

TEXAS

JUNE-JULY 2025

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

To God The Glo



Our Savior God
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Rev. Michael Newman,
District President

Passing the baton

Not long ago, as I rambled through a five-mile morning run, another runner approached me from behind and passed me. Off he went, stretching the distance between us with every step. I was left in the proverbial dust, unable to summon the speed or agility to keep up.

That might seem like no big deal to you, but for a fairly long stretch of my 48-year running career, I took pride in not being passed on a run. If I heard footsteps behind me, I could press harder and pull away from any threat. But those days are gone. The runner who passed me was a young, slightly overweight guy in a mismatched sweat suit. Ouch. When a high school cross country runner doing marathon training blows by me, I'm not as bruised. But this one humbled me. The next generation was now king of the roads.

My reaction can be typical of any timeworn generation. No one wants to be a "has been." In our western culture in which aging does not elicit respect and admiration, we who are getting older may want to hold tightly to our place rather than pass the baton. Especially with our hearts saturated in self-centered sin, we resist sacrificing center stage.

But God's perspective and plan counteract our fear and reverse our twisted logic. We're meant to pass the baton. Our Savior God designed us to lift up new generations so that ever greater numbers of people will shine His light of hope and life to more and more people. God commissions the outgoing generation to use its wisdom and experience to empower new generations.

The psalmist resolutely declared that he would share "things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done ... that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God" (Psalm 78:3-4, 6-7).

John the Baptist said about himself and Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Passing the baton is the plan. In His grace, Jesus even passed the baton to you. Through Baptism, His blood-bought and grave-conquering forgiveness and life were poured into you. Your commission is clear: Gift this to new generations.

Who are you pouring into? Have you embraced the plan of surrendering center stage so others can know, believe and be empowered to shine and share the grace of our Savior Jesus? The church needs baton passers.

Those footsteps behind you are not a threat. They are those of heaven-sent, swift servant leaders who will steward the next generation. Do everything you can to let them run.

Rev. Michael W. Newman

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION...

Read 2 Timothy 2:2. What baton passing do you notice in this verse? How might you and your church live out this grace chain-reaction?

Prayer starter: Ask God to keep your ego in check, to calm your fears, and to use your life to make room for and invest in new servant leaders for new generations.





Five ministries received grants at the second annual Catalyst Innovation Lab. The lab supports creative ideas for multiplying disciples and congregations. This year's recipients include:

Texas Tech Student Ministry

"Auto-ology" (discipleship through car restoration) and "Cooking with Cooper" (student-led outreach through cooking).

St. John, Athens

Expansion of online and radio outreach.

St. Paul, Austin

Teaching hearing parents to sign Bible stories for their deaf children.

Acts, Hays

"Refinery Fitness," a men's program blending physical and spiritual growth.

Gloria Dei, Houston

"Disciples Made," a simple, scalable disciple-making process.

The Catalyst Innovation Lab continues to be a launching pad for transformative ideas. These ministries now begin their journey of testing, growing, and sharing their experiences—shaping the future of mission in Texas and beyond.

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

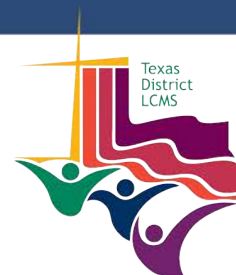


GIFTS

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



Missional Living in Wichita Falls



Rev. Lincon Guerra

Area A Mission and Ministry Facilitator

In the heart of Wichita Falls, something beautiful is unfolding at St. Paul. Known for its historic presence and longstanding faithfulness, this congregation is experiencing a season of renewal, fueled by a fresh vision for mission and love for its neighbors.

In October 2023, I was invited to preach at St. Paul for its Mission Sunday. Following the service, I had the opportunity to meet with Rev. Eric Stinnette, St. Paul pastor, and members of the leadership team. Our conversation focused on the hopes and challenges of outreach in their community, and it was clear that the Lord had already been preparing their hearts for a new mission initiative.

Under the leadership of Pastor Stinnette and the heartfelt ministry of his wife, Shari, St. Paul is leaning into a new chapter, one marked by hospitality, connection and Gospel outreach. The Spirit is clearly at work here, reigniting passion, stirring compassion and guiding this community to embrace those around them in meaningful, life-giving ways.

