



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Rio Grande Valley Zone



Rev. Chad Bresson
Zone Pastoral Counselor
The Table of Los Fresnos

"Can you hear me now?"

He was known as "Test Guy". We may not have known his name, but we certainly knew his favorite line. In 2002, Verizon launched a series of commercials in which a nondescript actor would walk around in a variety of places with an ear to his phone asking the question, "Can you hear me now?" It's considered one of the most successful ad campaigns of the early 2000s. We still struggle with cell reception in certain places, but none like it used to be in 2002. "Can you hear me now?" struck a chord with us because we all knew the experience of not being able to communicate in certain locations... and in our personal experience, we all knew where those locations were. Conversely, we all knew where we could go to get a great cell signal with our particular mobile phone carrier. For years, I've had dozens of phone conversations in the parking lot of a certain business here in Los Fresnos, because I know there's always great reception at that location.

Mobile phone technology. It has changed our lives. We can be reached (whether we like it or not) anytime, anywhere, so long as we have a cell signal. Always on. We don't think much about it, but the mobile phone is an example of the mobility of church, the gathering of believers around Word and Sacrament. When the great missionary Paul went to the ancient city of Corinth for the first time, he went into the synagogue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. While some received the Gospel gladly, others didn't, and Paul was forced to go to the house next door, where his proclamation of the Gospel continued unhindered. Mobile church.

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DEVOTIONAL

NEWS REPORTS

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ZONE OFFICERS

DAWN TIGHE
PRESIDENT

JOY MADERO
VICE PRESIDENT

DIANE SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

REV. CHAD BRESSON
PASTOR COUNSELOR

PEGGY ELDER
TREASURER

PEGGY ELDER
EDITOR

Mobile church

Church is not bound by a building. However, the way we gather in the places we gather tend to subtly convince us that the building is the church. Even I've been susceptible to this kind of thinking. I remember catching myself a few years back, on a Tuesday afternoon, announcing to my wife Emily that I was leaving the house and "headed to church." On a Tuesday afternoon. I was not headed to a gathering around Word and Sacrament. I was headed to a church building. But our nomenclature betrays how we tend to blend "church" with a "church building".

Planting a church in Los Fresnos has forced us to confront the most basic of church questions. The Table of Los Fresnos is We are "Mobile church". All of us would agree that a church is not a building, but a people. And we would also affirm with the Book of Concord that the church is "where the Gospel is preached and the sacraments are rightly administered." But it's quite another thing to put that belief into practice. At The Table, the church is ANYWHERE the Gospel is preached, and the sacraments rightly administered.

Church. ANYWHERE. ANYTIME, that the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments rightly administered. We meet in the Los Fresnos Community Center every Sunday. However, the Los Fresnos community center also functions as a precinct. About one quarter of all of our worship services are either outdoors at a city park pavilion, but also a local funeral home that has been gracious in giving us their space for worship.

Mobility by LWML

Because we are a mobile church doing very many mobile things, we asked the LWML to partner with us in our gospel ministry in Los Fresnos. Two years ago, the LWML was generous to The Table for a truck and tables and chairs for our outdoor worship services and other outreach ministries. With your 25-thousand dollar mission grant, we were able to purchase a 26-foot box truck, a dozen tables and 100 chairs. That allowed us to not be dependent on the city or the school district for their tables and chairs for our outdoor outreach events.

We use the truck every week for storing and then moving our sound equipment and worship materials to the community center. The truck and the tables and chairs have been used for our outdoor worship services at the Los Fresnos Memorial Park pavilion, our home away from home for Sunday services. We've also used the truck for our annual pumpkin patch on Halloween weekend. Last year, we gave away 330 pumpkins... and more than 12-hundred people showed up to our pumpkin patch on the grounds of the Los Fresnos rodeo. We used the truck, the tables and chairs for our annual Christmas Eve service at the Little League field. Every year, around 100 people show up from around the community to hear the real Christmas story from the gospels, and sing Christmas carols in English and spanish... with a live nativity. The truck will play an important role this summer with our #LoveLosFresnos and VBS outreach programs.

Mobile church. All of this is a reminder that Jesus meets us where we are. Jesus is never saying “Can you hear me now?” Whenever and wherever the Good News of Jesus is proclaimed and the Sacraments are provided, Jesus shows up. Jesus guarantees that we will hear him and that he will provide us with life, salvation, and forgiveness. It’s not an accident that Jesus’ promise to show up begins with the word “where” rather than “when”. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20) Jesus is mobile. He is where we need him to be, in His Word and Sacrament delivering Himself to us all over again.

