

TEXAS

APRIL 2025

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Resurrection of Jesus

(Mt 28.1–10; Mk 16.1–8; Lk 24.1–12)

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,

Mary Mag'da-lēne came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been

rolled away from the tomb. She

went to Simon Peter and the other

disciple, the one whom Jesus

called Cephas, and said to them, "They

have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and

we do not know where they have

gone." 2 Then she went and told the

other disciples. 3 They did not believe

her, for they said, "She is delirious; she

is out of her mind." 4 But when Peter

and the other disciple reached the tomb,

they went in, but they found nothing

there. 5 So they went back outside,

and they saw the linen wrappings

lying there, but they did not understand

the Scripture that said, "The first day of the week,"

and that the stone was rolled away.

6 So they went back to the tomb,

and they found the stone rolled away.

7 So they went in, but they found nothing

there. 8 So they went back outside,

" And then comes Easter. Resurrection. The crucified Son of God striding out of the tomb. New life blooming through the thorns and thickets of what appeared to be an impossible wasteland.

Rev. Michael Newman,
President

We want to share what
God is doing in your
church!

Send in your news:
txmess@txlcms.org

Resurrection

One of my favorite flowers is a vivid blue spiderwort that blooms in the mornings throughout spring and summer. It's a sneaky flower, appearing in the middle of fields, peeking out of patches of brush, and showing itself where least expected. As morning wanes, the noonday sun puts the flowers to sleep as the vine-like stems prepare for a surprising appearance the next day.

And then comes Texas drought. Even the spiderwort plants can't handle the extended breaks in South Texas rainfall. The flowers go dormant, seemingly gone for good. But one robust rainstorm works wonders.

Last summer, after precipitation vacationed for more than 50 days, the skies broke loose with about three inches of precious rain. What did I see on my morning run after the life-giving shower? Resurrection! Poking through patches of prickly pear, working its way around deadwood and mesquite, were bright blue flowers that shouted, "Surprise! We are alive!"

Sometimes, Good Friday drought convinces you that life and hope are gone for good. The darkness of sin is so convincing: Failure, sadness and loss; chaos, anxiety and exhaustion; lovelessness, coldness and loneliness; a slain Savior, lifeless on a cross, crushed for your iniquities. How could anything good ever bloom from the brittle stalks of your lostness?

And then comes Easter. Resurrection. The crucified Son of God striding out of the tomb. New life blooming through the thorns and thickets of what appeared to be an impossible wasteland.

Suddenly, redemption. A new beginning. Forgiveness. Refreshment. Heart and soul restoration. Hope. A refuge and strength. One who receives your prayers. Jesus in whom you are a new creation. Eternal hope.

Because of Jesus, your life is like the blue spiderwort that adorn the thickets and fields. Instead of loss and death, you are given new birth and resurrection. The drought-busting gift of Baptism puts you there. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, you, too, walk in the newness of life.

If you are experiencing some dry times, know that, in Christ, resurrection is your eternal reality. If you feel like faith in Jesus is on the decline, witness the new blooms of faith in new generations and cultures throughout Texas and around the world. If you can't see the Word of God doing its work, trust His promise that His Word does not return empty. If you are convinced the church is on the way out, hear the declaration of Jesus that the gates of hades will not prevail against the advance of His Kingdom.

If you think your ministry efforts are for naught, cling to the fact that God promises growth as you plant and water. If you are distressed because you feel lost, cast your cares on the living Savior who still seeks and saves.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Watch for the evidence of His resurrection.

Rev. Michael W. Newman
President



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION...

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. What hope and insights do verses 51-57 give you? How does verse 58 encourage you and direct you as an individual follower of Jesus and as a congregation?

Prayer starter: Let God know one area of your life that Jesus' resurrection is helping you with today. Thank God for one way your church "abounds in the work of the Lord."



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!



