

TEXAS

MAY 2024

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

We want to share
what God is
doing in your church!
Send in your news:
txmess@txlcms.org

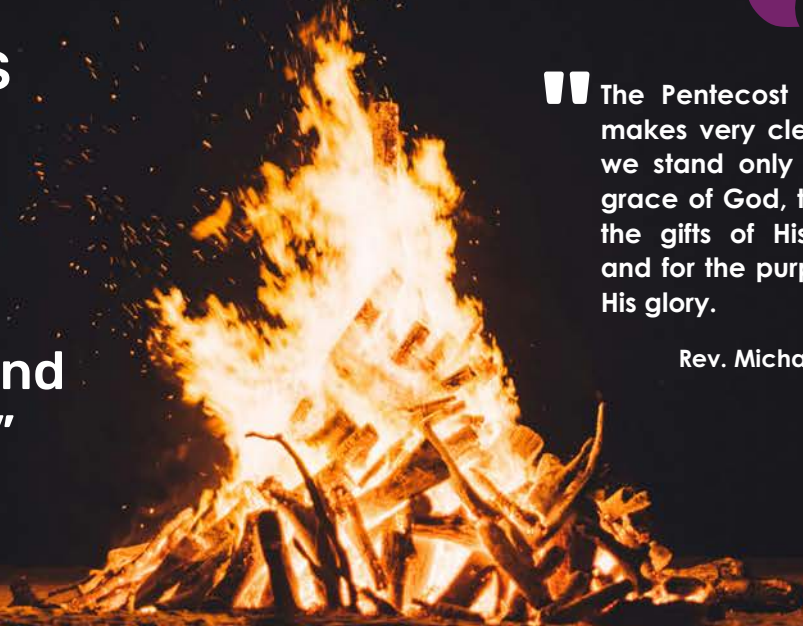
16 HAPPENINGS AROUND TEXAS

**“We have found
the Messiah!”**



“ The Pentecost season makes very clear that we stand only by the grace of God, through the gifts of His Spirit, and for the purpose of His glory.

Rev. Michael Newman,
President



How the mighty fall

In 1 Samuel 1, David spoke a poetic lament when he learned that King Saul and his son, Jonathan, died in battle. In verses 19, 25 and 27, David cried out, **“How the mighty have fallen!”**

This is a powerful scriptural refrain that we still use today. Business researcher and writer Jim Collins even penned a book by that name: “How the Mighty Fall.” In the book he highlights five stages of decline in business that point to humanity’s tendency toward arrogance and blind ambition.

Why write about this phrase during the seasons of Easter and Pentecost? The Lutheran Confessions provide the insightful answer:

Saul was a great king, chosen by God, and an upright man; but once he was secure on his throne and he let his heart depart from God, placing his confidence in his crown and power, he inevitably perished with all that he had; not one of his children remained. David, on the other hand, was a poor, despised man, hunted down and persecuted, his life nowhere secure, yet inevitably he remained safe from Saul and became king ... Let us therefore learn the first commandment well and realize that God will tolerate no presumption and no trust in any other object: he makes no greater demand of us than a hearty trust in him for all blessings.

(Large Catechism, 45-47)

Though the devil will tempt us to put confidence in our strength, intelligence and possessions, our trust and certainty are not in ourselves, but only in our crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ, who graciously sends His Spirit to bring life to the world.

Question for reflection...

Read Psalm 20. What does David’s prayer tell you about God’s work in his life? What encouragement and direction do these verses give you and your congregation?

Prayer starter: Ask the Spirit of God to guide you into all the truth (John 16:13).

The prophet Zechariah shared the angelic message of utter dependence on God: **“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.”** (Zechariah 4:6)

King David bore witness to who stands or falls; **“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.”** (Psalm 20:7-8)

This is what Jesus’ disciples demonstrated after Jesus ascended into heaven. They didn’t say, “With Jesus gone, it’s time for us to step up and take over! Let’s rely on our strength to get things moving!” No. Acts 1:14 tells us that Jesus’ followers prayed. They waited for the promised Holy Spirit to chart the course for their witness to the world.

