



THE KANSAS SONSHINE

Volume 70: Number 2

SPRING 2013

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE KANSAS DISTRICT

*Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely,
admirable - if anything is
excellent or praiseworthy - think about such
things. Phil. 4:8*

The President's Podium

Karen Morrison

20th LWML Kansas District President



Where's My Focus?!?

Do you ever have one of those days?

As I write this message, it is Saturday morning, there are 14 inches of snow in my backyard, and I was supposed to be at a 3-day Quilt Retreat that was canceled. MY plans were altered and now I find myself floundering, not able to focus on anything – Except Myself.

Oops!

"In this life you will have trials . . ." (John 16:33) or snow, or rain, or changed plans, but it's how you react to these trials that makes all the difference. You will notice that I had to give myself a couple visual reminders.

First, a picture with JESUS' name in a hand-shaped heart. What a reminder! Jesus' Love is that close to me, right at my fingertips and housed in my own heart. If I only pause, stop looking inward at me and LOOK to Jesus, the ultimate example of God's love.

Second, a sign that came off Facebook about FAITH – Forwarding All Issues To Heaven. That would be called Prayer, right? Again, taking the focus off myself and putting it back where it should always be, LOOKING up to my Loving Father God, my Precious Savior, Jesus, and my Interpreter Holy Spirit.

Now it's all back in perspective. God IS in control. The land needed moisture. We haven't seen snow this beautiful in years, plus my arms got a much needed workout from the snow shovel. The Quilt Retreat will be rescheduled. But most importantly, I am a Child of God – what could be better? Nothing in this world, that is for sure.

I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my Heart! Blessings, Karen



FAITH

(F) FORWARDING
(A) ALL
(I) ISSUES
(T) TO
(H) HEAVEN

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

BY PASTOR JEFF DUNCAN



"Listen to the Word"

Did you watch the recent mini-series on **The History Channel** titled "The Bible"? As of this writing, I am fresh from watching Episode 1—but I have some questions. Throughout the promotional advertising for the series, producers Downey and Burnett "set out to show the scarlet thread of redemption found in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation". Yes—this is a daunting task! What do you include? What do you exclude? How does it all make sense for someone who hasn't ever read the Bible or been exposed to this 'scarlet thread' of God's redeeming love for them?

St. Paul says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ." (Romans 10:17 ESV) Therefore, the scarlet thread of God's love for the world of His created human beings has to include listening to the Word! Where is that Word found? In your Divine Service; at your Bible studies; through the mouth of your Pastor who proclaims that Word into your ears—for your hearing! This is where God's power unto salvation is promised to be at work.

We live in an age where faster is better; where everybody looks for the shortcuts; where family meals often center around the microwave and the drive-through instead of the sit-down table and the oven. What is the point? God has not promised to work our salvation through a DVD, a video program, or a television screen—no matter how dramatic the portrayal or realistic the CGI (computer graphic images). Instead, God has promised that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ." The scarlet thread of redemption comes to each of you over and over as you humble yourselves and listen to the preached Word in the Divine Service, as you receive that Word in you through the Holy Communion, and as you remember that this Word has been washed over you in your baptism.

A part of your Mission Statement in LWML says: "...assist each woman...in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world." Those gifts have one purpose; that they bring glory to God by helping people listen to the Word that creates faith! Maybe it will begin when you ask your neighbor, your friend, or your family member if they watched "The Bible" on *The History Channel*. The dramatization could then be used to open your conversation, but it won't be complete until this person actually listens to the Word! This could take awhile, but God is assisting you, God is affirming you, and God is enabling you to stick with it—as long as it takes. This is what it means to be '*in mission*'—that God is working through you to invite, to encourage, and to bring people to the place where they can listen to the Word. God promises to be present there and weave the scarlet thread of redemption into those who hear it and believe!

By the way, what scarlet threads of redemption did you miss and how would you have included them in "The Bible" if you were producing it? This might make for a good conversation starter! God bless you as you stay '*in mission*'.



