



THE KANSAS SONSHINE

Volume 71: Number 3

SPRING 2014

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE KANSAS DISTRICT



The President's Podium

Karen Morrison 20th LWML Kansas District President

"Still Soaring"

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Oh Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

What a blessed convention weekend we just experienced. Thank you to each and every one who came up to say Hi, give a hug, or offer words of encouragement. Your love and support mean so much. That is one of the best parts of LWML and LWML activities...the opportunity to reconnect and catch up with women we only see once in a while. On Sunday evening, my husband asked me, "So, what was your favorite part of the convention?" I was stumped as to how to select just one, because each day was filled with numerous wonderful things.

Friday: Meeting the YWRs; the Bible Study Round Table Samplers; Prayer Labyrinth; and the awesome Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Saturday: DONNA PYLE talking to us at the Christian Life Breakfast; sharing the stage with my sister, Kelly, by my side; conducting the meeting and looking at all your smiling faces from the podium; the LWML video featuring The Time is Now; listening to the Bender family share their trip experiences (I think I could have spent the whole afternoon looking at photos and listening to their stories); Interest Sessions; and taking a half-hour nap before the evening activities.

Saturday night: Having dinner with members of Becky's family and remembering her in a tribute; "We are the Peeps, the Lord's Purple Peeps now. Serve Him with gladness where you are today. He will show the way." (if you don't know what this means, then see your friends who attended convention and ask them to share photos – there are a lot of them out there); and the LWML Trivia game – congratulations Terrible 2's on being crowned the Champions.

Sunday: Pastor Whitby's Bible Study on STRENGTH; completing the business by hearing the results of the delegates' votes; and the uplifting closing Worship Service.

The offerings! The ingathering! The servant events! As usual our minds could not conceive what God had planned through the Wonderful Witnessing Women of the Kansas District. It's too hard to select just one favorite part. The convention is a Whole Event – so I just say, YES, On Wings, Like Eagles, was a wonderful weekend, drawing each participant into the Hope, Renewal, Strength and Soaring that we focused on all weekend. God was truly present and glorified!

> I am your humble servant, **President Karen**

COUNSELOR'S CORNER By Pastor Jeff Duncan



"Why are you a Christian?"

I like to read from other magazines. I never have enough time for all that comes across my desk. Add email, blogs, posts on Facebook, etc., and if you are like me we all find ourselves in 'information overload' pretty quickly!

Even so, sometimes an article just needs discussing. "Why I Am (Still) a Christian" from the May/June 2012 issue of Relevant Magazine is one such article. Listen to some thoughts from author Lauren F. Winner.

"I am a Christian because on the many Sundays when I sat in church and woolgathered, when I have sat mostly spaced out our bored, indifferent to or in rebellion against sermon and the prayers, the Eucharist still somehow feeds my hungry self--the Eucharist being that piece of bread in which, as St. Francis noted, Jesus hides for our salvation."

Wow...how appropriate; and this spoken from a non-Lutheran (as far as I know). Your attitude might not always be one of 'gratitude' for being in Church on any given Sunday...but Christ is still there feeding you what He knows you need. He (Christ) is still present. He is hiding Himself in the Word preached from the pulpit and heard in your ears as the Bible is read. He is there, in that voice of the Pastor speaking a word of absolution...whether you feel forgiven or not. He (Christ) is certainly bodily present in, with, and under that bread and wine you come to the Altar to receive. Christ is there! Christ is giving you freely what you need, whether you know you need or even acknowledge His presence. He is still there!

Some wonder the need to keep going to church. In a day and culture that is progressively known as "Post-Church", we are holdouts. We still proclaim His ancient and life-giving Word. We still maintain the ancient rituals that have been a part of regular worship since the first Centuries of Christianity. We still maintain that Christ 'for you' is a good thing to receive regularly. And here is an author that proves the point. She is still a Christian today because God works through His promised Word and Sacrament each and every Sunday.

Ms. Lauren goes on to say: "Here's a less-than-sexy, less-than-po-mo response: I am a Christian because of doctrine."

