missions throughout the world.

Scripture Verse:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

Convention Goal Statement:

God's renewing Spirit transforms us to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve Him and Him alone.

For more information, visit lwml.org/convention



Name	
Address	
Phone	

Affinitee
SHIRT COMPANY
affiniteeshirtco.com // 580.861.2253



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Please return order form to:

Sharon Greene

2402 NE Meadowlark Lane
Lawton, OK 73507

2027lwml.cov.logo.shirts@gmail.com // (580) 695-0655



NEW
ITEM

NAVY Tunic Blouse Sizes:	ADULT				PLUS SIZES			Total
	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	
Price:	\$45				\$48	\$48	\$48	
QUANTITY HERE ->								

Women's Polo Sizes:	ADULT				PLUS SIZES			Total
	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	
Price:	\$32				\$35	\$35	\$35	
QUANTITY HERE ->								

Men's Polo Sizes:	ADULT				PLUS SIZES			Total
	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	
Price:	\$32				\$35	\$35	\$35	
QUANTITY HERE ->								

GREEN Tunic Sizes:	ADULT				PLUS SIZES			Total
	S	M	L	XL	2X	3X	4X	
Price:	\$36				\$38	\$38	\$38	
QUANTITY HERE ->								

Checks Payable to: **LWML Oklahoma District Host Committee**

**Add
Shipping**

1-4 items **\$9.00**
5-9 items **\$20.00**
10-19 items **\$45.00**
20+ items **\$70.00**



Last Date to Order: June 1, 2027

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID

**Order Online
Scan QR Code**