This past year again demonstrated God’s blessings on the mission and ministry of the Texas District.

God led mission networks and congregations to start 10 new Word and Sacrament ministries. These new ministries are proclaiming the Gospel to areas or people groups where we have not been in the past. The Sacraments are bringing the assurance of God’s transforming love to hundreds of people. This is exciting, and to add to this excitement, the Texas District is close to starting 10 new Word and Sacrament ministries each year through our partnership with congregations and mission networks across our state.

To undergird this growing mission expansion, more people joined our prayer support for these mission planters and ministries. Prayer is very important in any mission endeavor. Bringing the Gospel to people caught in the lies of the enemy is entering into spiritual warfare. Our prayer warriors are vital, and we thank God that more have committed to this prayer ministry. You can be one too. Go to txlcms.org/mission-prayer/ and sign up today for a weekly email listing mission workers and ministries.

Texas Partners in Mission continues to financially bless new mission starts of the district. People and organizations generously give dollars that are used 100 percent for mission planting in Texas. The amount of these gifts range from a few dollars to many dollars. I continue to be amazed by the generosity of God’s people to their congregations and to Texas Partners in Mission. I invite you to join me in this mission support.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation happens in 2017. God used Martin Luther to reclaim the Gospel message from many messages leading people away from the truth. Congregations and larger groups will celebrate this anniversary across our state in many different ways. Just as in Martin Luther’s day, today many voices are calling out for people to follow them. The Gospel message of God’s love through Jesus is the only message that sets people free and brings true peace and hope. The Texas District is committed to supporting the proclamation of Jesus in the congregations of our district and through the mission efforts God guides and blesses among us. Thank you for being a part of this Gospel movement!

Your partner in missions,

Rev. Ken Hennings—President
“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”

Church planting efforts are growing throughout Texas. The models may look different—one size does not fit all—but they all are reaching new people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The ACTS Church Network is one of the networks that popped up in Texas. Started in 2011, the ACTS Church Network helps churches launch new churches in the greater Austin area. With a population of more than 2 million people and only 17 percent in church on a Sunday, the ACTS Church Network has an area of endless opportunity.

With a strategy of TARGET—focus on new area and new opportunities; IDENTIFY—identify and incubate leaders; ALIGN—align resources and winning strategies; and COLLABORATE—provide contexts for collaboration across organizational boundaries, ACTS Church Network is changing communities. Beginning with a group of families from ACTS Church Lakeway, ACTS Church Leander, Northwest, Antioch (multi-site church) have been planted. ACTS Church Kyle is scheduled to launch in 2017. Their goal? To launch 25 churches in the greater Austin area by 2025.

The Texas District supports ACTS Church Network and the growing number of church planting networks reach new people with the Gospel.

Books for Families. Words for Life.

Is it possible that giving away a children’s book or even a dictionary can be a way to share the Gospel? Absolutely! In remote, independent communities in West Texas, areas often difficult to minister to in traditional ways, God is opening doors by opening books through the Lutheran Literacy Project.

When Dr. Margaret Peterson looked at West Texas communities from a missionary perspective, she recognized that local school districts needed books for children and parents needed books for their families. Doesn’t every child deserve to have a book to read at home? Peterson knew that by responding to this NEED in the remote communities of West Texas, she could show Christ’s love and build bridges to the Gospel.

Through much prayer and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Peterson started the Lutheran Literacy Project in 2016. She now drives endless miles across the vast open spaces of West Texas to intentionally develop relationships with communities through schools, state and national parks, and community activities by handing out age-appropriate books to families for no charge. Thousands of books of all kinds have been distributed at dozens of locations.

This new ministry in partnership with a developing LINC Southwest is currently making connections in many communities such as Presidio and Comstock.
Together Transforming Churches and Communities

For many of us when we think of the “mission field” we visualize it being somewhere else, not in our own communities. However, neighborhoods across the United States are changing and the mission fields are now coming to us. Together, we can be agents of change right where we live.

