DEAR FRIENDS

The opportunity we’ve been given for sharing the Good News of Jesus has never been better!

With only 20 percent of the growing and diverse population of Texas claiming a strong connection with a faith community, the need to share the life-giving message of grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone is stronger than ever.

Texas needs a movement of the Gospel to every community and for every heart.

To accomplish this goal, we need your help.

Our Mission & Vision

The mission of the Texas District is to STRENGTHEN CONGREGATIONS to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for people—locally and globally.
With praise and thanks to God, the new Texas District, branched off from the former Southern District, gathered in Houston on February 14, in the congregation of Pastor Waechs. To the joy of everyone, virtually all of the members were present, which, in the large expanse of the old Southern District, was not the case.

So read the first paragraph in an article written by Rev. J.H. Sieck in the March 27, 1906, issue of Der Lutheraner, the forerunner of the current Lutheran Witness. The Texas District of the LCMS was born. No less a celebrity than the sainted Dr. Franz Pieper—theologist and then-president of the LCMS—preached the sermon on this joyous occasion under the title of “Christ’s Exhortation To His Church To Not Put the Light Under a Bushel.” While the title was long, one might call it the first “mission statement” of the Texas District.

Some 46 years later, Rev. W.H. Bewie wrote in the first published history of the Texas District called Missouri in Texas: “The new District was composed of 23 voting congregations, 19 voting pastors, 23 advisory pastors, 11 teachers.” These early congregations were largely rural. The called workers of this fledgling district were a strong and dedicated lot, often traveling long distances and covering much territory in order to minister to their flocks as well as surrounding communities. The people, too, were a hearty people, a great many of whom were farmers or blue-collar workers who worshiped faithfully and supported not only their respective congregations, but also missions.

From her meager beginnings, the Texas District today, by God’s grace, has more than 400 congregations and mission stations, with nearly 700 pastors and nearly 3000 educators and other commissioned ministers. Today’s mission statement rings true to the sense of that of the first year, “To strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for people—locally and globally.” Just as those attending the first Texas District Convention sang at the close of their meeting, so we may also sing, “The Lord Has Helped Us Hitherto.”
NEED

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.

► 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 plant seed money for new congregations.

You can be a part of a Gospel movement in Texas—thousands of people reached with the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

This is our hope and prayer. We seek to serve and give glory to “God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Please join us in this worthy and exciting mission. Imagine the eternal impact of these financial gifts!
**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 zero 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!

**CHURCH PLANTER TRAINING**

God is answering our prayers by sending workers for His plentiful harvest!

Dozens of new church planters are poised to start new faith communities around Texas. In order to help them get started, the Texas District offers grant funding that allows each prospective church planter to gather a launch team, form a plan, implement fundraising, and begin entering a new community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 100 percent of your gift to Texas Partners in Mission will help fuel these mission efforts.

**EVANGELIST DEVELOPMENT**

The strength of the church is the people of the church.

Embracing the foundational Biblical teaching of the priesthood of all believers, the Texas District hopes to work with local congregations to train hundreds of lay-evangelists to reach new communities and start new ministries. Your gift to Texas Partners in Mission will provide funding for training evangelists along with some grants to help get new ministries started.

**CHURCH PLANTER SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Texas is blessed to have a large number of students studying to become pastors, missionaries, teachers and DCEs.

Some hold down jobs while they serve in ministry and study for certifications. Your gift to Texas Partners in Mission multiplies workers by providing scholarships for training at our educational institutions and on the field so workers can be credentialed and prepared for Kingdom work.

**MISSION PARTNERSHIPS**

From campus ministries to urban outreach to connecting with difficult-to-reach constituencies, the Texas District partners with LCMS ministries like LINC's, University Lutheran Churches, Glocal Mission and RioMAC to develop missionaries, plant churches, and expand Gospel outreach.

Your donation to Texas Partners in Mission results in baptisms, new churches, and a strong Gospel witness throughout the district.
**Congregational mission offerings link local churches to a wide array of mission initiatives across the state of Texas.**

As congregations pool their resources, thousands of people in difficult to reach places and challenging demographics are blessed with the Gospel through Texas Missionaries.

But a gap still exists. $400,000 is needed to cover the gap and to send and empower missionaries in Texas.

The good news is that 100% of every dollar given to Texas Partners in Mission goes to Texas District mission work and missionaries.

*If God is moving your heart to bring the Gospel to new people in new places through new kingdom workers, your donation to Texas Partners in Mission will allow God’s mission to be accomplished!*

**WHAT DOES EACH DONATED DOLLAR DO?**

- **35¢ EMPOWERS** regional outreach and church planting to take place through ministries in Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, Del Rio, Austin, College Station, Lubbock, San Antonio and more. These ministries proclaim Jesus Christ and bring His gifts to thousands of people every year.

- **26¢ STARTS** brand new churches in new communities AND is returned to start more new churches.

- **21¢ TRAINS** new church planters who are sharing the Gospel with college students, millennials, families, the elderly, people in urban areas, in rural communities, and in the suburban sprawl. The world is coming to Texas, so planters are using fifteen different languages to reach the nations in right here at home.

- **7¢ PROVIDES** campus and urban ministries with facilities for worship and mission.

- **4¢ TRAINS** lay evangelists who blanket Texas with Gospel lights for people our churches may not be able to reach.

- **7¢ BLESSES** congregations and church workers with scholarships for training, continuing education and resources that help them plan and implement mission action.
Do you want to be a part of the mission movement in Texas to reach thousands with the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ? Become a mission partner with the Texas District today.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Email ____________________________ Phone ____________________________
Amount pledged: □ $1000 □ $500 □ $250 □ $125 □ Other __________

EITHER:  
Fill out this form and mail to us in the envelope included in this packet. Include a check made out to Texas Partners in Mission.

OR:  
Want to give by credit card? Visit txlcms.org/support
“Seeing lives transformed and thriving is priceless.”
—Pastor Jaime Gonzalez