

# TEXAS

FEBRUARY 2026

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



# “But We’ve Always Done It That Way!” (Part 2)



**Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther**  
District President

Haven't we heard that one before? As I noted in my last article, the words of the headline are sometimes viewed as a death knell for a staid churchly institution, one that is devoid of necessary change to meet

contemporary needs. At the same time, consistency with respect to the mission and outreach in this churchly institution, the Texas District, is decidedly a good thing. It is good to adhere closely to the biblical imperative to reach those far from God with the Good News of Jesus Christ and sins forgiven.

In the past months, I have been writing to you about the *common convictions* we have as Lutheran Christians, centered in Holy Scripture and explained in the Lutheran Confessions. Those common convictions drive us to our *common cause* — proclaiming the Gospel with the purpose of making disciples of those who don't yet trust in Jesus' love and forgiveness. Those convictions are best maintained, and the cause best engaged, when we work together in *common community*. Check out what the Bible says about all that in 1 Tim. 4:16, 2 Cor. 5:14ff., Acts 15:1-31, and 1 Cor. 12:4-31.

And yes, in Texas, we have sought always to do it that way.

In the mid-1800s, the Wendish immigration formed what we might consider to be the heart of LCMS Lutheranism in Texas. I am intrigued by the following historical snippet, recounting the dedication of the

Wends' first church building in Serbin (in what is now Lee County, Texas), under the pastoral leadership of John Killian:

“In 1859 a house of worship was finally erected at Serbin, a frame building fifty by twenty-five feet. On Christmas Day, almost exactly five years after the Wends reached Galveston [from their voyage from Europe], it was dedicated amid great rejoicing. Pastor Killian preached the dedicatory sermon in both Wendish and German, and followed with an address in English for the benefit of visitors who understood neither Wendish nor German.” (Robert J. Koenig, *Pause to Ponder*, p. 14)



**John Killian**

Kilian addressed the crowd in Wendish *and* German *and* English! Why did he feel compelled to do so? Because the Gospel — with its eternal implications — is so important it must be proclaimed in a language that the people understand. In many and various ways, we should seek to do the same.

Perhaps Killian had in mind the account of Pentecost in Acts 2, in which the Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to proclaim the Good News in the plethora of languages spoken by the people in Jerusalem that day. Who can forget the Pentecost reading: “Parthians, Medes and Elamites...”

May we, with the common convictions we have and the common cause in which we're engaged, be equally committed to making the Good News plain to the uninitiated. Thank God for the common community we have that enables us to do so!



Visitors attend the 30th Annual Wendish Fest on the grounds of St. Paul, Serbin, in 2018.

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford



# SPREADING THE GOSPEL ACROSS TEXAS

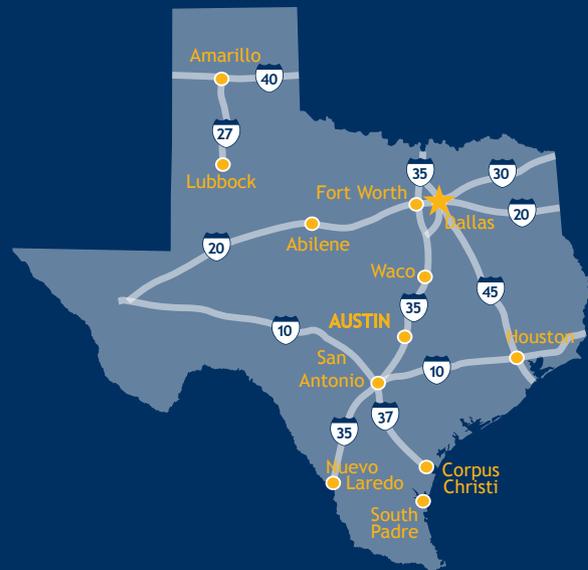
Your contribution to Texas Partners in Mission goes directly to support missions in the Texas District.