T2C2—Together Transforming Churches and Communities—is a missional network of congregations and partners formed to launch faith communities that result in new church plants. Their focus is on the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex.

Currently, it is partnership between Our Redeemer Irving, Faith - Grand Prairie, Holy Cross - Dallas and Bethel - Dallas. These churches work with other partners to help develop communities, plant missions and train leaders.

One of T2C2 outreach ministries is the La Paz Soccer Club. Started in 2012 with only seven students, it has grown to more than 200 players and 14 teams. These children and their families are seeing the love of Christ through this program. There have been 20 baptisms and 15 confirmation/communion students through La Paz. The Holy Spirit is working in these children to walk away from negative influences in their life and walk with Him.

T2C2 is taking La Paz on the road. In 2017 they plan on bringing La Paz to communities such as San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley.


“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
- Joshua 1:9

Cypress Chapel, a church plant out of St. John in Cypress, knows all too well that obstacles can be blessings from God. When St. John Cypress flooded during the 2016 “tax day flood” it dramatically altered the plans for this new church start.

The plan was they were going to worship in the old sanctuary of St. John’s. After the flood, this was no longer a possibility. Where was Cypress Chapel going to worship?

Thinking creatively, trusting God had a plan and knowing the importance of community involvement, Pastor Stephen DeMik began a hunt for a worship space. Where did the Lord lead him? To a bar/restaurant named The Shack.

Some may view The Shack as “not a church” with beer signs hanging from the walls, but Cypress Chapel is very much a church that is sharing the Gospel and changing the lives of people around them. With a central ministry focus of relationships (with God, with other Christians and with people who do not yet know Jesus), they seek to follow His direction and mission through worship, home gatherings and regular patterns of service.
2017 Budget Summary

TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET: $7,216,253

- LCMS National Missions & Ministries: $1,335,000
- Agencies: $195,000
- Texas Churches: $215,000
- Hispanic Missions: $303,623
- African American, Asian, Deaf Missions: $226,300
- Campus Missions: $193,051
- Church Planting: $625,890
- LINC: $866,461
- New Mission Funding Agreements: $334,490
- Scholarships and Student Aid: $85,000
- Mission Consulting Assistance: $916,792
- Congregation Assistance, Call Process: $1,080,539
- Early Childhood, Elem, HS Support: $297,970
- Administration and Finance: $541,137

Because of the generous partnership of Texas District Congregations.

1 NEW CHURCH has been planted in the Texas District EVERY 6 WEEKS FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS!
Texas District congregations pool resources to partner with 60+ ministries consisting of 150+ missionaries who reach 9,000 people every week with the love of Jesus.

60+ new church planters are being trained in the Texas District because of generous congregational support.

IN 2017, NEARLY $700,000 of mission funding will be loaned to new church plants at 0% interest and is returned by the new churches for ongoing church planting efforts!

58 of the 113 new Lutheran churches started in the Texas District speak a language other than English in worship (Spanish, Oromo, Arabic, Kunama, Nepali, Amharic, Korean, Nuer, & more)!

IN 2017, NEARLY $700,000 of mission funding will be loaned to new church plants at 0% interest and is returned by the new churches for ongoing church planting efforts!

60+ new church planters are being trained in the Texas District because of generous congregational support.

58 of the 113 new Lutheran churches started in the Texas District speak a language other than English in worship (Spanish, Oromo, Arabic, Kunama, Nepali, Amharic, Korean, Nuer, & more)!

