

TEXAS

MARCH 2026

M E S S E N G E R

The Texas District • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



They plant churches, don't they?



Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther
District President

Our spiritual forebearers in Texas — the Wends — who following their 1854 immigration formed the heart of Lutheranism in Texas and what eventually would become the Texas District ... they couldn't have possibly been intersted in church planting, could they? New to this country. Poor. Not understanding the vernacular. Strange customs. It would have been plenty just to survive, right? Read on ...

In the columns I've written since my installation as president of the Texas District, I have been recounting how our **common convictions** about the teachings of Holy Scripture necessarily impel us to our **common cause** — reaching those far from God with the Good News of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins. There is a reciprocal and reinforcing relationship between those two concepts, best maintained when we hold one another accountable in **common community**. For more about how that works, see 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14ff, Acts 15:1-31, and 1 Corinthians 12:4-31.

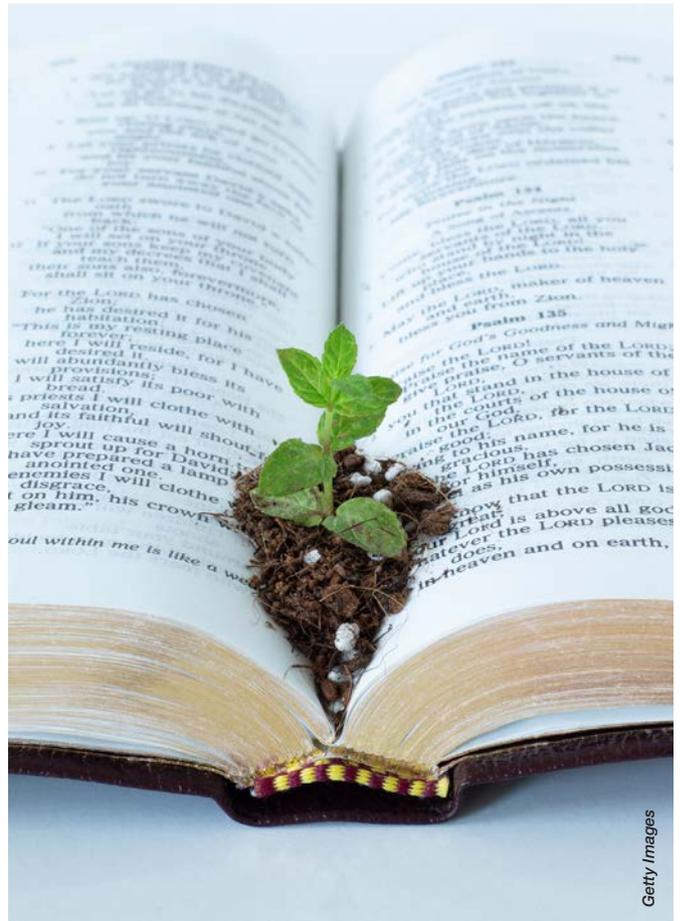
And our forebearers, despite the obstacles, followed their convictions to their cause and worked together in common community to plant congregations in the first three decades of their life in Texas. Robert Koenig puts it this way:

Pastor Braun [ed.: Lutheran pastor in Houston, not yet Missouri Synod] was so impressed by these simple, devout Christians [the Wends] as they arrived in Houston and made their way to the land on which they had decided to establish their settlement that he cast in his own lot with them and recommended that a pastor of their synod be called to a congregation in which he was serving as vacancy pastor. As a result, Rose Hill Klein, Cypress, and Neudorf were gained for the Missouri Synod. The founders of Trinity, Houston, went forth from Braun's own fold. Serbin itself produced the nuclei of the new congregations at Fedor, Ebenezer of San Antonio Prairie, Warda and Swiss Alp. A personal friendship accounted for

Salem, Freyburg's entrance into the Synod. New settlers who had been members of Missouri Synod congregations in other parts of the United States brought their loyalty to the Synod with them to William Penn and Dallas. (*Pause to Ponder*, pp. 32-33)

In Koenig's analysis, our forebearers didn't engage in a process of systematic church planting or aggressive evangelization (important as those ideas might be). They were simply like the yeast in the parable Jesus told in Matthew 13 — “leavening” a greater and greater portion of Texas. Their convictions naturally gave way to their cause, as they practiced their community together.

