

TEXAS

FEBRUARY 2025

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

“Repentance reveals God’s great love and transforms our hearts to show His compassion to fellow sinners: ‘We love because [God] first loved us’ (1 John 4:19).”

Rev. Michael Newman,
District President

We want to share what
God is doing in your
church!
Send in your news:
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Combat or compassion?

Do you ever feel aggravated by cultural gyrations? Annoyed by trends? Disgusted by social whims?

Sometimes it makes you want to fight.

In his memoir, *The Pastor*, Eugene Peterson recalled how, as a child, a boy named Garrison Johns bullied and tormented him. One day, the taunting became combat. Garrison pounced, but Eugene surprised himself:

"I wrestled him to the ground, sat on his chest, and pinned his arms to the ground with my knees. I couldn't believe it — he was helpless under me. At my mercy. It was too good to be true. I hit him in the face with my fists. It felt good, and I hit him again — blood spurted from his nose, a lovely crimson on the snow. By this time all the other children were cheering, egging me on. 'Black his eyes!' 'Bust his teeth!'

"I said to Garrison, 'Say Uncle.' He wouldn't say it. I hit him again. More blood. More cheering. Now my audience was bringing the best out of me. And then my Christian training reasserted itself. I said, 'Say, I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.' He wouldn't say it. I hit him again. More blood. I tried again, 'Say, I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.' And he said it. Garrison Johns was my first Christian convert" (p. 48).

Combat can bring results. But are they Godly results?

The church may be tempted to approach a frustrating and misguided world with combat. Fights. Condemning statements. Loud shouts. Cold shoulders. Pounding fists. Self-righteous separation. Christians may even be tempted to take this track with

one another. That is, until we hear God's convicting Word of truth, "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**" ... "**None is righteous, no, not one**" (Romans 3:23, 10).

The problem is us. We deserved combat. But God didn't unleash His fury against us. He sent Jesus, who, "**when he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd**" (Matthew 9:36). The Son of God looked at a chaotic and lost culture and demonstrated surprising care culminating in the cross. "**While we were still sinners, Christ died for us**" (Romans 5:8).

This year, I am inviting everyone to join in a day of repentance on Ash Wednesday, March 5. My hope is that it sets the tone for our conduct with one another and with the world. Repentance puts us all in the same boat before a holy, yet merciful God. Repentance clarifies and corrects our self-righteous self-assessments and opinions. Repentance removes smokescreens, distractions and pet-causes. Repentance reveals God's great love and transforms our hearts to show His compassion to fellow sinners: "**We love because [God] first loved us**" (1 John 4:19).

My prayer is that, through your humble repentance, God's gracious love will well up in you, and all people will see and confess Jesus, not by thrown punches, but through God's compassion.

Rev. Michael W. Newman
President

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read 1 John 4:7-12. What actions are you called to as an individual and as a congregation?

Prayer starter: Thank God for verses 9-10 of 1 John 4; confess any failures of verses 11-12.





**THE LUTHERAN LITERACY PROJECT:
Sharing the Joy of Reading**

With the help of the Lutheran Literacy Project, Grace Lutheran Church in Del Rio demonstrated the power of community by hosting a successful free book fair. The congregation enthusiastically collected books, spread the word through local advertising, and invited families, teachers, and neighbors to participate. Their efforts brought people together and placed books in the hands of countless children and families, sparking inspiration for similar events in other congregations.

Encouraged by Del Rio's success, congregations in Monahans and Fort Stockton are now exploring plans to host their own book fairs in 2025. These events aim to continue building bridges between churches and their communities through literacy.

The Lutheran Literacy Project is extending its outreach beyond book fairs by participating in events like Fort Griffin's Education Days and the "Boo in the Zoo" celebration in Carlsbad, NM. Thousands of books were distributed, and families were introduced to the joy of reading, ensuring this ministry leaves a lasting impact wherever it goes.