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*I know God brought you here.  
And I know God is never going to leave you.  
You are here with us now.*

- Maria Barron,  
Texas District Evangelist,  
Comunidad Cristiana Expansion, Rockwall



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[txlcms.org/tpim](http://txlcms.org/tpim)



Watch Maria's Faith Story here: [txlcms.org/videos/](http://txlcms.org/videos/)



## 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](http://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**



# The end of church planting?



## Rev. Pete Mueller

Mission Strategist, Area C

What? That sounds ominous.

Is the optimal season for starting new churches coming to a close?

Is the anti-Christian climate in our country really that strong?

No. It's not.

And as angels have reassured God's people in previous times of disruption, the message still rings clear: "Do not be afraid!" (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Luke 1:30; Luke 2:10).

The Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continues to plant the Gospel in new places, among new faces. Raising up new workers. Establishing new congregations. Sending out newly trained evangelists. These remain top priorities of our beloved district — and that will not change anytime soon.

So then ... what's with the headline?

### The end of church planting.

Admittedly, bold headlines attract readers. Subversive statements can provoke the rethinking of stagnant assumptions. And perhaps that's part of what's at play here.

But the real thrust behind this title is unlocked by a closer look at the word "end."

Yes, we often think of end as cessation — the point where something stops.

The end of the day.

The end of the road.

The end of the effort.

But Merriam-Webster offers another definition: *end* as an outcome worked toward. In this sense, your end is your purpose.

With that in mind, we can shift from talking about the cessation of church planting to the outcome of church planting.

More churches in more places means more people reached by the power and joy of the Gospel. And yes, it's true, your district mission team keeps track of a growing number of congregations, evangelists and mission partners.

But this week, I was forcefully reminded that the end of church planting is far bigger than district officials high-fiving one another over metrics that always move up and to the right.

This week I sat in a hospice care center with a dear friend named Mary. The earthly tent Mary had lived in for 94 seasons was in the process of being folded up — exchanged for a more permanent dwelling. (See 2 Corinthians 5:1–5.) I had the sacred privilege of reminding Mary of the Gospel of Christ that had carried her through her entire life. I shared Scripture. I spoke God's promises to her and the family gathered around her.

Mary had her eyes closed for much of my visit. I didn't take it personally.

When I began speaking the Apostles' Creed, Mary spoke every word right along with me. And when I started the Lord's Prayer, her hoarse voice rose and joined mine.

You should know this about Mary. She and her husband, Ken, were part of a church-planting effort in Lakeway called CrossBridge Community Church. And when I arrived in Austin in 2009 — tasked with relaunching that small Gospel outpost as ACTS Church Lakeway — Mary and Ken walked right alongside me.

And now, as the end drew near, Mary's faith was the one thing needful. One more time. In one more season of disruption.

The Lord's message to Mary was unmistakable: "Do not be afraid."

I would argue that Mary is the end of church planting. Mary — and others like her who trust Jesus at His Word — are the outcome of all our work.

Come, Lord Jesus, quickly.

Many of us are waiting for You.

And not one of us will be disappointed.

# Your legacy matters



## Dayna Dinan

Administrative/Marketing  
Coordinator

Every life tells a story.

Some chapters feel loud and momentous, others quiet and unseen. Yet woven through them all is a greater narrative — one

that reminds us our lives are never random, never wasted and never lived alone.

Our theme for 2026 — **“Your Legacy. His Story.”** — invites us to pause and reflect on what truly lasts.

Legacy is often misunderstood as something reserved for the distant future or for those with titles, platforms or accomplishments. But legacy is not only what we leave behind; it is how we live today. It is found in faithful obedience, daily kindness, courageous leadership and the willingness to say yes when God invites us into something bigger than ourselves.

At Legacy Deo, we believe your work, your calling and your influence matter deeply. Every decision you make, every relationship you steward and every moment you choose integrity contributes to a legacy that points beyond you.

