

The Kansas Sonshine



Volume 82: Number 3

Summer 2025

LWML Kansas District

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).

The current course of my life seems to be traveling at break-neck speed. The 2025 LWML Convention is fast approaching and there are more and more details to attend to before arriving in Omaha. ***Be still and know that I am God*** (Psalm 46:10a).

At the same time, plans are being made for the Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL), which will be July 25–26, 2025, in McPherson, Kansas. Invitations to this meeting include all group presidents, zone committee chairmen, zone presidents, district committees, appointed personnel, and the Executive Committee (EC). For a group this large we chose a new venue, which means more and different details and variables to be discussed and chosen before we meet under the banner, *Grace-full Women*. ***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*** (Isaiah 41:10).

The 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention is only ten months away and we still need decisions made in several areas. We don't yet have a District Technology Manager or a Convention Technology Chairman, and we haven't been able to meet with the hotel to agree on meal choices (or prices) yet. ***Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you*** (1 Peter 5:7).

God's answer to the pressured, fast-paced life we choose to lead can always be found in His Word. Remembering to constantly turn to Him in prayer with thankfulness in our hearts is hard but doable, with help from the Holy Spirit — and the journey we take as we serve Him is definitely worth the effort.

Be sure to look for more information about the upcoming LWML Convention, and information about Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) in the following pages of this newsletter.

Elaine Engelman
District President



Be sure to check out these pages ...

Counselor's Corner [page 2](#)
Christian Life Retreat Brochure [page 5](#)
Church Workers in Mission (CWIM) [page 7](#)
Dates to Remember [page 14](#)

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. John Werner | Pastoral Counselor

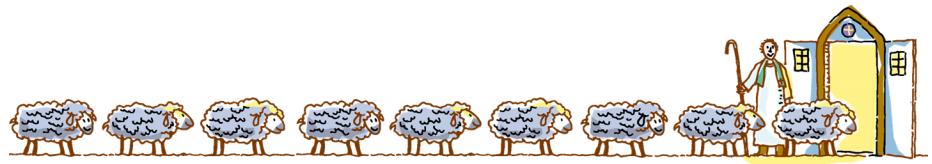
When to Call Your Pastor

Sometimes people wonder when they should contact their pastor. Here are some suggestions developed by a retired pastor. Contact your Pastor when:

- You or a family member are going into the hospital. Your pastor likes to visit people who are in the hospital for a few days or more. He'll bring God's Word of comfort.
- You would like a prayer said for you. Your pastor is always happy to do this. *(Please indicate if you would like yourself or a loved one to be included by name in the prayers during the Sunday worship service. Sometimes people want things kept confidential; you may contact the pastor directly for private prayers for your family.)* Our powerful and loving God answers prayer!
- You are not able to come to church for more than a month. If you are sick for a prolonged period or recovering from illness or surgery and can't get to church, your pastor will come to you. He will see how you are doing, pray with you, and bring you the Lord's Supper. Your pastor wants you to stay connected to God's Word and Sacrament to receive His gifts.
- You have a question or concern about something at church. Many church-related questions can be cleared up easily. Likewise, if you have a concern about something at church, your pastor will see what he can do to resolve it. Contact him if you have a suggestion for something that can be done in a new or different way. Your input does matter!
- You have an issue in your marriage that is unresolved after one month. If an issue in your marriage does not go away after one month, then it is probably not going to go away without some help. Don't wait to seek help until your marriage deteriorates. A Christian marriage needs to be rooted in God's Word and built on God's love; therefore, pastoral counseling will focus on spiritual issues. Your pastor is not a professional marriage counselor, but he is able to apply God's powerful Word to your relationship!
- Your conscience is troubling you and you want the assurance of God's grace. God does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation and guilt. He invites us to confess our sin and receive his forgiveness. In strict confidence you can confess your sin to your pastor and receive assurance of God's absolution delivered personally to you. You are welcome to come even if no particular sin is troubling you. It's faith-building to receive God's forgiveness at any time.
- You're wrestling with a spiritual issue or have a question about something the Bible says, perhaps sparked by a conversation with coworkers or friends. Call your pastor if you have a question about a Bible teaching. Talk with him about it. If you encounter something in a sermon, Bible study, or in your own personal Bible reading that makes you scratch your head, let your pastor know. Your pastor loves to discuss God's Word and to see people grow in their understanding of it.
- You have a friend or relative who wants to know more about Jesus. Please share their names with your pastor. He would love to invite them to his Bible class and meet with them to share the hope that we have in Christ. Meeting with a pastor can be intimidating for some people, so assure your friend or relative that your pastor is not near as scary as he looks, and offer to come along with them. Assure them that your pastor's goal is not to brainwash, but simply to listen to them and to share with them the truth and beauty of God's Word.