A PLACE TO CALL HOME: Welcome to Our New Church Location

I can help other people learn that there is a God who loves and cares for them. For all that debt and baggage they've been carrying, God has something better.

- Rev. Josh Miller, ACTS Church Leader



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



From shelter to sending



Rev. Pete Mueller

Area C Mission Strategist,
Circuits 20-29

Last fall, when I moved my potted plants indoors, a small, lizard-like visitor unknowingly hitched a ride into my home. He took up hardly any space and seemed to require little suste-

nance. Yet in his stillness, he endured the coldest months of the year, nestled among the leaves and spines of my six-foot African milk plant. Then, just this week, as I rolled the pot back outside, there he was — scampering silently among the vertical branches. Within moments, he even shifted colors, transitioning from neon green to a deep purplish brown. Somehow, he had survived the winter in the warmth of my east-facing breakfast room.

Curious, I did some research and discovered that my unexpected houseguest was a green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*). Herpetologists aren't entirely sure why these fascinating creatures change colors. Some speculate it's a reaction to stress, while others believe it serves as a form of social signaling.

Reflecting on this hitchhiking reptile, I am reminded of the temptation that disciples of Jesus face in the 21st century. It's easy to remain in the warmth and security of our church communities. We might even find ways to blend in with the world around us, adapting our appearance or signaling to those already "in the know." But if we all remain sheltered and comfortable inside, how will the world come to know the Jesus we follow?

Last month, at the Evangelist Sending and Celebration service at Concordia University Texas, I was encouraged by the testimonies of participants in the evangelist training program, facilitated by Rev. Jake Boessling, lead evangelist trainer for Area C in the Texas District. Here's what they shared about their experience and next steps:

- ▶ "The evangelist training gave me a bolder confidence to share with people who Jesus is to me."

Jon Slimack

- ▶ "The evangelist training challenged me to think more comprehensively about how others perceive the Gospel and the church and to work on relating to them better." **Marv Alcorn**
- ▶ "The evangelist training equipped me with the means to share the Gospel while strengthening and inspiring me through community with other Christ followers on the missional journey." **Constanze Heitkoetter**
- ▶ "I now feel empowered to share the reason for the hope that is within me — Jesus — and to trust the Holy Spirit with the rest." **Robyn Erwin**

Rather than blending in or remaining within the comfort of the church walls, these inspiring men and women are stepping out boldly, carrying the Gospel of Jesus to the places where they live, learn, work and play.



What's your why?



Hailey Helberg

Legacy Deo
Senior Accountant

Why do we give?

As the body of Christ, giving is often viewed as an expression of love, gratitude and faith.

Through our acts of giving, we reflect God's generosity. One astonishing example of this is the gift of His Son. It's truly remarkable that God loves us so deeply that He sacrificed His Son on the cross for our salvation, despite our unworthiness. Giving fosters spiritual growth, deepening our faith and encouraging reliance on God. It also allows us to show love and compassion to others. Furthermore, we find joy and fulfillment in giving as it connects us with others and strengthens our faith. Ultimately, giving embodies our faith and enables us to make a positive difference in the world.

How do we give?

We can express our generosity in countless ways, but let's focus today on two powerful avenues: our time and our financial resources. For me, dedicating 2-3 hours every Wednesday night to a group of 15-20 young individuals has become a cherished ritual. As we gather, laughter fills the air, prayers rise like sweet incense, and Scripture opens our hearts to deeper truths. These nights are more than just

activities; they are sacred moments where I witness the incredible work God is doing in their lives.

Every conversation with these young people enriches my soul, revealing insights about faith through their fresh perspectives. They inspire me as much as I hope to inspire them, and the bonds we forge during these precious hours are nothing short of transformative.

Beyond time, financial contributions are essential. We are called to steward the resources God has given us, using our finances to uplift others and support meaningful causes. Every contribution, no matter how small, can create significant change, allowing us to participate in God's work, express gratitude and nurture hope.