That legacy also includes how we steward the resources God has entrusted to us. Financial legacy is not simply about provision; it is about purpose. It is using what we have to invest in what matters most: advancing God’s work, caring for

others and creating opportunities for future generations to encounter His faithfulness.

When generosity is guided by obedience and trust, finances become more than numbers; they become a testimony. A testimony that says we believe God is our provider, and that what we place in His hands can multiply far beyond our lifetime.

When your life aligns with God’s purpose, your story becomes part of **His story** — a story of redemption, restoration and hope.

When we shift our focus from building our own name to honoring His, something powerful happens. Pressure gives way to peace. Fear gives way to faith. And our lives begin to reflect a story far greater than we could ever write on our own.

As you look ahead to 2026, we encourage you to ask:

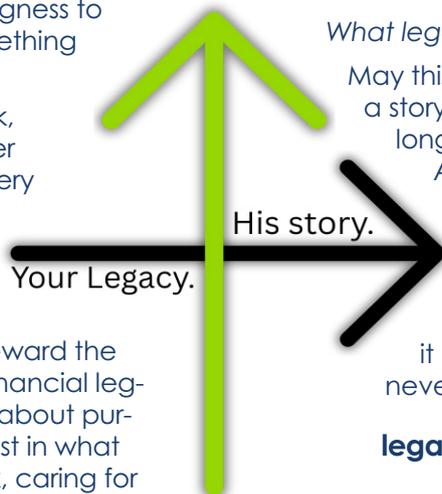
*What legacy am I building right now?*

May this be a year in which your life tells a story of faithfulness — one that echoes long after the moment has passed.

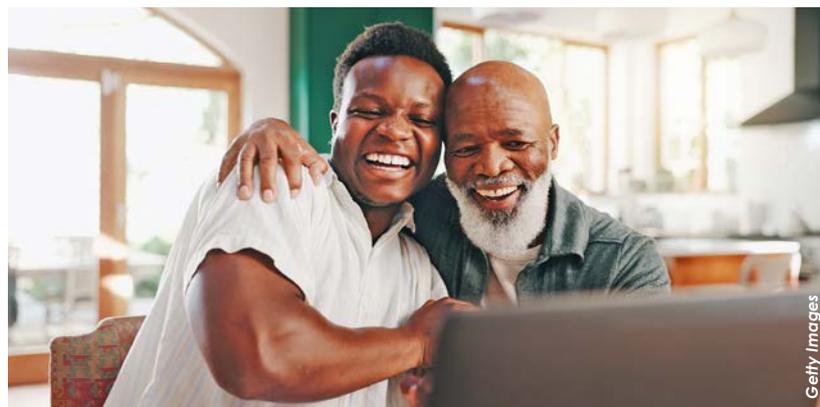
A story rooted not in recognition, but in purpose. Not in self, but in surrender.

Your legacy matters.

And when it is anchored in Him, it becomes part of a story that will never fade.



**legacydeo.org • 800-880-3733**



## HAPPENINGS

### DALLAS



The Our Redeemer school staff is pictured with Pastor McGuire (at right).

The staff of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, Dallas, was honored during a church service last August. Our Redeemer is served by Revs. Brent McGuire (senior pastor) and Adam Douthwaite (associate pastor). Rachel Schultz was installed as preschool director; Matt Babisak was installed as athletic director; and Dr. Kara Tobaben is the new head of school.

The school presently has preschool through Grade 6. An addition is underway to add grades 7 and 8. The entire congregation gathered together for a celebration picnic after the service to show their thanks and appreciation.



From left, Pastor Douthwaite, Dr. Tobaben and Pastor McGuire

## Happenings around Texas

### Submit your news!

Send photos, stories and newsletters for The Lutheran Witness to:

[txmess@txlcms.org](mailto: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).

The Texas Messenger is available online at [txlcms.org](http://txlcms.org).

