

The Kansas Sonshine



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LWML Kansas District

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12 NIV).*

As the time gets closer to celebrate the end and the beginning of bienniums, it feels a lot like New Year's Eve, as the time has come to reflect on the past four years and begin to try to figure out how to say farewell. It's not farewell entirely, but I'll see you around, quite a bit less, and maybe in a different position.

Four years ago, do you think the District Presidency was on my mind? Absolutely not. But when the call came, I knew I had to give it some deep thought and LOTS OF PRAYER. I flat out asked God to give me a reason to say no to the nomination, and He did not. Am I thankful I didn't hear "no"? Of course! I actually think I heard Him say, "Go for it! **I've got you.**" Thanks, God! I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. I don't consider myself to be a born leader, so I had to work on stepping into this leadership role. Knowing God was beside me every step of the way was a great comfort.



My hope is that my encouragement was able to deepen your knowledge and passion for LWML and the LWML Kansas District. My priority was to be a good mentor, as my own mentors have been to me, and to inspire everyone to realize that you can be a leader. Of course, we all should know by now that if you "follow the SON", then leading is easy when we put it all into God's hands and can hear Him say, "**I've got you.**"

Serve full of grace – no more grumbling.

Be joyfully **Obedient** – Pray, Pray, PRAY!

Have a **NEW** focus – Be brave! Change things. Try something new.

Matthew 6:34 has long been a personal favorite verse of mine as I try to convince myself not to worry so much. I hope it gives you encouragement and hope that anything is possible by the grace of God.

"I've got you."

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own (Matthew 6:34 NIV).

Kim Burdett
District President



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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. Michael Schmidt | Pastoral Counselor

⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:5–6).

There's one word in the above verse that seems to reach out and grab me. The word is "reasonableness." Different translations have translated it as "gentleness" (NIV, NKJV), "forbearance" (ASV), "reasonableness" (ESV), "gentle *spirit*" (NASB), "considerate" (NLT), and "moderation" (KJV). That seems like a lot of options for just one word. The root means "to yield." The implication is that one yields his or her own interest for the sake of others.

I seem to have no problem thinking that others should yield their interest to mine. And when they don't, I immediately perceive them as being stubborn. But rather than condemning others, I should take a look in the mirror. Can I give up my interest, and still survive? Just because I want something, will the world continue on if I sacrifice my wants for someone else's? This isn't rocket science (or as my wife and I often say to each other, this isn't rocket surgery 😊).

So what gets in the way of us yielding to others? Simply put, it's our sinful nature. We want it our way. This stubborn sinful pride demands that people see things our way. Good thing we have a Savior who yielded his body on the cross as a sacrifice even for that sin.

So what happens now? I can yield. I can sacrifice my desires, my wishes, so that others might be lifted up.

Will that be the end of the story? Not at all. It will be a lesson that I will have to learn over and over and over again. I'm so grateful that I have a Savior!

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for being unyielding, for demanding my own way. As you yielded your body on the cross as a sacrifice to pay for my sin, help me to yield to others so that You might lift them up through me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



LWML Kanaw District 40th Biennial Convention

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Wichita, Kansas

April 12–14, 2024

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf (Hebrews 6:19-20a).

Registration is now open!

Visit kansaslwml.org/2024-lwml-kansas-district-convention.

CARING SERVICE

Betty Amey | VP of Caring Service

CONVENTION GIFTS FROM THE HEART

We all like to shop for quality sale items! We will be gathering diapers of all sizes, baby wipes, children's toothbrushes and tooth paste, socks and underwear of all sizes for a variety of organizations. As you go about your routine shopping, keep an eye out for good sales on these items.

A complete list of Gifts from the Heart will be included in the upcoming Pre-Convention Issue of The Kansas Sonshine.

CONVENTION SERVANT EVENTS

We hope to see you on Friday of the convention. Servant events include volunteering at Orphan Grain Train Friday morning, 9:30–11:30. Deliveries can also be made at that time. We will be making braille books on Friday afternoon and rolling bandages, as well as working on other projects. Please keep these opportunities in mind as you make your plans.