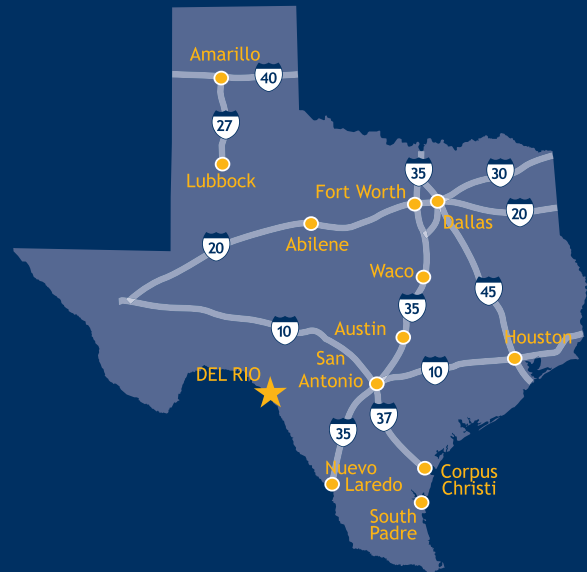


Through events like these, we witness how sharing books can also share the love of Christ. Learn more at txlcms.org/news/ or txlcms.org/videos/

SPREADING THE GOSPEL ACROSS TEXAS

Your contribution to **Texas Partners in Mission** goes directly to support missions in the Texas District.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



GIVE NOW!
txlcms.org/tpim



PRAY

It is our number one priority. Our goal is to have 10% of the Texas District, LCMS members praying regularly for the mission.
bit.ly/missionprayertx

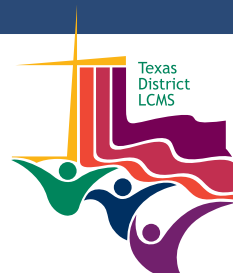


GIFTS

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



DFW's first chartered Hispanic Lutheran church – Comunidad Cristiana Expansión



Rev. Ben Gonzales
Area B Mission Strategist and
District Discipleship Development

According to DATA USA, Hispanics make up 42% of the Dallas population. As of 2022, about 35% of Fort Worth's population is Hispanic. Also, the Hispanic population in Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) is expected to grow at a faster rate than the overall population. It is projected that Hispanics will become the largest ethnic group in the DFW area in the near future. Even more important is that by 2050, the Hispanic population in Texas is expected to more than double. There is a significant opportunity to make a difference and share the love and grace of Jesus.

While there is much work to be done, it has been an exciting time in Area B of the Texas District, where we just celebrated the chartering of the first Hispanic church in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. On Aug. 11, Comunidad Cristiana Expansión Rockwall was officially chartered as a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), making it the first Hispanic mission to be chartered under the Expansión Mission Network. This is a significant achievement for our network community. This important step defines the covenant and relationship with the LCMS and our esteemed Texas District. Additionally, it paves the way for more missions to follow in their footsteps. Expansión Mission Network believes that more missions will charter in the coming years.

In 2017, Comunidad Cristiana Expansión embarked on an inspiring journey to share the Gospel with the Hispanic

community in Rockwall. With the unwavering support of Our Savior, Rockwall, we were granted ample space to hold Spanish services every Sunday. This generous collaboration has significantly amplified the mission. The inaugural Spanish service welcomed about 25 attendees, and today they are thrilled to see attendance rise to nearly 84. They are making a meaningful impact in their community!

But there is even more to celebrate! On Nov. 3, Expansión Mission Network proudly celebrated the ordination and installation of Executive Director Rev. Jaime Gonzalez and Deaconesses Fabiana Gonzalez and Maria Barron. This significant ceremony was held at Our Savior, Rockwall, the regular meeting place for Comunidad Cristiana Expansión.

This groundbreaking achievement at Expansión Mission Network represents the organization's first ordination ceremony, setting an inspiring precedent for the future. It not only honors the calling of those stepping into pastoral and diaconal roles, but also encourages others to pursue their own divine callings.

