

TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 2024

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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But Lutheran identity is always in Christ alone, the cross and empty tomb, His expected return, and His grace-born-and-bestowing gifts for the world.

Rev. Michael Newman,
President

"This means that prayer and mission are not mutually exclusive. They are not separate things. They go hand in glove."

What does it mean to be Lutheran?

Part Two (For the first installment, please see August's issue)

I'll never forget the first time I read Herman Sasse's **Here We Stand**. It offered remarkable clarity about what it means to be Lutheran.

Last month, we saw that Lutheranism is not centered on morality or politics. But what about traditions? Sasse asks if the Reformation was a heroic and historical episode that enshrined tradition as the key identifier of Lutheranism. Are rites, ceremonies and traditions the focus of true "Lutheran Identity?"

Sasse answers succinctly: "The unity of the historical church is not achieved through conformity in rites and ceremonies, nor through identical organization and life-patterns, nor even through uniformity in theological thought-forms and opinions. **Such unity is only achieved when, in the joyful assurance of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are one in our understanding of what His saving Gospel is, and one in our understanding of what He gives us in His Sacraments.** 'For the true unity of the church, it is enough,' the Augsburg Confession states." (186-187)

Sasse is referring to AC VII, "For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere."

The Confessions add: "As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God's ordinances, but even placed above them." (FC SD X 15)

I recommend reading the complete article X of the Formula of Concord. It closes: "So the churches will not condemn one another because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them." (FC SD X 31)

Sasse brings the answer home: "The Lutheran Reformation, in its essential nature, is nothing else than a **rediscovery of the Gospel.**" (68)

What does that mean? "The rediscovery of the Scriptural truth concerning the justification of the sinner by grace alone, through faith alone, is nothing less than the rediscovery of the Gospel." (69)

Always the Gospel. Many rites, liturgies and customs are beautiful and beloved. They can assist in conveying God's Word. But Lutheran identity is always in Christ alone, the cross and empty tomb, His expected return, and His grace-born-and-bestowing gifts for the world. "Lutheran Identity" always fades into our baptismal "Christ Identity."

Lutheranism means having the Gospel at the center — justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (AC IV). And if secondary things try to rise up and rival that central truth, the Gospel — received, lived and shared — always prevails. Otherwise, we're not Lutheran.

Next month we'll tackle the question of ethnic heritage.

Rev. Michael W. Newman

Question for reflection...

Read John 4:1-26. How did Jesus redirect the woman to the Gospel and away from customs? What does this mean for you and for your congregation?

Prayer starter: Ask Jesus to use you to share His Good News — just as He did with the woman in John 4 (read verses 28-30 and 39-42).



Project 242

In the heart of Conroe, Pastor Trey Sansom ventured beyond traditional worship boundaries with a visionary mission: Project 242. Named after a scripture emphasizing fellowship and steadfast prayers, Pastor Sansom's dream was to bring the church to the doorstep of those in the twilight of their lives—residents of nursing homes. This was not about occasional services; it meant establishing a weekly place of worship within these homes, transforming them into spaces of communal faith and rejuvenation for the often-overlooked elderly.



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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



His name. His house. His mission.



Rev. Ben Gonzales

Area B Mission Strategist
District Discipleship Development

And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?'"

(Mark 11:17 NIV)

Names matter. Right now, I am just a few weeks away from being a first-time grandpa! I am so excited and expectant. This means that my daughter and son-in-law are in the process of choosing a name for my grandson. And since I didn't even get to name my own kids, I am pretty sure I will not be allowed to give any input to the naming of my grandson. Any other dads get kept out of the name game?

Anyway, the point is that names are important, and they matter. **They often reflect the hopes and dreams a parent has for their child.** Names also matter biblically. There are numerous accounts in Scripture in which names are given and names are even changed. Take Abraham and Sarah, and then in the New Testament there is Peter. Again, names matter.

With that in mind, it is important for us to see that it matters when Jesus gives His church a name. There are other descriptors of Jesus's church in the Scriptures, but this one (in Mark 11:17, above) came out of the mouth of Jesus, and He quotes Isaiah the prophet to show that this is a name that has always been on the heart of God.

It is His house, and the owner of the house gets to name it. And it is in the naming of His house that Jesus reveals His hopes and dreams for His house — that it would be a house of prayer for all nations.