And they planted churches. More on that to come...



Getty Images



BEN GONZALES

Pastor & Mission Strategist Area B • Texas District LCMS



I think that He just taught me that at the end of the day, the only approval that matters is His. He's already proved that I'm proven by Him.

- Ben Gonzales,
Pastor & Mission Strategist Area B,
Texas District LCMS

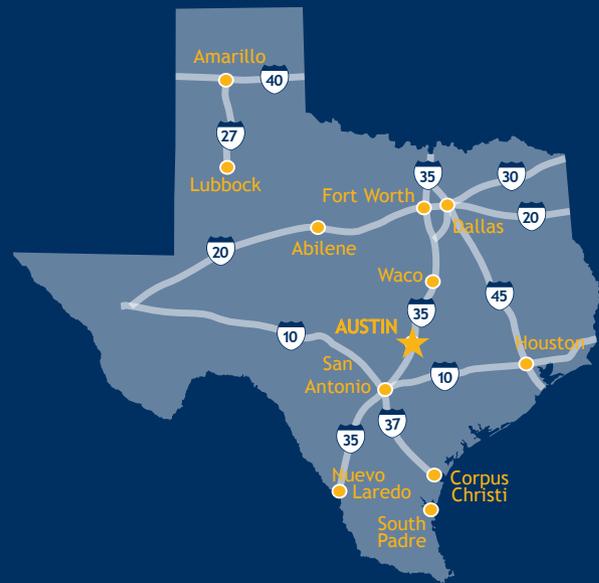


▶ Watch Ben's Faith Story here: txlcms.org/videos/

SPREADING THE GOSPEL ACROSS TEXAS

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



GIVE NOW!
txlcms.org/tpim



PRAY

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

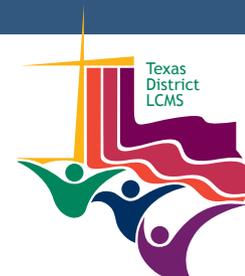


GIFTS

No gift to Texas Partners in Mission is too small. We need gifts to reach the thousands of people in Texas with the life-saving Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Every dollar contributed to Texas Partners in Mission goes directly to bringing the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus Christ. Thank you for your dedication to the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ!

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." ~ Mark 16:15



A growing mission field in Texas



Rev. Lincon Guerra

Area A Mission and Ministry
Facilitator
Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

Across Texas, the Hispanic population continues to shape communities, neighborhoods and mission opportunities in significant

ways. This reality was recently highlighted by the Hispanic Church Planting Study 2025, conducted by Lifeway Research, which surveyed 292 Hispanic new church works across the United States. For the first time, the LCMS Texas District was included in this study, making the findings especially relevant for our congregations, leaders and mission partners.

The study confirms what many churches in Texas are already experiencing firsthand: Hispanic ministry remains silent, Gospel-centered and deeply relational. More importantly, it reveals a growing field of opportunity, one that invites congregations to engage faithfully in the mission God has already placed before them.

Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 remind us that mission is both global and local: *"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

For congregations in Texas, this means that the mission field is not only overseas, but in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and communities. Hispanic families and individuals are part of the everyday life of our cities and towns, creating natural opportunities for witnessing, serving and building relationships.

Hispanic ministry across Texas is often rooted in strong family ties, hospitality and a desire for community. Ministries flourish when relationships are prioritized and congregations show consistent presence and care. Rather than relying primarily on attractive or event-driven models, many Hispanic ministries grow through everyday faithfulness, shared meals, personal invitations and walking alongside people through different seasons of life.

As ministry opportunities expand, leadership devel-



Rev. Rodrigo Fernandez baptizes a child at Manantiales de Vida Lutheran Church, Houston. Holding the child is Deaconess Dayana Fernandez.

opment becomes essential. The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI) continues to serve as a vital pathway for equipping leaders who are already serving in congregations and mission settings across the district.