COMMUNICATION

Kris Osler | VP of Communication

What's your best opening line for witnessing to someone? It's a tough thing for many of us. We don't want to seem like we are being too pushy, but that often ends with us not saying anything.

What if you had a conversation opener that let you share the love of Jesus naturally? Believe it or not, it can be as simple as wearing a Lutheran Women in Mission apparel or jewelry item or using LWML notepads or pencils. The LWML has introduced a lot of very attractive apparel designs that are comfortable and fun to wear and might just lead to a conversation something like this:

"That's a cute t-shirt. Where did you get it?"

"Oh, thank you! It's from the Lutheran Women in Mission, a group I belong to that spreads the love of Jesus. I'd love to have you join me at one of our events sometime!"

— OR —

"What do those letters, LWML, on your t-shirt stand for?"

"We are a group of Lutheran Women in Mission whose main goal is to share the love of Jesus through mission work around the world."



A simple conversation can open the door to more conversations. It can also offer the opportunity to share a Mustard Seed devotion or Prayer Card. Remember, you are just planting the seed, not watering, growing, and harvesting all in one brief encounter.

Pray for God to use you and your simple necklace, t-shirt, or even notepad or pencil to create an opportunity to show your love for others by sharing your love for Jesus.

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

Sarah Kloepfer | VP of Special Focus Ministries

The district convention is a great time of fun, fellowship, growing in God's Word, making new friends, and connecting with old friends. The Special Focus Ministries Committee looks forward to welcoming women of all ages at the LWML Kansas District Convention in April. We hope to have Young Women Representatives from every zone! We look forward to seeing teens! Please let us know if you have a teen coming so that we can include them in our plans. **Be sure to have YWR applications to your Zone President by January 15!**

Young Women
IN MISSION

We are especially looking forward to seeing all the first-timers at the convention. If you have never been to a district convention, now is the time to do it! There is something for everyone. So, no matter if you're 18 or 88 or anywhere in between (and above or below), join us in Wichita for the 2024 District Convention!

First-timers, please stop by the registration table to pick up a small gift from the Special Focus Ministries Committee.

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Marie Roth | Archivist/Historian Co-chair

Early Lutheran World Relief Pick Ups (and the Importance of Recordkeeping)

The first Lutheran World Relief (LWR) pick-up in Kansas was at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina. 17,169 lbs. of donations in 827 boxes were collected. It was enough to fill one full semi-trailer and another partial trailer.

The second LWR pick-up in Salina the following year collected 24,900 lbs. of donations from over 150 churches. Donations included quilts, some clothing items, school supply kits, health kits, and sewing supplies.

If you are curious about when these pick-ups happened, we are too! The LWML archive has a photocopied newspaper article without the publication title or date. Without this information, we are missing key details in the story. As you are saving your own group's or zone's history, make sure to record all the details.



Editor's note: If you have any information about these LWR donation dates, please contact archivist.marie@kansaslwml.org.

CONVENTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jill Lowe | Committee Chair



The nominating committee for the LWML Kansas District 2024 Convention included the following women: Shelly Keller (Lincoln), Sharon Kolanowski (Herington), Marilyn Fick (Manhattan), Kathryn Richard (Southeast), and Brenda Piester (Advisory, Past President). I would like to thank each of them for their help in finding candidates for the open positions on the Executive Committee. They each serve the Lord with gladness in their churches, zones, our district, and their everyday lives. We certainly could not have found our candidates without their help and guidance.

Thank you, wonderful Women in Mission!

Jill Lowe (Northeast), Chairman

GOSPEL OUTREACH

Julie Hatesohl | VP of Gospel Outreach

As the 2022–2024 biennium comes to a close, there are two mission grants that remain unpaid. The outpouring of generosity from the LWML Kansas District has been incredible. Now for the home stretch!

There are two remaining grants. The first is Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) Happy Bottoms project. ICOA works to support and better the Kansas City, Kansas, Argentine community, specifically it's Hispanic population. ICOA plans to network with Happy Bottoms in order to receive and supply monthly diapers to families in this community. This mission grant is expected to impact 100–120 families.

