

The Kansas Sonshine

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SPRING 2020

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE KANSAS

Let Us Fix Our Eyes On Jesus...

Dear LWML Kansas District Sisters-in-Christ! Happy Spring!

As the Sonshine editor and I discussed this issue in late February, it was a bittersweet conversation as we both recognized that this would be our "last *Sonshine*." It has been a great ride, and Michelle Domsch has done a fantastic job as the editor.

And then came March. Schedules and routines were upended. Events were canceled. Time with loved ones is limited. Pastors, teachers, volunteers—everyone—scrambled to find new ways of "doing what they do." New words came into our vocabularies: COVID-19, social-distancing, ZOOM meetings, webcams, Google hangouts, and much, much, more. We either learned to appreciate the "extra" time to catch up, or start new projects, or just spend the time in God's Word, OR we became obsessed news-watchers, or find ourselves fretting about "what I could/should/would be doing" if I could leave my house. **HUGE THANKS** are owed to those who continue to work on-site to meet the needs of "we, the people": doctors, nurses, researchers, health care workers, first responders, grocers, teachers, mail carriers, bankers, and many, many more, PLUS—our pastors and other church workers. **You are our rock. Our defense. Our fortress. Our strength.**

The Southeast Zone submitted the convention theme verse more than two years ago, and it was chosen by the Board of Directors in April of 2018. As we postponed the convention (and the hundreds of other items that snowballed from that decision) the theme verse from Hebrews 12:2 (NRSV) definitely fits this immediate and temporary "new normal":

...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.



The Executive Committee wrote the Convention Goal Statement in July of 2018. As we look back, God's hand was in both of those selections, because the verse is His Word spoken straight into our hearts, and the Convention Goal centers us:

BE THOU MY VISION

As we focus on Jesus with 2020 vision, we will



- *see the Author of our faith more clearly,*
- *open our eyes to the joy of enduring crosses daily, and*
- *share with others the vision of the glory of God.*

It's all about Jesus. He endured so much, MUCH more than our temporary inconveniences. Not one word of complaining should even leave our lips. It is because of his unspeakable suffering, humiliating death, and the glorious resurrection that we even have reason for our faith. *Let Us Fix Our Eyes On Jesus...*

Watch for an updated *Convention Sonshine* issue in May. New registration forms will also be posted in May.

I look forward to seeing you—in July/August—in Topeka for the 2020 Convention as we "Fix Our Eyes on Jesus!"



Be Thou My Vision...

President Brenda Piester | president@kansaslwml.org

Counselor's Corner

Pastor Bob Grimm

Senior Pastoral Counselor, Kansas LWML



Have you ever heard of Francisco Secardi Hongo? He was from Venice, and he lived an amazing life. He was born in 1587. He outlived five wives. He was the father of forty-nine children. His memory and hearing were good until the day he died, and he took a daily walk of eight miles each day, even the day he died. He had a second childhood, in that when he turned 100 years old his hair turned black, and his beard and eyebrows turned black at 112. He was appointed to the Venetian Counsel at age 115 - the oldest appointee of all time. At 116 years, two new teeth erupted in his gums. He died in 1704. You can do the math and see how incredible this is, especially back in the Sixteenth Century.

We might wonder when someone truly becomes old. Some people age slowly, and others more quickly. But a question that seems to come from this, especially in light of events in our community, is this: How old do you need to be in order to die? Death is not a respecter of age, nor of persons. Rich or poor, young or old, smart or foolish, all may die. So a great follow-up question might be: how do you prepare for life after death? Some refuse to plan; either they deny there is an afterlife, or they don't take time to consider it. Some make bad plans; either they don't attend to the known facts, or they try solutions that are not godly. Christians rely on Jesus Christ. He said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he dies, yet shall he live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25-27) He also stated: "I tell you the truth; whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death into life." (John 5:24)

To prepare for the final journey is to trust that Jesus will carry us from this world to the next. It is not to trust ourselves, nor to trust what we have done. Jesus says: "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, except by Me." (John 14:6) Acknowledge Him in all your ways, let Him bring life without end, because you are already old enough to live.

As this is my last time to share with you as a Kansas District Counselor, I thank you for your prayers. Kansas LWML is amazing. Bless you for your commitment to "Serve the Lord with gladness!"