Texas District leadership played a vital role in the ordination and installation, demonstrating their commitment to church leadership. Rev. Michael Newman, district president, led the event alongside Area B Mission Strategist Rev. Ben Gonzales, Area A Mission Facilitator Rev. Lincon Guerra, and Circuit Supervisor Rev. Shawn Deterding.

We praise God for all that He is doing among the growing population of Hispanics in the DFW area and in the Texas District. Please continue to pray for the Texas District and for our Hispanic brothers and sisters as the Holy Spirit continues to lead, guide and direct them toward greater

fruitfulness in their endeavors to expand the Kingdom.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on Area B of the Texas District or to sign up for the Area B newsletter, contact Rev. Ben Gonzales at bgonzales@txlcms.org. For more information on the Expansión Mission Network, visit expansionmn.org or contact Rev. Jaime Gonzalez at jaimedesantiago@gmail.com.



Leaving – and living – a legacy



Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick
Chief Executive Officer
Legacy Deo

Since our rebranding from Lutheran Foundation of Texas to Legacy Deo several years ago, I've had many opportunities to encourage people like you to **leave** a legacy. Today I'm also encouraging you to **live** a

legacy.

What's a legacy? It's typically defined as a bequest or inheritance. In my mind, a legacy is broader than that. It's simply, but also significantly, anything of great and lasting value.

From time to time, Terry and I think and talk about what kind of legacy we'll be leaving for our children and grandchildren. Our list includes money in different shapes, forms and sizes. It also includes personal possessions of financial or sentimental value.

Life insurance policies, IRAs, annuities, investment accounts, bank accounts, savings accounts, 401(k)s, 403(b)s — these are some of the most common financial vehicles by which people leave their financial legacy to their family and favorite charitable causes.

Though some of those legacy gifts can be made while we're still living, most of our financial legacy to family members and a variety of charities will come after Terry

and I have left this life on earth for our home in heaven.

In addition to realizing that our legacy will be left, over the years we've come to realize that our legacy can also be lived. You may wonder what is meant by living a legacy.

Living a legacy means living every day in accordance with values and actions that inspire others and leave a lasting positive impact in their lives.

Living a legacy means living with purpose, nurturing relationships and contributing to causes greater than ourselves.

Living a legacy includes focusing on integrity, kindness and perseverance in our daily life.

Living a legacy means giving generously to the people and charitable causes nearest and dearest to our hearts.

Living a legacy means mentoring, giving to, and encouraging those around us in a way that plants seeds of influence that will endure long after we're gone from this earth and this life.

Living a legacy doesn't happen overnight. It's the culmination of years of focusing on people and things beyond ourselves.

So as you think about the best way to leave your legacy, don't forget also to think about the best way to live your legacy.

Legacy Deo can help! Give us a call!

**LIVE
YOUR**
Legacy



Legacy
Deo
God's Gifts.
Your Legacy.

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

legacydeo.org

800-880-3733



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 (think three to four months), if possible.

The Texas Messenger is available online at txlcms.org.

TOMBALL

Installation at Zion

Rev. Scott E. Herbert was installed as the Interim Transitional Pastor of Zion on Sept. 8. Rev. Kevin Jennings was the preacher, and Rev. John Davis and Rev. Gene Johnson performed the Rite of Installation. Also in attendance were Revs. Ralph Hobratschk, Lee Hopf, Timothy Niekerk, Jason Schleicher, Randy Walquist, Dr. David Bahn, David Quail, Stanley Lacey, Jerome Teichmiller and Dr. Ronald Bogs.

GUN BARREL CITY

Baptisms at St. Peter

On Dec. 22, the family of God at St. Peter welcomed three new Christians into the Kingdom. They are, from left, Cadyn Crowell, Cash Crowell and their grandfather, Jimmy Mitchell. Pictured in back is Rev. D.R. Nelson.