The final mission grant approved for the 2022–2024 biennium is for Trinity Hope in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. This mission grant will help provide essential nutrition to children in Lutheran schools in Haiti.

The work doesn't stop after funding these remaining 2022–2024 Mission Grants. The 2024–2026 mission grant and God's Gracious Gift Fund requests will be included in the Pre-Convention Issue of *The Kansas Sonshine*. Delegates will vote on these grants at the LWML Kansas District Convention in April.

June 1, 2024, is the deadline for Student Financial Aid (SFA) applications. SFA is available for students enrolled in church work in one of the LCMS synodical schools. Application is available on the website, kansaslwml.org.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Carol Olson | Organizational Resources Committee Chair



Why do we regularly review our bylaws?

Regular reviews are needed so we can ask ourselves if the bylaws are still meeting our needs. Are they up with the times and matching our modern operations? If not, what tweaks should we make to better match our current operation, mission, and structure?

Bylaws are not the most interesting or exciting reading, but they are important for organizations to operate effectively; so, it's important to review them and to review them well.

Thanks to everyone's commitment to the review process we are staying on schedule. Manhattan Zone is the next zone in line.

Blessings to all as we enter this Epiphany season; may we focus on the miracles of Jesus!

CHURCH WORKERS IN MISSION

Joyce Duitsman | CWIM Coordinator



Rev. Brian Holle

Zion, Hiawatha, and St. Paul, Fairview

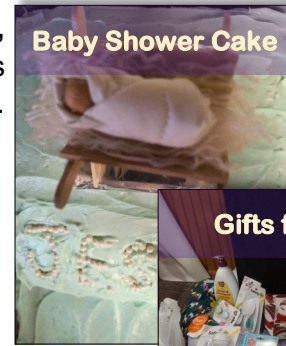
installed on October 1, 2023

As you have an opportunity, please welcome Pastor Holle to Kansas!

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11–12).

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The recently formed **FLINT HILLS WOMEN IN MISSION, MANHATTAN ZONE**, held a *Baby Shower for Jesus*. The items collected were donated to the local Junction City Pregnancy Center. The women and men enjoyed fellowship, an Italian meal, and cake.



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HOLY CROSS, WICHITA, SARAH CIRCLE On Tuesday, October 3, 2023, the lovely ladies of Sarah Circle made goodie bags for the Holy Cross executive staff. We filled the bags with Hershey Kisses, snack crackers, hard candy, trail mix, and mustard seed devotions. Since October is clergy appreciation month we decided that we needed to show our executive staff how much we appreciate them.



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With the generous help of a Thrivent Action Card, individual donations of fabric, money, and countless hours of work by volunteers, **HOPE QUILTERS, SHAWNEE**, along with other Hope, Shawnee, volunteers, created 137 Christmas Stockings and 13 lap quilts! These were donated to the Johnson County Christmas Bureau Holiday Shop. They have provided warmth and support to almost 12,000 of our low-income neighbors for over 60 years, and are the only county-wide agency to provide holiday assistance to people of all ages — from newborns to nursing home residents. The Hope Quilters also donated approximately 30 quilts to the Metro Lutheran Mission Christmas store, which provides Christmas gifts for families in need in the Kansas City area.

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

CHRIST THE KING LWML, SALINA, took orders in October for bierocks and cinnamon rolls. The proceeds of this sale funds the LWML's general budget for the coming year. Items in the LWML budget include kitchen appliance repairs, sponsoring a seminary student, providing Portals of Prayer for the congregation, and the upkeep of the Memorial Garden.