*I am the Way
the Truth
and the Life*
John 14:6

COMMUNICATION

Shelly Keller
VP of Communication
communication@kansaslwml.org



As I write my final Sonshine article and as this biennium comes to a close, so do my Vice President of Communication duties. I have enjoyed serving on the Executive Committee of the LWML Kansas District, and I will miss the friendships and acquaintances I have made over the last four years. But these friendships and acquaintances won't be gone, as I will get to see many of these wonderful witnessing women and pastors at our great LWML events each year, especially at our conventions. Because of the COVID-19 and our convention being postponed to July 2020, I have the privilege to serve a few extra months, so I want to take this opportunity to thank all of my committee members for serving with me these last four years, and some even longer than that when I was the Committee Chairman. I am thankful for these dedicated women, who each had their own job to do and did it very well. Marj Aufdemberge has worked diligently for the last eight years as the Distribution Manager, keeping track of all the *Quarterly* subscriptions in our district, and also serving as Committee Chairman. Marj will continue to serve as a committee member in the same position after the convention.

Michelle Domsch has done an awesome job as Editor of the Sonshine newsletter the last four years. Kathie Thurman has done a tremendous job as the LWML Store Manager for eight years. Sherry Meier has done an outstanding job keeping the district directory up-to-date these last two years. And thanks to Ramie Schulteis, Social Media Manager, for her work with the district Facebook page these last two years. Shawna Spiels, the past Technology Manager who served for three years, and who moved to Michigan last year, did a great job with the PowerPoints for our district events. All five of these positions will need to be filled immediately after convention, as these jobs are continuous and there is still much work to be done.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, or if you know of someone that you think would be interested in serving on this committee, please contact me right away, and I'll send them a Personnel Profile form to complete. The new VP-Elect, Kris Osler, would love to have anyone willing to serve on this committee join her in serving the district in any of these positions. Having a laptop or desktop computer in your home and some computer experience would be helpful for any of these Communication Committee positions. We would like to begin the search now for willing women to serve on this committee, as training can occur during the convention in July, to make the transition a little easier. The open positions again are: Newsletter Editor, Store Manager, Technology Manager, Directory Manager, and Social Media Manager.

In closing, it's been my honor to serve the LWML Kansas District under President Brenda Piester's wonderful leadership these last four years. I've learned a lot about the mission of the LWML and the importance of our Mite Boxes, but most importantly that we all "Serve the Lord with Gladness" together as sisters in Christ. As we continue to prepare and finalize things for convention in July, I want to share the refrain to the convention theme song we will learn together. Blessings to all of you – stay well – stay safe – stay home, until we meet together in Topeka in July.

***Be Thou my vision, Lord of my heart, Author, Perfecter, How great Thou art!
Look unto Jesus, He bore our shame; We glorify His name!***

In This Issue -

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Page 1— President's Report | Page 7 — Gospel Outreach |
| Page 2 — Counselor's Corner | Page 8— Convention Shirt Order Form |
| Page 3 — Communications | Page 9 — Society News; 2020 Convention Challenge |
| Page 4 — Organizational Resources | Page 10 — LWML Kansas District Convention |
| Page 5 — Christian Life | Page 11—Serve from Home |
| Page 6— Financial Report | |

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Elaine Engelman
VP of Organizational Resources
resources@kansaslwml.org



I am sorry to say that I had a complete brain freeze trying to come up with something related to bylaws and structure for this Sunshine article so I just let my “fingers do the walking”. I am writing from my home office in the midst of a “stay at home” order from my county government. When I finish writing this article I will outline homework for the two grandsons that will be coming to my home every week day now since school attendance is not an option due to COVID-19 and my state government. My calendar, which usually has at least one thing to do outside my home every day, is now empty—for the foreseeable future if you can believe the local newscaster.

But I am in a better position than most—I have a home to stay in, food in the pantry, family that I know is safe, acres of pasture land between my house and my closest neighbor, and most important, the absolute assurance that God is in control. I don’t have to see the end because my God is a God of details—for my life, my husband’s life, my neighbors’ lives, (you get the picture)—and He has never let me down. There have been times in my life when I was pretty sure God had quit listening, or moved, or just didn’t care, or _____ (you fill in the blank), but when that dark time was over and I looked back, I could see how He had supported me with kind words from a friend, kept me from a bad decision by having my car breakdown, and showed me in His Word how to find the peace I was seeking through a devotion book I “happened” to find in a box I was unpacking.