NEW BRAUNFELS

Installation at Cross

Rev. Dale Brynestad was installed as pastor on Nov. 17. Pastors participating in the Rite of Installation were, from left (front row) Revs. Bernie Schey, Mark Barz, Dale Brynestad, Rick Pfaff, Dr. Brian Kachelmeier, Phil Doublestein; (back row) Ken Mitschke, Ross Davis, Christopher Brynestad, Don Fraker, Charles Paulson and Carlos Boerger.



THE GROVE

Baptism on Gaudete Sunday

On Dec. 15, the gathered saints at St. Paul rejoiced at the Baptism of Sydney Elizabeth Fullmer. Sydney and her parents came to St. Paul through the Christian preschool that one of the members of St. Paul, Rebekah Munz, operates. Pictured are, from left, Sydney and her parents, Morgan and Sarah Fullmer, Rev. John Heckmann, and sponsors Jeremy and Rebekah Munz (along with their son, Cooper). Not pictured is sponsor Billy Joe Berger.



HAPPENINGS

BIG SPRING

Congrats, Pastor Roever!

On Nov. 17, Alive in Christ Lutheran Church honored Rev. Bobby Roever as he completed the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. His wife, Judy, and the congregation are very happy and proud of his accomplishment.



THORNDALE

New Members

This past fall, the congregation of St. Paul joyfully welcomed new members.

RIGHT: Pictured are, from left, Rev. Jeff Doria, James and Alana Lockhart and their children, Hudson and Hayden.

BELOW: Pictured are, from left, Jennifer and Tesslynn Strowmatt; Connie Parks; Sydnie Henry; Chisun, Charlie, Leila and Adam Messick; and Pastor Doria. Missing from the photo are Walker Strowmatt and Michael Parks.



WHITE HALL

New Members

Salem, White Hall, welcomed three new members by profession of faith on Nov. 24. Pictured are from left, Rev. Corey Christians with Kristian and Jeannene Hall and their daughter, Emma.



BRADY

New Members at Mount Calvary

Adult confirmands Quinn and Amy Wilson were welcomed by Rev. Lewis Lubke and the Mount Calvary congregation on Dec. 1.



AUSTIN

Annual Young Adult Conference

In October, St. Paul hosted over 90 young adults from across the country for a weekend of learning, worship and fellowship. The theme of the conference was "Grounded: A Really, Really Old Faith," and the presentations and services focused on the hymns, liturgies and traditions of the Lutheran church.



HAPPENINGS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

Ebenezer, Manheim
Stanley and Linda Maass
52 years, Feb. 24

Redeemer, Nacogdoches
Warren and Betty Fisher
54 years, Jan. 22

Gethsemane, Houston
Herbert and Junelle Nittsche
71 years, Feb. 27

MARKER DEDICATION

Zion, Victoria, honored with historical marker

On Nov. 24, Zion Lutheran Church, Mission Valley, added the distinction of a Texas Historical Marker! The dedication was led by Rev. Jonathan Meyer.

Zion has a long history of faithful service to the Mission Valley community. Founded by 10 families in 1915, Zion originally met in the Mission Valley schoolhouse. From those humble

beginnings, and served by 26 pastors, Zion has grown to over 150 families, many able to trace their roots back to first-generation Mission Valley families.

The church is not just the building, but Christ is within its members, past and present. Zion has been "Sharing God's Love" for over 100 years.



LFL ESSAY CONTEST

Attention students!

The Lutherans For Life (LFL) Council of Federation Presidents sponsors an essay contest each year for students in two grade categories: 6-8 and 9-12. This contest is available for students in all states who attend a Lutheran school or a Lutheran church.

Contestants will be awarded cash prizes if their essay is selected as a first- or second-place entry in the Texas District contest and/or the national contest.

To participate, students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made," using Psalm 139:13-14: **"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."**

The LFL Council of Federation Presidents looks



forward to students across the nation participating in the contest and letting their voices be heard through their life-affirming essays.

Questions? Please contact Virginia Flo at vflo@lutheransforlife.org.

Or visit the essay webpage or scan the QR code: lutheransforlife.org/2025-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest.



