



# The **White Oak** Branch

May 2023



I am excited to be one of three from our zone attending the LWML convention this summer! Sarah Baughman will be serving as our zone representative and voting on our behalf! I'm so excited for her to experience sitting on the voting floor. If you also plan to attend, please let me know so we can all gather for a zone picture!

God's peace, Mandy Halbert

## Have You Added These Dates to Your Calendar?

### 2023

June 22-25 LWML National Convention – Milwaukee, WI

July 11 White Oak Zone Retreat Registration Due

July 15 White Oak Zone Retreat – 9am-3pm – Our Savior

### Various Dates District Rest & Renewal Retreats

Oct. 01 Fall Rally & LWML Prayer Service – 1:30pm – St. Andrew

Nov. 01 Nominations due for Texas District LWML Executive Committee for

President, VP of Organizational Resources, VP of Christian Life, Financial Secretary, and Nominating Committee

Nov. 01 Mission Grant Proposals for 2024-26 Texas District Biennium due



LWML  
White Oak Zone  
Texas District

## ZONE SPRING RALLY

### God's Gift of Life

Our Savior hosted the LWML White Oak Zone Spring Rally on Sunday, March 26. Pastor Kelly Krieg opened with a devotion followed by the league pledge and hymn.

Christine Melchor from The Houston Coalition for Life shared the history of the ministry and some of God's successes through them. It was amazing to see some of the beautiful babies and families who have visited.

After questions, the ladies of White Oak Zone gifted Pastor Krieg with a thank you for his service as he has accepted a call to a congregation outside of our zone and will no longer be serving as our Pastoral Counselor.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.  
Jeremiah 1:5



92.5%

Success Rate



## WHITE OAK ZONE RETREAT

### Looking for God When He's Right in Front of You

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church

5000 W. Tidwell Rd.

9 am – 3 pm



Our Bible Study will be led by Susan Maluschka, author of several Bible Studies. A lifelong Lutheran, Susan lives in Victoria, Texas with her husband of 35 years. When she's not spoiling her children or grandchildren, she enjoys traveling, writing Bible studies, and working on her blog (scan this QR code to see her webpage!).

# YOUR NEW EC MEMBER

## MEET PASTOR CHOLAK – OUR ZONE PASTORAL COUNSELOR



Pastor Cholak grew up in Akron, Ohio. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science and Fitness Management from Concordia University River Forest. As a member of the pre-seminary program he studied Greek and Hebrew before attending Concordia Theological Seminary. He met his beautiful wife on vicarage in Houston, Texas. Pastor Cholak has served the church in Nebraska, Indiana, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas. He currently serves as Assistant Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. Pastor Cholak knows American Sign Language and frequently helps proclaim the Gospel to Deaf youth at Higher Things. He enjoys reading, hiking, drinking coffee, eating bacon, and taking walks with his wife and standard poodle.



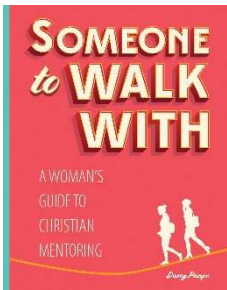
## INTERESTED IN SERVING THE WHITE OAK ZONE?

Do you have mad skills at social media platforms or enjoy putting together a catchy poster? Are you interested in bringing new ladies together to share about LWML or helping to spark a flame with those that might need it? Are you organized and detail oriented and would love to share that passion with the Zone?

We are looking for a **Communications Chairman** and an **Organizational Resource Chairman**. Please contact Mandy if you are interested in more information!

Articles for upcoming editions of the White Oak Branch can be sent to Mandy, the President of White Oak Zone. If you have received this newsletter and wish to be removed from the distribution list, please let Mandy know. Mandy may be contacted via email at [mandylwml@gmail.com](mailto:mandylwml@gmail.com).

# READING CORNER



## Someone to Walk With: A Woman's Guide to Christian Mentoring

by Darcy Paape

We all want someone to walk with through the highs and lows, an authentic friend who will help us stay anchored to things that matter and avoid things that do not. A woman who will support, love, and encourage us, as we do the same for her.

And that mentoring relationship can start today. With you.

Mentoring is an opportunity for women to love one another, to figure out life side by side. It might look different from what it used to: not formal meetings but getting together for coffee when you need to talk. Not one-sided advice but an intergenerational friendship where both parties connect, encourage, listen, and learn.

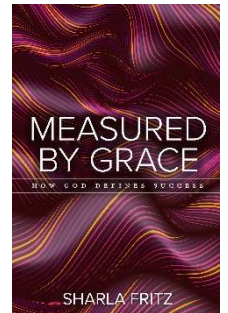
The conversational exploration offered here looks at the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well, and other examples from the Bible and real life, to see what that connection looks like. It meets you where you are and helps you move forward to genuine mentoring.

## Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success

by Sharla Fritz

In the Bible, you'll find no lack of sinfulness, shortcomings, rejections, and broken people. People like Joseph, Rahab, David, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, The Samaritan Woman, Peter, and Paul. Yet, we don't think of these people as failures. Rather, we see them as people God transformed, turning their lack into faithfulness for His good.

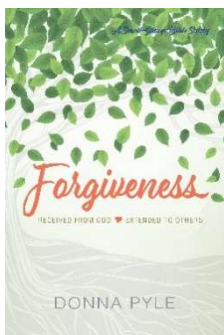
Study these eight biblical figures to see that God does the same for you. He takes what you or society perceives as failure and transforms you for His plan. God does not judge based on earthly standards. No blunder is too big for him. No mess-up is beyond repair. His goodness goes beyond and turns your missteps into miracles.



## Forgiveness: Received from God, Extended to Others

by Donna (Pyle) Snow

Forgiveness is always personal. It's incredibly difficult to do. But it's never optional.



When someone has offended us, the temptation to not forgive is great. But the roots of unforgiveness and bitterness can grow deep in the human soul. Left alone, unforgiveness produces bitter fruit that shows itself in angry thoughts, words, and deeds. Eventually, it will destroy us from the inside out.

Through this study, you will learn of the rich, life-altering teachings God's Word offers about forgiveness. Your heart will soften as you learn of Jesus' forgiveness for you. And, most important, you'll be encouraged to extend that same forgiveness to others.



# NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

## 2023 LWML TEXAS DISTRICT RETREAT

### Registration Now Open!

You may find information and registration forms on the LWML Texas District website [lwmltxdist.org](http://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](mailto:christianlife@lwmltxdist.org).

## REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT POSITIONS

November 1, 2023 is the deadline for suggestions of nominees for election at the 2024 LWML Texas District Convention for these positions:

**President**

**Vice President of Christian Life**

**Vice President of Organizational Resources**

**Financial Secretary**

**Nominating Committee**

Your help is needed to submit names of ladies 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. You do not need to secure their consent nor determine their qualifications. Nominations may only be made through your group or zone. Forms are available from your zone president, group president or online at [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org).

**Debbie Curry, Nominating Committee Chairman**

[nominatingch@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:nominatingch@lwmltxdist.org)

## DISTRICT MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Every LWML Texas District member, group, or zone is eligible to submit proposals for consideration. There are some great missions going on everywhere that could use some assistance and prayers from the LWML Texas District. Please look around you and prayerfully ask God's assistance in recognizing and approaching these missions. Information will be published on the LWML Texas District website, [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org), under Mission Grants, Proposed Mission Grants. This will provide information on how to write proposals for mission grants. It is highly recommended that you contact the Vice President of Gospel Outreach by October 1, 2023. Mission grant submissions for the 2024-2026 biennium must be received before November 1, 2023.