SHORT TERM MISSION PROJECTS

Serve the Lord with Gladness – one way of serving is to be a participant in a short-term mission project. If the Lord is leading you in this direction, pray for guidance for the time and place. In the next weeks, there will be planning done for short-term mission trips. Some of the trips would be in the US and would not require a passport/visa. A possible trip to Guinea, West Africa, in the fall to assist in completing the medical mission is in the planning. That would require a passport and immunizations. If you would like to get this information, please be in touch with Ann Jedele, KS District LWML Short-term Project Coordinator, at 620-440-1136 or email: annchuck2000@yahoo.com. If you have information on a site that you would like to assist or have heard of a place that needs volunteers, please give that information to Ann, also.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE NEWS

by Brenda Piester, VP of Communication

As I look out my window while writing this article, all I can see is WHITE! Welcome to a WINDY, Kansas SNOW DAY that brings to mind the verse: "The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course." (*Ecclesiastes 1:6 NIV*) We are THANKFUL for the much needed moisture and that the whole state has received some snow.

When we view the winter scene outside during the church season of Lent, we remember the reassuring verse: "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins be like scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (*Isaiah 1:18 NIV*) All praise to God for cleansing our land with snow and for cleansing our hearts with his forgiveness. All praise to God for the new life that we will see as the plants, trees and crops erupt in spring growth and for the New Life that is worked in our hearts through the Lent and Easter seasons!

The **Communication Committee** is here to serve you—to make your tasks easier and more fulfilling as an LWML leader and member. Let us help and motivate you to find solutions, information, or explore new ideas for your society or zone through *The Kansas Sonshine* newsletter, or our LWML display, store, website or Facebook page to increase engagement of your members.

The *Leadership Guidelines* are available on the Kansas District website, and can serve as a guide for updating the zone and society bylaws. The **Structure Committee** looks forward to receiving, reviewing and approving the updates to your zone and society bylaws. **Please contact them if you have questions!**

If there is ANYTHING the Communication or Structure Committees can do to help you to fulfill your roles in your zones or societies, please contact us—we are just one click away through the contact list on the website. **We are here to serve you!**

GOSPEL OUTREACH UPDATE

DEADLINES are coming!!!!

June 1, 2013 is the deadline for:

- ♦ **God's Gracious Gift Fund Grant Proposals**
 - ♦ **Mission Projects Proposals**
 - ♦ **Financial Aid Applications**

The application forms are available on the Kansas LWML website at www.kansaslwml.org, but if you don't have access to the website, please contact:

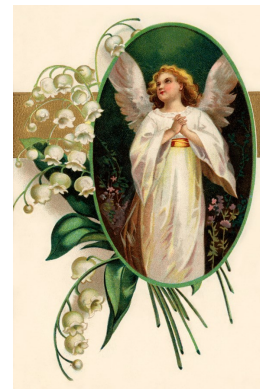
Karen Eskew

601 E. Frontier Pkwy

Oberlin, KS 67749

785-470-7516

kareneskew1960@yahoo.com



PRAISE HIM!

Please update your Mission Projects poster. The following have been paid!

- * Project #3: Lutheran Bible Translators (vehicle project), West Africa, \$5000
- * Financial Aid for the Spring Semester

Please continue to send in your mites. And check the website for further information regarding the district projects.

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

As I write this article there is still snow on the ground and the last bit for a while for south central Kansas. Thank you, Lord, for the needed moisture. The Kansas District is sending two young women representatives (YWR) to Pittsburgh, PA and we are so excited for the two young ladies to attend and bring back to the Kansas District all kinds of great ideas to continue this ministry.

I have also been invited to attend the Heart 2 Heart Sister District Training Program two days before the convention begins. I am so excited about this opportunity. The more information we have, the more we can implement this wonderful program in the Kansas District.

Be sure to watch for the YWR applications for the District Convention in 2014 being held in Wichita, Kansas. We look forward to mentoring more young women in LWML. So, keep up the great work in your congregations and invite those young women to LWML functions and Bible studies or just volunteer to help out with their little ones once in awhile.

Blessings to you all as you prepare for each day as you Serve the Lord With Gladness.

Becky Schotte, VP of Special Focus Ministries

Hello, LWML sisters! Did you happen to see the winter Impressions newsletter? It mentions the importance of the roles mentors play in getting/keeping young women involved, so we thought we'd give you a reminder about your mentor role with the YWR you were paired with last April at the district convention. Have you contacted her yet in 2013? If not, now would be a great time to send a hello and word of encouragement her way. I've had fabulous mentors since I was a district YWR in 2006 and am now involved at society, zone and district levels and am so excited to have my first national experience in June! If you need a reminder about contact information for your mentees, I'd be happy to send you that information. Blessings on your beautiful winter day!