This is an incredible statement. It reveals that Jesus's desire and hope is that people — all people, every nation, tongue and tribe — would find the Father's house, and find it as a place where, because of Jesus, they can now commune and be in right relationship with the Father; that the Father's house would ultimately be about prayer and relationship. And that all other activity in the Father's house is to serve this end.

This means that prayer and mission are not mutually exclusive. They are not separate things. They go hand in glove. What seems to be true throughout the history of the church is that where the church is



All Saints' Church (Castle Church), Wittenberg, Germany

praying the most, the kingdom of God is growing the most. **The naming of the house reveals the hopes and dreams of the Father, that all people might enter and be drawn to the place where heaven and earth meet in deep relationship with the Father.**

When we think of catalyzing a mission movement in the Texas District, we understand it to mean that prayer must precede and sustain that movement; that a prayer movement precedes and sustains a mission movement.

I believe these words from David Butts in his book, "**Forgotten Power**," are very helpful.

"Evidently, Jesus believed that the people who were a part of God's House should live in accordance with the naming of the house."

It is a joy and honor to serve our King in His kingdom as we walk together. I invite you to join all those in the Texas District as we humbly yield together in living in accordance with the naming of the house.

If you would like more information or resources to help with stimulating a posture of prayer in your local context, please contact me at bgonzales@txlcms.org.

Little is much when God is in it



Rev. J. Brown

Legacy Giving Ambassador

There was a time in my 20s when I thought I didn't have much to give. In hindsight, I look back on those years and realize that although I didn't have much money, I still had an incredible amount to offer. While I still gave

what I could to the church, I considered myself poor, and wished I could do more.

I am writing this article from a mission house in Xenacoj, Guatemala. Our seven-day mission trip includes sleeping in bunk beds in a humble home. The bathrooms aren't what we're used to in the United States, and cooking is taking place in a big pot over an open fire. It's a bit of an adjustment for us to get used to these accommodations.

And yet, we are living like kings and queens compared to some I've visited who are trapped in extreme poverty. While here, we've worked with three separate churches to provide food and share the Gospel in two remote towns. One of those three churches is all outdoors and shelter from the rain is provided by five large tarps. It was raining and very muddy the day that we brought lunch to more than 80 smiling children from the community. The church has a single bathroom that only consists of a big hole in the ground.

Some of the homes we visited were just as bad. We delivered a care package to one home that was truly just a shack and smaller than our Legacy Deo office. Inside that one structure lived 17 people. The home was meshed from scrap pieces of metal, wood and a lot of cardboard. The roof leaked. There were many places where you could see outside through gaps in the walls. They walked on a dirt floor, and there was no electricity nor running water. The thing that shocked me the most was that there were chickens, dogs and even a pig inside the home. You can imagine that the animals just did their business right where the people were living.

And here I used to think I was poor. The reality is that

even though I was once homeless and lived inside the dressing room of my karate school, I was still rich compared to much of the world.

And what about those meager gifts I made to the church while I was in my 20s? As it turns out, my few dollars in the offering plate would have made a huge difference to those in extreme need. Even when it came to money, I still had a lot to give. Many people hesitate to give because they think they can't give much. The reality is that every little bit counts. It doesn't always take much to be a big blessing to those who are begging for morsels.

God loves a cheerful giver, and He can certainly do great things with a variety of gifts. There are great ministries, good schools, and needy individuals who would likely welcome whatever you can give. "Large" or "small," what is it that you might be able to share? What seems like a small gift to you might be a monumental gift to the receiver.



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Happenings Around Texas

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Texas Messenger
1221 Satellite View
Round Rock, TX 78665

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

The Texas Messenger is available online at txlcms.org.

SAN ANTONIO

Adding to the family of faith

On June 30, Crown of Life welcomed 43 new members into their fellowship; six by Baptism and six by adult confirmation. Praise be to God!

LUBBOCK

Baptisms at Redeemer

On April 28 and May 12, Rev. Charles Nemec baptized Jackson Vargo and Dayu Wheeler, respectively. Jackson is pictured with Pastor Nemec on the left, and Dayu is on the right.



MERCEDES

Baptisms at Immanuel

RIGHT: On Easter Sunday, March 31, Rev. Ed Weber baptized Ellie Huerta into Christ. Pictured are, from left, Evan Huerta, Ernesto Huerta, Pastor Weber, Tony Huerta, Ellie Huerta, Elexis Huerta and Isabel Huerta.



