



MINISTRY SNAPSHOT

Firmly Standing, Boldly Sending

To reach.
 To disciple.
 To care.



LETTER FROM REV. MICHAEL NEWMAN,
 PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT

Our prayer is that we can be a faithful part of God's mission movement to the many who need His grace.

Over the past dozen years, the Texas District has partnered with congregations and ministries to plant nearly 130 new congregations. Half of these speak a language other than English. We praise God for His blessing!

But much more needs to be done. Building on the legacy of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our hope and prayer is that 500 new servant-leaders will be developed to reach 500 new Texas communities by the 125th anniversary of the Texas District in 2031.

HOW WILL THIS BE POSSIBLE?

First, we want to increase our church planting efforts. Our prayer is that by the end of 2021, 36 new church planters will have started 36 new local faith communities. Studies show that people who do not know Jesus are reached most effectively through the development of new congregations. We want to strengthen the mission outreach we have in Texas.

THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING

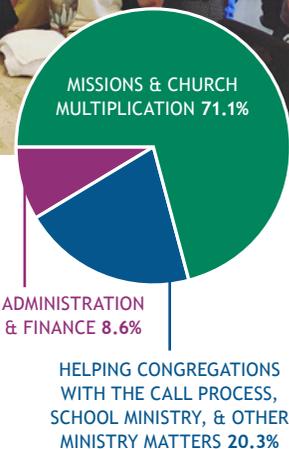
Second, we want to unleash a powerful movement of laypeople who start grassroots ministries. By the end of 2021 we pray that 100 new evangelists will have been trained and deployed to start 100 new outreach ministries in Texas. These ministries will reach apartment complexes, nursing homes, cross-fit groups, coffee shops, immigrant centers, university populations and more. Some of these new ministries may become congregations; others will be connection points for faith—all will bring Jesus' blessing to people who need His light in the darkness.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ▶ **Prayer is our top priority.** Our goal is to have 10 percent of Texas District members praying regularly for the mission—that's 13,000 pray-ers! Currently half of that are engaged in prayer. We need you to help. Visit txlcms.org/mission-prayer.
- ▶ **Next, we need people.** We need church planters and evangelists. With more than 400 congregations in the Texas District, much can be accomplished. What if each ministry raised up just one evangelist to start a new outreach effort?
- ▶ **Finally, we need funding.** Generous gifts are needed to cover tuition and fees for distance learners and residential seminary students; to train and mentor the many church planters and lay-evangelists being sent by God to reach out with His Good News; and to provide seed money for planting new congregations.

2019 Budget Summary

Total annual budget:
\$6,567,092



MISSION FACTS

<p>130 new churches have been planted in the Texas District over the past 15 years.</p>	<p>25% of the mission budget is in the form of returnable dollars that will be used over and over again for new church plants.</p>
<p>In addition to dozens of new church planters, the district is training dozens of lay evangelists to help expand God's mission.</p>	<p>Mission funds and efforts are helping to reach multiple ethnic groups, many college campuses, new communities, and new generations with the Good News of Jesus.</p>
<p>Offerings to the Texas District help provide scholarships to new church workers at Concordia Universities, at residential seminaries, and in alternate route seminary training programs.</p>	<p>The Texas District consists of 410 chartered and mission congregations.</p>
<p>Texas District offerings support important ministries in Texas: Concordia University, Lutheran Outdoor Ministry of Texas, CAN-DO Missions, Legacy Deo, and Upbring.</p>	<p>The Texas District is the second highest district contributor to our national LCMS efforts, committing to \$1.283M in funding this year.</p>

Please join us in this worthy, exciting mission. Visit txlcms.org/donate to give today.

UPDATE FROM Office of School Ministry

In 2018-19, we were blessed to share Jesus with 17,792 students every school day in our 127 Lutheran schools and early childhood centers in the Texas District, with 2,388 educators. We are preparing front-line missionaries as our students are equipped with the Word by caring, loving teachers. In August 2018 The Family of

Faith, Houston, planted a new early childhood center. They opened a second site 10 minutes west in Cypress' Miramesa neighborhood this year. God continues to bless the sharing of HIS word with seven baptisms in a six-week period at Miramesa.—Dr. Bill Hinz, Director, Texas District Office of School Ministry



New Mission Development

Since 2004, the Texas District has partnered with congregations and networks to plant 130 new word and sacrament faith communities!