Equipped to serve His children daily



Dr. Bill Hinz
Director, School Ministry

As educators, we are constant learners, growing in knowledge and teaching skills through a variety of ways. There are continuing education classes and a variety of work-

shops and conferences. One valuable way of learning is through the opportunities that promote an atmosphere of collaboration. As educators of young children, we have the tremendous blessing of helping these children grow as redeemed children of God. And that makes all the difference.

Beginning teachers from across the Texas District gathered Oct. 6-7 at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, for a time of spiritual renewal and learning. There is a special level of enthusiasm and energy that these new teachers bring to their classrooms.

The time away gives these teachers an opportunity to reflect, sharpen skills, see how others are experiencing similar

challenges, and learn and grow. The first few years in any ministry can be challenging. Supporting teachers and youth leaders in your congregations and schools through prayers and encouraging words is a powerful blessing.

A variety of sectionals explored curriculum topics; classroom-management strategies; and communication processes.

Our retreat time was guided by an experienced Leadership Team that consists of **Vicki Pietsch**, Immanuel, Giddings; **Daniel Parsons**, Prince of Peace, Carrollton; **Dr. Amy Boatman**, Salem, Tomball; **Lya Camp**, Concordia High School, Austin; and myself. The Leadership Team helps our new teachers gain additional insights into their roles as teachers and mentors of young people.

As educators and leaders, we are blessed to share the most important truth of all — that we are redeemed children of God. To God be the glory!



The 2024 Beginning Teachers Retreat attendees are, from left (bottom row) Madison Swientek, Madison Tran, Andrea Spencer, Skyluer Aulby, Lya Camp, Olivia Carlove, Kathryn Taylor, Madison Medack, Krystin Hill, Kristen Shef (middle step), Monica Martinez; (top row) Dr. Amy Boatman, Susie Martinez, Dr. Bill Hinz, Haleigh Mabrito, Colbie Pullin, William Prestwood, Eric Harless, Vicki Pietsch and Daniel Parsons.

Wait for the Lord



By Pat Fick
CAN-DO Director

Steve and I were cruising down I-35 in our Honda Fit, headed to San Antonio to attend a baby shower. I was excited to be reunited with one of my amazing former students who had traveled to Liberia, Ethiopia, Guatemala and south Texas on mission trips with me. Shortly after we passed New Braunfels, we lost power, and the car no longer had the capacity to cruise. I guess it deserved a rest after the 283,000 miles it had traversed in its driving life!

We were able to make it to a gas station and call AAA. While waiting for the tow truck, I had a conversation with Chinka Kpue, our 30-year-old adopted son from Liberia, who has a dream to come to the United States to get a master's degree in business and eventually test for his CPA license. He shared with me about his growing-up years when he would go to school and try to concentrate on his lessons without having any breakfast or lunch. After school he would come home and work with his mom, breaking rocks to earn enough money so they could have rice with salt and red oil for an evening meal. It is easier to sleep if you have something in your stomach.

Chinka amazes me because he is grateful for his difficult life. He says it helps him to never take anything for granted, and it has taught him to learn to trust in the Lord for everything! Wow!

Fast forward three weeks. Chinka was accepted into Concordia University's MBA program, and had an appointment to see if he could get his F1 Visa approved so he could attend graduate school here. I was on a

mission trip in the Rio Grande Valley with some current Concordia students. At 3:40 a.m. (8:40 a.m. in Liberia), Chinka called to tell me some sad news: the embassy denied his request for an F1 Visa, and he would not be allowed to come to the United States. They said he couldn't demonstrate any strong ties to Liberia, which would ensure that he would return to his home country. We were disappointed, downcast and dejected. Now what?

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. Psalm 42:11

Within one week, Chinka had a new plan. He would start an organization in Liberia called HOPE (Help Our Poor Environment). He visited an orphanage where he can help children with scholarships for school; contacted some women who plan to use small microloans to start their own businesses; and visited several elderly to offer encouragement from God's Word. Difficult circumstances make us wait on the Lord.