BELOW: On June 16, America Regalado was baptized as Mision Emanuel, also by Pastor Weber. Pictured are, from left, Rigoberto Regalado Jr., Valeria Regalado, Rigoberto Regalado Sr., Vilma Regalado, Jaime Huerta, America Regalado, Jocelyn Regalado, Damaris Regalado, and Pastor Weber.



BASTROP

First wedding at Epiphany

On June 2, Hoyt Heinmuller and Donna Reif were the first couple to be married at the church-plant. They are pictured with Rev. E.B. Holschuh.



HAPPENINGS

2024 SEMINARY CALLS AND ASSIGNMENTS IN THE TEXAS DISTRICT

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

On April 23, Michael D. Hendrickson and David Krüger received vicarage assignments in the Texas District for the next year. Vicar Hendrickson (left) is serving at Memorial, Houston; and Vicar Krüger (right, pictured with his wife, Sarah, and Rev. Michael Newman) is serving at St. Paul, Austin.



Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

On April 23, Garrett Anklam received a vicarage assignment from St. Mark, Houston. Deaconess student Julie Baumann received her internship assignment from Lord of Life, Plano.

Gregory "Cody" MacMillin received a call as assistant pastor to Concordia, San Antonio; and Sammy Roberts (a student of the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) received a call as pastor to Grace Divine, Hurst.



Garrett Anklam



Julie Baumann



Gregory "Cody"
MacMillin



Sammy Roberts

GIDDINGS

Confirmation and new members

RIGHT: On April 28, 11 youth publicly professed and confirmed their faith with the congregation at Immanuel. Pictured are, from left (front row) Karee Moerbe, Maggie Page, Sydney Fischer, Alexa Mueller, Landry Mutscher; (middle row) Parker Cmerek, Braycen Mersiovsky, Emma Behrens, Kyndall Ehrlund, Collin Brewerton, Lane Harrison; (top row) Rev. Joshua Hahn, DCE Katie Otto and Rev. Robert Tiner. (Photo credit: Amanda DeRouen)



BELOW: On June 30, several new members were welcomed into the family of faith at Immanuel. New members are pictured below with Rev. Joshua Hahn.



PAMPA

New members at Zion

On April 28, James and Joann Wininer and Randy and Debra Zabel were welcomed into the Zion family. Joann and Debra both made their confession of faith after completing adult confirmation, and were joined by their spouses. Praise be to God! They are pictured with Rev. Michael Erickson.



HAPPENINGS

BOWIE

Confirmation at St. Peter

On May 19, three youth made their confession of faith to the body of Christ. Pictured are, from left, Reegen Ferguson, Archer Ferguson and Raegan Hughes. Also pictured is Rev. Mark DeYoung.



SUGAR LAND

Handbags for Hope

The Lady Fishers of Fishers of Men hosted a "Purse Exchange" and luncheon on Feb. 10 to benefit the Fort Bend Women's Center in Rosenberg. Purses brought by 44 guests were "exchanged" in a white elephant-style game; a Consuela bag was raffled, and a Lucchese bag was auctioned. From the proceeds, \$1,325 was raised and \$305 in toiletry items were donated. The Lady Fishers are blessed to be a blessing to women experiencing domestic violence in their community.

Pictured below are attendees, from left, Susan Yovich, Margie Campbell, Ruth Stubenrouch, Karen Paulus and Amy Benitez.



LA GRANGE

Preschool Parents' Chapel

On May 15, parents and extended families of the students of Mount Calvary gathered for the Easter parents' chapel service. Following the worship service, children shared hymns they had learned during the school year. All enjoyed this time of worship with one another.