What is behind the motivation?

Our motivations for giving are often deeply personal and divinely inspired. God places specific organizations on our hearts, guiding our contributions through divine calling, personal connections and community influence.

Through Legacy Deo, we partner with you to enhance your financial generosity, providing tools to make a meaningful impact — whether through endowments, charitable trusts or donor-advised funds. Together, we can build a legacy that transforms lives and reflects our values and faith.



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.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Ordination and Installation at Messiah

Rev. John Cotner was ordained and installed as
pastor of Messiah on Jan. 5. Rev. Michael Newman,
Texas Distict president, preached and performed the
Rite of Ordination and Installation. A meal followed
the service. Prayers answered! Praise be to God.

Pictured are, from left, (bottom row) Revs. Dr.
Russell Hildebrandt, Michael Newman, John Cotner
(with his wife, Joann), Kevin Jennings; (top row)
David Bergquist, Mark Carnahan, Ryan Golden,
Jim Bretthauer, Ken Hennings, Don Porter, Robert
Mundahl and Paul Howe.

Call Day 2025

This month, students at our seminaries will receive their first pastoral
or diaconal ministry placements, and second-year students will receive
their vicarage or deaconess internship assignments.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

April 30 (times CST)

3 p.m.: Vicarage and deaconess
internship assignments

7 p.m.: Pastoral and diaconal calls

For more information and to
watch the livestreams, visit csf.edu/call-day. The services will
also be shown on CSL's YouTube
and Facebook pages.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

April 28

6 p.m. (CST): Vicarage and dea-
coness internship assignments

April 29

6 p.m. (CST): Pastoral and
diaconal calls

For more information and to
watch the livestreams, visit
ctsfw.edu/callday.

PLANO

Installation at Faith

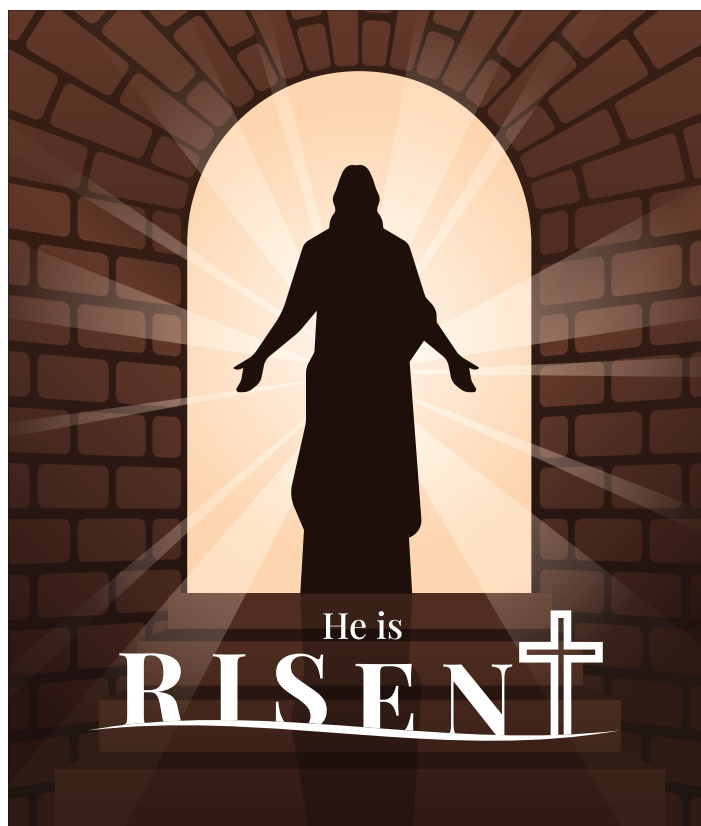
Rev. Timothy W. Heath Jr. was installed as associate pastor of Faith on Feb. 8. Pictured are, from left (front row), Revs. Kurt Ulmer, Mark Taylor, Patrick Erickson, Timothy Heath Jr., Dr. Solomon Yadessa, Andy Whaley, Ben Gonzales, Joel Shaltanis; (back row) Dr. Leonard Payton, Mark Elliott, Richard Kurth, Robert Paul, Larry Krueger and Dr. Jayson Galler.