The seeds of this transformation were planted through prayer and a simple, powerful question: "How can we serve the people God has placed around us?" That question became the foundation for deep conversations among the congregation's leadership, which recognized that being a historic church in a changing neighborhood requires more than preserving the past; it calls for stepping out in faith, listening with humility and acting with love.

In response, St. Paul formed an Outreach Team and partnered with leaders from the Texas District's

Hispanic Ministry to better understand their community's needs. Together, they conducted surveys and distributed flyers, planting the first seeds of what would become an English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) ministry. Their commitment to this endeavor came to life on Sept. 12, 2024, when the congregation welcomed 53 students for its first ESL registration.

From the beginning, the classes were about more than grammar and vocabulary. They were a vehicle for connection, a ministry of presence, a way for the congregation to say, "You are welcome here." And people responded with enthusiasm, vulnerability and gratitude.



Since then, the ESL program has become a cornerstone of community outreach. While some students have moved on, a faithful core of students remains. Classes continue weekly. This fall, St. Paul plans to launch a second level to meet growing needs. One student, preparing to take her U.S. citizenship test in May, credits the program for giving her both language skills and confidence. Another began attending in the women's retreat and now meets weekly with the Crocheters for Christ group. These

See OUTREACH, Page 11

What about your 'stuff?'



Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick
Chief Executive Officer

The Saturday before writing this, I was at home on our back patio, preparing my grill to cook a birthday lunch for my dear wife, Terry, and our dear daughter, Angie ... smoked prime rib.

All of a sudden, an unidentified bug buzzed my right ear, vigorously. Instinctively, I swatted that ear with my free hand. Almost as quickly as the bug went away, it came right back again.

This time it actually took up residence in that ear. Again, I swatted that rascal and it fell to the ground. Want to guess what it was? A June bug. In the first week of April. Go figure.

Fortunately, my ear was OK. So was the hearing aid that had been a victim of the double swat, falling to the ground in the second round.

Do you really care about my June bug fiasco? Most likely no. I share it simply to introduce what you probably already know, namely, that summer-time is upon us. Summer means change.

Routines change. Kids are home from school. For working parents, figuring out how to care for those kids during the summer months may very well produce some challenges.

Vacations for families with school-aged children usually happen during the summer months. It's a good time to enjoy family time together, or personal time away from the madding crowd.

Summer also is a time for reflection and renewal. Time to think. Time to plan. Time to act. Time to review long-term plans, goals and objectives — important decisions waiting for you to make.

If you haven't already done so, I gently, but strongly, encourage you to consider this question: "When the good Lord calls me home, what's going to happen to all my stuff?"



"Stuff" is not a highly technical term. But it is a very inclusive one. It includes bank accounts, insurance policies, investment accounts, retirement plans, personal residence, valuable collections of art, jewelry, automobiles or anything else of financial or sentimental value.

The fact every person must face, sooner or later, is that no one is in a better position than you to determine who or which charitable organizations will receive the "stuff" you've been working for and accumulating throughout the entirety of your lifetime.

A simple last will and testament is a basic building block for answering that question. Other legal instruments can also be helpful, including beneficiary designation forms, charitable trusts and payable on death forms.

So here's a June bug for your ear: If you have not already taken the necessary steps to answer the questions about who will someday get all your stuff, just get it done. Do it now. Though it's a process not always quickly accomplished, you can do it. Legacy Deo can help.



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**.

Cover photo: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

HOUSTON

75 years in ministry

On Feb. 23, the saints of Immanuel recognized the 20th anniversary of the installation of Rev. Claudio Perez Sr., assistant pastor. The congregation also honored Pastor Perez's 75 years of ministry in the LCMS. Pastor Perez graduated from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb., and was commissioned as a teacher in 1955 and later as a DCE. He was ordained into the pastoral ministry in 1995, and is still active in visiting shut-ins. A luncheon followed the service. Pastor Perez is pictured with his wife, Elisa, their children and grandchildren, and Rev. Ian S. Pacey, Immanuel senior pastor.

BRIDGEPORT

Two saints welcomed

Lance and Leigh Ann Berry became members of Trinity on April 13; Lance by confirmation and Leigh Ann by transfer and confession of faith. They are pictured with Rev. Gerald Epperson.