Bierock Making at Christ the King, Salina

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LINCOLN ZONE met with **NORTHWEST ZONE** at Messiah, Hays, for a joint fall workshop on Saturday, October 14. The women were joined by the men of the LLL, with approximately 65 in attendance. Food items were received to benefit the food pantry at the Hays Community Center and a Mite offering was collected. Morning refreshments were provided by LWML Groups of the Lincoln Zone. Zone presidents, Janice Cundiff (Northwest) and Shelly Keller (Lincoln), led the group in the LWML pledge and mission statements. Rev. Brad Rick, LWML Northwest Zone Pastoral Counselor, led opening devotions, and Carol von Soosten, LWML Gift Planning Counselor, gave a presentation about LWML Gifts of Love Ministry. Rev. Christopher Craig, Lincoln Zone Pastoral Counselor, led the Gifts from the Heart blessing and offered the prayer for the delicious noon meal of soups and cinnamon rolls, provided by the LWML Group at Messiah. LWML Kansas District Treasurer, Relda Galli, gave the report of the LWML Kansas District President. Following her report, Northwest Zone, Lincoln Zone, and LLL groups held separate business meetings. Closing devotions were led by Rev. Joel Hiesterman, Messiah Vacancy Pastor.

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HUTCHINSON ZONE LWML held their Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 21, at St. Paul. Preston. There were 32 members, pastors, and guests sharing faith, fellowship, and food. Pastor Schotte led opening devotions and Pastor Wagner led a Bible study on Katie Luther. Kris Osler, LWML Kansas District VP of Communication was our District Representative. We assembled 100 hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train (OGT), and zone members voted to donate \$500 of our zone funds to help with shipping. In addition, the group collected \$220 for shipping making a total of \$770 to help OGT ship kits to where they are needed. We received Mite donations of \$250. Praise God for our mission work and spending time together in God's Word! Our motto, *Serve the Lord with gladness*, was most certainly true on October 21, 2023!



Mite Donation Raffle



Assembling OGT Kits



100 Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS



IMMANUEL, LINN, hosted the Linn Zone LWML Fall Event on October 22, 2023. Lorene Reith of Immanuel, Linn, welcomed the 37 people in attendance. Vera Uffman responded and invited everyone to the Spring Event at Zion, Linn, on March 17, 2024. Pastor Mark Gaschler, Linn Zone LWML pastoral advisor, led the group in a Bible study based on Acts 2–4. Betsy Friedrichs, Arlyce Klipp, and their helpers performed the skit *SMILE*, showing how to deal with and include others in our busy lives. A service activity of assembling prayer beads was available for those interested. Ingathering was collected for Swaddling Clothes, Greenleaf. Kim Burdett,

LWML Kansas District President, spoke about the 2024 LWML Kansas District Convention in Wichita and other upcoming events. She reminded us of our LWML focus: Proclaiming Christ, Supporting Missions, Equipping Women, and Serving Others. Michelle Voelker gave a presentation on the national convention, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which she attended. Refreshments were served by the women of Immanuel, Linn, and a time of fellowship was enjoyed.



TOPEKA ZONE welcomed the Second Annual Orphan Grain Train pick up at Christ, Topeka, on October 13. The ladies of Northeast Kansas packed the truck almost to the brim. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The **WICHITA ZONE** Fall Event was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Ascension, Pratt. The opening included a hymn sing, and the Bible study was led by Kristin Schultz, a member of Ascension. The mission speaker was Brooke Pernice, who shared how the ministry of the Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has blessed her life. Susan Rathgeber, director of the LBW, Wichita, Work Center, spoke about the service of Lutheran Braille Workers. The attendees enjoyed a “Cookbook Family Feud” and a delicious soup and salad luncheon. Brooke’s presentation was *Ministry through Music* where she shared her gift of singing with the group. Attendees also experienced what it was like to be blind by wearing masks and eating their desserts “in the dark.” The meeting closed with a short business meeting.



LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The **NORTHEAST ZONE** held their Fall Event on October 7, 2023, at First Lutheran, Sabetha. There were 30 women in attendance, three pastors, and one guest. They were honored to have as speaker, national LWML President Eden Keefe. She shared her journey, from being raised on a dairy farm to her involvement with LWML. Linda Buttron from St. Matthew, Nortonville, shared her experience as a delegate to the LWML Convention last June. Food items and cash were collected to support the Pastor's Pantry at First Lutheran, Sabetha. Pastor Ian Kinney led us in Bible study, covering three women from *The Lineage of Grace*. A Mite challenge involving attendees' favorite fall dessert raised \$102.64 for the Mite offering.



