



# MINISTER *to* MINISTER

January 17, 2025

Visit us online at [txlcms.org](http://txlcms.org)

## Disaster Relief in the Pacific Southwest

LCMS Congregations and Christians are being affected by the intense wildfire damage in the Pacific Southwest District. See how you can serve our brothers and sisters in need.

WHAT TO KNOW

HOW TO HELP

## PRESIDENT'S PAUSE // BE ENCOURAGED

**From the Pacific Southwest District // News About the Fires:** We praise God that no PSD church or school properties have experienced significant damage as of this point. Of note is the fact that Palisades Lutheran is the only Christian church still standing in its immediate area. Several churches are serving as community care centers. Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs and Care Teams are on site providing assistance. LCC is also training people in "Spiritual First Aid."

The most effective ways to help right now are:

- **Pray** - Continue to lift up the victims, first responders, communities and all of us in prayer as we experience this significant disaster. This includes praying that we recognize the opportunities we have to share the light and love of Jesus to so many in need. See below for a prayer you can offer.
- **Donate** - [PSD Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- **Love** - Be the hands and feet of Jesus as you listen to and help those who may be traumatized by this disaster.

We pray:

Lord,

We lift up our eyes to the hills and see danger, threat, and fire. We ask with the Psalmist, "Where does our help come from?" It comes, as it always has and always will, from You Lord, the maker of heaven and earth! Give Your help, that is Your strength and support, to all those in need. Calm the winds and ease the flames by Your power over all things. Give strength and courage to the first responders serving throughout our communities. Many are weary and overwhelmed. Send relief and assistance, enabling them to find moments of rest. Comfort those grieving loss, whether of life, home, or security. Send helpers into their lives to meet their immediate needs and to bear

witness to Your love. Provide hope in the midst of grief, as only You can, because You are near with everlasting life and security that can never be taken away. Guide Your people to reach out to our neighbors with the grace and mercy of Christ. Enable us to listen and humble us to serve in the most helpful ways. Work in the lives of those who don't yet believe with the gift of faith. Lord, throughout it all, direct our eyes to the hill on which You suffered for us. Assure us by Your death and resurrection that You overcome all things and redeem them for Your good purpose. Watch over our going out and coming in now and forever. In the name of our eternal help, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## WORKER UPDATES // BE IN PRAYER

*Pray for those in need of guidance, affirmation, healing, relief, and assurance.*

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### Prayer Requests

- **Mrs. Audrey Black, wife of Rev. Donald Black (Trinity, Houston)** - entered in-home hospice care
  - **Rev. Michael Frick (Em., Sachse)** - at the passing of his wife, Deborah
  - **Rev. Laverne Janssen (Em., Abilene)** - at the passing of his brother, Leon
  - **Mrs. Jeanne Kretzmann, wife of Rev. James Kretzmann (Em., Cedar Park)** - at the passing of her husband, James
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### Funerals

**Mrs. Deborah Frick, wife of Rev. Michael Frick (Em., Sachse)** joined her Savior's side on December 17, 2024. A memorial service will be held January 18, 2025, 2:00-3:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer, Dallas (7611 Park Ln).

**Mr. Leon Janssen, brother of Rev. Laverne Janssen (Em., Abilene)** was called to be with Jesus on January 6, 2025. His services will be held January 18, 2025 at Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home in Marshfield, WI (1010 E Veterans Pkwy): visitation at 10:00 a.m., memorial at 11:00 a.m.

**Rev. James Kretzmann, (Em., Cedar Park)** joined his Savior's side today, January 10, 2025. A visitation service will be held at Beck Funeral Home in Cedar Park (1700 E Whitestone Blvd) on Thursday, January 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. An additional visitation will be held Friday, January 17, 10:00 a.m. at Good Shepherd, Cedar Park (700 E Whitestone Blvd), followed by a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. The service will be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@GoodShepherdCPTX>. Following the service will be a luncheon in the Community Center.

Interment will be at Amble Cemetery, Howard City, MI (9635 N Bailey Rd) on Thursday, January 23, 2025. Visitation will be 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Howard City Funeral Home followed by a graveside service with military funeral honors at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to Legacy Deo (formerly Lutheran Foundation of Texas) <https://www.legacydeo.org> for the To God Be the Glory Endowment (EN183), established years ago by James and Jeanne to support several entities for the training of church workers and missions and ministries in Texas, in the USA, and around the world.