This year, LHMI welcomed 17 new students, many of whom are actively involved in outreach efforts, English language instruction programs, and emerging ministries. Several of these students are now discerning or entering more formal ministry preparation, including the deaconess program and pastoral training through the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

This growing leadership pipeline reflects a healthy and sustainable approach to mission. Leaders are formed within local contexts, strengthened through

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A faithful legacy



Dayna Dinan

Marketing/Communications
Coordinator

I am blessed to wear many hats for Legacy Deo, but the one closest to my heart is storyteller. Time and again, I have been

honored to share the stories of individuals and organizations who lead with generosity. They understand that their story does not end with the moment they are living in, so they choose to build a legacy that will live on.

Every once in a while, a story comes along that reminds us what legacy truly looks like. A life so faithfully lived, so generously poured out, that it continues to shape others long into the future. Today, it is my honor to share one of those stories. Legacy Deo is honored to announce the creation of the Dr. Jonathan Laabs Endowment for Growing Lutheran Education, established by the Lutheran Education Association (LEA) Board of Directors.

Dr. Jonathan Laabs has devoted nearly five decades to Lutheran education, serving as a teacher, school administrator, university professor and, for more than 28 years, as executive director of Lutheran Education Association. Throughout his faithful ministry, he has supported and strengthened Lutheran educators at every level, locally, nationally and globally.

Following in his father's footsteps, Dr. Laabs earned a Master of Arts from Concordia University Chicago, and later a Doctor of Education from the University of Michigan. His career reflects a passion for innovation, leadership and faithful service, from pioneering instructional technology in Lutheran schools to shaping future educators at the university level. His lifelong commitment to Lutheran education has left an enduring impact on generations of teachers, students and ministries.

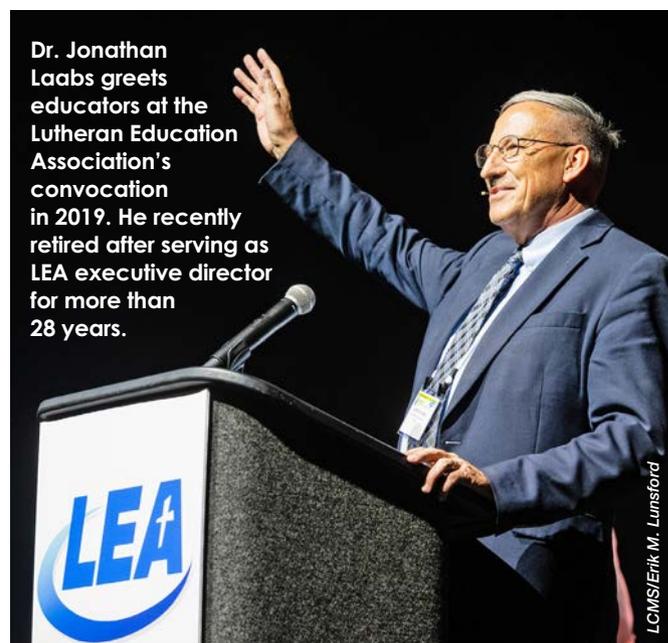
LEA stands as the living heartbeat of the Dr. Jonathan Laabs Endowment. This organization was not simply part of Dr. Laabs's career; it was part of his calling. For decades, LEA has encouraged, supported and reminded educators that their work matters

deeply to the Kingdom of God. Through this endowment, that mission continues. It carries forward Dr. Laabs's lifelong devotion to Lutheran education, ensuring that the love, faith and wisdom he poured into countless educators will continue to shape countless lives for generations yet to come.

If you would like to support this endowment and honor the ministry of Dr. Laabs, we would love to invite you to participate. You may give in one of the following ways:

- ▶ By check, mailed to:
Legacy Deo, 2901 Caballo Ranch Blvd. Ste 4D,
Cedar Park, TX 78641
- ▶ Online by visiting legacydeo.org/give/donate and:
 - Selecting "Give to Endowments"
 - Entering your desired gift amount
 - Listing "Jonathan Laabs Endowment" in the description field
 - Clicking "Continue" to complete your gift

Your generosity helps carry forward a legacy of faith, education and service for generations to come.