You can certainly contact your pastor at other times, too. You may view this list as, *"this is when my pastor wants me to call him."* In addition to the pastor, your church has excellent elders who may also be able to assist you.

Christ's Peace,
Pastor John Werner
612-716-4753
(just in case)



KANSAS ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS (KAOL)

Attention LWML Kansas District Leaders

Who: ALL GROUP PRESIDENTS, ZONE PRESIDENTS, ZONE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, APPOINTED PERSONNEL, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

What: Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL)

When: July 26, 2025

Where: McPherson Community Building, McPherson, Kansas **This is a new location for KAOL and there may be changes to the usual KAOL routine; please pay attention to information to come.*

Guest Speaker: Susan Brunkow, LWML Vice President of Christian Life

Mark your calendar! If you are not able to attend, please have a designated person take your place so that all groups and offices will be represented. Check your email for details.

***District Executive Committee (EC) and District Board of Directors (BOD) will meet on Friday and the full group will meet on Saturday. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.*

Joyce Hagemann, District Meeting Manager
meetingmanager@kansaslwml.org



Do you have LWML items you no longer use or need???

You are invited to bring them to KAOL!

Your "Gently Used Treasures" will be available to KAOL attendees for a donation with proceeds to support mite offerings. Please bring items such as LWML shirts, Bible studies, bags, mugs, etc. that you no longer need. Don't forget to ask your LWML group members who are not attending KAOL if they have items they would like to donate, and bring them with you! All donations will be given to mite offerings.

KAOL Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) will be gathered for the McPherson County Food Bank. The Caring Service Committee selected this charity as so many are struggling to make ends meet and put food on their tables. **We encourage you to bring gifts of food and/or gift cards to purchase fresh items.** Please mark the dollar amount on each gift card. Suggested food items: pasta, sauce, canned vegetables, canned fruit, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, tuna, chicken, tuna helper, macaroni and cheese, soups, etc. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts!

GIFTS
FROM THE
HEART



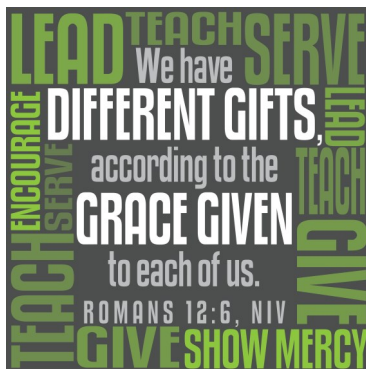
Come visit our district **LWML Store** at KAOL! There will be new LWML products and resources available for purchase. The district store provides LWML and CPH devotions and Bible studies for you to purchase. We will have some small LWML items for sale, such as jewelry, pens, sticky notes, etc., and we will continue to have assorted greeting cards for sale. We would like to encourage you to watch for the pop-up sales on the [LWML Facebook page](#) for clothing items so you can choose your style, size, and color! Pop-up sales are also announced via email if you sign up for LWML eNews, lwml.org/stayintouch. **Remember the district store now takes cash, check, and credit cards!**

Jill Lowe, District Store Manager

SAVE THE DATE
2026 LWML Kansas District Convention
April 16–19, 2026, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas

TO DO List:

- ⇒ Finish the details of your **Mission Grants and God's Gracious Gift Fund** proposals. They are due **September 1, 2025**.
- ⇒ Consider the gifts the Lord has blessed you with and how you can serve Him through the organization of LWML. Fill out a Committee Appointment — Personnel Profile (CAPP) form.
- ⇒ Send banner ideas for the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention banner to President Elaine as soon as possible! Theme verse for the convention is **John 15:16**.



The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the women who have stepped forward and agreed to have their names placed on the ballot for the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention. We are still in need of more "purple peeps" to serve in the various positions that need to be filled. We especially need names for the position of Treasurer. Please prayerfully consider where the Lord would have you serve the LWML Kansas District beginning in 2026. You may contact LaJean Rinker, at nominations@kansaslwml.org.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Heather Rolf | Committee Member

During trials it's normal to have questions. Why are we facing these challenges? What am I supposed to be learning? When will things be okay again? Will the stress and troubles ever slow down? Sometimes it seems as soon as one area of our lives feels stable and secure, another area feels a blow. We are not unshakeable, but we serve a God who is! He is the **Rock** that is secure no matter what life throws at us! God is our **UNSHAKEABLE** foundation. When life feels uncertain and scary, we can remember and trust that God is our Rock, our fortress and deliverer. HE will never move or fail us.