We praise and thank the Lord for James' life and ministry, and we pray for comfort and assurance for his family.

**Mr. Burge Smith (Em., Georgetown)** was called to glory on January 9, 2025. A

memorial service will be held January 23, 10:30 a.m. at Faith, Georgetown (4010 Williams Dr), which will be followed by a light lunch.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, widow of Rev. John Thompson (Em., Humble) entered glory on January 9, 2025. Her funeral was held January 14 at Darst Funeral Home in Houston, and she was laid to rest beside her husband in a private ceremony at Houston National Cemetery.

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## New Calls

### Commissioned

#### Accepted

Mrs. Cheryl Bailes, Teacher, Living Savior, Montgomery to Principal, Faith, Huntsville

#### Declined

Mr. Matthew Babisak, Teacher, Faith, Plano to Teacher, Memorial, Houston

### Ordained

#### Accepted

Rev. Brandon Koble, Principal, Trinity HS, West Allis, WI to Headmaster, Faith, Plano

#### Undecided

Rev. Duane Bamsch, Sole, Grace, Grass Valley, CA to Sole, Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls

Rev. Jace Detrie, Sole, Luther Memorial, Tinton Falls, NJ to Assoc., Messiah, Plano

Rev. David Ficken, Candidate, Arlington Heights, IL to Assoc., St. Peter, Arlington Heights, IL

Rev. Robert Mundahl, Em., Rockport to Sole, Lord of Life, Corpus Christi

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## Installations

Rev. Timmothy Heath, Jr. // February 8, 11:00 a.m. // Assoc., Faith, Plano

Rev. Loucan Saling // February 8, 12:00 p.m. // Sole, Our Redeemer, Longview

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## Ordination Anniversaries // January

### 35 years

Rev. William Holzer (1/7) - *Grace, Brenham*

### 20 years

Rev. Joe Mashburn (1/16) - *Faith, Corsicana*

Rev. James Kretzmann (1/16) - *Em., Cedar Park*

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## DISTRICT NEWS // BE INFORMED

**Catalyst Innovation Lab:** Join us January 22, 9a-2:30p at the Texas District Catalyst Innovation Lab, a dynamic and inspiring event where creativity and innovation collide! Discover new and unique ideas to grow ministries and multiply disciples of Jesus. This in-person event will take place at the Texas District Mission Support Center and is open to public attendance. Register for free at the following link: [Learn more](#)

**Upcoming LuTMA Events:** Lutheran Transitional Ministry Association (LuTMA) will be holding some valuable events in the near future, for discerning whether or not interim ministry is right for you, training for interim ministry, and a conference for churches too small to continue in their current setting. Further details for these and more can be found on their website. [Learn more](#)

**2025 Missional Youth Retreat:** The 2025 Missional Youth Retreat (MYR) will be held this summer, June 1-5! At MYR, students can experience, pursue, and thrive in their life passions through worship, small group time, and service projects. This experience is perfect for young people with demonstrated leadership potential who have a calling for ministry and are passionate about sharing the Gospel in their daily work and vocation. Registration is now open! [Learn more & register](#)

[READ MORE DISTRICT NEWS](#)

## 2025 Convention Info Center

**Call for Nominations:** Nomination forms for District President and Area Vice Presidents, as well as descriptions of these positions are available for download now. **Nominations for these positions will close February 4, 2025.** [Learn More](#)

**2025 Texas District Convention Registration:** Register NOW for the 2025 Texas District Convention. [Learn more](#)

## RESOURCE TOOLBOX // BE EQUIPPED

**Mission Insight // Hispanic Ministry:** "By 2050, the Hispanic population in Texas is expected to be more than double its size. There is a significant opportunity to make a difference and share the love and grace of Jesus." Considering how to reach the Hispanic population in your area? For some inspiration, see what's happening in Area B. [Read more](#)

## EVENTS & LINKS // BE CONNECTED

### Upcoming Events

JANUARY 22, 2025 // Catalyst Innovation Lab // [Learn More](#)

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2025 // Texas District Spiritual Renewal Retreat // [Learn More](#)

FEBRUARY 4, 2025 // DP and Area VP Nominations Deadline // [Learn More](#)

JUNE 5-7, 2025 // Texas District Convention // [Learn more](#)

*View more events and submit publication requests at the following links*

[DISTRICT EVENTS](#)

[COMMUNITY EVENTS](#)

## Helpful Links

[2025 DISTRICT CONVENTION](#)  
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