Well there you go...a young, upwardly mobile, socially engaged post-modern woman stating what we have known for centuries: Doctrine Matters!!! You don't have to have the latest 5-piece band and Christian rock anthem from a lighted stage (although if you do...fine). You do have to have the truth! You don't have to have a Pastor who sits on a bar stool and lets you call him 'Joe' while rolling up his plaid button-up sleeves. (I prefer an Alb and Stole, but Joe can wear the plaid shirt and still be heard.) You do have to share a meaningful Word of truth and deliver the Sacrament of Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Doctrine matters and Christ keeps us in the Christian faith through the truth of doctrines and practices delivered and received from His hand through His historic and living church!

Why are you still a Christian? What a blessing Christ still calls us all through His solid Word of truth!

Rev. Jeff Duncan LWML Kansas District Senior Pastoral Counselor



From President Karen: "The Time is Now"

You are invited to go to the LWML website at www.lwml.org to accept **The Time is Now** pledge and sign-up to receive the 2-minute Tuesday emails. These emails will come directly into your email every other Tuesday, after you input your email address along with the authentication code that will be provided.



The Pledge: I am committed to helping LWML make an impact on the next generation! I am dedicated to sharing my heart for Jesus Christ, caring for my sisters in my community and congregation, and helping them use their gifts to serve the Lord. I am glad to be a part of LWML, and this year I will invite the women in my life to consider learning more about LWML with me.

If you were at the convention, you already verbally took the pledge. Now follow through by signing up for the 2-minute Tuesday emails. Invite the women of your society and zone to accept this pledge with you. **The Time** is **Now** for us to reach out to every woman in the pew.

LWML Kansas District 2014 Day of Prayer Offering



LeadaChild.org/CCCS has been selected by the LWML Kansas District to be the recipient of the 2014 Day of Prayer Offering. Day of Prayer information was compiled by LeadaChild.org/CCCS and is available on the Kansas District LWML website under the Day of Prayer link found on the Home Page. Day of Prayer Offerings may be sent with a voucher to the LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary.

Thank you for your faithful support! In Christ, Kim Burdett, Previous VP of Gospel Outreach / current 2014-18 Treasurer/outreach.kim@kansaslwml.org

GO Committee: Karen Eskew, Chairman; Carol Bauck, Bernie Reetz, Ella Schempp

The note below is an excerpt of information received; there are two additional pages about the Nigeria school bus for your use on the Kansas LWML website.

Dear Lutheran Women in Mission,

LeadaChild.org/CCCS is very grateful for your help with a special project at the Lutheran International Nursery/Primary School, Obot Idim, Ibesikpo-Asutan, (Local Government Area), Akwa Ibom, Nigeria.

When asked how LeadaChild.org/CCCS could help, Rev. Ekong responded with the request for a school bus, "The need for a shuttle bus, to convey pupils to school from their homes is an important safety measure". Rev. David Erber, LCMS Facilitator for English Speaking West Africa and long time missionary to Nigeria, traveled to the school, confirmed the need and gave his full endorsement for a bus. Background information about our Project in Nigeria and their need for a school bus for the safety of their children is included on the following two pages.

For more information please call the LeadaChild.org/CCCS office at 785-357-7688, go to the website or email to office@cccsleadachild.org .

Thank you for your faithful service! In Christ,

David Saving, LeadaChild.org/CCCS Executive Director

Thank you for your help! Blessings,

Sandy Bachofen, LeadaChild.org/CCCS Project Committee Chairman and Grant Coordinator

Special Focus Ministries Committee News submitted by Allison Lehmann, SFM committee member

Wow! What an incredible, uplifting convention! We are so excited to share that there were 38 first time attendees and two teens, as well as sixteen Young Woman Representatives representing nine zones! We hope you had a chance to share your stickers and hugs with this fantastic group of ladies!

The YWRs assisted in worship services and were renewed and strengthened through Bible studies. They learned of the mission work of LWML, participated in servant events/mission walk/prayer labyrinth, and were tested of their LWML knowledge at the 70's party. In their 'spare' time, the YWRs met and dined with their new mentors, had devotions together, were indulged with ice cream, made some new friends, and, hopefully, were able to sleep a little. A special thank you to all who purchased convention T-shirts, as the proceeds allowed us to provide the many activities and gifts to this future group of the LWML.