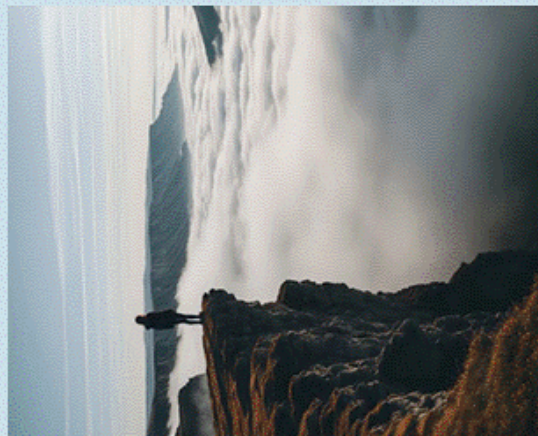
Please plan to join the LWML Kansas District Christian Life Committee on November 7–8, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, for the Fall Christian Life Retreat featuring Donna Snow! Donna will lead us in discovering just how firm our foundation is when we place our trust upon the Rock. You will find registration details on [page 5](#) of this newsletter.



Register by September 29 and pay the early registration fee.

Lutheran Women in Mission Christian Life Retreat

**Featuring
Author
Donna Snow**



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November 7-8, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn and

Convention Center

3320 S. 9th Street

Salina, Kansas 67401

***Sponsored by the
LWML Kansas District
Christian Life Committee***

Enjoy a relaxing weekend of
connecting with old friends and
meeting new ones.

ENJOY MUSIC

MEDITATE IN GOD'S WORD

LIGHTEN YOUR SPIRIT
WITH LAUGHTER

WE WILL BE

Unshaken: Standing on the Rock



The LWML Kansas District Store
will have items available for
your shopping enjoyment.



Used by permission Pixabay.com

*Therefore let us be grateful for
receiving a kingdom that
cannot be shaken, and thus let
us offer to God acceptable
worship, with reverence and
awe, for our God is a
consuming fire (Hebrews
12:28-29).*



Photo Courtesy of Artesian Ministries

Donna Snow is a sought-after Bible teacher; however, her path from unchurched to become passionate about sharing Jesus was difficult. Early in Donna's journey she became involved with the *Lutheran Women in Mission*, who loved working on mission projects and loved Bible study. Donna says, "I was elected to a state-wide position that required me to provide spiritual resources to the women of Texas. So I began writing Bible studies, which began spreading beyond Texas. Eventually, churches began inviting me to teach from my studies at live events. I finally knew why God created me."

In 2011 Donna established Artesian Ministries which is now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization with the sole purpose of providing resources to get people into God's Word.

Donna says, "God literally pulled me out of the pit, put my feet on His rock, and has never let me go."

AGENDA

FRIDAY ~ November 7

— *Dinner on your own before the event starts* —

5:00 p.m. — Registration Open, check into rooms / Shopping Open until 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. — Welcome / Session I

7:30 p.m. — Evening Prayer Service

8:30 p.m. — Fellowship:

SATURDAY ~ November 8

7:15 a.m. — Registration Opens

7:30–8:30 a.m. — Breakfast provided
Shopping Open until 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. — Welcome / Session II

11:00 a.m. — Break / Shopping Open
until 12:30 p.m.

11:30 a.m. — Lunch Served

12:30 p.m. — Session III

2:15 p.m. — Closing Thoughts

The LWML Kansas District Christian Life Committee would like to welcome you all to the *Christian Life Retreat*. Praise the Lord for His blessings as we stand Unshaken on the Rock of His Grace.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Home Church: _____
Special Needs: _____

REGISTRATION:

(PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICES AND ENCLOSE AMOUNT ACCORDINGLY)

Hotel Room, Meals & Activities for One Great Price!
Please use one form for each registrant.