**ARLINGTON**

Rev. Mark Blakeman was installed as pastor of Beautiful Savior on Nov. 9. Pictured are, from left (bottom) Revs. Tim Perkins, St. John, Mansfield; Craig Stephens, Redeemer, Fort Worth; Mark Blakeman, Jon Thomas, St. John, Mansfield; Al Loeschman, emeritus; (top) Larry Krueger, district second vice-president; John De Young, Cross of Christ, DeSoto; and Dr. Stacy Rollefson, Christ, Fort Worth.



**HILLSBORO**



Laura Lynn Cunningham was added to the Christ Lutheran Church family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Nov. 30. Laura Lynn was blessed to have her great-uncle, Rev. Curtis Schneider (left), emeritus, perform the Baptism. Also pictured are parents Jonathan and Rene Cunningham (holding Marving and Laura Lynn) and Rev. Michael Nemec, Christ pastor.

**HOUSTON**



Kim Perry was installed as preschool director of Gethsemane Lutheran Church on Dec. 7. Kim had been serving in the position, but recently completed LCMS colloquy and is now a rostered church worker. She is pictured with Rev. James Jennings.

## HAPPENINGS

### DEVINE



Khalie Cochran was given new life in the waters of Holy Baptism at Divine Savior on Dec. 14. She is pictured with Rev. Randall Wehmeyer and her family and baptismal sponsors.

### BOERNE

Rev. Charles Bamaka, presiding bishop of the of the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU), preached at Messiah on Nov. 30. The LCU entered into altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS during the 2023 Synod convention.

Pastor Bamaka is pictured with Rev. Neil Vanderbush, Messiah pastor.



### GUN BARREL CITY



Aiden Sloan (right) was baptized at St. Peter on Nov. 8. Pictured with Aiden are his sister, Bianna, and Rev. DR Nelson.

**NACOGDOCHES**



Members of Redeemer presented their first drive-thru living nativity, "Journey to Bethlehem," on Dec. 5. The event featured six beautifully crafted scenes, starting with Gabriel's announcement to Mary and concluding with the Magi searching for the baby Jesus. Every car driver was given a brochure telling the story of each scene along with Scripture references. Drivers also tuned their radios to listen to a welcome message from Rev. John Cain and Christmas music. The event included live animals, and members of all ages volunteered and were able to share the story of Christmas with those in nearly 200 cars, representing almost 700 people.

**BOWIE**



St. Peter has received three new members into their congregation. Pictured with Rev. Mark De Young are Avni Vucetaj and Larry and Rhonda Pyle.

**BASTROP**



Epiphany continues to grow! Joe McDaniels was received into membership on Nov. 23. He is pictured with Rev. E.B. Holschuh.

## HAPPENINGS

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

#### **St. Paul, Thorndale**

Delbert and Sharon Faske  
55 years, Oct. 10

Giles and Evelyn Summerlin  
56 years, Oct. 11

#### **Gethsemane, Houston**

Herbert and Junelle Niitsche  
72 years, Feb. 27

#### **Redeemer, Nacogdoches**

Mike and Sharon Kasper  
54 years, Dec. 23

Warren and Betty Fisher  
55 years, Jan. 22



**Our Savior, McKinney**  
Jim and Donna Stockwell  
70 years, Jan. 7



#### **Peace, Rockport**

Corrine and Gordon Powers celebrated their 70th anniversary on June 18. The Powers have been driving their RV from their residence in Arlington, Minn., to Rockport for close to 20 years. Corrine has played the organ for Peace from October through Easter.

## Theological Convocation is April 20–21

### **Face to Face: Soul, Suffering, and the God Who Meets Us**

In a world of hidden wounds, fragile identity and growing isolation, the Gospel speaks face-to-face — calling us into honest conversation with God and one another. Join theologians Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb and Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies for a rich exploration of the self, the soul and the God who meets us in suffering.

Together we will engage Luther's insights on *Anfechtungen*, Law and Gospel, and the consolation of Christ, alongside contemporary questions of identity, trauma and the modern self. Come discover how the church can cultivate compassionate community, mutual consolation and resilient hope in a broken world.