Tiffany Harkins, Special Focus Ministries committee member



SONSHINE SNIPPET

Editor's note: Have you read the Winter Impressions newsletter? Our own Kansas District past president Judy Carlson (currently the national LWML secretary) has an article in the issue!

Filming of "Overflowing Abundance", the new DVD Bible study by Donna Pyle, was completed at Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, TX, on January 25-26, 2013. The workbook has passed doctrinal review, and now the audio segments are undergoing review. It is on track to be released at the Pittsburgh convention this June!

He is Risen!



He is Risen indeed!



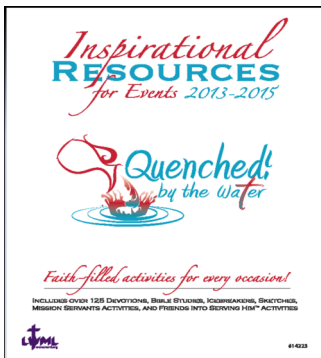
Lutheran Hour Ministries Launches 'The Lutheran Hour' Mobile App

A new mobile app for The Lutheran Hour, the longest-running Christian radio program in the world, is now available. The app allows you to play the audio or read the text of the program's current sermon; search and play a sermon from The Lutheran Hour archive; bookmark your favorite sermons for easy access; learn about the Speaker Rev. Gregory Seltz and Speaker Emeritus Rev. Ken Klaus; or contact Lutheran Hour Ministries.

The app does not currently support offline access, so you have to be connected through Wi-Fi or data to read or listen to the sermons. Be on the lookout for offline access and other great features in future updates.

To download the free Lutheran Hour app to your Android phone, visit Google Play (<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=lutheran+hour>) or the Apple App Store (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/genre/ios/id36?mt=8>) for your iPhone.

Lutheran Hour Ministries – your partner in proclaiming the Gospel.



Available March 15, 2013!

The 2013-2015 Inspirational Resources for Events

Filled with devotions, Bible studies, Human Care and Teen LWML ideas, sketches, and icebreakers, it's easy to use!

Previously called the meeting and event planner, here are 24 months of resources to use for your church and LWML events. Many are written by LWML women and all have been through LCMS doctrinal review. *Painless planning for meaningful meetings!*

Purchase it on CD or printed copy from the LWML Store, 1-800-252-LWML (\$15) or download from Shop LWML online www.lwml.org/shop (\$15). Also available for purchase in four month segments (\$5).

STAMPOREE PROJECT -- \$16,500 AND COUNTING

Stamps!! Those little pieces of paper that are found in the upper right-hand corner of every piece of mail not only represent the cost to mail a letter, but also become a valuable resource to the LWML once they are trimmed from envelopes. Working together with the LWML Texas District, over \$16,500 has been raised for shipment of Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits to locations around the world.

In addition to women across the state trimming and sorting stamps, the Kansas District has been blessed with willing inmates from the Ellsworth Correctional Facility who are actively participating in the project. Stamps trimmed by women from the Lincoln Zone are delivered to the facility. Working about 10 hours a week, 3-4 inmates have sorted literally thousands of stamps (but who's counting??) since the program began in September.

What happens to these stamps, and how are they sold? Stamps from Kansas are forwarded to the Texas District, which re-instated the collection of cancelled stamps about 10 years ago. Coordinator Sara Frank, who has personally collected stamps for over 40 years, contacts a variety of stamp dealers to obtain a price for the type of stamp she is selling. Stamps are sold to the highest bidder.

If an entire collection is donated, Sara contacts certain dealers directly, and emails specific information about the collection to them. Dealers bid on the collection, sight unseen. The dealers are very trustworthy, possibly re-negotiating a higher price after the collection has been examined. Dealers are very specific about paying different prices for different types of stamps. Sara strives to make the LWML stamp sales very trustworthy. More than a dozen "sorters" across Texas take our "rough sort" contributions and further divide the stamps into specific categories before putting them up for bid.

It takes hundreds of thousands of stamps to raise the dollars for Lutheran World Relief—raised from paper that would have been in someone's trash can. Sara extends her thanks to the inmates and societies who are helping with this worthwhile servant event: "Kansas LWML has certainly been a wonderful blessing to the Stamporee Project. God bless your efforts!"