BOERNE**Family grows at Messiah**

On April 6, Messiah's membership grew by leaps and bounds through profession of faith, confirmation, Baptism and reinstatement.

Pictured are, from left (bottom) Jeff Elliott with his daughter, Dominique Gomez (holding Magdeline and with Grace standing beside her); Baron and Megan Hahn with son Oliver; Mark Giardinelli; Bill and Sue Fish; Kirk and Karla Marchell; Kathlin Jaugui (with friend Sebastian Mora); (top) Gene Brown (holding son Gunner; not pictured is wife Lillie and son Roper); Holly Vanderbush (Rev. Neil Vanderbush's wife); Dean and Emily Vanderbush with daughter Noel; Pastor Vanderbush with grandson Ambrose Cooney; Byron and Nora Mosier; Cherie and Joe Short; and Michael and Abigail Cooney with children Simon and Virginia.

**Trained and sent**

On Palm Sunday, Mark Giardinelli received his Certification of Evangelist Training. He was sent by Pastor Vanderbush to the special needs community of San Antonio and Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso to share the Good News of Jesus Christ's saving grace.

HAPPENINGS

McKINNEY

Welcome!



Fifty-four people joined the family of Our Savior on April 13.

CLEVELAND

Blessings at Good Shepherd



Cole Hudson (center) was brought into fellowship through adult confirmation on March 9. He was instructed by Rev. Victor Frank (right) and confirmed by Rev. Craig Whitson (left).

On Feb. 23, Xavier Eugene Miquel West was baptized by Pastor Frank. Parents are Kaitlin Hickman and Brandon West (right), and the sponsor is Damian Ortiz, uncle.



NACOGDOCHES

Active youth



Redeemer has been blessed by its active Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) group. The youth meet for a meal and Bible study on Sundays; volunteer for service projects; and not only faithfully attend church and Sunday school, but they serve as readers, ushers and sing in the choir.

BIG SPRING

Celebrating Easter at Alive in Christ



Alive in Christ Lutheran Church celebrated Easter Eggstravaganza on April 19. Youth participated in several activities, including cookie decorating, face painting, seed planting, a "He Is Risen" activity, egg hunt, and cake walk. Hot dogs were also served.



The Alive in Christ congregation celebrated first communion with Harley Hill on Palm Sunday, April 13. She is pictured with Rev. Bobby Roever.

HAPPENINGS

THORNDALE



Baptized into Christ

St. Paul was blessed to welcome Keegan Irwin and Elijah Ging into God's family through Holy Baptism on April 06. From left, Dillon and Destiny Irwin (with Keegan) and Chance and Michaela Ging (with Elijah). They are pictured with Rev. Jeff Doria.

RIESEL



On April 6, Trinity Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Learning Center celebrated Rev. Larry Knobloch's third anniversary at Trinity and his 20th ordination anniversary. The congregation surprised Pastor Knobloch with a catered lunch. Guests included family and friends. Pastor Knobloch's brother, Kelly, even provided musical entertainment with his accordion. Pastor Knobloch is pictured with his wife, Cyndi.

PLANO

Associate installed

Rev. Jace C. Detrie was installed as associate pastor of Messiah, Plano, on March 23. A Plano native, Pastor Detrie previously served congregations in New Jersey and Tennessee.

Pictured are, from left, Rev. Matthew A. Lee, associate pastor; Rev. Jace C. Detrie; and Rev. Dr. Victor J. Kollmann, senior pastor.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista

Glenn and Connie Beran
50 years, June 14

St. Matthew, Westfield

Joe and Shirley Michka
57 years, April 6

Kenneth and Joyce French
71 years, April 24

Redeemer, Nacogdoches:

Brian and Cheryl Mehl
52 years, May 26

Chris and Elsie Davis
52 years, July 14

Joe and Candy Johnston
56 years, July 19

St. Paul, The Grove

Bill and Trish Rogge
61 years, June 6

Carl and Barbie Symm
61 years, June 7

Bob and Betty Winkler
54 years, June 12

Curtis and Helen Domel
55 years, June 13

Wayne and Betty Tatge
64 years, June 17

Robert and Nora Morrow
56 years, July 2

Alton and Darlene Riske
68 years, July 21

Ted and Beverly Winkler
54 years, July 24

Gethsemane, Houston

Edwin and Denise Konvicka
51 years, June 15

Mike and Barbara McInnis
57 years, July 5

Jim and Jan Taylor
58 years, July 22

Harvey and Carol Owens
53 years, July 29

Messiah, Plano



Rudolph and Jo
Buchwald
76 years, June 26

First, Texarkana



Eddie and Pam Wood
50 years, June 28

St. Paul, McAllen



Fred and Karen Karle
60 years, May 30

St. Luke, Sweeny



Victor and Gleda Krueger
50 years, June 7

OUTREACH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

are not just educational moments; they are spiritual milestones.

During Christmas, St. Paul hosted a joyous La Posada celebration, complete with food, music and a bilingual worship service that beautifully reflected the unity of cultures and hearts gathered in Christ. We deeply appreciate the support, collaboration and partnership of Rev. Juan and Deaconess Alma Zamora, whose involvement has been a great blessing to this ministry. These events have not only enriched the life of the congregation, but have drawn new families into fellowship and worship.

What stands out most in this story isn't just the program, it's the posture and the way the Outreach Team and congregation embody mercy ministry

with intentionality and grace. Their love is clear and consistent, offered through warm smiles, shared prayers and open doors. In a world often marked by division and fear, St. Paul offers something profoundly different: a place of belonging.

As Pastor Stinnette reflected, "All the many great things that have happened are by the hand of our Lord. To God be the glory!"

Indeed, this is the Lord's doing, a story still being written by faithful people who looked not for distant mission fields, but saw one right across the street and stepped into it with courage.

In a time when many congregations are asking how to engage with their changing communities, the witness of St. Paul reminds us that sometimes the most impactful ministry begins with prayerful listening and continues with one word spoken in love, one welcome offered in grace and one act of faithful witness at a time.

God bless our early childhood educators



Dr. Bill Hinz

Director, School Ministry

Over 500 Lutheran early childhood educators gathered Feb. 20–22 at Trinity-Klein Lutheran Church and School, Spring, to attend the Early Childhood Conference.

A highlight of the conference is the announcement of the Early Childhood Educator of the Year, and the honor for 2025 was presented to HoJeong Han McGown of Trinity-Klein Lutheran School, Spring

Also nominated for the award were Melissa Gribb, Bright Beginners Preschool, Houston; Lupita Hannusch, Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin; and Lauren Johnson, Messiah's Kids, Boerne

This year's conference theme was "A Joyous Way to Learn," from Deut. 32:2: "May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb." We can embrace and share with our students the abundance of God's teachings and that His Word is as nourishing as the rain.

Each morning at the conference, attendees were blessed by the uplifting message and songs of praise, provided by Rev. Lee Hopf and the Trinity Worship team.

Throughout our conference time, attendees had the opportunity to attend individual sessions and keynote presentations. We were blessed to have Rev. Matt Popovits, senior pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church and School, Houston, share with us in the closing keynote about hope, joy and God's favorite word — through. "Hope is the heart of joy, God is going to get me through"

Our Lutheran early childhood centers are places where the whole child is embraced. The children are provided a strong foundation where they are nurtured and can grow. Our dedicated teachers share the unconditional love of Jesus through the lessons that are taught and in everyday activities. What a privilege we have to be able to plant the seeds of faith at this early age, and encourage them as they mature into Christ-like followers.

As we look to our early childhood teachers to be front-line missionaries, we want to thank them for their dedication in sharing the love of Jesus daily with the precious children God has placed in their care. Thank you for congregations that invest in children. Thank you for all your prayers in support of the vital ministries of our Lutheran churches, schools, and early childhood centers.



From left, Dr. Hinz is pictured with the finalists for the Texas District 2025 Early Childhood Educator of the Year, Melissa Gribb, Bright Beginners, Houston; HoJeong Han McGowan, Trinity-Klein, Spring; Lupita Hannusch, Redeemer, Austin; and Lauren Johnson, Messiah, Boerne. The award was presented to HoJeong Han McGowan.