HAMILTON

New members at St. Paul's

Mark and Jacque Emley were welcomed to the family of Faith at St. Paul's (Aleman). They are pictured with Rev. Don Poole.



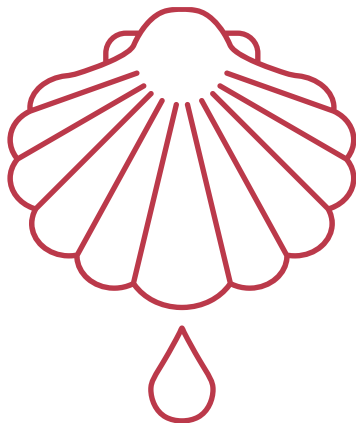
HAPPENINGS

DUMAS AND DALHART

Lots of Baptisms!



On Oct. 13, the Holy Baptism of Kutter Lane Hallford was held at St. John's, Dumas. Pictured are parents Tanner and Landri Hallford, with big brother Kayson and Kutter, and Rev. Troy Scroggins, who performed the rite.



The Holy Baptism of Bennitt Michelle Herdina was held at Grace, Dalhart, on Nov. 16. Pictured are parents Clay and Kelsi Herdina with Bennitt and (in front) big brother Christopher, and Pastor Scroggins.



McKinley Meyerhoff was baptized on Feb. 16 at St. John's, Dumas. Pictured are parents Clayton and Shaylan, along with brothers (from left) Macklan, Maverick and McKinley, and Pastor Scroggins.

BOERNE**Messiah Sowers present handmade gifts to the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center**

Jean Schuchardt and Sue Theis, representing the Messiah Sowers, presented handmade baby items to the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center (HCPCC) in December. Many of the hand-sewn items were made possible by a Thrivent Action Team grant. Baby blankets, burp pads, bibs and more were received with great appreciation by Hill Country staff. These loving and generous donations were given in appreciation of the partnership that Messiah has with the care center.

Pictured are, from left, Kathlin Jauregui, HCPCC board president; Sue Theis; Donna Klingaman, HCPCC executive director; Lulu Belz, HCPCC development director; and Jean Schuchardt.

**SUGAR LAND****Pancakes, Pajamas and Valentines**

The LWML Lady Fishers hosted a multigenerational Pancakes, Pajamas and Valentines event at Fishers of Men on Feb. 8. Over 70 folks from the youngest to the most mature relaxed in their PJs while enjoying a pancake breakfast and fellowship with one another. The children created Valentines cards and crafts to assure them of the love of Jesus.

We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19

Pictured are Rev. Chuck Ridley, Fishers of Men senior pastor, and his family enjoying the event.



TIES THAT BIND

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

Redeemer, Nacogdoches
Roy and Betty Benignus
59 years, April 2

Trinity, Dime Box
Keith and Margaret Kersten
58 years, Feb. 11

St. Paul, The Grove
Orville and Janice Michalk
61 years, April 25

Elmer and Carol Arldt
54 years, April 23

Redeemer, Austin
Monroe and Eleanor Krause
60 years, April 3



Keith and Margaret Kersten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy 100th Birthday!

On Feb. 1, the congregation of Grace, Denison, celebrated Arie Terry turning 100 years young! The congregation presented her with cards and roses and a handmade quilt.

Arie was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1925. She moved to Denison in 2020.



Join Team Flex at the Gathering



The 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering, set for July 19–23 in New Orleans, will bring together thousands of Lutheran youth and adults to learn about the theme of endurance in Christ, based on Hebrews 12:1–3.