The Pentecost season makes very clear that we stand only by the grace of God, through the gifts of His Spirit and for the purpose of His glory. Never being consumed by arrogance, we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may lift us up at the proper time (1 Peter 5:6). Prayerfully and with trust only in God, we rejoice as the Holy Spirit breathes life into the world, even through lowly servants like us.

Help share the Good News: txlcms.org/tpim

Rev. Michael W. Newman
President



IT STARTS WITH PRAYER!



PRAY

It is our number one priority. Our goal is to have 10% of the Texas District, LCMS members praying regularly for the mission. Sign up for our weekly Mission Prayer e-newsletter by texting "join" and your email address to 512-638-8458.



EVERY DOLLAR

contributed to Texas Partners in Mission goes directly to support missions in the Texas District. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of \$400,000+ in 2023!

Our goal this year is:
\$500,000

GIVE NOW!
txlcms.org/tpim

Please consider joining us as a mission partner and help more Texans hear the Gospel.

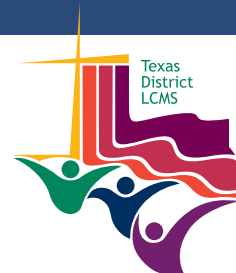


GIFTS

No gift to Texas Partners in Mission is too small. We need gifts to reach the thousands of people in Texas with the life-saving Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Every dollar contributed to Texas Partners in Mission goes directly to bringing the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus Christ. Thank you for your dedication to the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ!

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." ~ Mark 16:15



We have found the Messiah!



Deaconess Noemi Guerra
Districtwide Evangelist
Development Ministry Leader

“One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother

Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.”
(John 1:40-42a)

“We have found the Messiah!” With these resounding words, Andrew was being an evangelist to Simon Peter, his brother. In that singular moment, Andrew’s declaration altered the course of Peter’s history.

In his eagerness to share the Good News, Andrew embodies the essence of being an evangelist — the sacred duty to bear witness to the transformative power of Jesus Christ. His example beckons us to embrace our role as messengers of hope and redemption. In a world gripped by uncertainty and despair, the need for evangelists has never been more urgent.

A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Task Force urges us to renew our commitment to lay training and the development of the evangelist’s role. In response to this call, the Texas District embarked on a journey of discovery and empowerment, equipping the baptized to proclaim, **“We have found the Messiah!”**

Recommendation 7 of the 2013 Resolution 4-06A Task Force Report to the Synod states:

District lay training programs are to be commended with thanksgiving for the many willing lay servants who seek further theological education and desire to serve in various capacities in their congregations. The task force recommends that a major emphasis in lay training programs be placed on the role of evangelist and the task of outreach in the increasingly diverse and challenging world of the U.S.

Recommendation 8 states:

In conjunction with recommendation 7, the task force recommends that congregations and districts be encouraged to identify individuals for special training in and attention to evangelism. As individuals are identified, we encourage congregations and districts to facilitate their training both through existing synodical efforts and programs and in special, intensive training through district lay programs.

We are confronted here with a profound truth: the Gospel is meant to be shared. **“We have found the Messiah!”** is a message of hope, redemption and reconciliation — a message that has the power to transform lives, communities and nations.

Like Andrew, we can embrace this calling with fervor and dedication. I invite you to seize the opportunity to become a Certified Evangelist of the Texas District, equipped and empowered to proclaim the Good News, saying **“We have found the Messiah!”**

Our Texas District evangelist training program is for the many willing lay servants who seek further theological education and desire to serve in various capacities in their congregations. We have placed major emphasis on the role of evangelist and the task of outreach in the increasingly diverse and challenging world of the United States.

Join us as we identify individuals for special training in and attention to evangelism. Could you be one? As individuals are identified, we are facilitating an intensive training through our district lay evangelist program.

Embark with us on this exciting journey with the newly developed Evangelist Training Curriculum of the Texas District.