The importance of adding beneficiaries



Becca Jones

Texas CEF Executive Director

When it comes to managing your investments, there are many details to keep track of, and adding a

beneficiary is often something that gets postponed. We may think, "I'll do it later," but too often, later never comes.

Here are some key reasons why designating a beneficiary (or beneficiaries) for your Texas CEF investments is so important:

► **Ensures your wishes are honored**

You've worked hard for your money, and adding beneficiaries ensures that your investments go exactly where you want them to go.

► **Avoids probate delays and costs**

When a beneficiary is listed, Texas CEF does not require the Executor to provide probate documentation, which can often be complicated and costly.

► **Offers flexibility in distribution**

You can designate one or multiple beneficiaries and specify the percentage of funds each will receive.

► **Eases stress on your loved ones**

By having beneficiaries in place, you save your loved ones time, money and unnecessary confusion during a difficult time.

Adding beneficiaries to your Texas CEF investments is a simple yet crucial step in ensuring your investments are distributed according to your wishes. To help clarify the process, here are some frequently asked questions:

• **What types of investments are eligible for beneficiaries?** Individual investments and Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship (JTWRoS) accounts are eligible for beneficiary designations.

• **What types of investments are not eligible for beneficiaries?** Custodial investments, trusts or



business accounts are not eligible for beneficiary designations.

• **Does the beneficiary have to be a person?**

No! You can name a church or any organization as your beneficiary, including the Texas CEF Capital Fund if you wish that your money will continue to support our ministry.

• **Will the beneficiaries have access to my investments before my passing?** No, beneficiaries are not owners of the investments. They will not receive any information regarding the investment(s) until Texas CEF is formally notified of the investment owner's passing.

Ready to add beneficiaries?

It's easy! Simply fill out the Beneficiary/Bequest form available at texascef.org or call one of our Investor Services Representatives at 1-888-951-1233 for assistance.

Taking this simple step now can provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones in the future. Don't wait — secure your investment's future today!

Texas District Church Extension Fund

1221 Satellite View

Round Rock, Texas 78665

texascef.org • invest@texascef.org • 888-951-1233

Heavenly hospitality



By Pat Fick
CAN-DO Director

Have you ever been surprised by how God provided for you? Me too! Once I was traveling by myself from Ocala, Fla., to Atlanta and running a little behind schedule (which is a norm for me). I stopped to get gas and accidentally locked my keys in my truck. Ugh! Now what should I do?

I walked into the gas station and asked the attendant if he could help me find a locksmith. He insisted that I did not need a locksmith, but should ask someone to help me unlock my door with a wire hanger. He even provided the wire hanger and pointed me toward an elderly man.

I asked the man if he thought he could help. Without saying a word, he took the wire hanger and walked with me toward my truck. There was a woman with him, and I tried to make conversation with both, but they were incredibly quiet and unassuming. He pushed the wire through the window frame and the first attempt to force the lock upward was unsuccessful. I made a comment about praying that we would be able to unlock the truck. Then I made another comment about how thankful I was for their help. This comment was met with a response, the only words the couple ever said to me, "It's what the Lord would have us do." Whoa! And then the wire hanger pushed up the lock and I was able to hop in the truck and continue on my merry way. As I left, I really wanted to follow them to see if they were real people or just angels that God had sent to help me.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).

During my mission travels I have met

many hospitable people. They share their food, their homes, their lives, their ministries and their hopes and dreams with our mission teams. If they sense we have a need, they go out of their way to fill that need. Even when we cannot speak their language, they clearly communicate that we are welcome and they want to build relationships with us. It is an amazing experience, and very humbling.

Jesus was an expert at hospitality. He welcomed the stranger and hung out with those who others rejected. He gave His entire life as a sacrifice for sinners.

Lord, help us to live out 1 Peter 4:8-11: "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."



Getty Images

Annual BBQ is July 27

Has your life been transformed by Jesus through the ministry of Camp Lone Star? Has your faith — or your kids' faith — been shaped in any way through adventurous Christ-centered experiences at camp? If so, we invite you to join us in La Grange for our annual BBQ and Auction Fundraiser on Sunday, July 27, to reconnect with friends and family in support of this place that has made a meaningful impact on your life.

Your support, whether in person or through an online donation, directly helps us continue planting seeds of faith, cultivating Christian leaders, and growing the kingdom of God.