We encourage all women, societies and zones to involve and encourage young women. Allow yourselves to be ignited with their ideas, excitement, and energy for the Lord!

CARING SERVICE NEWS

submitted by Laura Hunter, Chairman of Caring Service Committee

To God be the glory! Generosity flowed in the Ingathering room at the convention where food items were collected for six food pantries across the Southeast Zone. \$310 in cash and 50 boxes of sugar, flour, beans, rice, peanut butter, soup, vegetables, fruit, pasta, meat and miscellaneous items were collected for:

- Wesley House Pittsburg
- Independence Food Basket Independence
- Emergency Assistance Center Parsons
- First Christian Food Pantry Chanute
- Humboldt Food Pantry Humboldt
- Hope Unlimited Iola

Willing hands were also busy at the convention servant events!

- 5 Braille books of 2 Chronicles were completed. (Thanks Braille Center #71 at Holy Cross/Wichita for providing the equipment, supplies and instruction!)
- 20 quilts were tied. (Thanks St. John's/Lincoln for providing the quilts!)
- 329 hygiene kits for the homeless (toothpaste, toothbrush, nail file, tissue, deodorant, shampoo, soap, conditioner, and lotion) were assembled to be split between United Methodist Open Door in Wichita and St. Luke's food pantry in KCK (part of Metro Lutheran Ministries). The majority of the items used in the kits were previously collected at Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) last summer. (Thanks to all of you who contributed at KAOL!)
- 440 brown paper lunch sacks were decorated to be given to Marcia Merrick who makes and distributes 400 sack lunches (peanut butter sandwich, fruit, chips, and homemade cookies) to the homeless in the KC area every day 7 days a week.

Many, many thanks to all who contributed their time, talent and treasures to make the Ingathering and Servant Events so successful! It is truly amazing and overwhelming what God chooses to do through the ladies of the Kansas District LWML!

Adopt-a-Student Program submitted by Kim Burdett, former VP of Gospel Outreach

Our program is off to a good start. Eleven students have been adopted and eighteen students are still waiting! Summer is coming up soon which will give up some new graduates and August will bring lots of new students. We would like for you to continue with the same students throughout their college years. Here's a challenge: adopt a student you do NOT already know. Many of the societies want to adopt students from their own churches. Reach out and get to know someone new! Email outreach.kim@kansaslwml.org to adopt your student.



Communication Committee – Brenda Piester, VP of Communication

Greetings from the heart of Kansas! Spring is in the air! And I am still "Soaring" from the convention experience! THANK YOU to all who planned, attended, worshipped, studied, led, served or participated in any way!

As this biennium closes and a new one begins, I wish to thank my committee members: Thank you to the <u>Structure Committee Kathryn Richard</u>, <u>Janice Cundiff and JoAnn Meyer</u> for their hard work keeping the District Bylaws up to date. Please continue to send your Zone Bylaws to them for their review or advice. They are glad to assist you in any way! Thank you to the <u>Communication Committee</u> members, especially <u>Chairman Shelly Keller</u>, also the editor of <u>The Kansas Sonshine</u>! Thank you to our <u>webmaster</u>, <u>Mark Fuchs</u>, for his prompt and timely updates of news for you. Don't they do a great job? Thank you to <u>Tammy Songer</u>, <u>LWML Store Manager</u>, and Janet Crosby and committee for providing a wonderful shopping opportunity for you at the convention! Thank you to <u>Cathi Clark</u> for her four years of faithful service as the <u>Sonshine</u> and <u>Quarterly Distribution Manager</u>. We appreciate you, Cathi! Thank you to <u>Sherri Rose</u> for her work as <u>PR/Display Coordinator</u>! We will miss you on our committee and congratulate you on your new role as VP of Special Focus Ministries. Thank you to our <u>Social Media Coordinator</u>, <u>Darla Abbott</u>, for all of her work with the KS LWML Facebook page. She had some great updates during the convention. Check the page now for even more updates since then! "Like" us!