Visit txlcms.org/lay-evangelist-training for more information

Join us as we together say, **“We have found the Messiah!”**

Great is Thy faithfulness

Last December, Legacy Deo was blessed with a gift from a Christian foundation in the amount of \$400,000. Along with additional capital campaign contributions, that gift allowed us to liquidate the outstanding loan amount from Texas CEF.

On March 15, we burned the mortgage in thanksgiving to God for the generosity of His people! We don't believe it is coincidental that our mortgage burning was almost a year to the date of when we dedicated our new building to the glory of God!

Legacy Deo is grateful to our friends from the LCMS Texas District, Texas CEF, current and former board members and staff, and many other strong supporters of our mission who were able to celebrate with us!

As we look forward to our next chapter, we choose to follow the words of the apostle Paul:

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)



2901 Caballo Ranch Road
Bldg 4 / Unit C and D
Cedar Park, Texas 78641

legacydeo.com

800-880-3733



ABOVE: Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick, Legacy Deo CEO, and Becca Jones, Texas CEF executive director, burn the mortgage note.

LEFT: Brian Hamilton, Legacy Deo CFO, and Hailey Helberg, senior accountant, pose with the mortgage note before it is burned.





Happenings Around Texas

Submit your news!

Send photos, stories and newsletters for
The Lutheran Witness to:

txmess@txlcms.org

Texas Messenger
1221 Satellite View
Round Rock, TX 78665

Please be sure all photos sent electronically are in color and 300 dpi (high resolution). Also, send your news to us well in advance, if possible.

The Texas Messenger is available online at txlcms.org.

THE GROVE

Baptism at St. Paul

On March 10, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, the saints who call St. Paul Lutheran Church their home celebrated the new birth of water and the Word through Holy Baptism.

The St. Paul congregation welcomed Owen Anthony Diaz into the family of faith and rejoiced with all the host of heaven over one sinner who is now a child of God and heir to eternal life.

Pictured are, from left, Jeremy Munz (sponsor), Tony and Danielle Diaz (parents, with Owen), Stephanie Sohns (sponsor) and Diana Draeger (sponsor). In back is Rev. John Heckmann, St. Paul pastor.

LAMPASAS**Baptism on Easter Sunday**

Audrey Blake Emerson was baptized at Faith on Easter Sunday, March 31. Audrey is the daughter of Kyle and Jessa Emerson (at left, also with their son) and granddaughter of Brian and Sandy Emerson (at right). Rev. Tim Ochsner, Faith pastor, conducted the service.

NEW BRAUNFELS**Baptism and new membership at Cross**

Parents (and new members) Sara and Thomas Randolph brought their daughter, Mazy, to the waters of Baptism on Feb. 4 at Cross Lutheran Church.

**CONROE****Happy Birthday!**

Ruth Cunningham, a member of St. Mark, celebrated her 99th birthday on Feb. 18. She is pictured with her daughter, Janie Roth, as they celebrated the occasion.



HAPPENINGS

ABILENE

Holy Baptism at Our Savior

Chaplain Kurtis Bueltman officiated the Baptism of Luke Mason Bartz at Our Savior on March 17. Luke's parents are Sonya and Bradley Bartz, and his big brother is Casey.



DIME BOX

Welcome!

On Feb. 11, Transfiguration Sunday, Ruby Layne Beisert was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by Rev. Bernard Schey at Trinity.

Pictured are, from left, Pastor Schey, sponsor Sierra Davis, parents Kyler and Chelsey Beisert (with Ruby), sponsor Emma Iselt, grandfather Landon Beisert, sponsor Torin Whitbey, and great-grandfather and elder Martin Beisert Jr.



NEW BRAUNFELS

New members of Cross

These families recently joined the congregation of Cross. From left, Jonathan and Kerly Salgado and sons Jonathan, Joshua and Jonah; Kathie Odahl-Heli; Sue and Bill Rohling; Robert Lee; Rick Kehe; and Coni and David Kelly. In back is Rev. Toby Joekel.



LUBBOCK**Braille group recognized**

The Braille group of Redeemer was recently recognized by Lutheran Braille Workers for their accomplishments in 2023. The center reached a total of 1,230 souls worldwide with books of the Bible they produced in Braille.