Submitted by Gloria Raab, VP of Caring Service

FINANCIAL NEWS

The total of mites contributed to the LWML Kansas District as of February 28, 2013, is **\$60,307.26**. A few societies have already sent in their *Day of Prayer* offerings. Remember that the Day of Prayer offerings must be received by **June 30** for them to go towards the current Guinea Task Force project.

A note to those who use the remittance vouchers: a new supply of vouchers has been printed and are now being distributed. They have a slightly different design. Please note that there is no longer a place to mark if you need more vouchers. When the need arises, just write a note on the voucher and a supply will be sent to you. Thank you.

REMINDER TO ALL SOCIETIES:

please remember to pay for your
Quarterly subscriptions!



Kerri Lynne Brown, LWML KS District Financial Secretary
114 2nd St.—Westphalia, KS 66093
financialsecretary@kansaslwml.org

2013 LWML CONVENTION in PITTSBURGH

Date: June 27-30, 2013

Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Theme: "Quenched! by the Water"

Scripture Verse: [Jesus said:] "... but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).



National YWR's

The LWML Kansas District will be sending two Young Woman Representatives to represent Kansas at the national convention in Pittsburgh, PA, in June: Tiffany Harkins, Olathe, of the KC CrossRoads Zone, and Ann Harms, Wichita, of the Wichita Zone. Both of these young women are excited to attend the convention, meet other YWR's, and learn all they can about LWML. Congratulations to Tiffany and Ann. We hope that you have a mountaintop experience in Pittsburgh.

Kansas Delegates to Pittsburgh

The LWML Kansas District will have fourteen voting delegates to represent us in Pittsburgh in June. We thank these ladies for their service to the LWML.

Great Bend Zone – Kathie Thurman, Pratt

Herington Zone – Marilyn Reimer, Hillsboro

Hutchinson Zone – Jo Wiebe, Haven

KC CrossRoads Zone – Connie Denney, Leavenworth & Yvone Brown, KC

Lincoln Zone – Janet Dowlin, Barnard

Linn Zone – Shawna Spiehs, Linn

Manhattan Zone – Peggy Flagler, Maple Hill

Northwest Zone – Gloria Gobin, Hill City

Southeast Zone – Susan Owens, Humboldt

Southwest Zone – Dorothy Sponsel, Ulysses

Topeka Zone – Ileen Meyer, Emporia

Wichita Zone – Amanda Cornett & Lois Winter, Wichita

How can the Kansas District Societies help?

There will be four offerings taken during the Pittsburgh Convention. Please gather special contributions in your societies for your zone delegate to take to the convention to support these worthwhile recipients. Thank you.

Offering #1: 2013-15 Mission Goal

Offering #2: Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind and Camp Bethesda, Cypress, TX

Offering #3: LCMS Disaster Relief – Hurricane Sandy Aid

Offering #4: LWML Heart to Heart Sisters program

A message from Thrivent and Lois Anderson, National LWML Treasurer:

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has been greatly blessed by the gifts that it has received over the past two years from Thrivent Financial through the Thrivent Choice Program - \$51,674 through February 2013! Thanks to those who directed their Choice Dollars to the LWML; we praise God for this blessing. All Thrivent Choice Dollars directed to LWML are applied to the Mission Goal. Your choice is a huge blessing as we partner together in ministry to share God's Word and grow His kingdom! Thanks for remembering LWML with Thrivent Choice!

Gifts from the Heart

JUNE 2013



[Jesus said:] "...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
John 4:14

Participants attending the 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will be able to demonstrate the love of Jesus through Gifts from the Heart donations. Agencies in Pittsburgh have been chosen to receive the gifts from your heart. You may bring these items in unlimited quantities. At registration, you will be directed where to drop off your gifts.

Quilts/Blankets – New, adult and baby sizes (pack in heavy duty plastic bag)

Diapers – Size: preemies, 3, and 4
Wipes

Kits – All donations are to be new and regular size. Please pack kit items in a clear plastic zip lock bag (2 gallon size works well). Keep donation items in original wrapping.