Dr. Jonathan Laabs greets educators at the Lutheran Education Association's convocation in 2019. He recently retired after serving as LEA executive director for more than 28 years.

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

legacydeo.org • 800-880-3733

HAPPENINGS

AMARILLO



Rev. Robert Lutjens was installed as pastor of Prince of Peace. Pictured are, from left (front) Revs. Ricky Black, Paul Neuberger, Joe Andrajack, Robert Lutjens, Troy Scroggins; (back) Nathan Misch, David Cecil, Brian Shane and Steve Misch.

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).

The Texas Messenger is available online at txlcms.org.

DUMAS



Garrett and Katelyn Fortson were married at St. John's on Oct. 18. The couple is pictured with Rev. Troy Scroggins.

THE GROVE



ABOVE: At St. Paul, Sue Cole received the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit through the waters of Holy Baptism on Nov. 23. Sue has been welcomed into the St. Paul family of faith with open arms as attested by the number of her baptismal sponsors. She was then confirmed with the rest of this class, who for 13 weeks studied the teachings of the LCMS as drawn from God's Word.

Pictured are, from left (front) Lawanda Filyaw (sponsor); Sue Brown (sponsor); Sue Cole; Asher, Titus, Ethan and Chloe Boswell (Sue's grandchildren); Catherine Peebles (sponsor); (back) Rev. John Heckmann; Doug, Amber and Mellissa Boswell (Sue's son-in-law, granddaughter and daughter); Brianna and Ryan Sohns (Sue's granddaughter and her husband) and Trish Rogge (sponsor).

MIDDLE: That same day, joining the St. Paul family are (with Pastor Heckmann), from left, Cari, Cody and Liam Mead; Lois Mills, and Stacy and Kristen Clady.



LEFT: St. Paul was blessed to receive two new members through Holy Baptism — Baileigh and Trinity Burkett, on Jan. 18. Pictured are, from left, Brandy Burkett and Eddie Wilkerson (grandparents and sponsors), Pastor Heckmann, Baileigh and Trinity and their mother, Brittany.

HAPPENINGS

HOUSTON



Gethsemane Lutheran Church members, with help from a Thrivent grant, donated more than 270 blankets as Christmas gifts for the students of nearby Wainwright Elementary School.

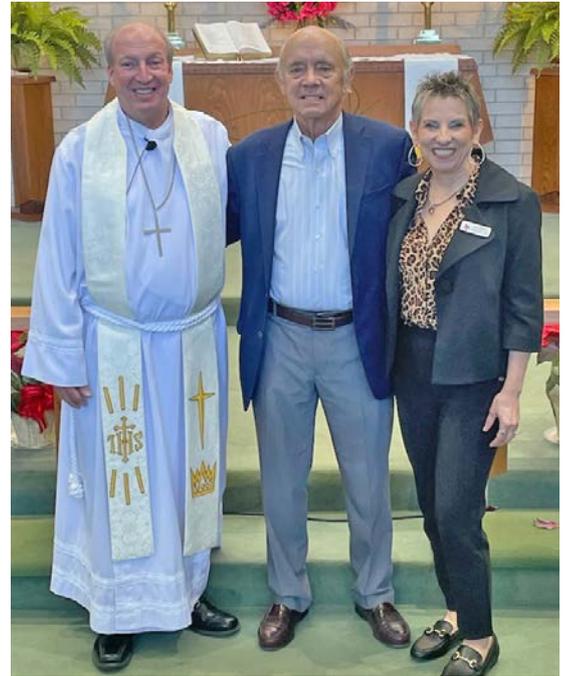


HAWKINS



Teresa Strecker completed evangelist training in 2025 and was formally sent on Jan. 4 at Trinity (a satellite worship site of Trinity, Tyler). She serves as a pregnancy care advocate at Trotter House in Lindale, sharing the Gospel with women facing unplanned pregnancies, and is equipped to train and mentor other advocates, extending Gospel outreach in her community. She is pictured with Rev. Ben Prohl.