Yes, there are many things that we cannot do right now because people in charge want to keep as many of us as safe and healthy as possible. But there are things we can do and the most important is to pray.

1) For example, start a prayer chain with your ladies’ group at church. Contact the officers of your group and pray with and for them. Then all of you divide the list of names of ladies that regularly attend your gatherings and call them to see how they are and what you can pray with them about. Encourage those women called to contact other members of the congregation to touch base with them and to pray with/for them.

2) Pray for your church body and support them with your time, talents, and treasures. Be creative and share these gifts with your family-in-Christ.

3) Use this time of waiting to draw closer to God. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s insight as you pull out an old *Quarterly* and dig into the Word.

4) Make a prayer list and then go for a walk (laps around your kitchen table will do!) Don’t stop walking until you get to end of your list, or set a distance/time limit and resume your list the next day.

5) Write those letters of encouragement to missionaries, or friends you’ve lost touch with, or family you haven’t seen for awhile. Include a prayer for their well being.

In the book *Waiting: A Bible Study on patience, hope, and trust*, author Sharla Fritz says “One of the best places to meet God is in the in-between.” She is referring to times we are asked by God to wait—such as a flu pandemic. Use this in-between time to draw closer to God and let Him use you to be His hands and feet in the world to draw others closer to Him too.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Allison Lehmann
VP of Christian Life
christianlife@kansaslwml.org



Greetings dear Sisters in Christ:

It's been a year since I joined the Christian Life Committee. Where has the year gone? What have you done this year? I've had some first adventures this year: National Convention, serving on a District Committee, and few more, but I didn't think I'd ever experience a pandemic in my life time. When I opened my mail Saturday and found my refund check for my registration for the District convention, I sat and cried. I'm an emotional person. But I know it's for the best at this time. But God willing, we will all be together again on July 31—August 2, 2020.

Our committee has spent time both in person, emails and conference calls this past year. The Christian Life Retreat last fall was a success.

We have a wonderful prayer walk planned for convention, entitled "How We Can SEE Jesus More Clearly". **Kristi Roegner** will still be our speaker for the convention Christian Life breakfast! She and her husband were expedited back to the US prior to the pandemic starting and will be here in the states for a while. She is planning to be at the convention! Her presentation is entitled "Seedtime and Harvest."

Remember your Brothers and Sisters in prayer. We share our faith with them. As we approach Easter, no matter where we are, since we are all on "Shelter at Home" restrictions, we can celebrate Christ's resurrection. May I say to all of you CHRIST has Risen! He has Risen, indeed! Alleluia! May God's peace be with all of you and we will see you in July.

Nancy Taylor
Christian Life Committee Member

FINANCIAL NEWS

Ella Schempp
Financial Secretary
12601 W. 60th St.
Shawnee, KS 66216



Financial Secretary Ponderings!

My prayer for you is that you are staying safe.

Did you know?

- We are starting a new biennium April 2020 thru April 2022.
- Your treasurer will continue to mail your mite offerings and memorial monies me until the convention.
- All nine of the 2018-2020 Mission Grants have been paid!
- The Day of Prayer offering for April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2121, has been selected and it is the God's Gracious Gift Fund.
- Mission Grants and God's Gracious Gift Fund recipients for the 2020-2022 biennium will be selected at the convention.
- As LWML women we can look for ways to still have our group meetings.
 - Last Saturday my Sarah group used the Spring *Quarterly* Bible study and met online using Zoom.
 - We are mailing or dropping off our Mite Offering checks to our local treasurer.
 - Online meetings can be done with several different options which include using your phone for those that might not have internet access.
 - With the different options available, your group can meet more than once a month and it allows you to catch up with your LWML sisters.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).

In closing: He has risen indeed!

Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU Thrivent members for donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the LWML Kansas District! More than \$800 were just deposited, and these go into God's Gracious Gift Fund. We appreciate your generous support!