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Rev. Chad Bresson
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**Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Rio Grande Valley Zone**

Zone Treasure Report

Beginning Balance as of June 1

\$1929.09

Expenses

Check #133 - Dawn Tighe - Texas District Convention Expenses

\$223.00

Balance as of June 30, 2024

\$1706.09



National Mite Report

The 2023–2025 fiscal period is July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Mite Offerings Received

Amounts as of May 31, 2024

Mission Goal for 2023–2025 Biennium: \$2,350,000.00

Amount Received: \$1,749,091.06

Total Mite Offerings Still Needed: \$600,908.94

LWML  Texas District

2024–2026 Mite Report through May 2024

The 2024–2026 biennium began on April 1, 2024.

2024–2026 Mite Goal

\$403,000

Mites Received

\$28,259

Total Mites Still Needed

\$374,740

Mission Grants

Mission Grants Goal*

\$272,314

Mission Grants Paid

\$0

Mission Grants Balance

\$272,314

\$403,000 2024 - 2026 Mite Goal adopted!

\$225,000 approved for Mission Grants with a \$47,314 surplus from the 2022-2024 biennium, for a total of \$272,314 for the 2024-2026 Mission Grant Goal.

Mission Grants Scheduled

- 1. New Life Children’s Center Spiritual Care Program. Canyon Lake - \$20,000
 - 2. Disaster Response Team, Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler - \$15,000
 - 3. Orphan Grain Train Shipping Supplies, Houston - \$15,000
 - 4. Proclaim Christ to People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (LBW) - \$20,000
 - 5. Let it Shine Academy, Bethany Austin, Lutheran Special Education Ministries - \$10,000
 - 6. Adventure Woods Day Camp Outreach, Camp Lone Star, Tomball - \$20,000
 - 7. Shepard’s Canyon Retreat Ministry Scholarships - \$15,000
 - 8. Herford Hispanic Outreach Program, Heredford - \$25,000
 - 9. Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers and Maternal Assistance Program, Houston - \$8,000
 - 10. Disciple and Mobilize Youth for Gospel Outreach, Global Missio, Houston- \$12,000
 - 11. Little Lamb Parents’ Day Out Ministry Playground Equipment, Sulphur Springs - \$10,000
 - 12. Christian Education Scholarships K-12, Central Texas - \$25,000
 - 13. Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care Warehouse Repairs, El Paso - \$17,314
- Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students \$60,000



Meet Your New Texas District Officers!

Delegates have elected the following to serve the LWML Texas District



Sally Krueger
President
Sunshine Zone



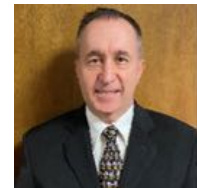
Brianne Stahlecker
VP President of Christian Life
Post Oak Zone



Terry Wendell
VP President of Organizational
Resources
Gulf Coast Zone



Alissa Elley
Financial Secretary
North Alamo Zone

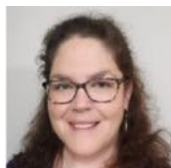


Rev. David Bailes
New Horizon Zone

Nominating Committee



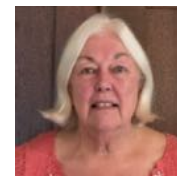
Robyn Tarnowski
Chairman
Golden Harvest Zone



Amy Vasquez
Sunshine Zone



Laura Wilson
Golden Triangle Zone



Sharon Mills
alternate,
East Texas Zone

By the Numbers

This Convention

voters: 171

non-voters: 288

Total attendance: 459

Gifts from the Heart

Twin Sheets sets - 159

Towels sets - 171

Body wash - 226

Shampoo - 208

Toothpaste - 263

Gift cards (for New Lufe Refuge Ministries and Pregnancy Center of the Coastal Bend) - \$5288

Offering #1 for LWML Texas District

2024-2026 Mite Goal - \$6,160.30

Offering #2 for the Kimberley County Pregnancy Center - \$2,980.18

In Texas

2 new groups were formed in the 2022-2024 biennium

2 new teen groups were formed in 2022-2024 biennium

2452 active LWML members as of December 2023

Your Rio Grande Valley Zone delegates and Pastoral Counselor



Dawn Tighe
RGV Zone President
Texas BOD Delegate
St. Paul - Harlingen



Diane Schubert
St. Paul - Harlingen
President



Imelda Loreda
St. Paul - McAllen
President



Sara Zambrano
St. John - San Benito
Delegate



Rev. Chad Bresson
The Table of Los Fresnos
Pastoral Counselor

Pastor Chad
in a tie!



Mites at work



Visiting old Friends



Worship
Service



Service
Projects



20 Teens in
attendance
Our Future LWML



Skits
and
interrupter



RGV Delegates



Music



Shopping
LWML
Store



Guest
speakers