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Well done, Chinka! And this is my prayer for you and for HOPE!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13



From left, John Cogdell, Chinka Kpue, Pat Fick, Sophia Staggs and Major Smith.

Sharing the love



Raelyn Pracht
TCEF Marketing Specialist

February is a month that's often associated with love, and for good reason. For me, it's particularly special as my parents celebrate their wedding anniversary this month. Of course, there's also Valentine's Day — a holiday dedicated to showing appreciation for those we cherish. It's a time when many of us go out of our way to express love with cards, flowers, chocolates or other thoughtful gestures to the people who mean the most to us.

At Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas District CEF), February becomes a perfect time to reflect on and celebrate the love and support we've received from our incredible investors. This support enables us to extend that love back to congregations through acts of partnership and appreciation — like presenting rebate checks.

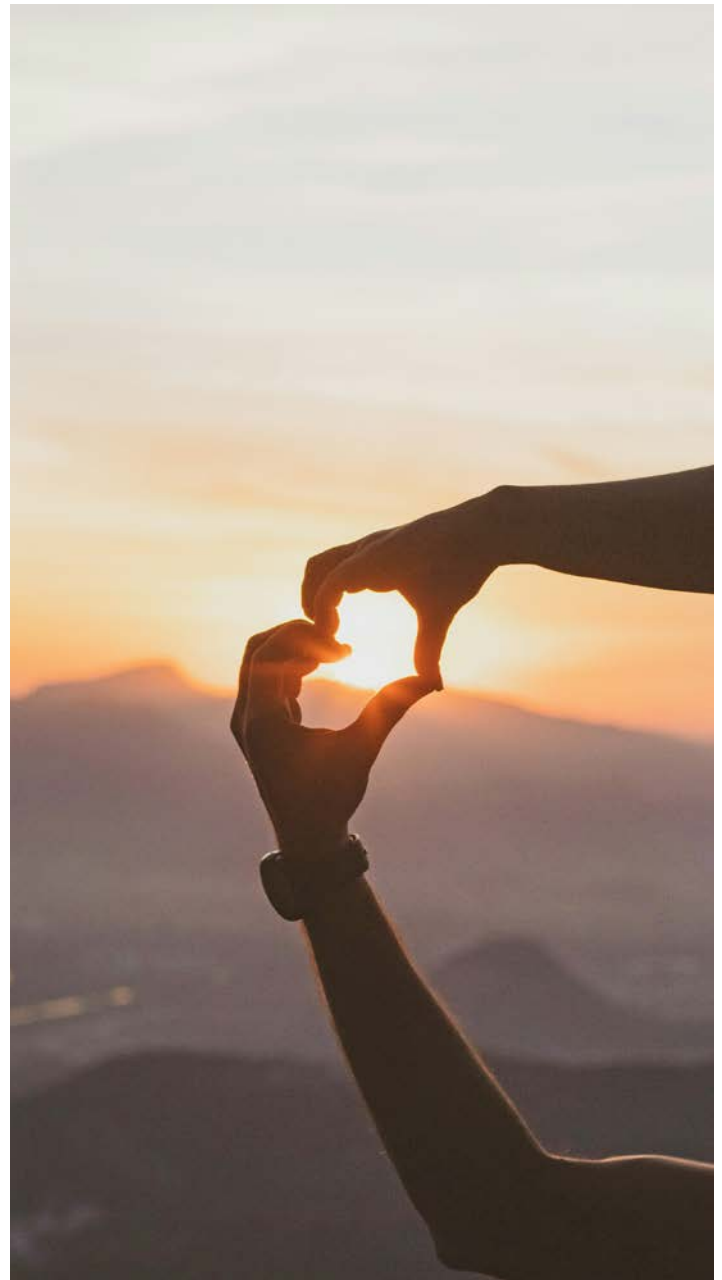
These investments, made by individuals, congregations and other entities, provide the resources Texas District CEF uses to offer loans to congregations.