The Texas District Theological Convocation will be held from 8:30 a.m. on April 20 to noon on April 21 at Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown (4010 Williams Drive). To learn more and register, go to [txlcms.org/event](http://txlcms.org/event) and scroll down to the convocation link.

**Register early and save!** Take advantage of the tiered registration pricing and register early for the best rates:

- Early Bird (**by end of day Feb. 14**): \$55
- Regular (Feb. 15–March 31): \$70
- Late (April 1–onsite): \$80

### **ABOUT THE PRESENTERS**

- **Rev. Dr. Robert A. Kolb** is professor emeritus of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL). He is the author of several books, including his latest, "Face to Face: Martin Luther's View of Reality." He retired from CSL in 2009.



- **Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies** serves as vice-president of Ministry Engagement for US Ministries at Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), and is author of the book "How the Light Shines Through: Resilient Witness in Dark Times." Before serving at LHM, he was department chair and associate professor of Religion at Concordia University, Portland.



# ARE YOU AN EVERYDAY EVANGELIST



The heart behind Texas District Evangelist training is designed to turn you into an everyday missionary:

**In this 8-session training:**

- + You will learn how to identify the "wells" in your community where Jesus can meet people.
- + You will gain confidence to share your faith and engage in meaningful spiritual conversations.
- + You will be equipped to launch ministries that meet people who are far from Jesus and connect them to Him.

**Texas District Evangelist Training Ministry**



*Learn to share Jesus and build spiritual wells where you live, work, learn, and play.*

This training is for everyday Christians who want to be part of Jesus' mission to meet people in their daily lives. Just like Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, you can help create places where Jesus offers His living water to those who are far from Him. Learn how to build spiritual wells that connect people to Jesus and equip them to do the same.



For more information, or to sign up for this training, visit: [txlcms.org/evangelisttrainingseries/](http://txlcms.org/evangelisttrainingseries/)

# Christ-centered servant leaders



**Dr. Bill Hinz**  
Director, School Ministry

Our Lutheran schools, by the power of the Holy Spirit, help our students to grow in their faith; to know the forgiveness, grace and life that comes through Jesus

Christ; and to develop all their God-given talents and abilities to serve and love God and to serve and love their neighbors.

The mission of our Lutheran schools is driven by the dedicated teachers and leadership teams that champion continuous learning. This is expressed through a deep commitment of service to the Lord, to the students the Lord blesses us to serve, and to the students' families and their communities. Our calling is for an eternal purpose.

It is a high calling to be a servant leader in our Lutheran schools. Our leaders directly model their ministry after the ministry of Jesus Christ. Leaders — principals, administrators and teachers — view their role as a vocational calling to share

Jesus and serve others first. They serve by exhibiting the love of Christ in helping our students continue to grow in all ways, by creating an environment of learning and sharing, and by transforming their faculty and students to love Jesus and grow as mission-minded future leaders of their community.

In Lutheran education, service is the practical expression of faith, intellectual growth and compassion for others. It is connecting with students — teaching them to use their gifts for the benefit of their neighbor and the wider world.



Lutheran schools are not just preparing students for a career, but equipping them to be Christ-centered leaders who will serve Christ and their neighbor wherever God places them.

**LEFT: District high school leaders gathered for a two-day leadership development forum in San Antonio.**

**BELOW: Leaders from around the country gathered in Austin to participate in the Principal 360 Leadership program.**



# Delightful days in Del Rio



**By Pat Fick**  
CAN-DO Director

For our thanksgiving mission trip, we were headed to Del Rio to work with Rev. Luis Morales. At the last minute, I received a message that our minivan rental would not be available, so we called a former Concordia University Texas graduate who works for the rental company, and thankfully she was able to locate an available vehicle in Marble Falls.