Pictured are, from left, (front row) Kathryn Patterson, Joyce Williams; (back row) Danny Barlau, Barbara Davis (leader), Cynthia Merrill, Betty Holder and Bernice Fleischhauer.

**NAVASOTA****Making their confession of faith**

Four youth recently made their confession of faith to the body of Christ at Salem. From left, Spencer Ellis, Julia Trullinger, Rev. Corey Christians, Charles Lawrence and Ethan Mikulin.



HAPPENINGS

AUSTIN

Free hymn and teaching resource available

In the summer of 2018, Rev. John C. Stennfeld, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, set out to teach his parishioners 14 Bible passages he thought every Christian should know and have memorized.

Each Sunday throughout that summer, Pastor John highlighted and preached on one of those 14 essential memory texts. To help those verses come alive and be more memorable for the congregation, Pastor John decided to write a hymn for each of these Bible texts. It was so well received by the congregation that Pastor John set out on a mission to write a new hymn each week on one of the lessons appointed for the day — for the entire three-year cycle of the LCMS lectionary. In the fall of 2022, he completed that project.

At the 2024 Best Practices for Ministry Conference in Phoenix in February, Pastor John presented on his “Singing Thru The Scriptures” hymn project (available at singingthruthescriptures.com) as a free resource for congregations in preparing their weekly worship services. The hymns in this project are organized by Series A, B and C in the three-year lectionary and by the particular Sunday of the church year in each of the three series. The hymns are also organized by books of the Bible and by particular themes.

To God be the glory!



MIDLAND

Holy Week activity honors pastor's late wife

In 2013, Jane Pase, wife of Rev. Robert Pase, was looking for an interactive way to share the events of Holy Week with the families of Grace and the Midland community. Her idea grew into what she called a “Jerusalem Jubilee.”

Ms. Jane was called home to be with the Lord on July 14, 2022, but her legacy of Jerusalem Jubilee lived on this year when Grace brought it back in her memory. Ms. Jane had left notes and other specific information on her laptop, and the congregation did just what she had written down.

It was such a wonderful way for the children and their parents to learn about the events that happened during that first Holy Week. When the families arrived, children were given an Easter bag with seven “empty” plastic eggs. They made their way to the different stations set up on the church lawn and were greeted by James, John, Peter, a Roman centurion, Salome and Mary Magdalene — all in costume. Each character talked about specific happenings they had witnessed during the first Holy Week, and then gave the children a small item to put inside one of the empty eggs as a reminder. Ms. Jane called this a “reverse egg hunt.”

In addition, parents and children enjoyed making Easter crafts and playing Easter-themed games. The puppets were also on hand to perform the song “Alive Forevermore.” The event ended with Pastor Pase releasing 30 butterflies as the children shouted, “Our sins are gone!”

Thanks to Ms. Jane and her vision of sharing the Easter story with others, Jerusalem Jubilee will do just that for many years to come.



HOUSTON



Happy children

Gethsemane hosted a community-wide Easter egg hunt on March 30. Among the activities also enjoyed were flowering the cross, having family photos taken, and fellowship over hot dogs and chips.



DESOTO



LWML creates and donates 49 gift bags to expectant mothers

Cross of Christ's LWML collects essential baby items every spring and puts them in gift bags to be given to women who visit the Prestonwood Pregnancy Resource Center. This year they were able to donate 49 gift bags.

TIES THAT BIND

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Congratulations to the following couples, who are celebrating marriages of 50 years or more:

Cross of Christ, DeSoto
Ken and Kay Boelter
60 years, April 3

Gethsemane, Houston
Jim and Janet Goodman
51 years, May 5

St. Matthew, Westfield
Kenneth and Joy French
70 years, April 24
Joe and Shirley Michka
56 years, April 6

St. Paul, The Grove
Richard and Judy Riess
57 years, May 13

St. Paul, Waco
Donald and Vickie Savage
50 years, April 27

Trinity, Copperas Cove
Bob and Vy Morrell
65 years, March

CORRECTION: Last month's issue identified Mark and Jan Koslan as being from Gethsemane, Houston, but should have read Our Savior, Abilene. The editor apologizes for this mistake.