The day begins at 10:45 a.m. with a worship service at the Oak Grove, under the canopy of trees by the lake (a livestream will be available inside the air-conditioned Koop Activity Center). After worship, enjoy a delicious Texas barbecue lunch provided by Camp Lone Star's food service team, as well as many local congregations and friends of camp.

The live and silent auctions begin at 1 p.m., and the swimming pool will be open for kids. Be sure to visit the Trading Post for Camp Lone Star T-shirts, hats, water bottles and more.

For many, this event feels like coming home. It's a wonderful opportunity for staff alumni to connect with this year's summer staff, for campers and guests to catch up with friends, and to celebrate the ministry of Camp Lone Star. It's also the perfect time to invite family and friends for them to see firsthand how Jesus is working through this ministry and how their lives can be impacted here too!

We look forward to celebrating with you, and thank you for helping us. Please join us in praying that God will be glorified through this event — and in all that we do.

Stay connected and learn more about the BBQ and Auction Fundraiser at camplonestar.org/bbq-auction-fundraiser. And if you can't join us this year, we invite you to prayerfully consider donating online through the same link. Together, let's celebrate what God has done, look ahead to all He will do, and continue building a legacy of faith at Camp Lone Star for generations to come.

info@camplonestar.org • 979-968-1657

camplonestar.org

2016 Camp Lone Star Road
La Grange, TX 78945



Keeping the Orphan Grain Train rolling!

God is at work through Orphan Grain Train (OGT) in South Texas. After five years of waiting, OGT has been blessed with a beautiful building to expand its mission of sharing Christ's love with those in need. A \$15,000 mission grant from the LWML Texas District has provided funding to purchase supplies and distribute donations to local charities. The support and interest from LWML groups and zones have also been invaluable.

In 2024, OGT Houston distributed over 6,000 boxes for children's homes, homeless outreach programs, veterans' support services, and disaster relief efforts. God continues to connect OGT with those who help with emergency foster programs, faith-based addiction recovery centers, and community assistance initiatives. These connections demonstrate how God is weaving OGT's mission with others to extend its impact.

Supporters often ask how they can help. Specific needs in the Houston area include new underwear and socks, twin-sheet sets and pillows, hygiene kits, and school kits. OGT is also developing comfort kits

for children who are experiencing difficult situations. Each kit will include a backpack, a stuffed animal and a children's book to provide comfort to vulnerable children through local organizations.

OGT Houston is excited to witness how God will continue to guide and grow its ministry, and is thankful for the prayers and support of the LWML Texas District, which enables them to carry out their mission.



OGT Houston board members joined with the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. From left, Erika Adams, Bernice Wolf, Mike and Marti Rathje, Holly and Steve Harris, Greg Balfany and Jeff Bibler.

Dates set for LWR ingathering

We did it! We had a great out-pouring of quilts, school, health, fabric, and infant kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in 2024. Let's do it again! Mark your calendars now for the 2025 ingatherings.

Marion (San Antonio area)
St. John, 600 S. Center Street
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Houston
Epiphany, 14423 West Road
Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Plano (Dallas area)
Messiah, 1801 W. Plano Parkway
Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Visit lwmltxdist.org/mission-service.
A listing of kit items and specifics for quilts can be found at lwr.org.

Make plans to attend retreat

The LWML Texas District retreat will be held Oct. 10–11 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco. The theme is "Faith Over Fear" and the featured speaker will be author Christina Hergenrader.

Optional activities will take place the evening of Oct. 10. The registration fee of \$50 includes breakfast and lunch on Oct. 11. Housing is not included in the registration, but a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Waco Northeast.

Registration details can be found at lwmltxdist.org/christian-life.

Nominations sought for district offices

Do you know someone who would make a faithful LWML district officer? Consider nominating them for the 2026–2030 term! Nominations are requested for VP of Gospel Outreach, VP of Communication, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee.

Submit nominations by Nov. 1 to nominatingch@lwmltxdist.org. For more information, visit lwmltxdist.org/nominating-committee.

2024-26 Mite Goal: \$403,000

Mites received through March 31: \$191,365 (\$211,635 still needed)
Mission Grants paid through March 31: \$134,064

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