Volunteers are a highly valued and needed element of the Gathering experience and its overall success. Team Flex volunteers will play an essential role in supporting Gathering logistics and programming for participants. They serve across multiple areas of the Gathering, providing support wherever it is needed most. From assisting with

registration, to directing participants where to go, to helping with behind-the-scenes logistics, Team Flex volunteers are vital in creating an environment where all participants can learn and grow.

Team Flex volunteers may serve as little as four hours on a single day or as much as eight hours a day for all five days of the event. In addition, Team Flex volunteers are needed before and after the Gathering.

“Team Flex volunteers are integral to the success of the Gathering and provide the support need-

ed across different areas of the event,” said DCE Leslie Sullivan, who serves as the Team Flex volunteer manager. “This role is an ideal opportunity for those who want to contribute in a meaningful way but have varying levels of availability.”

This opportunity is open to LCMS adults ages 18 and older who are passionate about serving. Team Flex volunteers do not pay a registration fee, but they are responsible for their own housing, travel and meals.

“Whether someone can commit to a few hours or the full event, Team Flex is perfect for those who want to jump in and serve where their help is needed most,” said Sullivan.

Interested adults may apply at lcmsgathering.com/volunteer. **The application window closes on April 30.**

This article was written by Meredith Whitefield Smith, communications specialist for LCMS Youth Ministry, and is reprinted from LCMS Reporter.

Sharing Jesus with young children



Dr. Bill Hinz
Director, School Ministry

One of the great opportunities to share the Gospel and connect with the young families of our communities is through the ministry of our early childhood education programs.

Each day in our early childhood centers across the Texas District and beyond, young children are learning Bible stories — and about the love of Jesus. When a teacher has a trusting, loving relationship with a three- or four-year-old, the child accepts what is being shared with them as truth. If they are shown love, and you tell them that Jesus loves them, they accept that Jesus loves them as truth.

We are blessed in the Texas District to have a large number of early childhood programs, both freestanding and those connected with an elementary school program. Our early childhood programs are staffed with excellent leaders and dedicated teachers who are devoted to their students and their families.

Our early childhood centers are seeking to provide the best ways for their young students to learn. Age-appropriate curriculum and activities, with a strong foundation in faith, are important to the overall development of these young minds.

To further their professional development, each year several groups of early childhood teachers gather to network, exchange best practices and participate in informative presentations and sectionals by attending our annual Early Childhood Educators Conference.

Additional resources for our early childhood leaders are provided

through events like our Directors' Retreat, and groups like our Early Childhood Council. We are also blessed to be a part of National Early Childhood Ministry, which also provides resources and learning opportunities.

Our centers are filled daily with the love of Jesus, fun activities and caring teachers. Chapel times and Bible-story times are special highlights. Our young children are learning how to pray for others, and to give thanks for the blessings they receive daily from the Lord. They are learning that, because of Jesus, they are forgiven and loved.

As educators, we are constant learners, by God's grace, His Word and the Holy Spirit. As leaders we are blessed to share the most important truth of all — we are redeemed children of God. We learn, grow and serve together.

To God be the glory!



Fill 'er up!



By Pat Fick
CAN-DO Director

Does anyone else like to let their cereal soak for a while? It's so yummy when the milk is absorbed by the cheerios, and they resemble little bloated floatation devices. I think it is a flavor enhancer for sure. And if I lose all my teeth when I'm old and gray, at least I will be able to slurp down soggy cereal. Ha!

Steve and I were working hard mopping and vacuuming the floors. My rigorous back-and-forth motions ran my new vacuum cleaner into a bookshelf and the plastic hook that enables you to wrap up the cord went flying across the room. (I tried to "gorilla glue" and duct tape it back on, but time will tell if I was successful.) We had been occupied with our cleaning chores for a while when I noticed that we were missing a dog (we have three).

