TEXAS DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
TXLCMS.ORG | INFO@TXLCMS.ORG | 512.926.4272

Ministry Snapshot

To reach. To disciple. To care.

Planting Seeds and Praying the Holy Spirit to Make Them Grow.

Art by Christopher

Mikki Senkarik, a graduate of the Texas District Evangelist Training Program, has been planting a seed with Christopher, an inmate in a Texas prison for life. A few years ago, one of Mikki's neighbors knocked on her door, knowing she was an artist and asked her if she'd be willing to help her son, also an artist, with his art.

Mikki and Christopher began emailing about art. He would share his talented paintings with her, many dark and sobering reminders of what life is like in prison. A friendship was growing, and Mikki was using what she learned as an evangelist: "If approached in a gentle, loving manner, people are much more willing to talk about faith and Jesus than I ever realized."

A week before Mikki graduated from the evangelist training program, Christopher sent Mikki an email: "I want to thank you for being The Savior's witness to me. I must confess that I have never taken to His message despite growing up in church. It's not that I am an atheist or opposed to religion, it just never made sense to me. I tried many times in my life to hear His message, but His words never held the same meaning for me as they did for others.

I am blessed that you were brought into my life and have helped me to see what is possible both spiritually and artistically. Thank you again Mikki for your help. I am thankful that Jesus teaches us to look upon the sinner with love and compassion as you do me. Thank you for your prayers, kindness, and support."

To learn more about the evangelist training program visit txlcms.org/lay-evangelist-training/.

Presenting His Love to Others in Our Communities.

The Edge Missions Network was created to multiply the Kingdom by encouraging individuals and groups to spread the Gospel where they live, learn, work and play. The Edge Coffeehouse, Serenity@TheEdge, Survivor's Studio, special needs ministry, homeless ministry… are "expressions of the touch of Jesus in our local and global community," Pastor Steve Sandfort, said. "These programs have been launched by evangelists since graduating from the training program."

Senior Pastor Steve Sandfort who founded The Edge Church and Coffeehouse in 2012 has encouraged members to participate in the Texas District Evangelist Training Program. Matt Ivicic was one of those to take the training and then explore a way to share the Gospel with others.

Matt asked himself "How do I present His love to my community? I need to be sent to do something." As a recovering addict, Matt saw where God could use him in helping others hurting, broken and suffering from various addictions. Matt now leads the Restoration Recovery Community/Serenity Church at The Edge.

Matt has now taken his call to be an evangelist to the next step by enrolling in The Synod's SMP Program. "I want to preach," Matt said. For more information on The Edge Missions Network visit edge4all.com/edge-missions-network.

New Mission Support Center in Central Texas

On June 7, 2022, the Texas District broke ground on a mission support center in Round Rock, Texas. The 14,949 square foot mission center, shared with Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas CEF) will feature 21 offices, a large chapel/meeting area for approximately 150 people, and feature a stained-glass artwork, "Christ the Light of the World," by Dennis Roberts at IHS Studios, Inc. Blueline Architecture is the architect and Paradigm Construction will be constructing the center. For updates on the building visit txlcms.org.

President's Message

REV. MICHAEL NEWMAN,
President of the Texas District

This spring, I had the privilege of participating in a worship service of one of our brand new church plants in Texas. I followed the signs posted on the street and in the parking lot of a local middle school. As I entered the building, I was welcomed warmly. One of the worship leaders, the sister of one of our district pastors, told me how her mom and dad helped start a new congregation when she was a young girl. It seemed right and natural for her to help launch a new church in a new community. She said that her faith grew in wonderful ways when she experienced the church planting journey in her youth. She hopes the people of her new church will receive that great gift. That day, people who were part of the launch team along with newly connected people from the community heard the Good News of Jesus, tasted the beauty of Christian fellowship, and were invited to connect with this new Gospel effort.

Look at what you, God's people, are helping to make happen! It is a thrill to see devoted servants of Jesus make their way into a new community with the life-giving Word of our Savior Jesus. Even more thrilling is the fact that, because of your prayers and partnership, this beautiful movement of the Gospel has happened and is continuing to happen every six weeks on average in the Texas District.

Our prayer is that 500 new servant-leaders—both church planters and Evangelists—will establish Gospel ministry in 500 new communities by 2031, the 125th anniversary of the Texas District. These communities include new geographic locations, new demographic groups and new cultural populations.

In order to fuel this ministry effort, God is raising up new workers for the harvest. More than 60 new pastors and church planters from Texas are in training through our seminary formation tracks. You are helping to support these servants of Jesus as they are formed for the mission. A growing number of Evangelists are being trained and deployed. Remarkable stories are resulting as they establish Gospel outreach in a variety of settings.

The world needs the Gospel more than ever. As the confusion and anxiety of our age press upon the hearts and souls of all people, the freeing, forgiving and fulfilling news of Jesus will bring light and hope that dispels darkness and despair. Communities of Christ's love will embrace and give new purpose to hurting and aimless people. There is no other source of this grace and hope.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer and for your generous financial support of a mission like no other. We plant and water, trusting that God is faithful and will continue to provide Gospel growth!