Each investor has the option to designate a congregation to receive credit for their investment dollars. While investments aren't pledged toward any congregation's specific loan, the level of supporting investments serves as a powerful indicator of the strength of the partnership between Texas District CEF and borrowing ministries. A strong partnership benefits everyone involved, fostering growth and shared success.

We love writing rebate checks to congregations! These checks are a tangible way to celebrate the partnership among Texas District CEF, congregations and you — our cherished investors. Your love and support for our ministry make this possible.

So this February, as love is in the air, know that we are deeply grateful for the love you show our ministry by investing with us. Together we are building spaces and places to share the love of Jesus.

Thank you for being an essential part of this mission. Your support truly makes a difference — and we love you for it!



Where Are They Now?

Lillian Finds Her Calling in Foster Care, Thanks to Upbring's Support

In January 2024, Lillian Davis was hard at work pursuing her master's degree in sociology at The University of Texas – San Antonio (UTSA) with the help of BeREAL, Upbring's Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Program which provided her with an apartment and career counseling while she pursued her dream to work with children in foster care.

Lillian grew up with family struggles due to her mother's substance abuse and an absent father. At the age of 16, she entered the foster care system in San Antonio and was placed in a loving foster home.

Today, 25-year-old Lillian is proud to work as a Youth Care Specialist for San Antonio-based St. Jude's Ranch for Children (SJRC) which provides a haven for children through foster care and adoption services. In this role, she strives to uplift and empower teenage girls who walk in footsteps once like her own and gives them the tools to build a better and brighter future. "I keep an eye on the girls throughout the day and take them to different events and outings," shares Lillian. "I give them their medications and keep a progress log on how they did that day. At times I use my own experience in foster care to let them know they can have a bright future."

Lillian currently lives with her foster parents north of San Antonio, who provide unconditional love and support. She has a boyfriend who's "hard working, driven, smart and caring" and has been with her through all the difficult times of her life. Rounding out her family is a new pit bull named Krypto, who turns 2 this month.

Looking ahead, Lillian plans to return to school and earn her PhD, but she's in no hurry. For now, she is



January 2024

January 2025

A former young adult in Upbring's Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program, BeREAL, Lillian Davis is now a Youth Care Specialist for San Antonio-based Saint Jude's Ranch for Children (SJRC).

enjoying spending time with her foster family, friends and boyfriend and building a career in foster care.

In five years, Lillian hopes to be married, have her own home and be well on her way to rewriting others' stories—one child at a time.

Lillian credits Upbring with putting her on a path to self-sufficiency and giving her hope for her future.

"Upbring came into my life at a time that I really needed them. I was not doing well in school and was losing hope. They provided me with a place to live and great caseworkers that always encouraged me to do better. I was able to get back on my feet."

Way to go, Lillian—you're off and on your way!

Thanks to Upbring, young adults like Lillian are flourishing and imparting what they have learned to others.



For more information and to support more children and youth in Texas

Upbring.org/GetInvolved

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

[/UpbringOrg](https://www.upbring.org) | [@UpbringOrg](https://twitter.com/UpbringOrg) | [UpbringOrg](https://www.instagram.com/UpbringOrg)

Defined by Christ: Summer adventures at Camp Lone Star

At Camp Lone Star, each year we prayerfully select a Scripture-based theme to guide our retreats and summer programs. This year's theme, "Defined," is inspired by Isaiah 43:1: "But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel, 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'"

This theme focuses on the powerful truth that our identity is not defined by our actions, but by who God is and our relationship with Him. Through Bible studies, devotions and activities, we aim to help campers and guests walk away with a deeper understanding of who they are in Christ.



As we prepare for a summer of transforming lives through adventurous Christ-centered experiences, there is still time to register! Whether you are interested in overnight camp, day camp or family camp at our La Grange campus; or our new Adventure Woods day camp at our Tomball campus, we have something for every family. Our programs offer a variety of activities — led by dedicated Jesus-loving summer staff — with a focus on planting seeds of faith, cultivating Christian leaders and growing the kingdom of God. Camp Lone Star is the perfect place for campers to deepen their faith, form meaningful friendships and make memories that will last a lifetime.