I searched every room in the house and still couldn't find Regalito, so I posed a question, "Steve, have you seen Regalito? I can't find him anywhere!"

"Did you check the garage?" he replied.

Sure enough, Regalito had slipped into the garage when I wasn't looking, jumped on the table where the special high fiber dog food is kept, opened the Velcro top and wiggled his way into the bag, filling his tummy with the tasty morsels. He's a chiweenie, so his bulging tummy indicated that he was filled to capacity.

So my question for you is ... "Are you being filled by God regularly?" Are you soaking up His Word so that you have strength for the challenges of each new day? You wouldn't expect to drive your car without gas (or electricity). Do you think you can function without regular spiritual fillings?

God longs to fill us up. He gives us His Word, sends His Holy Spirit and provides for our forgiveness and salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection.



LOWS/Erik M. Lunsford

We can rejoice with the psalmist:

***Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!
For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.***

Psalms 107:8-9

We can rejoice with the church:

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

This Good News is too good to keep to ourselves. Let's overflow onto others and invite them to come to the great banquet being prepared for all believers.

"And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'"

Luke 14:22-23

Heaven is a wonderful place ... fill 'er-up!

Congratulations!



Raelyn Pracht

Texas CEF Marketing Specialist

This past February, Texas CEF was blessed to give back to ministries over \$590,000 through our Incentive Rebate Plan. This blessed contribution reflects the ongoing support and partnership we've built with congregations across the region. The following list includes the congregations that have received a loan rebate for the 2024 fiscal year.

As we look to the future, we're even more excited to expand and enhance this program. Our goal is to celebrate and strengthen our relationships with congregations in an even more impactful way. Be on the lookout for details on these upcoming enhancements, coming soon!

Arlington, Beautiful Savior
Austin, Mount Olive
Austin, Redeemer
Austin, Redeeming Grace
Azle, Good Shepherd
Baytown, Redeemer
Beaumont, St. John
Boerne, Messiah
Borger, Good Shepherd
Bryan, Bethel
Canton, Holy Cross
Cibolo, Word of Life
College Station, Holy Cross
Commerce, Trinity
Cypress, Lifebridge
Cypress, St. John
Dallas, Our Redeemer
Dallas, St. Paul
Dallas, Zion
DeSoto, Cross of Christ
Flower Mound, Lamb of God
Fort Worth, Christ
Friendswood, Hope
Frisco, Waters Edge
Gatesville, St. Paul
Georgetown, Faith
Georgetown, Zion
Granbury, Our Savior
Gun Barrel City, St. Peter
Harker Heights, Fortress

Harlingen, St. Paul
Haslet, Holy Shepherd
Houston, Beautiful Savior
Houston, Christ Memorial
Houston, Epiphany
Houston, Family of Faith
Houston, Gloria dei
Houston, Living Water
Houston, San Pedro
Houston, St. Mark
Houston, St. Andrew
Houston, Trinity
Humble, Lamb of God
Huntsville, Faith
Hurst, Peace
Katy, Crossroads
Katy, Memorial
Keller, Messiah
Kerrville, Hosanna
Kilgore, Pilgrim
Killeen, Grace
Kyle, St. John
La Grange, LOMT
La Porte, Christ
Lake Jackson, St. Mark
Lakeway, ACTS
Lubbock, Hope
Mansfield, St. John
Marble Falls, Hope
McAllen, St. Paul

Midland, Grace
Midland, Holy Cross
New Braunfels, Cross
Newark, Victory in Christ
Northlake, St. Peter
Odessa, Redeemer
Orange, Grace
Pflugerville, Point of Grace
Plainview, St. Paul
Plano, Faith
Plano, Messiah
Rockwall, Our Savior
San Antonio, Mount Olive
San Antonio, Mount Calvary
San Antonio, Redeemer
San Antonio, Shepherd of the Hills
San Antonio, St. Paul
Smithville, Grace
Spring, Trinity
Stephenville, Faith
Sugar Land, Faith
Sugar Land, Fishers of Men
Taylor, Trinity
The Woodlands, Living Word
Thorndale, St. Paul
Tomball, Salem
Tomball, Zion
Vernon, Zion
Waco, Peace
Weatherford, Trinity

At Upbring, animal companionship helps heal young hearts

On the grounds of Upbring New Life Children's Center (New Life) in Canyon Lake is a barn and pasture. There, girls who have experienced severe abuse and trauma find comfort, connection and hope through animal companionship.