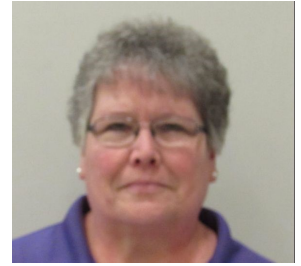
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Spring of 2020 has been like no other for our students preparing to be church workers. Due to the Covid-19 most went home for Spring Break only to learn that they would not be allowed to return for the remainder of the school year. This brought huge changes and adaptations to their learning schedules and the loss or postponement of a graduation ceremony if that is where they were in their education. It is our prayer that they and their families stay safe as they continue their studies from home. We want to encourage our future church leaders to continue on with their goals of becoming teachers, pastors, DCE's and more, by providing financial aid from the Kansas District LWML. Students need to fill out their application for financial aid by June 1st. Applications can be found on our website and can be filled out in paper or online form. I have emailed all returning students, but please help new students to be aware of the financial aid available. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue their journey. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

Lisa Brack, SFA Chair


GOSPEL OUTREACH


Janice Cundiff
VP of Gospel Outreach
outreach@kansaslwml.org





Praise God from whom all blessings flow! All of the Mission Grants and the Student Financial Aid have been paid for the 2018-2020 biennium! Thank you to all of the faithful, giving women of the LWML Kansas District for your Mite Box offerings and prayers. We appreciate your giving hearts!

2018-2020 MISSION GRANTS AND STUDENT FINANCIAL AID LWML Kansas District

PD  FALL 2018
STUDENT FINANCIAL
AID – \$10,000

FALL 2019
STUDENT FINANCIAL
AID – \$10,000  PD

PD  SPRING 2019
STUDENT FINANCIAL
AID – \$10,000

SPRING 2020
STUDENT FINANCIAL
AID – \$10,000  PD



"BEAUTIFUL FEET"



- PD  1. Orphan Grain Train, Wichita, KS: \$5,000
- PD  2. Concordia Seminary Food Bank, St. Louis, MO: \$5,000
- PD  3. Lutheran Braille Workers, Kansas: \$6,000
- PD  4. Ascension Lutheran Church, Pratt, KS: \$5,000
- PD  5. LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, St. Louis, MO: \$4,000
- PD  6. Lutheran Student Center at Wichita State University: \$5,000
- PD  7. Capstone Ministries, Kisumu, Kenya: \$4,000
- PD  8. Lutheran Indian Ministries, Haskell LIGHT Campus Ministry: \$5,000
- PD  9. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI: \$4,000

LWML Kansas District
2020 Convention Shirt Order Form

BE THOU MY VISION



*****Order deadline for shirts has been extended to June 15th*****

***If you previously ordered a shirt and won't be able to make it to convention or no longer want your shirt, please call Jill at 620-242-3412 to cancel your order**

For the 2020 convention, we are offering two styles of shirts. One is a ladies gray ¾ sleeve raglan t-shirt with pink sleeves. The other is a unisex gray V-neck t-shirt. Both are a soft Tri-Blend that is 50% polyester, 25% cotton, and 25% rayon. Both shirts also have the LWML Kansas District logo on the back.

Ladies ¾ sleeve raglan t-shirt:



Unisex V-neck t-shirt:



Shirts must be pre-ordered and picked up at convention.

Name: _____	Size:	Ladies ¾ sleeve	Unisex T-shirt
Address: _____	S	_____	_____
Phone: _____	M	_____	_____
Email: _____	L	_____	_____
	XL	_____	_____
Quantity: Shirt ____ x \$15 each =	2XL	_____	_____
Total Due _____	3XL	_____	_____

Please mail payment with order form to: Jill Kruse, 2095 Rainbow Rd., Galva, KS 67443

****All convention shirt orders must be received by June 15th****

SOCIETY NEWS



Pastor Arron Wagner is new to the LCMS Kansas District and is serving as Pastor of Christ the King, Salina. Tammy Taylor, LWML President of Christ the King, Salina, presented Pastor Wagner with a welcome package from the LWML Kansas District on Sunday, February 9, 2020.

Submitted by:
Tammy Taylor

Convention Challenge

Girls 8—11 years old and members of the Mt. Calvary (Wamego) group enjoyed giving Mighty Mite Bears some personalities! Bears were sold at a silent auction and the proceeds were given as Mites offering.

Submitted by Carolyn Stutzman



2020 CONVENTION CHALLENGE

(Challenge made at KAOL)

Try something NEW or DIFFERENT in your Zone or Society/Group to encourage others as Lutheran Women in Mission.

Write a 15 word or less description about what you did and if it was successful (or not).