TEXARKANA



Wayne Cranfill, who recently completed Texas District Evangelist Training, was formally sent on Jan. 11 during service at First Lutheran Church, his home congregation. Drawing on his background as a certified financial planner and caregiver, Wayne will offer Bible study at a retirement center and expand into caregiver workshops that will address financial, spiritual and legal needs, with the goal of reaching the unchurched and fostering Gospel-centered community. He is pictured with Rev. Scott Sundbye, First pastor, and Laura Sanders, Texas District Area B lead evangelist trainer.

WINNIE



Whitney Schepf and Tegan Zachary were welcomed as new members of Hope Lutheran Church through adult confirmation. They are pictured with Rev. Timothy Dinger.

BASTROP



The family of Epiphany Lutheran Church grew by one on Jan. 11 when Gert Schriener was received into membership by transfer. She is pictured receiving her certificate from Rev. E.B. Holschuh.

District treasurer retires; CEF director accepts dual role

Linda Hagge will retire March 1 after 17 years as treasurer of the Texas District.

The district's board of directors voted on Jan. 27 to appoint Becca Jones, executive director of Texas Church Extension Fund (CEF), to serve as both district treasurer and CEF executive director.

"Becca brings exceptional financial knowledge, proven leadership, and a deep understanding of ministry operations to this role," said Jon Braunersreuther, Texas District president. "We are confident that Becca will serve with the same integrity, diligence and faithfulness that have marked her leadership as executive director of Texas CEF."

Jones will oversee the district's financial operations while continuing to lead Texas CEF's lending and investment services for congregations.

"I see this appointment as a meaning-



Linda Hagge



Becca Jones

ful alignment of overall financial oversight and ministry leadership," Jones said. "I approach this responsibility with prayer, humility and a deep desire to honor the Lord in all things."

Hagge said she leaves confident in the district's financial position and Jones' abilities.

"It has been a profound honor to serve the Texas District over the past 17 years. As I move into this next chapter, I do so with the confidence that the district is both financially and strategically positioned to continue its vital support of our congregations and church workers. I am deeply grateful to have served alongside such a talented team.

"Becca possesses all the necessary skills and abilities to take the reins, and I feel confident in her ability to contribute in a significant fashion. May the Lord continue to bless the Texas District ministries as they share the love of Christ."

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 and scroll down to the convocation link.

Registration is \$70 through March 31 and \$80 from April 1 through the event.

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.



For consideration, three hotel options located near Faith, Georgetown, are:

- Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center
- Hampton Inn and Suites Georgetown/Austin North
- Comfort Suites Georgetown.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

Mount Calvary, San Antonio

John and Bonnie Humann
56 years, Jan. 31

Chuck and Willard Samuel
54 years, Feb. 19

St. Paul, The Grove

Stan and Jackie Dake
56 years, March 26

Gethsemane, Houston

Stuart and Barbara Chase
71 years, March 3

Supporting investments

A relationship that gives back

Texas District Church Extension (Texas CEF) is built on partnership. We are more than transactional, we are **relational**.

Supporting investments from individuals, congregations and other entities provide the funds that allow Texas CEF to make loans to congregations across the district, helping ministries grow, expand and thrive.

Each investor chooses a congregation to support on their investment application. These supporting investments play a vital role in strengthening both individual ministries and the overall mission of Texas CEF.

Because these investments are essential to our mission, Texas CEF offers economic incentives that recognize and celebrate the level of partnership, support and the ongoing relationships with our congregations.

Borrowing congregations have the opportunity, with your help, to earn a loan rebate. This rebate is based on the level of supporting investments designated to their ministry.

How the Incentive Rebate Program Works

- ▶ Supporting investments designated to a congregation are totaled at the end of each month.
- ▶ A ratio between the supporting investment total and the loan balance is calculated. Based on this ratio, a monthly rebate amount is determined according to the Incentive Rebate Program tiers.
- ▶ After the close of Texas CEF's fiscal year (Jan. 31), a check is issued to the congregation for the total rebates earned over the previous 12 months.
- ▶ Rebate checks are typically mailed during the second half of February each year.