Texas District congregations pool resources to partner with 60 ministries consisting of 150+ missionaries who reach 9,000 people every week with the love of Jesus.
Mission and Ministry Facilitators
Rev. Steven Misch
Mission & Ministry Facilitator
Area A, Circuit 1-7
Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab
Mission & Ministry Facilitator
Area B, Circuits 8-19
Rev. Michael Newman
Mission & Ministry Facilitator
Area C, Circuit 20-30
Rev. Jon Braunersreuther
Mission & Ministry Facilitator
Area D, Circuit 31-43

Church Planting Missionaries
These missionaries are helping to start new churches and ministries in their communities by connecting with people who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Very often, they are working on their own and need lots of encouragement.
1. Rev. John David Mulli
2. Rev. Steven Sandfort
3. Rev. Aaron Lyle
4. Mr. Jason Phelps
5. Vicar Wynn Derong
6. Rev. Bill Brimer
7. Rev. Patrick Miller
8. Vicar Jason Hamre
9. Vicar James Cleland
10. Mr. Brandon Stephensson
11. Rev. Mark Seeger
12. Rev. Seungwoong Ok
13. Rev. Sagar Pilli
14. Rev. Ted Doering
15. Mr. Jonathan Zoch
16. Rev. Russ Strimple
17. Rev. Bill Woolsey
18. Rev. Arturo Pena
20. Vicar Frank Hart
21. Rev. Melkamu Bekele
22. Mrs. Margaret Peterson
23. Rev. Peter Heckmann
24. Rev. Seth Kunze
25. Rev. Garry Harrow
26. Rev. Andy Whaley
27. Mr. Brock Tornga
28. Rev. Robert Balduc
29. Vicar Joey Bluege
30. Vicar George Holloway
31. Rev. Eddie Torea
32. Rev. Dr. John Rentke
33. Rev. Matt Behrens
34. Rev. Doug Krengel
35. Rev. Stephen Danik

RioMAC Missionaries
This new network is reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus to people in Houston and beyond.
1. Rev. Steve Morfitt
2. Rev. Ed Weber
3. Ms. Brenda Segovia

Eagle Ford Chaplain Missionaries
This ministry is reaching people in the oil field in and around Kenedy, Texas.
1. Di’Anna Bocanegra

LINC Austin Missionaries
This ministry is reaching homeless youth who have aged out of foster care and sharing Christ’s love in word and deed
1. Mrs. Haleh Kersten
2. Mr. Kevin Kersten

LINC North Texas Missionaries
This ministry is reaching hundreds of children and families every week with leadership training and the love of Jesus.
1. Rev. Oscar Benavides
2. Mrs. Antonia Alzate
3. Ms. Rachel Frugge
4. Ms. Fabiana Santos
5. Ms. Ashley Reed
6. Mr. Jaime Gonzalez
### LINC Houston Missionaries
This ministry is planting many churches and reaching many communities with the Gospel of Jesus in the Houston area.

1. Rev. Mario Casillas  
2. Rev. Antonio Mercado  
3. Deac. Perla Rodriguez  
4. Mrs. Dorinda Werner  
5. Dr. Emekhe Agwu  
6. Dr. Johnson Petta  
7. Mr. Carlos Gallegos  
8. Wm. Augustine Tshibangu

10. Mr. Renato Barakare  
11. Mr. Eugene Mejia  
12. Mr. Felix Martinez  
13. Mr. John Ojide  
14. Mr. Robert Rios  
15. Mr. Simon Petro  
16. Rev. Mark Junkans  
17. Rev. Rodrigo Fernandez  
18. Rev. Vijay Gurrala  
19. Mr. Jose Flores  
20. Deac. Rosaura Martinez  
21. Mr. Jules Renzoro  
22. Mr. Ezekiel Yoel

### Glocal Mission Missions
This new network is reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus to people in Houston and beyond.

1. Rev. Dr. David Kim  
2. Rev. Ben Gonzales  

4. Mr. Jesus Santos  
5. Mr. Baudilla Herrera  
6. Mr. Osvaldo Arilia

### LINC San Antonio Missionaries
This ministry is reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus to the homeless, neighborhood children and families, and single moms.