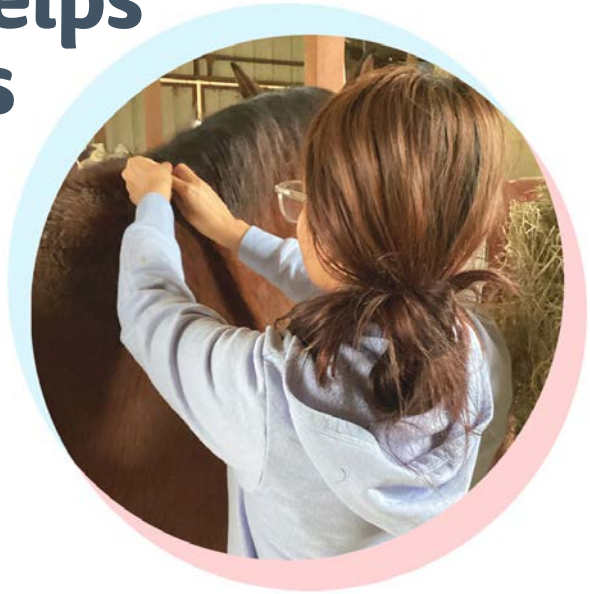
Lisa Brown is director of Volunteer Services at New Life. "I have had residents tell me, 'I don't trust many people, but I can be at the barn and visit with the animals, and I feel like they really are listening to me,'" she says. "It's a gateway that helps the girls learn to build trust with adults."

New Life Residential Support Specialist Tisha Rowe cares for the livestock, which include a horse named Chance, and Reba, a Cuban sheep that recently gave birth to a lamb named "Rodeo," plus six goats, four cows, a rabbit and 20 chickens whose eggs won two second-place ribbons in the 2024 Comal County Fair.

Tisha says Chance is a "big favorite." Certified in equine (horse) therapy, Tisha explains to the girls how horses can feel a person's heartbeat from five feet away, and even sense human emotions.

Once, one of the girls wanted to kiss Chance, but the horse wouldn't let her. Tisha knew the girl was struggling and probably had some bad feelings inside. She told the girl, "Come get me on a day when you're having good feelings. I'll take you to the barn and I bet Chance will give you a kiss." A few days later, the girl approached Tisha and said, "I'm having a great day, take me to the barn!" Tisha's prediction came true and Chance let the girl kiss him.

"Tisha has taken girls who are upset to the barn and when they come back to their cottages, they are nice and calm," Brown says. "It's barn therapy at its finest!"



A New Life girl braids the mane of Chance the horse, one of the many barn program animals that put girls at ease.

Interestingly, like New Life girls, some farm animals like Chance experienced hardship before arriving at New Life. At another ranch, other horses bullied Chance and wouldn't let him eat. Once he arrived at New Life, the girls decided to have a naming contest: "We'll name him 'Chance' because he needs a second chance like we do."

The barn program at New Life is transforming children's lives by creating safe spaces where young women can gain confidence, discover special interests and flourish. Learn more about how Upbring is advancing child well-being at Upbring.org/New-Life.



To learn more, visit
Upbring.org/GetInvolved

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

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Join us for work weekend

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make a difference! Work Weekend at Camp Lone Star is back, and we're calling on volunteers of all ages to join us in preparing our La Grange campus for another life-changing summer. This annual event brings together families, campers and friends to complete projects that will help us welcome over 2,000 campers. From spreading mulch to trimming trees, cleaning cabins and power washing buildings, there's a job for everyone.

