**36th Biennial LWML Kansas District Convention**

**April 15 – 17, 2016 in Manhattan, Kansas**

**POST CONVENTION NEWS RELEASE**

“For Such a Time as This“, taken from Ephesians 2:10, was the theme for the 36th Biennial Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Kansas District Convention, that met at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas, from April 15 – 17, 2016. LWML members and guests numbering 347 from all over the state of Kansas were in attendance for the three day event; the attendance included twenty-eight first timers, fifteen Young Woman Representatives, and one teen. The convention hosts were members of the Northeast, Manhattan, and Linn Zones, with Jill Lowe, Gayle Grimm, and Lynnette Scheele serving as Convention Chairmen.

Friday events included Round Table Bible Study Sampler sessions, followed by the Mission Prayer Trail or Walkless Prayer Time. Karen Morrison, LWML Kansas District President from Wichita, Kansas, officially opened the convention on Friday evening, followed by the communion worship service and Executive Committee reception. Saturday morning events included the Christian Life Breakfast, with guest speaker, Marsha Maurer of Augusta, Georgia, followed by the convention processional featuring banners from each of the thirteen Kansas LWML zones. Bible Study was led by Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher II of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The National LWML was represented by Debbie Larson, VP of Organizational Resources, from Bismarck, North Dakota. During the business meeting, charters were given to two new LWML societies, and delegates voted on bylaws revisions, new officers, and the Mission Project grants and God’s Gracious Gift Fund grants.

Saturday afternoon, convention attendees enjoyed the Mission in Action presentations, the YWR report from the Des Moines 2015 national convention, greetings from LCMS President Rev. Peter Lange of Topeka, Kansas, and participated in Interest Sessions. The Servant Events time included assembling witness bracelets for MOST Ministries, tying fleece blankets for cancer care packages, tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief, decorating lunch sacks for the homeless in Kansas City, and making cards of hope for cancer patients. During the Saturday evening banquet, the fifteen Young Woman Representatives were introduced, followed by the LWML Mission Event with guest speaker Linda Reiser of Nebraska, who served the national LWML as president from 2003-2007.

Following singing on Sunday morning, Bible Study was again led by Rev. Fickenscher, with final business, the closing worship service and new officer installation to close the convention. The convention ingathering included many items donated to The Crisis Center, Manhattan Emergency Shelter, Inc., and MOST Ministries Eyeglasses projects. Convention delegates also adopted a total mission goal of $151,700 for the 2016-2018 biennium.

Balloting for officers resulted in the following elections: President Brenda Piester from Coats, VP of Caring Service Laura Hunter from Olathe, VP of Communication Shelly Keller from Sylvan Grove, Financial Secretary Ella Schempp from Shawnee, Recording Secretary Kathryn Richard from Arma, and Pastoral Counselor Rev. Robert Grimm from Alma. During the Executive Committee meeting following the close of convention, Gloria Raab from Wichita was appointed VP of the new Organizational Resources committee, as well as filling the Parliamentarian position, and Sherry Meier from Maple Hill was appointed as Meeting Manager. The next LWML Kansas District Convention will be held in Hutchinson in April of 2018 using the theme “Beautiful Feet”, based on Isaiah 52:7.

Those in attendance from this area at the recent Manhattan convention were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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