Donald and Vickie Savage



Bob and Vy Morrell

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We greatly value your input

Please scan the QR code to the right and take a few moments to let us know how you feel about the Texas Messenger.

Thank you!



Congrats, state champions!



Dr. Bill Hinz
Director,
School Ministry

We are called to serve God in whatever situation He places us. On Feb. 16-18, 45 basketball teams gathered in the Tomball-Spring area for the annual Texas Lutheran Middle School Tournament, in which over 100 games were played. We thank God for these athletes, their coaches, and the fans who supported them.

We celebrate with the Trinity-Klein, Spring, girls team and the Lutheran South Academy, Houston, boys team for placing first. Congratulations also to the Concordia, San Antonio, girls team and the Trinity-Klein boys team for finishing as runner-up.

We send congratulations to all our teams who played in the tournament this year and used their God-given gifts to serve Him and their teammates.



The first-place girls from Trinity-Klein, Spring, from left, (sitting) Tatum Owrey, Haley Alman, Zoey Wooster, Mia Bolz, Ava Lawrence; (standing) Jim Kellerman (head coach), Katlin Duffy (assistant coach), Raegan Odinga, Julianna Noack, Abby Morgan, Trinity Colburn, Lauren Neidigk, Halle Vanfield and Mike Baimbridge (assistant coach).

Thank you to the Tournament Committee members; **Larry Saalfeld**, Salem, Tomball; **Tim Eickstead**, Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio; **Chad Henke**, Prince of Peace, Carrollton; **Steve Jahnke**, Upbring, Austin; **Nathan Ferking**,

Trinity-Klein, Spring; and **Josh Menke**, Immanuel, Giddings, for organizing the tournament, and thank you to Concordia Lutheran High School and Salem Lutheran School, Tomball, and Trinity-Klein, Spring, for hosting the tournament.



The first-place boys team from Lutheran South Academy, Houston, from left, Brice Dickens, Casey Gregson, Cortez Taylor, Brayden Arceneaux, Jaylen Cuellar, Carson Thomas, Max Saldana, Jaden Ealy, Carter Lee, Cooper Arbaugh and Coach Mike Allen.

Alone



By Pat Fick
CAN-DO Director

During our recent GO MISSION trip to India, I had a very touching moment with a woman named Njanamma.

Our group was doing a prayer walk in the neighborhood of Salem Lutheran Church in Tholloor Aryanad. As we traveled from house to house, we came upon Njanamma, a widow who was crying. I'm not sure when her husband had died, but Njanamma did share with us that she had seven sons. Six of her sons had died, leaving her with only one son to help care for her needs. Njanamma pointed to a mound of dirt that was a few yards away from her house. She explained to us that six weeks ago, she lost her last son. She didn't go into detail about his death, but she was obviously mourning the loss of all of her family.

She was alone. Njanamma had no one to care for her and was caught in the pain of grief and loss. Since we didn't speak Malayalam, and she mentioned that she was deaf from an injury, we were at a loss for how to offer comfort. Sophia Staggs, a nursing student at Concordia University Texas, suggested that we sit down with Njanamma. As we sat together on the ground very close to her son's grave, we began to weep with her. Even though she couldn't hear or understand us, God prompted us to pray for her and share in her pain. It was a powerful experience to just see someone in their time of need and grieve with them. Our hope is that she experienced the love of God through our tears and prayers.

When I think of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, I think He knows what it feels like to be alone. Jesus wanted the companionship of His beloved disciples as he was about to face death, but they kept falling asleep on Him.

“And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, ‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’ And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Luke 22:39-44

The Good News is that Jesus was willing to be alone, forsaken by His Father, so that He could pay the price for the sins of the entire world. Because He was forsaken, we are forgiven. He was in agony, all alone, so we will never be alone.

God is with us always, to the very end of the age. May you find comfort and peace in knowing that He will never leave or forsake you. He sees you when you are hurting and is there with you. Because of Jesus, we will never be alone.