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

St. Matthew, Westfield
Richard and Patricia LaShomb
64 years, Aug. 13

Curtis and Sharon Gace
51 years, Aug. 25

Our Savior, Rockwall
Rudy and Dorothy Hunger
65 years, Sept. 18

Gethsemane, Houston
Kenneth and Alice Kaspar
50 years, Aug. 11

Milton and Viola Bade
58 years, Aug. 14

George and Clarice Aschenbeck
57 years Aug. 20

Chuck and Beverly Greeney
61 years, Aug. 25

Ernie and Isabell Pali
57 years, Sept. 15

Lonnie and Kathy Angst
61 years, Sept. 15

Roy and Sharon Albe
66 years, Sept. 21

Holy Cross, College Station
Glenn and Wanda Pittsford
55 years, Sept. 6

Our Savior, Centerville
Ike and Theresa Tower
50 years, June 28

Charlie and Kathy Cornelius
60 years, Aug. 14

St. Paul, Thorndale
Kenneth and Marilyn Bakenhus
58 years, July

Dennis and Jane Becker
53 years, July

Preston and Janet Adams
57 years, August

Gerald and Pat Niemtschk
56 years, August

Durwood and Darleen Tucker
61 years, August

St. Paul, The Grove
Lloyd and Brenda Aridt
54 years, Sept. 5

Keith and Mavis Shafer
52 years, Sept. 10

Sy and Sherry Hartgrove
52 years, Sept. 15

Salem, Whitehall (Navasota)
Charles and Margaret Falco
53 years, April 30

Cross of Christ, DeSoto
Bo and Carol Brown
52 years, Sept. 1

Ronnie and Patty McKethan
51 years, Sept. 1

Linda and Don Hinkley
53 years, Sept. 17

David and Suetta Freerksen
50 years, Sept. 21

Grace, San Marcos
Marvin and Barbara Pinson
60 years, June 14

Trinity, Houston
Rollin and Eldeen Cattau
70 years, July 25



Rudy and Dorothy Hunger



Rollin and Eldeen Cattau



Ike and Theresa Tower



Charles and Margaret Falco



Marvin and Barbara Pinson



Kenneth and Marilyn Bakenhus



Charlie and Kathy Cornelius

Lutheran school leaders prepare for another year of sharing Christ

Dr. Bill Hinz
Director, School Ministry

Our Texas Lutheran school educators have the blessing each day to share God's Word and His love and forgiveness with their students. Teaching the children that the love and forgiveness of Jesus is God's gift for them **is our most vital calling.**

Helping children understand their eternal value as a child of God is more important now than ever. Building their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ is critical. Cultivating all the abilities and gifts that God has blessed them with is crucial for our students to serve and love God, their families and their neighbors. As our school staffs prepared for the 2024–25 school year, our administrators gathered in San Antonio July 15–17 for the annual Administrators' Conference.

We were challenged by our keynote speakers **Dr. Leslie Smith** of Principal 360 and **Laura Colangelo**, executive director of the Texas Private Schools Association (TPSA), an advocacy organization that represents the over 800 private accredited, non-profit schools in Texas in the state legislature and Washington, D.C. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn in individual sessions about improving student achievement, recruiting staff, crisis management and more.

Throughout our conference, we were blessed during our times of worship as **Rev. Travis Hartjen**, church-planting pastor of Crown of Life, Colleyville, guided us through our conference theme of "Seek," based on 1 Chron. 16:11: **"Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually!"**

The Texas District is very blessed to have another talented group of administrators and early childhood directors join our leadership team for the 2024-2025 school year. We know that there will be challenges, but we also hold fast to the assurance that we can rely on our mighty God. He will walk with all our school leaders and their teams as they seek His wisdom and discernment, as they guide their staffs, and as they share abundantly the love of Christ with their students and their families.



2024 Texas District Administrators' Conference attendees

There were celebrations! Our schools have seen growth and expansion. Additional classrooms are being added and new buildings are being built to provide more space for students and children to grow in their faith. As our enrollment continues to increase, we celebrate new beginnings and give thanks to God for the blessings of funding that will enable schools like St. Peter, Roanoke, to expand their preschool program into an elementary program; and St. John Academy, Hamilton, to expand their preschool program.

We are preparing frontline missionaries as our students are equipped with the Word by caring, loving teachers. We thank God for dedicated administrators and their staffs, who have been equipped by His power to share His love and forgiveness with students and families, and to each other.

As we seek His direction, we know this will be a great year!

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

'God does stuff on purpose'



By **Pat Fick**
CAN-DO Director

Our mission team arrived at the airport joyfully anticipating our return to Hooper Bay, Alaska. The flight from Austin kept getting delayed, and we were concerned that we wouldn't be able to make our connecting flights. We checked with the gate agent, and sure enough a new plan was needed. The Alaska Airlines representatives were very kind. They rebooked us for a morning flight, gave us a night at the Hilton, and provided food vouchers for breakfast!