At our La Grange campus, we offer day camp, 2-night and 5-night overnight camps, family camp, service opportunities for teens and more. Each program is designed to give campers of all ages the chance to enjoy the activities they know and love — like slip 'n slide, challenge course and rumble ball — while keeping Jesus at the center of everything. Every day includes staff-led devotions, worship and Bible study, allowing campers to grow in their relationship with Jesus in a fun, supportive environment. For decades, our La Grange campus has been a place where kids unplug, connect with one another and are transformed as God works through every moment.

For families in the Tomball area, our new Adventure Woods day camp offers a local option for campers ages 7-11. Adventure Woods provides five full days of adventure, with activities like arts and crafts, archery, canoeing, and more, along with the convenience of returning home each night. It is the perfect way for campers to have a camp experience without overnight stays, all while fostering a safe and enriching environment for children to explore and grow in their faith.

Ready to sign up? Registration for all Camp Lone Star summer programs is open, and spots are filling up fast. Visit camplonestar.org to learn more about our programs, check availability and secure your child's spot for a summer full of adventurous Christ-centered experiences. Contact us for more information. We can't wait to see you this summer!

info@camplonestar.org • 979-968-1657

camplonestar.org

2016 Camp Lone Star Road
La Grange, TX 78945



Investing in future generations

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believes education should address the whole person — body, mind and spirit — beginning in early childhood and continuing through higher education. Christian education seeks to nurture students not only academically, but also spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and socially.

The CT Foundation for Christian Education was established in 2014 as a non-profit organization focused on expanding access to high-quality K-12 Christian education in the central Texas area. Their mission is to make private Christian education affordable and available to children from all walks of life who possess the desire and drive to succeed.

The cost of a private Christian education is often an insurmountable barrier for many low-income families. Students with a demonstrated financial need are eligible for scholarships.

As part of the scholarship application process, students are asked to describe why they want to attend a Lutheran school and how this scholarship will help them to further their education. One student shared, "I am thankful that I get to attend St. Paul (Thorndale). I have teachers that care about me and what I'm learning. They also care about my relationship with Jesus. This scholarship will help my family to be able to afford the best education for me."

Thomas Geyer, Head of School at Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin, shared that the CT Foundation has been a tremendous partner with our Lutheran schools in central Texas. They possess a mission heart to support financially



disadvantaged families, who, without the scholarship CT Foundation provides, may not be able to afford to send their children to Redeemer and other Lutheran schools. This is an opportunity to witness to students that might otherwise not learn about the love of Christ.

The CT Foundation is thankful to the ladies of the LWML Texas District for the \$25,000 mission grant that will allow the Foundation to double the scholarship awards for the 2024-2026 school years.

2024-26 Mite Goal: \$403,000

Mites received through Nov. 30:
\$119,918 (\$283,082 still needed)

Mission Grants paid through
Nov. 30: \$75,314

Send your mite offerings along
with a remittance form to:

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

Creating a brighter future together

When you include LWML Texas District Endowments in your yearly gifting or estate plan, your generosity shapes our organization's future and creates a lasting legacy for generations of Lutheran Women in Mission to come!

Every gift matters to an endowment. Gifts of all sizes have a powerful impact on our present and future endeavors because they are added to the invested principal (previous gifts from other donors). The invested principal generates a perpetual income through annual fund distributions. Our LWML Texas District uses these funds to

support scholarships, leader training, and the mission goal.

Our district's endowments are structured so that anyone can give to them at any time. Both planned gifts through a giving instrument (like a will or beneficiary designation), or immediate gifts (like honorariums or memorials) build the invested principal and grow the distribution amount we receive each year.

Would you join us in building this legacy? Visit lwmltxdist.org/endowments to learn more.