FAQ: Supporting Investments



By Raelyn Pracht
CEF Marketing Specialist

As you know, the loan rebate checks earned in 2023 were mailed out in March. The amount of rebate an eligible congregation receives is a ratio between the amount of Supporting Investments and the congregation's loan balance.

Q1. What exactly is a Supporting Investment?

On every investment application there is a question that asks for your Home Congregation (or other congregation to support). This is the designated congregation that will receive credit for your invested dollars. This is your Supporting Investment. Please note: This is your money. It is **not** pledged for any congregation's loan. It is used to calculate the ratio.

Q2. Why are Supporting Investments important?

At the end of each month, the total balance of every investment designated to support a specific congregation with a Texas CEF loan is added together and the monthly loan rebate amount is determined.

At the end of Texas CEF's fiscal year (Jan. 31), a check is written and sent to the congregation for the total amount earned for the previous 12 months.

Q3. My congregation doesn't have a loan. Does my Supporting Investment still matter?

Supporting Investments from individuals, congregations and other entities provide the funds for Texas CEF to make loans to congregations. Your congregation may have benefited in the past or may benefit in the future, even if they don't have a loan in the present.



Q4. Can I choose to support a different congregation than my own?

Of course! Many investors choose to support a different congregation than their own. Maybe it's one down the road that has a current loan with Texas CEF and they want to help them with their loan rebate, or maybe it's a family member's congregation which has a loan. It is another way of giving back. You can support any Texas LCMS congregation.

Is there a topic you would like to see covered? A question you would like to have answered in more detail? Let us know!

If you would like more information on Supporting Investments, please contact me at 512-646-1242 or email your questions to rpracht@texascef.org.

Upbring, Tehuacán USA and Texas Outlaws

Rally to Support Children

It isn't every day that preschoolers get schooled in soccer fundamentals by a Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) team, but that's what happened this past February when the Texas Outlaws visited the Upbring Head Start Preschool in Cleburne, south of Fort Worth.

This day of fun in the sun was a collaborative event among Upbring, the Outlaws, and Tehuacán USA, the exclusive distributor of Tehuacán mineral water. Upbring Head Start Preschools provide children from low-income families with a safe, inclusive place to learn, grow and thrive.

The Texas Outlaws scrimmaged with our Head Start students, who had a blast! The professional athletes also gave the children free promotional items and complimentary tickets to home matches in Austin. Meanwhile, Tehuacán delivered 1,400 bottles of mineral water to the preschool campus.

"It's heartwarming to see our Cleburne Head Start Preschool supported by the Texas Outlaws and Tehuacán," shared Ryan Park, Vice President of Marketing and Innovation at Upbring. "Together, we're fostering growth and unity. We hope other organizations will join us in building a healthier, more connected future for our kids."

Back in July, Tehuacán began putting Upbring's logo and mission on its water bottle labels to support the



Members of the Texas Outlaws soccer team pose with preschoolers at Upbring Head Start in Cleburne. The collaborative event also included Tehuacán USA, which delivered 1,400 bottles of mineral water sporting Upbring's logo.

nonprofit's mission to break the cycle of child abuse. Tehuacán plans to donate a portion of convenience store sales to Upbring, with contributions estimated to reach \$100,000 or more annually.

"At Tehuacán USA, we are convinced that a healthy lifestyle begins at a young age," said Jimmy Garza, CEO of Tehuacán USA. "Together, we can create a positive impact, one bottle at a time."

Brad Namdar, General Manager and Sporting Director of the Texas Outlaws, said, "By investing in the wellbeing and nurturing of young minds, we not only safeguard the future of individuals, but also fortify the very foundation of our society."

To learn more about Upbring's mission and initiatives, visit [Upbring.org](https://www.upbring.org).

Stay updated with the latest Upbring news and stories by following us today.