Send 1 or 2 pictures of your project to President Brenda by July 1, 2020, at bjpiester@gmail.com.

Watch for dozens of new ideas in the PowerPoint at the Topeka Convention.

PLAN TO JOIN US IN TOPEKA FOR THE 38TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION!

July 31-August 2, 2020

*The Convention will begin at 3:15 p.m. on Friday afternoon, July 31,
with Bible Study led by Rev. Jay Hobson,
pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Skiatook, OK.*

*Saturday afternoon worship is open to anyone—no registration required!
Pre-Worship Music will begin at 12:45 p.m., and
Worship with Holy Communion begins at 1:15 p.m.*

NEW Registration information will be posted in early May.

See <http://www.kansaslwml.org/2020-district-convention.html> for tons of details!

BE THOU MY VISION



Theme Verse:

*...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right hand
of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 NRSV).*

Convention Goal Statement:

As we focus on Jesus with 2020 vision, we will:

- *see the Author of our faith more clearly,*
- *open our eyes to the joy of enduring crosses daily, and*
- *share with others the vision of the glory of God.*

Concordia Publishing House has partnered with Lutheran Women's Missionary League to bring you an updated shopping experience while still providing the full range of LWML products and resources.



National LWML has a National LWML Pinterest page. Check out the great resources!



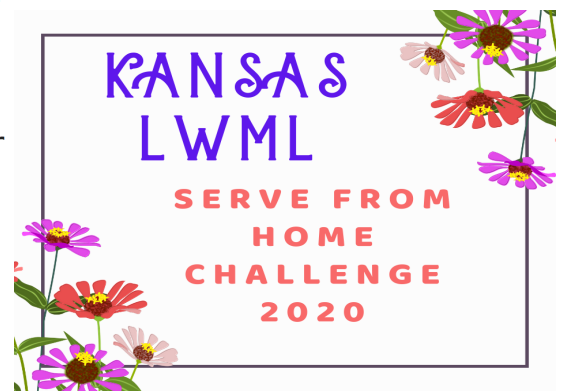
Kansas LWML is on Facebook! Be sure to "like" our page. You can also follow the National LWML on their Facebook page too! Join today.



LWML Kansas District – “Serve From Home” Challenge – 2020

Due to COVID-19 stay-at-home recommendations or restrictions, many LWML members are unable to participate in their regular service activities.

AND, since we will not be participating in the ingathering or Servant Events at our postponed April LWML Convention---



**The LWML Kansas District invites you to “Serve From Home!”
Write a quick post and/or share pictures of your projects or service
on the KS LWML Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KS.LWML/>**

Each community is different. CHECK AHEAD OF TIME with local hospitals, county health departments, care facilities, etc. before making items to donate to them— they may have their own recommendations or restrictions.

Here are some suggestions for you!

- Make face masks. We have lots of seamstresses who probably already have material at home. Download a pattern you like...there are lots of patterns out there. Donate the masks to local hospitals/clinics where needed. Or they can donate to friends/family who should be wearing them to shop, etc. Donate to the fire, police departments, grocery stores or pharmacies if needed in their town. These need to be of tightly woven fabric. Blue shop towels are excellent to use for this.
- Make or write cards for care facilities or homebound people, especially the elderly.
- Volunteer to pick up groceries for a health compromised/elderly neighbor.
- Volunteer to set up a technology challenged friend/neighbor on grocery store delivery.
- Volunteer to set up a technology challenged friend/neighbor so they can watch various church services online.
- Make a care packet for the more vulnerable in our society like a Ziplock baggie of items for the local homeless shelter (hand sanitizer if can find, protein snacks, wipes if can find, cracker packs, granola bars, gum, pocket-size Kleenex, etc.).
- Organize an event for the children in the neighborhood while practicing social distancing of course...scavenger hunt, parade, sidewalk chalk drawing...I have seen these ideas on Facebook.
- Make a meal to drop off on someone's porch: family laid off due to economic downturn, elderly neighbor, the family of healthcare worker working long/stressful hours—call ahead.
- Write notes of encouragement to missionaries, college students, especially the LWML student financial aid recipients now stuck at home,
- Donate blood at a local blood bank (they are experiencing shortages due to all the blood drives that have been canceled).
- Orphan Grain Train Special Projects: <https://www.ogt.org/special-projects/>
- Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits: <https://lwr.org/quilts-and-kits>