The Incentive Rebate Program is more than a financial benefit. It is a reflection of shared ministry, shared trust, and shared impact. When congregations and members partner together with Texas CEF, we are strengthening the Texas District. This is partnership in action, and it is worth celebrating.

Does your congregation have a loan with Texas CEF? Ask your pastor today how your congregation will celebrate!



**Texas District
Church Extension Fund**
• texascef.org
• 888-951-1233

Changing times, changeless God



Dr. Bill Hinz

Director, School Ministry

We live in ever-changing times. We are challenged with what is right and what is wrong. We have hopes and dreams and pray for the future of our children.

Therefore, what a blessing it is to have the knowledge, in our conviction, that our God is changeless. He is the same today, tomorrow and forever.

Our Lutheran schools share a unique space in this ever-changing world. They are places where academic rigor and spiritual formation converge. At their core is the goal to develop spiritually led servant leaders — young individuals who will lead our world not through authority or self-interest, but through the teachings and values of our changeless God.

Helping our students navigate this is an army of dedicated teachers who are “the living curriculum,” dedicated to the constant and consistent teachings of God’s Word.

Our students learn by watching the example of what it is like to be a servant leader. Their teachers

and pastors, and the school staff, demonstrate humility and grace, building transformational relationships that in turn encourage and challenge our students toward academic excellence as a form of stewardship. These dedicated teachers don’t just start the school day with a prayer; they integrate the Christian faith as a worldview into every subject.

Our Lutheran schools are more than academic institutions — they are a training ground for a life of purpose, where the next generation of leaders is forged in the changeless knowledge of God — servant-hearted leaders for a changing world, empowered by a changeless God. By God’s grace they are growing in knowing the love, forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

*Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wisdom and knowledge to those who have understanding. **Daniel 2:20-21***

Soli Deo Gloria — To God alone be the glory.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3

Marketing, Recruitment and Retention Day, Tomball

July 20-22

Summer Administrators’ Conference, San Antonio

Oct. 12-13

Educators’ Conference, Prince of Peace, Carrollton

Nov. 2-3

Directors’ Retreat, San Antonio

The joy of serving



By Pat Fick
CAN-DO Director

Over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, we tried something new. We took the Concordia University Texas softball

team to serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mercedes, by holding a softball camp. Coach Jeff Staton wanted to start the season with teaching his team the joy of serving others first. A huge thank you goes out to Rev. Ed Weber, Immanuel pastor, and Smiley Sanchez, a softball coach in Mercedes, for organizing this opportunity for us!

On Friday afternoon, we loaded up three 15-passenger vans and one trailer and cruised on down to the Rio Grande Valley. Upon arrival we started assembling a batting cage. It was dark outside, but the student athletes were shining brightly, using their muscles and brains to create a useful tool for the RGV Thunder teams that practice on the field across from Immanuel.

On Saturday, we held two camps for Coach Sanchez's teams — first for girls up to age 12 and the second for ages 13 through high school. We also moved two big loads of rocks to make a beautiful

prayer garden, repainted the dugouts, repaired the fence around the softball field, and finished setting up the batting cage. You can get a lot done when you have a small army of athletes. Gotta love it!

Sunday, we went to church, enjoyed lunch with the congregation, practiced softball, and then enjoyed seeing South Padre Island before debriefing the event. When asked what they learned on the mission trip that they want to put into practice in their daily life, among the answers were wanting to glorify God instead of self; needing to remember that God provides everything needed; being willing to work hard; never taking our blessings for granted and being grateful for everything; and giving without expecting anything in return.

Other comments from the Concordia players:

"My takeaway was the joy the community expressed, and I am grateful for an opportunity to help others in the Lord's name." **Christian Everett**, junior

"Serve others wholeheartedly and you will be fulfilled. God will always provide. I've been praying

See CAMP, Page 15



New Life Children's Center

Creating hope for post-adjudicated youth

For many young people across Texas, involvement in the juvenile justice system marks a difficult chapter shaped by trauma, instability and limited opportunity for support. For post-adjudicated youth, the path forward can feel especially uncertain, with the risk of reoffending often overshadowing the possibility of a different future.