Northeast Zone Fall Event Attendees



LWML President Eden Keefe

MISSION GRANT THANK YOU

2022-24 LWML Kansas District Mission Grant #8

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Ottawa, Kansas, \$6,000

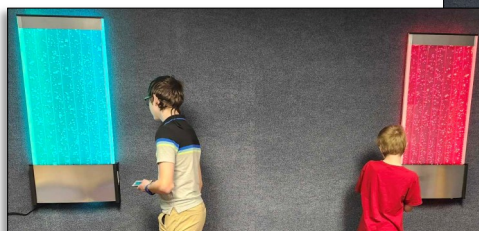
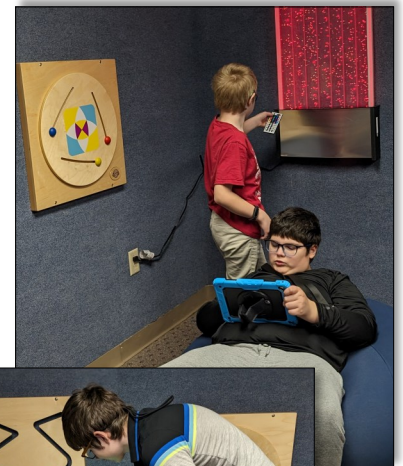
The funds will help Faith Lutheran to partner with Kulture City to become a sensory inclusive certified organization, providing tools, and develop space for person with sensory processing needs.

Women of LWML Kansas District,

Thank you so much for your support of our sensory room project. Materials were purchased through Kulture City to create a space within our congregation where people experiencing sensory overwhelm could calm down and regulate. Sensory overwhelm can be caused by overstimulation through the environment (loud noises, too many people, etc.) or from experiencing strong emotions. It's used by individuals diagnosed with autism, ADHD, PTSD, anxiety, as well as those grieving a loved one.

Our members are thrilled to have this resource. There has also been excitement from community members about the project. We are very thankful for your support so that we could complete this project. The room will see many visitors in the years to come.

In Christ,
Members of Faith Lutheran Church
Ottawa, Kansas



2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

January 15	YWR Application due to Zone Presidents
February 2–3	Executive Committee (EC) Meeting, Wichita
February 3	Convention Planning Committee Meeting
April 1	Quarterly and Web Maintenance fee due
April 11	EC Meeting, Wichita
April 11	BOD Meeting, Wichita
April 12–14	LWML Kansas District Convention Wichita
June 1	Student Financial Aid (SFA) applications due

District Prayer Mail Thank you to Velma Bass, for continuing to remind us to be diligent in prayer! To be included on the **District Prayer Mail** (P-mail) group listing, please send your name and current email address to Velma, pmail@kansaslwml.org. Requests, thanksgivings, and joys are distributed in "blind copy" manner so that your email address is not shared.

Contact information changes for groups and zones should be emailed to Brenda Piester at directory@kansaslwml.org. As group and zone information and leaders change in the upcoming months, please remember to email your changes to Brenda. Brenda has done a great job in keeping us up to date. Thank you!

Do you need . . .

Mission Grant information? Focus on a mission grant each month.

A Bible study? Download a short or long Bible study or devotion.

A service project? Choose to do a different service project each month.

Song lyrics for your power point? Help your group sing LWML songs.

To keep up-to-date with LWML? Sign up for email information.

Visit lwml.org and explore the site for all your resource needs!



2024 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION INFORMATION

2024 LWML Kansas District Convention registration is OPEN!

The registration form, and all information necessary to complete the form, may be found in the Registration Issue of The Kansas Sonshine, found on the website at kansaslwml.org. Additional convention information will be published in a Pre-Convention Issue of The Kansas Sonshine.



Young Woman Representative (YWR) applications for the 2024 LWML Kansas District Convention are due to your Zone President by January 15. Participating in the YWR program at a district convention is a wonderful way for young women to learn about LWML! Ask a young woman in your congregation to complete an application today.



Mission Statement

Led by the Holy Spirit, the LWML Kansas District will equip women to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve the Lord with gladness.