Five students and I loaded up the vehicle and set out on our serving adventure. The students didn't really know one another, and that nearly caused them to cancel at the last minute. God, however, was at work in their hearts and they showed up, worked hard, laughed a lot and sang about God's goodness wholeheartedly every night of our trip. We sang our favorite songs in English and Spanish, making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

My favorite song was "Resucitó" (He is Risen), and I would also sing it to them in the morning when it was time to rise and work. One of our projects in Del Rio was renovating a house that belongs to the church. We also were able to help with landscaping, cutting down a bunch of branches and filling 14 huge trash bags with leaves and debris.

Pastor Luis and his family were amazing hosts. They provided delicious meals, including cultural favorites like pan dulce and Mexican candy, and showed us a beautiful park with a duck amphitheater. (That's how one of our students described the park — I love it!) We played Giant Jenga and Alberto showed us his skills when he pulled out the only remaining block in a row without toppling the tower. Wow!

Here are some things God was teaching us during our trip, as said by our servants:

"There is great joy in the body of Christ working together to bless others. Use your gifts! 'Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them (Romans 12:6).'"



"We are a mess, and God cleans us up. The house got a resurrection!" ("Resucitó" strikes again!)

"A woman saw us working and stopped by to chat with Pastor Luis. The Lord is always doing something."

"Just be present! Incorporate joy and appreciation into your daily life." "I do not have to be a perfectionist." "Music may be my calling."

"I now have a spark to be more consistent in my relationship with Jesus." "I want to be more open to talking to people more and getting out of my comfort zone."

"It is all about dependence on the Lord and perseverance." "The Lord is the Lord of His church and he will provide."

**Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.** Romans 12:9-12

# Giving back

## Teen helped by Upbring returns the blessing

When Emmanuel “Manny” Johns was just 1 day old, he was placed with his adoptive family through Lutheran Social Services, now Upbring. Nearly 18 years later, Manny is giving back to the organization that helped shape his life as he works toward the rank of Eagle Scout.

Manny’s parents knew adoption would be how they built their family. After completing the licensing process, they received a call that a newborn needed immediate placement. One day later, Manny came home.

“At drop-off they said, ‘He has a 2-year-old sister at the children’s shelter who needs placement too,’” said Brenda Johns, Manny’s mother. “So within a week, we went from no kids to a newborn and a toddler.”

Within days, Manny and his sister, Frankie, joined the family. Nine months later, both children were officially adopted.

As the years went on, Manny’s biological family continued to grow. Eventually, there were 10 siblings in total, each entering foster care at different times. Manny’s family worked with Upbring and other agencies to keep the siblings connected whenever possible.

“All 10 of them have been in the same room together,” Brenda said. “It’s incredible.”

When planning his Eagle Scout service project, Manny wanted it to reflect his own story. He selected Upbring as the beneficiary and organized a stuffed animal and children’s book drive for children entering foster care.



**Emmanuel “Manny” Johns was just 1 day old when he was placed with his adoptive family. Now he’s giving back.**

Manny set a goal to collect 50 stuffed animals and 50 books. With support from his Scout troop and community members, he exceeded that goal, collecting 90 stuffed animals and 45 children’s books. Manny and his family delivered the donations to Upbring’s Austin office.

Manny plans to complete his Eagle rank before his 18th birthday.

“Upbring has been part of our story from the very beginning,” Brenda said. “To see Manny give back to the community that helped shape him — that’s really special.”



To learn more, visit  
[upbring.org/fosterintexas](https://upbring.org/fosterintexas)

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

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# Invest today in an IRA

Did you know that Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas District CEF) offers a great way to help investors reach their savings goals for retirement?

Through an IRA, also known as an Individual Retirement Arrangement, individuals can save for retirement with tax-free or tax-deferred growth in their savings.

## Texas District CEF wants to be your savings place for IRAs!

IRAs are one of the many options individuals have to save money and be part of Texas District CEF's mission to be the preferred financial partner with ministries focused on multiplying followers of Jesus.