These new churches are reaching new cultures, a broad array of ethnic groups, a variety of age groups, and a wide array of geographic areas across the state of Texas. Through the generosity of congregations and individuals, about 50 of the new churches in Texas have received returnable seed funding from the Texas District of up to \$200,000—at 0 percent interest—to help launch these vibrant ministries. As the funding is returned gradually, the dollars are used to start more churches and reach more people with the Good News of Jesus. Your gift to Texas Partners in Mission will keep impacting lives until Jesus returns!

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

REV. GARY MARTIN HAS LABORED faithfully in the Del Rio mission field for more than 40 years. He began to pray that God would raise up a successor who could carry on his ministry at the border. God answered! Luis Morales, who grew up in the church, is taking the ministry reins and expanding the outreach. Luis is a vicar. He and his wife, Dulce, are learning local ministry and outreach from Pastor Martin. This young couple in their twenties has become a new generation of Gospel. Plans are in the works to plant more churches along the border.

FOR DECADES, REDEEMER LUTHERAN Church and School has worked to bring Jesus' love to their rapidly changing north Austin neighborhood. Recently, Texas District CEF and LINC Austin—which provides holistic care for those needing the healing love of Jesus Christ—wanted to provide care packages for the city's homeless, and Austin Redeemer's students pitched in to write personalized prayer cards (*pictured above right*).

Debbie, a homeless recipient of LINC's services said, "I've never had daily reminders that I'm cared about, that

I'm loved, and that God's there for me, especially being homeless. Those little bags—they just mean the world."

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN IN FORT WORTH has been connecting regularly with Ethiopian immigrant families from the Anyuak ethnic group through worship, mentoring, and getting to know one another by sharing life together (*pictured below*). Worship occurs within the homes of the Anyuak community and also includes their regular participation in St. Paul Sunday worship.

St. Paul representative Sandi Grupe meets weekly with the Anyuak women and children assisting with their English language deficits, spending time in God's Word and building Christ-centered relationships. Recently, one of the Anyuak women experienced a moment of sincere joy when she was able to read a portion of an Arch Children's Bible Story Book. She exclaimed, "Sandi isn't it wonderful that I can now read the Bible!"



IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Norman C. Stuemke (1931-2018), Redeemer, Austin

Mr. Brice E. Kuhlmann (1933-2018)

Mrs. Ruth E. Braun (1922-2018)

Mrs. Cinthia A Melcher (1955-2018), St. Paul, Thorndale

Rev. Clifford T. Olsen (1956-2018), Faith, Georgetown

Rev. Andrew Simcak, Jr. (1930-2018), Our Savior, Houston

Rev. Rolf E. Larsen (1938-2018), Resurrection, Fredericksburg

Rev. Bryan C. Sullivan (1941-2018), Grace, Elgin

Rev. Dr. Donn P. Williams (1955-2018), Gethsemane, Houston

Rev. John H. Freed (1933-2018), St. Mark, Houston

Rev. Mark C. Follett (1963-2018), St. Paul, Jasper

Rev. Dr. Milton H. Riemer (1933-2018), Hope, Austin

Rev. Elder L. Mickan (1917-2018), Messiah, Boerne

Rev. John L. Thompson (1950-2018), St. Peter, Houston

Rev. Paul H. Schroeder (1948-2018), Grace, Denison

Rev. E. Keith Kubitz (1945-2018), St. Paul, Vernon

Rev. Donald G. Bahr (1931-2018), Christ, Hillsboro

Rev. Harry Klepper (1931-2018), Redeemer, Austin

Rev. Walter F. Albers (1932-2018), St. Paul, Waco

Rev. Douglas D. Rathgeber (1944-2018), St. John, Beaumont

Rev. Reuel C. Gauger (1931-2018), St. Luke, Olney