Rooms are Double w/Double Beds

- ☐ 1 person/room \$ 200.00
- ☐ 2 persons/room \$ 140.00 per person
- ☐ 3 persons/room \$ 120.00 per person
- ☐ 4 persons/room \$ 110.00 per person
- ☐ I plan to attend the retreat, but will not stay at the hotel. Registration cost: \$85.00
Includes Breakfast and Lunch

PLEASE ADD \$10 if postmarked AFTER September 29, 2025

* I have a roommate/s: (Please List)

_____The Committee may assign me a roommate.

Saturday Meals Included

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Breakfast

Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Muffins

Lunch: Salad & Potato Bar—Salad (choice of two dressings) Baked Potato (bacon bits, shredded cheese, sour cream, chives, butter) Rolls, Cookies

**Make checks payable to
LWML Kansas District.**

Please send registration form with payment to:

Heather Rolf
928 Wayside Road
Westphalia, KS 66093

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Carolyn Fishburn

Thanks to your generous giving, our mite donations continue to be slightly ahead of our goal for this point in the biennium. Summer is upon us, and many groups may not be meeting right now, but it is not the time to let up on our giving. Prayerfully consider ways to encourage mite giving when your group is not meeting.

To newly elected group or zone treasurers — when you submit mite offerings and other donations, please include a remittance voucher, found on the [Organizational Resources page](#) of the LWML Kansas District website. (Note: fill out the contact information and make photocopies so you will not have to fill out that information each time.) Checks should be made **payable to LWML Kansas District** and mailed with the remittance voucher to:

Carolyn Fishburn
LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 491
Haven, KS 67543

Donations from an individual, group, or zone may be submitted online at kansaslwml.org/giving. It is suggested that a group treasurer creates an account with your church/group name and city in the name fields to easily identify that the donation is coming from a group. A box is available for notes such as Memorial or Honorarium and the name of the person remembered, the name of the church/group/city or zone, if that information is not in the account name, or any other note. If you have questions about making donations by mail or online, please contact Carolyn at financialsecretary@kansaslwml.org.

PRAYER MAIL COORDINATOR

Mary Schmidt

If you are one of the 126 on the LWML Kansas District Prayer Mail list, you know that prayers requests may be sent to me and I'll send them out to you. If you would like to be added to the prayer mail list simply email me at pmail@kansaslwml.org and I'll add you to the list. Occasionally, I'll have an email returned for various reasons, so if you haven't been receiving emails from me, please let me know and I'll check that I have your correct email address. Group leaders, would you please share this information with the ladies in your group as some may not be aware that we have this available. We know that there is power in prayer, so the more people we have praying for each other, the better it is.

Peace and Joy in Christ,
Mary Schmidt



CHURCH WORKERS IN MISSION (CWIM)

Joyce Duitsman | CWIM Coordinator



*A warm **LWML** welcome to the following church workers:*

Rev. Rick Schneider, pastor, Redeemer, Atwood, installed May 17, 2025

Olivia Johnson, DCE, Lord of Life, Leawood, installed May 11, 2025

COMMUNICATION

Allison Lehmann | VP of Communication



Tech Manager
Needed!



Do you enjoy all things technology? Do you have the ability to assist others with PowerPoint presentations and other computer related materials? The Communication Committee is actively looking to fill the position of Technology Manager to assist with technology needs at all LWML Kansas District events, including district conventions, Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL), and the District Christian Life Retreat. This position could be shared between two people. If you, or someone you know, are willing to serve in this position, or if you have questions, please contact communication@kansaslwml.org. With KAOL coming up in July and a convention next spring, this is an important position to fill as soon as possible!

CARING SERVICE

Linda Stanton | VP of Caring Service

Growing in God's Grace, the theme of the LWML Convention in Omaha, gives us all food for thought. It's most meaningful if put in context by reading the entire third chapter of 2 Peter. We're here waiting, waiting for God's perfect timing, waiting for the return of Jesus. While we wait, we are to GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's remember together just how big God's grace is toward us. Take a minute to read Ephesians 2:4-10, Paul's account of God's amazing grace. Let's pray that God will use us to grow in His Word and grow in love towards each other as we find joy in doing the good works he has prepared in advance for us to do. *Be sure to see [page 3](#) of this newsletter for one way you can serve others with Gifts from the Heart at Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL).*

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Carol Olson | Committee Chair

Stress. There are so many things that cause stress — too much or too little rain, graduations, weddings, work, and bylaw reviews to name a few. But don't let those bylaws cause you stress. Your Bylaws Review Committee has your back and will be there to answer any questions and help as much as we can. It does require some time commitment on your part but our goal is to have your bylaws ready to present to your zone within a couple of months. This time frame is important because we are looking at a new zone every two months and delays can cause us to be working on 2-4 zones at the same time — talk about stress!

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken (Psalm 55:22 NIV). This verse reminds us to trust in God and cast our burdens upon Him, knowing He will provide the support we need.