## We are proud to offer the following IRA products and services:

- **Traditional IRAs** help you to save for your retirement by allowing the earnings to grow tax deferred. Contributions may also be tax-deductible if you meet certain conditions. Distributions from the IRA are generally taxable at the time of withdrawal.
- The **Roth IRA** advantage to saving for retirement is tax-free distributions if certain conditions are met. You must have earned income to open a Roth IRA. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

- A **Coverdell Education IRA (ESA)** can be used to make annual non-deductible contributions on behalf of a child under the age of 18. The earnings will remain tax-deferred while in the ESA. When the child uses the ESA to pay for qualified education expenses, the contributions and earnings are distributed tax free.
- A **Simplified Employee Pension Plan (SEP)** allows employers to contribute to traditional (SEP-IRAs) set up for employees. A business of any size, even self-employed, can establish a SEP.
- A **Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE)** allows employees and employers to contribute to traditional IRAs set up for employees. It is ideally suited as a start-up retirement savings plan for small employers not currently sponsoring a retirement plan.

As always, Texas District CEF encourages you to consult with your tax advisor before April 15.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, visit [texascef.org/iras](http://texascef.org/iras). You may also call one of our Investors Services Representatives at 888-951-1233.



## Sisters in Mission

# Why LWML matters to me

By Mikayla Heckmann

LWML Texas District

Young Woman Representative



As a member of Lutheran Women in Mission, I have been able to form relationships with women young and old across the country with the same mind-set of dedicating our lives to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with our Savior. This common thread renews, reminds and strengthens our call to be workers in the harvest field.

As someone who has grown up in the LWML and been involved at all levels of the organization, I have seen firsthand the impact of our Mite offerings and what they have accomplished around the world, solely through the work of the Holy Spirit. I pray that I can encourage more young women like me, a busy young professional, to become involved in this organization and serving the Lord with gladness, even when they feel their schedules are full or they are not qualified, or whatever doubt the devil tries to instill in them.

The LWML is an organization for all women, and it equips each of its members to recognize the gifts God has blessed us with and allows us to serve others through the love of Christ.

## Heart to Heart Sisters

# Connecting women from all nations

The Lutheran Women in Mission Texas District has a rich and storied history of mission support, kingdom-building work, and great fellowship!

One way in which we encourage all women to participate in LWML is through the Heart to Heart Sisters program. It connects women from different cultures and ethnicities, uniting them under a Christ-serving banner of missions and service.

Heart to Heart Sisters, however, is more than an initiative. It's about building relationships. Rooted in the love of Christ, all women in our congregations and missions are invited to connect across cultures, languages and life experiences, forming bonds that reflect the unity we have in Him.

At its core, Heart to Heart Sisters is about listening, learning and walking alongside one another. It encourages reaching out to women in diverse communities — especially those who may not yet feel seen or included — to welcome each one with open hearts and open hands. Through shared prayer, service, storytelling and new friendships, we can discover all we have in common and celebrate how beautifully God works through our differences.

Heart to Heart Sisters challenges each LWML member to be intentional — to step outside comfort zones and into conversations that lead to lasting connection and sisterhood in the Lord. All women are welcome to join Lutheran Women in Mission and its impactful mission work!

Heart to Heart Sisters reflects the now and future church as described in Revelation 7:9: "A great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages."

As Sally Krueger, LWML district president, shares, "Let's support and encourage mission efforts together, including all of us, working in joy for the Kingdom of the Lord." Amen!

Visit [lwmltxdist.org/heart-heart-sisters](http://lwmltxdist.org/heart-heart-sisters).

## DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline to apply for an LWML Texas District scholarship for the 2026-27 school year is March 31. Women who are members of a Texas District congregation and are enrolled at an LCMS university studying to become a full-time LCMS church worker are eligible.

Visit [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org), go to "About Us," select "Scholarships," and download the 2026 application packet. Questions? Contact Michelle Heckmann at [scholarships@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:scholarships@lwmltxdist.org).

**2024-26 Mite Goal: \$403,000**

Mites received through Nov. 30: \$308,106 (\$94,894 still needed)

Mission Grants paid through Nov. 30: \$230,314

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