[Upbring.org](https://www.upbring.org)

[/UpbringOrg](https://www.facebook.com/UpbringOrg)

[@UpbringOrg](https://www.twitter.com/UpbringOrg)

[UpbringOrg](https://www.instagram.com/UpbringOrg)

Work weekend: serving for Christ

Work Weekend, to be held May 17-19, is an annual event at Camp Lone Star's La Grange campus, in which the camp community gathers together to volunteer their time and energy to prepare camp to serve over 2,000 summer guests. Volunteers serve by completing projects, which typically include spreading mulch, splitting wood, picking weeds, trimming trees, power washing buildings, mowing, painting, cleaning cabins, washing windows and more. Families, campers, youth groups and friends are all welcome to join us as we prepare camp for another summer season.

This weekend provides an amazing opportunity to build lasting relationships, reconnect with friends and lift one another up in service to Christ. A majority of the 2024 summer staff will participate as well, so it will be an incredible chance to connect with the dedicated college-age students who will serve the Lord and strengthen the faith of campers for nine weeks this summer. You will have the chance to work alongside them, pray with them and en-

courage them as they step into this commitment to serve; and be spiritually filled as we gather together in worship and praise for all that God has done and will do at camp this summer.

Children will be led by a summer staff member throughout the weekend to complete age-appropriate work projects and enjoy some camp activities. Not only are adults able to support camp, but kids can also make a huge impact as they serve and experience the fun of camp and make new friends along the way.

Every single camper who passes through Camp Lone Star will be impacted by the work completed during Work Weekend. From gathering wood for evening devotions to cleaning the cabin windows, every project matters. Due to the hard work and contributions that every volunteer provides, the counselors, program coordinators, challenge course facilitators, and staff members are able to serve in a clean and safe environment, setting the stage for lives to be transformed through adventurous Christ-centered experiences.

Register to serve at Work Weekend at camplonestar.org/work-weekend. This free event includes lodging and meals for the entire weekend. Camp Lone Star is immensely grateful for all who join us in preparation for Summer 2024. Your weekend of hard work will make a summer-long impact! And whether or not you are able to be there, would you join us in praying for our full-time staff, summer staff and campers? Please pray that seeds of faith would be planted, that we would cultivate Christian leaders, and that God's kingdom would grow.



A volunteer helps with a gutter project at Camp Lone Star.

I know that my Redeemer lives!

"I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

He lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;

He lives exalted, throned above;

He lives to rule his Church in love."

Easter is the most important day of the church year. We celebrate Christ's resurrection after His death on the cross, and are reminded of the hope we all have in His salvation in our lives. How sweet this reminder is of how Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice on the cross as a gift to us in redemption of all our sins. There is no better gift God could give us than the gift of eternal life.

Listen to the words of Scripture: **"He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God"** (Acts 1:3). He walked with His disciples (Luke 24:13-27), urged them to feel His body for proof that He wasn't a ghost (Luke 24:39), invited them to touch the wounds in His hands and side (John 20:26-27), and ate in front of them (Luke 24:41-42).

One of Jesus' followers named Paul listed the many witnesses to Jesus' resurrection: **"He appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James [Jesus' brother], then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me"** (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

LHM Resources for Digital Conversations

More and more conversations are happening digitally. What does research reveal about all these digital conversations, and what does God's Word reveal about how Christians can faithfully engage in them?

Lutheran Hour Ministries has two resources that empower, equip and inspire you to engage in meaningful conversations with confidence.

My Digital Voice: An Introduction to the Digital Conversation Pledge is a Project Connect booklet designed to introduce people to digital conversations. "In addition to enriching in-person faith conversations, Christians also need wisdom for making meaningful connections that bear spiritual fruit" (Spiritual Conversation in a Digital Age, 2018).

Visit www.lhm.org/projectconnect to learn more about the ministry and the vast array of booklet titles available.

Also available for individuals to join is **Thred**. This online community's first foundation is Jesus' love, grace and mercy that gives a peace on which our faith depends. The promise of Jesus' love isn't just good news, it's great news meant for everyone.

The heartbeat of Thred is to inspire compelling dialogue that helps people engage online with each other in more meaningful ways.

Thred also provides an opportunity to connect the dots between everyday online interactions and our faith by equipping Christians to embrace their place in the Gospel narrative today.