Our new route meant that we would have to spend the night in Bethel, Alaska, because the bush planes only fly into the villages during the day. I called Father Gregg, who we have worked with for years, and he was able to find us lodging at the Catholic church in Bethel. While we were there, we had visits from two of the young adults who had grown up participating in our vacation Bible school program in Hooper Bay, and now lived in Bethel. One young man introduced us to his wife and two beautiful daughters. The other, a beautiful young woman, was really struggling with some abuse and addiction issues. She really needed to talk, and to work through some emotional pain. One of my team members has been sober for 19 years and was really able to speak truth and hope into her life. She was so grateful that we had been stranded in Bethel so that we could encourage her heart. She kept saying, "God does stuff on purpose!"

That is so true. We often get frustrated when our plans don't follow the script we have formed in our minds, but God does stuff on purpose. He has better plans and is often working behind the scenes to orchestrate opportunities for us to witness for Him or be protected from some unseen danger.

I led Bible studies on the Beatitudes at Teen Camp in Salcha, Alaska. I also received an invitation from



a YouVersion friend (who I honestly never talk to; we only do Bible study plans together on rare occasions) and guess what the study is on ... the Beatitudes. I do believe that God does stuff on purpose!

So what is the takeaway from being reminded that God does stuff on purpose? I think it is Prov. 3:5-8: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

So the next time your plans get redirected, instead of complaining, ask God to show you what he is trying to teach you! As the song "Waymaker" reminds us: "Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it, You're working. You never stop; You never stop working!"

Yep, God does stuff on purpose!

Mission Liberty Hill breaks ground for new multipurpose building



By Raelyn Pracht
CEF Marketing Specialist

Back in 2009, a group of leaders from Zion Lutheran Church, Walburg (Georgetown), started a Bible study group in Liberty Hill. Their journey led them to leasing a warehouse at Panther Storage, where worship services soon followed. A significant milestone came when Richard Steyer generously donated his family's land, envisioning a Lutheran church to serve the community.

In 2014, the land was officially dedicated to Mission Liberty Hill to use. The congregation and community have cherished this land, hosting everything from Easter services to a joyful Christmas festival. This land has been and will continue to be a "Mission Field" and serve as a beacon of faith and community.

Finally, on June 12, Mission Liberty Hill joined together to celebrate the groundbreaking of their new multipurpose building. This new building will be used for church services as well as community events.

Mission Liberty Hill expresses heartfelt gratitude to all who joined in celebrating this milestone. They eagerly anticipate how God will work through their faith-filled community to spread Christ's love locally and beyond.

As they embark on this new phase, Mission Liberty Hill echoes the words of gratitude: "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! How great is our God!" This groundbreaking ceremony marks not just the start of a building project, but a testament to faith, community and the enduring spirit of Mission Liberty Hill.



Leaders from Mission Liberty Hill break ground.



Rev. Mike Cofer reads a letter of congratulations from Rev. Michael Newman, Texas District president.



Upbring Foster In Texas 'Dream Team'

Creates Forever Home for Alize 'Zay' Smith

Two-and-a-half-year-old Alize Smith is living a life many children can only dream of, especially those in foster care. This Fort Worth girl has walked the beaches of Hawaii, flown kites in California, picked apples in Massachusetts and attended multiple Texas Rangers ballgames. But she might not have had these wonderful experiences had her parents, Chris and Hailey Smith, not fostered and later adopted Alize, or "Zay" as they call her.

As a pediatric nurse practitioner at a Fort Worth children's hospital, Hailey had witnessed the effects of child abuse and neglect. In 2021, she attended a child wellbeing seminar and learned about the need for foster families in Texas.

"We didn't have any kids at the time," says Hailey. "We were at a place of stability and wanted to demonstrate what unconditional love looks like whether it be permanent or temporary."

Chris's parents had fostered about a dozen children, from newborns to teenagers. "We fostered a lot while I was growing up," says Chris. "I had a lot of experience with the system, so it was important for me to try to do the same."

The Smiths became licensed through Upbring in January 2022 and received four-month-old Zay into their home a month later. The youngest of 13 siblings, Zay had been removed from her birth family's home because of neglect and her mother's substance use.

Though adopting Zay was not the original goal, the very real possibility that she might



Chris and Hailey Smith with Zay and their son, Shepherd. In 2023, the family picked apples in Massachusetts.

return to an unstable home environment caused Chris and Hailey to petition a court for custody. And Upbring was there to help.