At Upbring New Life Children's Center, that future looks different.

New Life offers more than a place to stay. It provides a safe, structured environment where girls ages 11–17 who have experienced complex trauma can begin to heal. Through trauma-informed residential treatment — supported by state licensing and national accreditation — New Life creates a setting where accountability, care and hope come together every day.

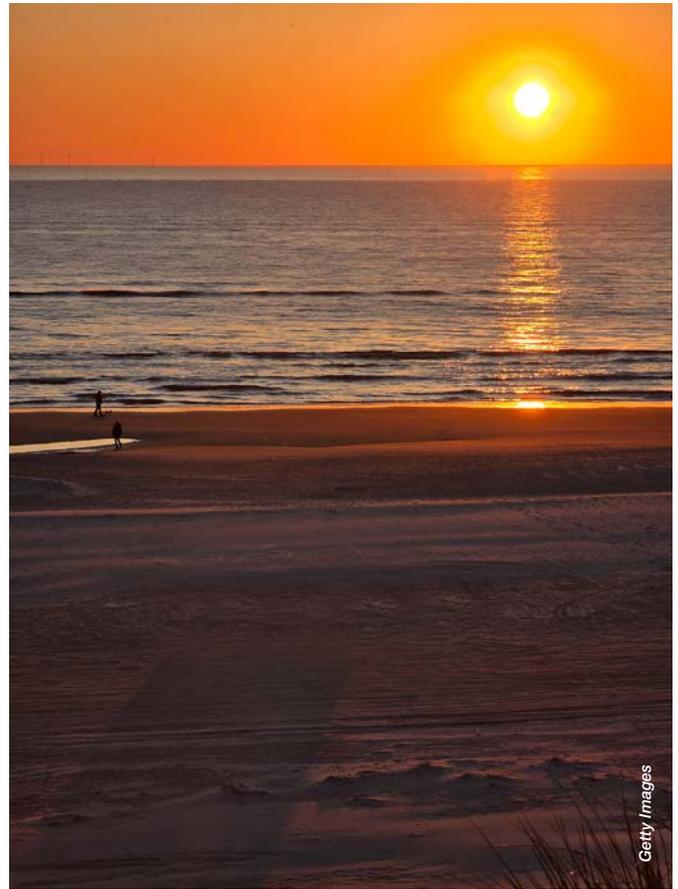
Recently, that hope took shape in a simple but powerful way: a day at the beach.

For several young women, the outing represented more than a break from routine. It symbolized how far they had come. One girl shared that just months earlier, she was incarcerated and believed she would remain there until she turned 18. During that time, she often spoke with “Mr. Mark,” New Life’s spiritual care coordinator, who encouraged her to believe that change was possible.

At the time, his words felt distant. Standing barefoot in the sand, listening to the waves roll in, they finally felt real.

“I thought I had no more chances,” she said. “Now I see I do.”

Moments like these are more than meaningful experiences. They are milestones in a larger journey of healing. At New Life, each girl is



Getty Images

supported by licensed therapists, case managers and youth care professionals who provide individualized treatment, education and holistic care.

Through therapy, recreation, spiritual care and family engagement, New Life creates space for young people to rebuild trust, discover their strengths and begin again.

Upbring New Life Children's Center supports girls through trauma-informed residential treatment and holistic care.



To learn more, visit
Upbring.org/NewLife

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

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CAMP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

since summer for God to move on this team. God had something so much better in store. It all started with saying yes to this opportunity." **Laney Shivers**, sophomore

"My biggest takeaway was that this trip meant so much more than softball. It taught us to work through challenges, trust God's plan, and that the greatest gift is serving others." **Mayson Post**, junior

"I loved being able to bond with my teammates and share our gifts with others while praising the Lord. Now we are all way closer and value one another more." **Malarie Mican**, senior

"There is a blessing in everything even when you don't know how something is going to play out. God will always bring you through and will provide blessings along the way." **Kylie Kirk**, junior

May we all remember to serve the Lord with gladness (Psalm 100:2), and in whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (Colossians 3:23). It is more blessed to give than to receive. **Acts 20:35**

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. **1 Peter 4:8-11**

PLANTING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

theological education and supported as they serve God's people faithfully. Investing in leadership development is not simply about filling roles; it is about equipping servants who can nurture discipleship, shepherd communities and carry the Gospel forward for generations to come.