Through **thred.org**, you can download free resources and read engaging blog articles. When you join the community, you have access to in-depth courses that provide practical tools to help you confidently share your faith in candid ways.

Slate of candidates

2024 LWML Texas District Convention

President



Nancy Beckom,
Post Oak Zone



Sally Krueger,
Sunshine Zone

Financial Secretary



Alissa Elley,
North Alamo Zone



Sharon Stoerkel,
Bayou City Zone

Vice-President of Christian Life



Brianne Stahlecker,
Post Oak Zone



Cheryl Wawrzyniak,
Capitol Zone

Pastoral Counselor



Rev. David Bailes,
New Horizon Zone



Rev. Russell Etzel,
White Oak Zone

Vice-President of Organizational Resources



Janet Taylor,
Bayou City Zone

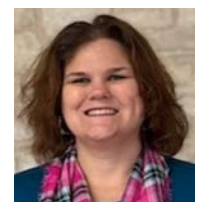


Terri Wenzel,
Gulf Coast Zone

Nominating Committee

(below, from left)

- Cathy Ashcraft, Gulf Coast Zone
- Dianne Jones, New Horizon Zone
- Sharon Mills, East Texas Zone
- Robyn Tarnowski, Golden Harvest Zone
- Dawn Tighe, Rio Grande Valley Zone
- Amy Velasquez, Sunshine Zone
- Laura Wilson, Golden Triangle Zone



2024-2026 Proposed Mission Grants

1. Christian Education Scholarships K-12, Central Texas	\$25,000
2. New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program, Canyon Lake	\$20,000
3. Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies, Houston	\$15,000
4. Proclaiming Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (LBW)	\$20,000
5. Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Center and Maternal Assistance Program, Houston	\$8,000
6. Disciple and Mobilize Youth for Gospel Outreach, Global Mission, Houston	\$12,000
7. Whatever is True, Fath Lutheran School, Plano	\$15,000
8. Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler	\$15,000
9. Adventure Woods Day Camp Outreach, Camp Lone Star, Tomball	\$20,000
10. Little Lambs Parents' Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment, Sulphur Springs	\$10,000
11. For LIFE Youth Apologetics Retreat, Y4Life	\$10,000
12. Hereford Hispanic Outreach Program, Hereford	\$25,000
13. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships	\$15,000
14. Ethnic and Young Adult Mission Developments, LINC South Texas	\$20,000
15. Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs, El Paso	\$20,000
16. Let It Shine Academy, Bethany, Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries	\$10,000
	Proposed Mission Grants \$260,000
Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students	\$40,000
	Total Requested \$300,000

Keep gathering and submitting your mite offerings to:

LWML Texas District
 ATTN: Kathy Walther, Financial Secretary
 PO Box 124
 Giddings, TX 78942

2024 Convention Keynote Speaker



The LWML Texas District 2024 Convention will feature former LWML President **Debbie Larson** as our keynote and enrichment session speaker. Debbie's theme for her term shared her belief that each woman is **Held** by His Word, **Inspired** to share Christ with others, and can be assured that she is **Surrounded** by His grace. We are **HIS**, and Debbie prays each woman recognizes and takes every opportunity God gives to serve others and share **HIS** love.

It's not too late!

Make plans to attend our 2024 District Convention now!
 Visit lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions
 to find more information.

June 13-15 - Omni Hotel - Corpus Christi



Abby Goehring, right, performs with Jan Struck at the LWML convention in Lexington, Ky., in 2021.

She's Back!

We are excited to welcome back to the stage Abby Goehring as our humorous interrupter. Abby made her comedic debut in 2018, portraying Katie Luther at the LWML Texas District Convention. When former LWML President Debbie Larsen invited her to work with one of her mentors, Jan Struck, at the 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Ky., she responded with an excited "Yes!" When asked for an encore at the 2023 convention in Milwaukee, she gleefully accepted. The rest, as they say, is history. Abby is excited to join us in Corpus Christi to provide comedic relief for the purple praying ladies of the LWML Texas District!