But now we need your help! There are committee slots to fill. **We are also seeking someone with skills and interests in technology** to help develop presentations, do some photography, and work behind the scenes to add the technology components to KAOL and Convention events. If you have that gift, skill and interest, please complete the Personnel Resource Form distributed at convention or available under Resources on the KS LWML website. Please contact me if you have questions. Our team shares a ton of Christian joy fulfilling our various responsibilities!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you! I have chosen a "word for the year": WAIT. It is fitting that this word was part of the convention theme verse as I work, worship and celebrate with you. I WAIT for His guidance as to where and how I can serve Him best in the coming years—in my church, my community, the LWML, and throughout other LCMS organizations. May God continue to richly bless each of you as you serve Him through serving others in countless ways! I look forward to the 2014-16 biennium to continue to "communicate" with you—the members of the LWML Kansas District!

For the 2012-14 Biennium: Project #6 Puppet Drama Theaters for Kyzastan is paid and the Spring Semester 2014 Financial Aid is paid.

2014 CONVENTION OFFERINGS

Mission Walk/Prayer Labyrinth	\$3,172.70
Friday evening Worship Service	\$5,349.38
Sunday morning Worship Service	\$4,132.28

FINANCIAL NEWS



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

The Kansas District came very close to meeting the Mite goal of \$140,000.00 for the 2012-2014 biennium. Mites received by February 28 totaled \$136,105.20 - - leaving us \$3,894.80 short of our goal. (Because the district convention was held in March, the books had to be closed a few weeks earlier than usual.) Everything received after February 28 will go toward the 2014-2016 work program.

Thanks to all the societies that gathered extra Mite offerings and the individuals who gave generously in an effort to meet the goal. Now let's get the new biennium off to a rousing start as we look forward to paying the Mission Grants chosen at the Wichita convention!!

Day of Prayer offerings must be received <u>by June 30</u> for them to go towards the 2014 recipient. The recipient is LeadaChild.org/CCCS for a school bus in Nigeria.

A majority of societies have paid for their *Quarterly* subscriptions in the past couple of months. Thank you!

Treasurers: Remember that all money sent to the district must be accompanied by a remittance voucher (yes, that also means payment for the *Quarterly*). Checks must be made out to "LWML Kansas District" and not to the Financial Secretary. Please include your personal address/phone number on the voucher in case I need to contact you.

God bless you all as our organization begins a new biennium.

ZONE EVENTS

Great Bend Zone "Goes Underground" submitted by Donna Briggeman

LWML women of St. John Lutheran, Ellinwood, hosted the Great Bend Zone meeting held in March. Ideas for Mite Box giving were shared by members of St. Paul Lutheran, Preston, via a "dance-offering" skit they use in their congregation on LWML Sunday. Attendees received print outs of songs, devotions, and skits and were encouraged to purchase *Overflowing Love*, #14985 for more ideas. LWML KS District representative, Brenda Piester, gave updates and shared a variety of resources for meetings and Bible studies, as well as jewelry and gift items available from our LWML store.

Guest speaker, Linda Borror of Star of Hope, led a PowerPoint presentation detailing the program's ministry which shares the Love of Christ and education to 30,000 children in 16 countries. LWML members gave donations of material, thread, scissors, lace, and buttons to help support Star of Hope's Sewing Ministry.

Zone Counselor, Mark Lovett, led Bible study incorporating the theme "On Wings, Like Eagles" from Isaiah 40:31. Afterwards, all attendees were invited by Zone President Lisa Brack to tour the tunnels of Underground Ellinwood. The organizing efforts of St. John LWML President Tonya Pike were appreciated as members participated in an informative 45 minute tour led by local guide, "Mr. Rick." Several underground businesses were visited with the barber shop having one of the richest histories....Although many towns in Kansas had underground tunnels years ago, Ellinwood is a rare find.