But Work Weekend is more than just about getting things done — it's about building relationships, growing in faith and making a lasting impact on the lives of our campers. You'll work alongside our 2025 summer staff, pray with them and support them as they prepare to serve the Lord and guide campers in their relationships with Jesus.

For kids, there's plenty of fun too! Led by summer staff, they'll take part in age-appropriate work projects and activities, giving them a chance to serve, bond with new friends and experience their favorite camp activities.

Every task you complete plays a crucial role in creating the environment where our campers will grow spiritually. Whether it's preparing wood for devotions or cleaning cabins, your efforts ensure that Camp Lone Star remains a safe, welcoming place where lives are transformed through adventurous Christ-centered experiences.

Join us for Work Weekend, **May 16-18**, by registering now at camplonestar.org. This free event includes lodging and meals for the entire weekend. Your time and energy will have a lasting impact on the summer ahead, helping shape the faith of every camper who walks through our doors.

Even if you can't be there in person, we invite you to join us in praying for our staff and campers. Pray that seeds of faith are planted, that Christian leaders are cultivated and raised up, and that God's kingdom continues to grow through Camp Lone Star. Together, we're transforming lives!

camplonestar.org

info@camplonestar.org

979-968-1657

2016 Camp Lone Star Road; La Grange, TX 78945



Wanted: Mission Grant proposals

Mission Grant proposals for the LWML Texas District are now being accepted for the 2026-28 biennium. Proposals need to be submitted by Nov. 1. Any LWML member, group or zone of the LWML Texas District may submit Mission Grant proposals.

Do you have a ministry that could benefit from a mission grant? If so, the ministry should:

- ▶ Be mission-focused. Applicants must demonstrate clearly how the Mission Grant will promote or support the proclamation of the Gospel to all.
- ▶ Align with the goals and objectives of the LCMS Texas District.

- ▶ Be current and ready for implementation.
- ▶ Be ongoing in nature, with a plan for continuance after the Mission Grant money has been expended.
- ▶ Be well-documented.
- ▶ Request funding for no more than two years to correspond with the LWML biennium.

Agencies, organizations and programs that help Lutherans to serve, grow, and spread God's Word will be considered.

Forms and information are available at lwmltxdist.org/mission-grant-proposals.

God's love after the storm



The Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Disaster Response Team (DRT) answers the call to serve our neighbors by ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of those affected by severe weather. The DRT is comprised of volunteers.

The DRT has been responding to calls for assistance following natural disasters since 2017. The team has served many families in Texas and around the U.S. The DRT strives to be able to respond as soon as the call comes for debris removal. The team diligently manages several equipment trailers, saws, safety equipment and a bobcat. With resources at the ready, they can more effectively be Christ's hands and feet when fully equipped and have boots on the ground quickly.

The group compassionately listens to the stories of those affected by the storms. This opens the door for Christ's love, mercy, grace and salvation to be shared in Word and deed.

Last spring, the DRT offered assistance and comfort to over 20 families that incurred tree damage. The team traveled to Temple to cut and remove trees damaged from a tornado, and deployed twice to the Houston area after Hurricane Beryl.

The LWML Texas District awarded the team a \$15,000 Mission Grant to help pay for devotional and spiritual materials, new equipment and equipment maintenance.

As the DRT prepares for future deployment, they are thankful that the women of the LWML Texas District have supported their mission and have partnered in bringing physical and spiritual restoration to those in need.

2024-26 Mite Goal: \$403,000

Mites received through Jan. 31: \$160,998
(\$242,002 still needed)

Mission Grants paid through Jan. 31: \$107,814

Send your mite offerings, along with a remittance form to:
LWML Texas District
Attn: Alissa Elley, Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 183; Seguin, TX 78156