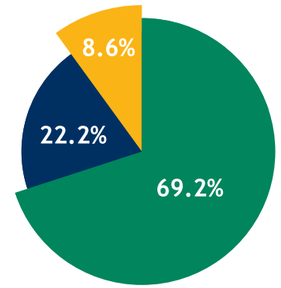
2022 Budget Summary Total Annual Budget:

$6,560,668

Helping congregations with call process, school ministry, & other ministry matters 22.2%

Administration & Finance 8.6%

Missions & Church Multiplication 69.2%



Texas District
Church Extension Fund (CEF)

Partnerships Across Generations

BECCA JONES
Executive Director, Texas District
Church Extension Fund

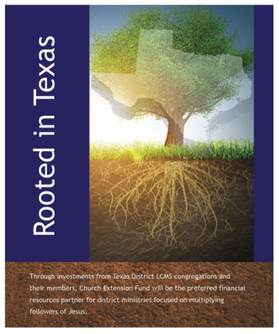
At Texas District CEF, we praise God for the opportunity to serve our ministry partners joyfully and boldly. These relationships, rooted in trust and faithfulness, continue to allow us to provide relevant investment and loan products for our Texas District congregations and members. From the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program to Building Funds; from the Rainy-Day Fund to Congregation Savings and more; from the smallest investment dollars to the largest, our partners in ministry give us a solid foundation for meeting the ministry needs in the Texas District.

As the Gospel movement in our district continues, Texas District CEF is setting our sights on a bold vision for the future. To encompass this response, we recently updated our mission statement to the following:

Through investments from Texas District LCMS congregations and their members, Church Extension Fund will be the preferred financial resources partner for district ministries focused on multiplying followers of Jesus.

The refreshed mission statement concisely explains our work, staying true to our past while embracing the present and preparing for the future. Above all, we remain focused on being good stewards of this organization. Our 11,090 faithful investors have entrusted us with $189 million, giving us the opportunity to loan $119 million to 135 congregations. This year we were blessed by our partners in ministry to be able to return $609,011.03 in loan rebates to congregations to support the extension of Kingdom work.

We invite you to join this mission and its opportunities by partnering with; whether for the first time or as an ongoing commitment. We give praise for God's mighty provision of investors who enable us to walk with Texas District congregations and to respond to their specific needs. **To Him be all the glory!**



Texas Pastoral Students Participate in Every LCMS Training Track

7 Center for HISPANIC Studies (CHS)

3 CROSS CULTURAL Ministry Center (CMC)

8 ETHNIC IMMIGRANT Institute of Theology (EIIT)

18 MASTER OF DIVINTY (MDiv)

1 SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR to General Pastor Certification (SMP-GPC)

11 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY entering other fields of church work (DCE, DCO, DCS, etc)

24 Specific MINISTRY PASTOR Program (SMP)

(with 3 more applications in process)

In Memoriam

+ **Mr. John Williams** (19546-2021), *Christ the King, Kingwood*
+ **Mr. Reynold Kunz** (1934-2021), *St. Paul, Forth Worth*
+ **Dr. Donald Zielke** (1938-2021), *Redeemer, Austin*
+ **Dr. Howard Lacey** (1936-2021), *Our Savior, Austin*
+ **Ms. Kay E. Lindsay** (1950-2021), *Zion, Dallas*
+ **Mr. Steven A. Menke** (1958-2021), *Zion, Walburg*
+ **Mr. Darrell W. Schepmann** (1941-2022), *Pilgrim, Houston*
+ **Mrs. Linda L. Greenwald** (1948-2022), *Bethany, Austin*
+ **Rev. Paul W. Hartfield** (1936-2021), *St. Paul, Serbin*
+ **Rev. David Ebert** (1933-2021), *Resurrection, Fredericksburg*
+ **Rev. Alvin W. Musgrove** (1932-2021), *St. John, Cypress*
+ **Rev. B. Bruce Blakelock** (1937-2021), *Grace, New Caney*
+ **Rev. Paul D. Neumann** (1956-2021), *Redeemer, Baytown*
+ **Rev. Vernon L. Appel** (1938-2021), *Trinity, Childress*
+ Rev. **Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann** (1939-2021), *Faith, Georgetown*
+ **Rev. Terry J. Coday** (1947-2021), *Grace, Victoria*
+ **Rev. Richard A. Nelson** (1925-2021), *Trinity, Weatherford*
+ **Rev. Dewyth D. Beltz** (1927-2022), *Bethany, Austin*
+ **Rev. E. Rod Houpert** (1954-2022), *St. Paul, Wallis*

Texas District Office of School Ministry

Facing yet another challenging year, our Texas Lutheran Schools rose to the occasion, reached out to their communities, and invited them to share in an educational experience filled with the love of Jesus and His compassion, where loving and dedicated teachers walked along side of them.

Our Lutheran schools were blessed with increased enrollment. Our elementary/middle schools experienced much grow with schools adding additional classrooms per grade levels. Our early childhood centers saw a rally in their enrollment as they began to see growth as the pandemic limitations shifted course. Summer programs for 2022 are back in full capacity! We thank God for these opportunities to share Jesus and HIS forgiveness and life!

Despite our schools continued challenges with COVID-19, we saw many blessings of growth and moving forward. We thank God for the brand-new high school campus for Concordia High School in Austin; Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio with a new gym; Zion-Walburg adding classrooms and a worship/performing arts center; along with Our Redeemer, Dallas expanding their school office and lobby areas with many more examples of God's goodness through expansions of facilities – all to enable our schools to bring in more students to further the kingdom and hear God's message of love.

DR. BILL HINZ
Director of School Ministry,
Texas District

On May 4th, during the annual Baptismal Chapel at Redeemer Lutheran School, Pastor Kevin Westergren baptized 24 students during chapel and another two students later in the afternoon. In the history of Redeemer, this set a record for the most children baptized in one day! Previously, the most baptized at one time was 21 and that was when the baptismal chapel started over 25 years ago.

We were blessed to share Jesus with 15,655 students every school day in our 126 Lutheran schools and early childhood centers in the Texas district, through are 2,490 educators. Our numbers are continuing to rise. We thank God for the opportunity to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus daily, with even more students.

We are preparing future leaders, as our students are equipped with the Word by caring, loving teachers. There were celebrations. There was sadness. And yet, God prevailed and sustained us in all of it.

To God be the glory!