Linn Zone Spring Rally submitted by Linda Beikmann

The LWML members from the Linn Zone met on February 22, 2014, for the Spring Rally at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clay Center, Kansas. Rita Wollenberg welcomed 50 members and pastors in attendance. Steve and Deb Hale for Deaf Ministry in Topeka provided an interesting and informative program with questions and answers about this ministry in Kansas. Kathy Bott, Peggy Rikli, Lynnette Scheele, and Rachel Mueller had a skit for us about some of the humorous antics that usually occur on the road trip to the convention and added thoughts of how it compares to our trip to heaven. After the business meeting, the ladies from St. Paul's provided a tasty luncheon.





Herington Zone Spring Mission Day submitted by Susie Dittman

Herington Zone LWML Spring Mission Day- March 22, 2014 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Shady Brook, KS.

Herington Zone LWML was privileged to hear Sarah Muehler, from McPherson, KS, talk about Haiti: the culture, the life, the people, but mostly about the missionary work in Haiti. Christianity is shared to all of the many, many people on such a small island. Sarah shared about the work in Haiti, as she has traveled there several times. She also showed us the items made in the country. Our lunch on Saturday was enjoyed by all with a Potato Bar. While we ate, we had a Mite Challenge at the tables.

We also had a report from a District Rep. telling us about some changes and some events coming up. Then we had our Prayer Service, "What we are Baptized For", which was enjoyed by all. Our election followed with the installations by Pastor Davis and followed by the closing.

Northeast Zone Spring Rally submitted by Kathy Heiniger

The Northeast Zone held their Spring Rally in Easton on Saturday, April 5. Patricia Main, of Haskell LIGHT Campus Ministries near the campus of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, and two of the Haskell students were the speakers at the rally. Pictured left to right is Haskell student Cai Luna, Patricia Main, and Miss Haskell, Maria Caddo.



LWML NEWS ACROSS KANSAS

ZION SOCIETY QUILTERS ~~~The ladies of Zion LWML, Linn, KS, meet every other month during the year tying and binding guilts. During the past year, 214 guilts were made and sent to Lutheran World Relief: \mid and Orphan Grain Train. They have nine members and lots of good help from non-member volunteers. They $^!$ also visit the local nursing home three to four times a year and visit the neighboring nursing homes once a Submitted by Marilyn Wiese year.

Women's Retreat at Holy Cross Lutheran

The annual Women's Retreat at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita was held on January 18th. The theme was "Laughter and Joy in the Lord" based on Psalm 126: 2-3. Elaine Bickel from Michigan was the featured speaker, and she provided a humorous and inspirational message for the 156 people who attended the retreat! Pastor Dan Myers from Holy Cross led the morning Bible study. Guests also enjoyed refreshments, a delicious luncheon, prayer time, singing, and shopping for Christian products and LWML items. It was a blessed day filled with the joy of the Lord!

Submitted by Karen Wilgers





DAY OF PRAYER HELD AT IMMANUEL. NETAWAKA



LWML Day of Prayer was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Netawaka at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February I5 Pastor Jeffrey Geske served as Leader of the service, "This Is What We Are Baptized For..." Narrator was Elizabeth Handke, with Nancy Schumann, Lavon Keehn and Esther Ideker serving as Readers. In attendance were Sisters in Christ Betsy Schlossman and Sylvia Meyer, Topeka; Maddy Sterrett, Lillian Powers, Dee Bacon and Margaret Pagel, Holton; Brenda Meyer, Powhattan; Carol Feek, Sabetha; and Lori Feek, Kansas City. Joyce Peterson served as organist. A time of fellowship followed the service. The offering supported the LWML's chosen project, Children's Christian Concern Society's need for a school bus.

Submitted by Esther Ideker



A Ministry of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.

Restoring the Foundations A Building Campaign for Haskell LIGHT Campus Ministry in Lawrence, Kansas

LWML women and congregations in Kansas are well aware of the work of Will and Patricia Main and their leadership and ministry at the Lutheran campus center at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. Rev. Will and Patricia show Christian love through fellowship gatherings and meals, Bible study and worship, mentoring and counseling. Following Will's ordination in 2011, many doors have opened to expand their outreach on campus and in the Lawrence community. God has truly blessed this ministry.