BABY KIT

Receiving blankets
Sleepers – preemie/newborn
Onesies – preemie/newborns
Outfits – preemie/newborn
One Christian tract or Bible verse (inside the bag)

MEN'S KIT

Men's boxers (L – XXXL)
Men's T-shirts (L – XXXL)
Men's socks
One Christian tract or Bible verse (inside the bag)

BATH KIT

Bath towel and washcloth
Full size toothpaste
Toothbrush
Women's or men's deodorant
Bath/Bar soap
One Christian tract or Bible verse (inside the bag)

DEVOTIONAL KIT

Bible
Journal
Devotional booklet and pen



www.lwml.org

NOTE: If you plan on donating, please heed this request. We are advised that because of union rules, all boxes or bags of donations must be transported into the building by hand. No carts can be used, so pack everything in small – easy to handle containers.

Living "A Chocolate Life"

2013 LWML Kansas District Christian Life Retreat

November 1-2, 2013

Hilton Double Tree
2098 Airport Road
Wichita, KS

"In Christ we have...the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us....." Ephesians 1:7-8

2013 LWML Christian Life Retreat Registration November 1-2, 2013

Step 1: Complete this form. To register a group, please use a separate form for each person in the group. Copy the form as needed or see www.kansaslwml.org

Name:

Address:

City: Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Special Needs:

Teen Registration – Age:

Name:

Step 2: Make check payable to:
LWML Christian Life Retreat 2013

Retreat Registration	\$30
Hotel Registration:	
1 person/room	\$125
2 persons/room	\$83/ea
3 persons/room	\$68/ea
4 persons/room	\$62/ea
Commuter Rate	\$50
Sat. Breakfast (commuter)	\$10
Teen Rate	\$63
(registration + meals)	
Late Registration Fee	\$10

Total Amount Enclosed \$

If > 1 person/room, list roommate:



Retreat Speaker Deb Burma talks about savoring the riches of God's endless supply of grace in Christ!

Deb has a passion for sharing Christ's love through the study of God's Word in a creative and engaging style, speaking to women's hearts and encouraging them in their everyday lives! Deb enjoys frequent travels as a guest speaker and retreat leader for women's ministries. She has authored many women's devotion books, several of which have been published by Concordia Publishing House, including her latest devotional, "A Chocolate Life". 2013 marks the release of her first Women's Christian-Living book, entitled "Stepping Out: To a Life on the Edge."

The LWML Kansas District Christian Life Committee invites **ALL women**, with a special invitation to Teens and Tweens, to the 2013 Christian Life Retreat November 1-2, 2013.

Retreat Registration:

A \$30 fee (\$40 if postmarked after **October 1st**) covers the speaker fee, her travel, program, and materials. This does not include hotel and meals. *Refunds for cancellations will be given through October 15 only.*

Commuter Rate:

If you wish to commute to the Retreat you will be charged a flat fee of **\$50** if postmarked by **October 1st** and \$60 after that date. This will include **Lunch only on Saturday** and the hospitality fee for Friday evening. There is an additional charge for Saturday breakfast.

Teen Rate:

A **\$63** fee (\$73 if postmarked after **October 1st**) covers the registration and meals. *Retreat hotel is covered by the Christian Life Committee to encourage Teens and Tweens to attend.* We are planning a **chocolate slumber party** for the Teens/Tweens starting Friday at 9:15! They will join the main group for the retreat activities. Julie Keehn and Fonda Lawrence will chaperone the Teens.

Questions: call Julie 785-851-7036

Remember to bring a snack to share for Friday!

Mail Registration by October 1st to avoid the late fee to:

LWML Christian Life Retreat
c/o Jolene Stackhouse
419 Redbud Dr.
Junction City, Kansas 66441



Living "A Chocolate Life"

Continued.....



Living "A Chocolate Life," we sample everything from bitter nuggets of pain to sweet morsels of joy. Some days are dark & lumpy; others are light and smooth. Whatever the shape, flavor, & texture of our days, and however our lives are packaged, we can savor the rich indulgence of God's endless supply of grace in Christ!

He wraps us in His love and fills us with the sweet filling of faith in our Savior.

Are you craving something sweet? Join us for a rich and satisfying "Chocolate" get-away retreat! Speaker Deb Burma will tickle your taste buds for **God's Word**, packaged in an assortment of chocolaty sessions where you will find "comfort food" for your soul! Savor a time of refreshing **fellowship**, satisfy your craving for the sweet sounds of **worship & praise**, and enjoy fistfuls of **fun**--all in one deliciously ~fulfilling event.