1. Rev. Ely Prieto  
2. Wm. Lydia Garvey

3. Mrs. Bonnie Martin  
4. Rev. Dongsu Son  
5. Ms. Yirgalem Ketema

6. Mr. Mark Mueller  
7. Mrs. Tracy Mueller  
8. Mr. Tanner Evans  
9. Mrs. Sandy Brousard  
10. Mrs. Heather Bleier

11. Mrs. Heather Blier  
12. Mr. Rick Masselink  
13. Mrs. Brenda Masselink  
14. Mrs. Hallie Yancey  
15. Mr. Tanner Olson  
16. Mrs. Katie Evans

### Disciples of the Way Missionaries
This ministry is reaching many Muslims and new immigrants in the Dallas area with the Good News of Jesus.

1. Rev. Karim Baidaoui  
2. Rev. Solomon Yadessa  

4. Mr. Jesus Santos  
5. Mr. Baudilla Herrera  
6. Mr. William Valverde

7. Mr. Noe Luna  
8. Mr. William Valverde

### ACTS Network Missionaries
This ministry is planting churches and reaching out to people in Austin.

1. Rev. Pete Mueller  
2. Ms. Andrea Bolognini  
3. Wm. Kyle Frazier  
4. Mrs. Nicole Kelley  
5. Rev. Andrew Walker  
6. Rev. Barrett Grebing

7. Mr. Mark Mueller  
8. Mrs. Tracy Mueller  
9. Mr. Tanner Evans  
10. Mrs. Sandy Brousard  
11. Mrs. Heather Bleier  
12. Mr. Rick Masselink

13. Mrs. Brenda Masselink  
14. Mrs. Hallie Yancey  
15. Mr. Tanner Olson  
16. Mrs. Katie Evans

### The Eternity Matters Most Network Missionaries
This ministry is planting churches and reaching out to people in the north Dallas area.

1. Rev. Mark Schaefer  
2. Rev. Travis Hartjen  
3. Mr. Josh Patterson  
4. Mr. Josh Turay  
5. Ms. Christi Vapael  
6. Mr. Kevin Johnson  
7. Rev. Anthony Celia

8. Mr. Kyle Jones  
9. Mr. Cole Kerns  
10. Mr. Curt Kerns  
11. Mr. Doug Klembbara  
12. Rev. Karl Ashcraft  
13. Rev. Mark Causer  
14. Rev. Will Kemp

15. Mrs. Heathker Kemp  
16. Mr. Gary Prindiville  
17. Mrs. Hannah Prindiville  
18. Ms. Megan Szabo  
19. Ms. Sarah Buchskey  
20. Ms. Lindsay Richard  
21. Rev. Mark Hotopp

### Cristo El Salvador Missionaries
This ministry is reaching out to people in Del Rio, Texas and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

1. Rev. Gary Martin  
2. Rev. Solomé Avilia Agüero  
3. Mrs. Irene Torralva

4. Vicar Cristian Morales  
5. Vicar Luis Eduardo Morales  
6. Mrs. Sandra Patricia Perez  
7. Mrs. Verónica Gaytan

### University Lutheran Church Missionaries
These ministries are reaching students at Texas A&M and the University of Texas—both students from the United States and around the world.

1. Rev. Paul Hoemann  
2. Rev. Richard Wittke  
3. Mrs. Marcia Wittke  
4. Rev. Naveen Nischal

### T2C2 Network Missionaries
(“Together Transforming Churches and Communities”)
This ministry is reaching for Jesus in the city of Dallas and surrounding areas.

1. Rev. Chris Holder  
2. Rev. Juan Zamora  
3. Mrs. Alma Zamora

4. Rev. Elsy Gonzalez  
5. Rev. Betty Alzate  
6. Rev. Harry Smith

7. Mr. Nelson Sarmiento  
8. Mr. and Mrs. Luis & Mirella Benitez

### The Antiochian Apostolic Church Missionaries
This ministry is reaching out to Muslims in the Dallas area and is the first Arabic speaking church in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1. Rev. Dr. Adjar Bahkou  
2. Wm. Fasti Bahkou