But did you know that the cramped 900 square-foot house next to campus can no longer accommodate all the students who want to be part of the growing ministry, and did you know a new two-level, 8,600 square-foot facility is in the planning stages? A new facility will enhance spiritual growth with more dedicated space for worship and Bible study. Ministry training opportunities will take place through a Native leadership institute in partnership with the Concordia University System. With God's help, this facility will be built in two phases over the next two years. By God's grace, groundbreaking for Phase I construction will occur Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 11 am at Haskell LIGHT, and dedication is planned for fall. Phase II construction will begin in spring 2015 with completion in fall 2015. Laborers for Christ will be helping with construction and volunteers will be needed at that time, too.

A \$100,000 matching funds campaign is going on now through 2015. The \$1.7 million campaign goal reaches beyond full construction costs to include ministry training scholarships for Native students and for furnishings, and is critical to the raising up of the next generation of Native Christian leaders. What a blessing that it's happening right here in Kansas! Therefore, the sooner \$1 million is raised, the sooner the campaign will secure the full \$100,000! Specifically, nearly \$150,000 is needed to secure the final \$15,000 from the Dunklau Foundation. The goal is to meet this match by May 1st so that Phase I construction can begin with the full foundation match!

Please join in prayerful support of this vital ministry and of the building campaign. For more information and to participate financially, contact Lutheran Indian Ministries at 3525 North 124th Street, Suite 1, Brookfield, WI, 53005-2498; by phone: 888-783-5267; email at LutheranIndianMinistries.org, or Facebook.com/IndianMinistry.

Haskell LIGHT Campus Ministry is part of Lutheran Indian Ministries, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

~Submitted by Judy Carlson, Paola, KS

Eagles

2014 Convention Highlights & Facebook Comments



From Donna Pyle, Christian Life Breakfast speaker on Saturday: "What an incredible day in Kansas! God flat out accomplished powerful ministry as we dug in His Word together today. The convention wraps tomorrow, but today will be hard to top. PRAISE!!"



Pastor Kris Whitby, the convention Bible Study Leader. Eden Keefe commented: "Ah, the insights from Scripture! Thanks, Pastor Kris, for sharing!"



President Karen with past presidents: Judy Carlson, Irene Duitsman, Betty Kruse, and Velma Bass.



From Pastor Jim Bender and family, Mission speakers on Saturday: "It was fun. Brought back great memories hopefully brought a little blessing to others."

The Vogts Sisters, Saturday evening Banquet entertainment. They shared: "Thanks so much for inviting us to join you this past weekend. We really enjoyed getting to meet you and sharing our music with you. Many blessings to you as you move forward in a new year!"







Special Focus Ministries Committee and the 16 YWRs



President Karen and First Purple John



Pastor Duncan and Pastor Hobson



YWR Mentor Luncheon



SAVE THE DATE: The next LWML Kansas District Convention will be held in Manhattan on April 15-17, 2016, at the Four Points by Sheraton, and hosted by the Linn, Manhattan, and Northeast Zones, using the theme For Such a Time as This. The Bible verse is taken from Ephesians 2:10—"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."



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

HEBE

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POSTAGE

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ВЕТИВИ SERVICE REQUESTED

ZOZ Park Street Winfield, KS 67156

<u>LWML Kansas District Mission Statement</u>: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the LWML Kansas District will nurture, motivate, and prepare LCMS women to serve the Lord with gladness.



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2014 LWR PICK-UP DATES

Tuesday, Oct. 7: St. Andrews-Wichita Wednesday, Oct. 8: Trinity-Hays Thursday, Oct. 9: Trinity-Salina Friday, Oct. 10: Christ-Topeka

** CALLING ALL ASPIRING ARTISTS **

President Karen is looking for 2016 Convention Theme Logo art proposals. Please consider the theme and verse, then use your creativity to design a potential theme logo!

2016 Convention Theme -- For Such a Time as This

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

Art work is due to President Karen by <u>August 1st</u>. Digital art is preferred and can be emailed to: president@kansaslwml.org

Kansas LWML is on Facebook!

Be sure to "like" our page!

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national LWML on their
Facebook page too!

Join today!



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