The 2013 Christian Life Retreat is sponsored by the LWML Kansas District Christian Life Committee: VP Debbie Lehman with members Kris Osler, Fonda Lawrence, Julie Keehn, and Jolene Stackhouse.

Tentative Retreat Schedule

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

5:00 PM REGISTRATION OPENS

*****NO REGISTRATIONS**

BEFORE 5PM--ROOMS

WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE**

7:00 PM WELCOME

OPENING PRAYERS & SINGING

SESSION #1 WITH DEB

9:00 PM EVENING DEVOTIONS

9:15 PM TEENS GO TO PARTY

9:30 PM FELLOWSHIP & SNACKS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

8-8:30AM BREAKFAST

8:45 AM MORNING DEVOTIONS

9:00 AM SESSION #2

10:30 AM BEVERAGE BREAK & SINGING

10:45-12 RESUME SESSION #2

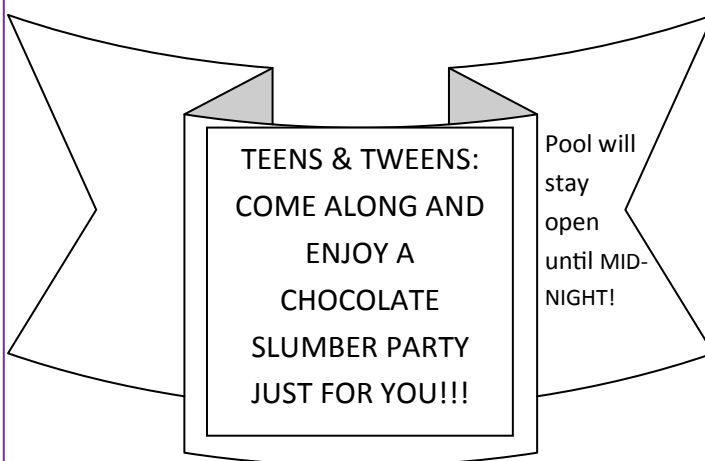
12 NOON LUNCH & SHOPPING

1 PM SESSION #3

2:15 PM CLOSING DEVOTIONS

2:30 PM HEAD HOME SAFELY

Concordia Publishing House and the District LWML Communication Committee will have items available for your shopping enjoyment!!



Hotel Accommodations:

The Doubletree Hilton is located 1/8 mile from the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, six miles from downtown. It has a heated indoor pool, hot tub, fitness center, gift shop, and Legends Restaurant and Club. Guest rooms have a TV, iron and ironing board, hairdryer, coffee maker, oversized desk, two-line telephone with speakerphone and data port. A block of rooms has been reserved under the LWML Christian Life Retreat until October 15, 2013. **Reserve your room through the Christian Life Committee – NOT the hotel.** Please specify any special accommodations or dietary needs. Reservations received after October 15th will be based on availability.

1 person/room \$125

2 persons/room \$166 (83 each)

3 persons/room \$204 (68 each)

4 persons/room \$248 (62 each)

This special retreat package rate includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Bring friends from your church or zone and SAVE!!

Attention LWML
Society Presidents:
Please make copies of
this newsletter and
distribute them to the
interested people in your society
and congregation.
Thank You!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LWML Kansas District
1315 E. 6th Ave.
Apt. 209
Winfield, KS 67156

EXTRA
POSTAGE
REQUIRED
HERE

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LWML Kansas District

Mission Statement:

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the
LWML Kansas District will
nurture, motivate, and prepare
LCMS women to serve the
Lord with gladness.*



Kansas LWML is on Facebook!

Be sure to "like" our page!

And you can follow the

national LWML on their

Facebook page too!

Join today!



Lutheran Women in Mission

MAILING REQUEST

Please help the Communication Committee and Distribution Manager to reduce and possibly even eliminate the hard-copy distribution list by locating one person in your society or congregation who has access to the on-line version of *The Kansas Sonshine*, and who would be willing to print off one copy of the newsletter to then make copies to distribute to all society members. This would lessen the expenses on the district for postage of mailing hard copies to societies and individuals, and the money for this expense could be put toward mites.

Shelly Keller, Editor