One of the most effective and accessible outreach ministries in the Texas District continues to be English as a Second Language (ESL). More than 15 ministries across the district currently offer ESL classes as a tangible expression of Christian hospitality and mission.

These ministries span the state, from West Texas, including Hereford and Wichita Falls (with Vernon launching soon), to the Houston area, with

programs at St. Timothy and Gloria Dei. In the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, congregations in Carrollton, Rockwall, Arlington and many other communities continue to use ESL as a bridge into deeper engagement with their neighborhoods.

The Hispanic Church Planting Study 2025 also acknowledges ongoing challenges within Hispanic ministry, particularly related to financial strain and sustainability. Many pastors and ministry leaders carry significant responsibilities while serving faithfully, often with limited resources.

These challenges are not signs of failure but opportunities to grow together. They call congregations, leaders and supporters to walk together in prayer, encouragement and partnership so that the work of ministry many continue with hope and endurance.



Grant helps Our Savior grow its childcare ministry

The Little Lambs Parents' Day Out shares God's love with the smallest of hearts. The two-day program at Our Savior, Sulphur Springs, continues to grow through the sharing of the Gospel, a new building project now in progress and, as God leads, toward a future five-day, full-time childcare ministry.

As the building project continues to take shape, so does the vision for a vibrant, full-time ministry that will touch the lives of young children and their families. Becoming state-certified means creating a space where even the youngest learners — those five and under — can grow, play and thrive in safety. The \$10,000 LWML Texas District Mission Grant helps bring this vision closer to reality by funding safe, age-appropriate, state-approved playground equipment that will bless children for years to come.

Little Lambs Parents' Day Out remains deeply committed to serving the families of their students.



Sharing the Gospel is the top priority of Little Lambs Parent's Day Out ministry, from daily lessons accompanying crafts and activities, to weekly time with their pastor, Rev. Mark Elliott (at left).

Their prayer is to be equipped to welcome more children and to walk alongside their families through Christ-centered, nurturing care that empowers parents to work and provide for their households with confidence. Above all, they long to reflect the love of Christ not only to the children entrusted to them, but also to their families, as they support them and faithfully share the hope of the Gospel.

District Convention registration open

The LWML Texas District 44th Biennial Convention will be held June 11–13 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Austin. The theme is “Celebrate the Goodness of God.” More information is coming soon.

Goal Statement: Empower Lutheran women to embody unwavering faith, abound in hope and patience and be fervently dedicated to prayer.

Objectives: The convention will provide opportunities for:

- Sharing our hope in Christ joyfully with others.
- Uplifting each other as the Holy Spirit enables us to be patient in tribulation.
- Embracing the power of prayer through Bible studies, servant events and speakers (James 5:16).
- Drawing strength from God's Word and knowing that God can do all and more than we can ask (Eph. 3:20).

Registration opens March 1. All registration information will be available at lwmltxdist.org (go to “News



and Events” and make the selection from the drop-down menu, or click the link among the rotating news on the homepage). There will also be a special issue of *The Lone Star Connection* published that will contain the full registration packet. We will once again accept credit card payments (except for American Express) for registration fees.

Registration for members and guests will be \$185 with teen registration set at \$160. All registrations include Friday lunch.

Hotel registration will open March 1. Do not call the hotel before March 1 or you will not receive the discounted rate.

Stay Connected

Send news and photos to communication@lwmltxdist.org.

eConnection

Sign-up information is located at lwmltxdist.org. Scroll down the page to “Stay in touch and sign up now.”

2024-26 Mite Goal: \$403,000

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