"They were the best advocates and really went to bat for us to keep Zay in our home," says Hailey of the Upbring Foster In Texas staff. "We felt like we had the 'Dream Team.'"

In May 2023, Zay found her forever home with Chris and Hailey. The Smiths are committed to giving their kind and empathetic daughter a healthy childhood full of happy memories. They haven't ruled out fostering again, either.

"We are grateful every day for our foster journey so far, and especially that it brought us our daughter," reflects Hailey. "She is the best addition to our family, and we could never imagine what life would look like without her."

Upbring Foster In Texas works diligently to advance child wellbeing and provide nurturing homes for children like Zay. Learn more about foster-to-adoption in Texas at [Upbring.org/Foster-to-Adopt](https://upbring.org/Foster-to-Adopt).

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

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Lutheran Women in Mission

Wow! Y'all elected me to be your president!

I am humbled and honored to accept the privilege of serving as your new president. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me. I am filled with enthusiasm and, frankly, a bit of anxiety as I assume my new duties.

As I think about our future service together, I am reminded of the countless ways God has blessed me through this organization. It began with a very simple invitation to attend my first meeting. There I encountered other women who loved Jesus and wanted to proclaim Christ as Savior, seeking ways to serve. I found opportunities to develop a servant's heart through simply saying "yes" to helping with VBS and Bible studies, writing a workshop, serving meals in a soup kitchen, making bed runners for hospice patients, and more. Working alongside others as a committee member or chairman infused my heart with joy as, together, we served the Lord with gladness. Having the privilege to serve at the zone and district levels, including as a district vice-president, honed my leadership skills, again teaching me what team ministry looks like.

All along the way I was enabled to mentor others the way I had been mentored. And here we are. I anticipate more blessings and more learning. It won't be my presidency or my legacy, it will be ours.

Together with the amazing team you have elected to serve alongside me, we will seek God's will as we plan. I will be surrounding myself with former presidents as advisors and asking others for help in my areas of weakness. I want to hear your ideas. How can the district help you as you serve Jesus through Lutheran Women in Mission?

I ask you to lift up each officer and committee chairman by name in prayer, including me. Let us support and encourage one another as we share the love of Christ with those in need. I invite you to read Ephesians 3, beginning at the 14th verse. The heading in my Bible calls it a "Prayer of Spiritual Strength." I have and will continue to use this as my prayer as I serve you as president. The closing words of that chapter state:

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Sally Krueger
LWML Texas District President

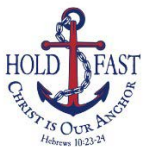
2024–2026 Mite Goal:
\$403,000

2024–2026 Mission Grant Goal:
\$272,314
(includes the abundance of \$47,314 from 2022–2024)

2024–2026 25% to LWML National Mission:
\$80,335

2024–2026 Mission Grants

Mission Grant	Amount
Scholarships for Seminarians - Texas District	\$60,000
New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program – Canyon Lake	\$20,000
Disaster Response Team – Trinity, Tyler	\$15,000
Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies – Houston	\$15,000
Proclaiming Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired – Lutheran Braille Workers	\$20,000
Let It Shine Academy – Bethany, Austin	\$10,000
Adventure Woods Day Camp Outreach – Camp Lone Star, Tomball	\$20,000
Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships	\$15,000
Hereford Hispanic Outreach Program – Hereford	\$25,000
Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers and Maternal Assistance Program – Houston	\$8,000
Disciple and Mobilize Youth for Gospel Outreach – Glocal Mission, Houston	\$12,000
Little Lambs Parents' Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment – Sulphur Springs	\$10,000
Christian Education Scholarships (K-12) – Central Texas	\$25,000
Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs – El Paso (partial funding)	\$17,314
Total (includes \$47,314 abundance from 2022-24 biennium)	\$272,314



CHRIST IS OUR ANCHOR



Total as of June 30, 2024

2024–2026 Mite Goal	\$403,000.00
Mites Received	43,349.05
Total Mites Still Needed	\$403,000.00
Mission Grants Paid	

Send your mite offerings along with a remittance form to:

LWML Texas District

Attn: Alissa Elley, Financial Secretary,
PO Box 183, Seguin, TX 78156

For more information, visit
lwmltxdist.org/mission-grants.