Thank you to the zones that have already completed bylaws review for this biennium: Manhattan (to approve at Fall 2025 meeting), Wichita, Lincoln, KC CrossRoads, and Topeka. Communication has been sent to Herington (March/April), and Linn (May/June) to begin the process. We are looking forward to working with the Northwest Zone in July/August.



GOSPEL OUTREACH

Julie Hatesohl | VP of Gospel Outreach

This is always an exciting time of year, just coming off an awesome convention where we have a new mission goal and mission grants to serve so many individuals. It is also time to begin submitting applications for the 2026–2028 LWML Kansas District Mission Grants and God's Gracious Gift Fund Grants that will eventually serve even more organizations and individuals. This is a great time to serve the Lord with gladness!

Applications for the LWML Kansas District Mission Grants and God's Gracious Gift Fund Grants are due September 1, 2025, and can be found on the Gospel Outreach page of the district website, or [here](#).

The Gospel Outreach Committee is planning to have the Mission Grant/God's Gracious Gift Fund video available in early Spring 2026. The video can be shared with groups and at zone events to help delegates gain insight prior to voting at the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention.

Student Financial Aid (SFA) Applications Update: We have received 17 Student Financial Aid applications for this upcoming school year. The deadline for SFA applications was June 1, 2025.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION KANSAS DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS & STUDENT FINANCIAL AID 2024 - 2026



Heavenly Father, bless these mission organizations and provide for them the means necessary to carry out your work in helping those in need.
In Jesus' name. Amen

PAID	1. Light of the World Lutheran Church, De Soto, Kansas	(\$8,000)
PAID	2. Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Fort Wayne, Indiana	(\$5,000)
PAID	3. Kansas University Campus Ministry, Lawrence, Kansas	(\$5,000)
PAID	4. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Wickenburg, Arizona	(\$5,000)
PAID	5. K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, Ellsworth, Kansas	(\$7,000)
PAID	6. Northeast Kansas Lutheran Early Response Team, Gardner, Kansas	(\$4,000)
	7. Lutheran Special School, Kisumu, Kenya	(\$5,000)
	8. Concordia Academy, Wichita, Kansas	(\$6,000)
	9. Linn Lutheran School Orchestra, Linn, Kansas	(\$7,500)
	10. Lutheran Braille Workers, Yucaipa, California	(\$600)

Fall 2024—Student Financial Aid: \$10,000

Spring 2025—Student Financial Aid: \$10,000

Fall 2025—Student Financial Aid: \$10,000

Spring 2026—Student Financial Aid: \$10,000

Download and print the Mission Grants and Student Financial Aid poster at kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach.

ARCHIVISTS—HISTORIANS

Marie Roth and Amanda Engelman

St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, thanked the LWML Kansas District at the 1974 convention for the \$3,000 mission grant that funded the nursing program. This was the first significant gift from a Lutheran organization to help establish the nursing program at the college. The LWML Kansas District provided \$8,750 total to the college through five mission grants before the college closed in 1986. Details of the grants are listed to the right. St. John's College Alumni Association still hosts annual reunions and provides scholarships to LCMS university students descended from St. John's alumni.

Year paid	Project	Amount
1951	Suite of new girls'	\$800
1973	Sewing machines	\$450
1973	Nursing program	\$3000
1976-1978	Nursing program	\$2000
1978-1980	Chair of Nursing	\$2500

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

Sarah Kleopfer | VP of Gospel Outreach

As I'm writing this article, my current focus is on getting prepared for the LWML Convention in Omaha. However, the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention in Manhattan will be here before we know it! It's not too early to start encouraging young women in your group or congregation to apply to be a district Young Woman Representative (YWR)!

You can also encourage them to be involved in your local LWML group. Here are some ideas:

1. Relationships — think about reaching out to a young woman in your congregation and building a relationship with her. This can be as easy as striking up a normal conversation with her, letting her know that you are interested in her and her life.
2. Talk about LWML — tell her what LWML is and how you have been involved. The more enthusiastic you are about LWML, the more likely it will be that she'll be interested, as well.
3. Don't overwhelm — if she shows interest in being a part of your LWML group, don't overwhelm her and give her too many responsibilities right away.
4. Childcare — if a young woman is interested in being a member of your group, but has young children, help her try to come up with solutions. (Most groups will have women who love to hold the babies or help with little ones!)
5. Be open to new ideas — if a young woman wants to join your group and has "new and different" ideas, don't dismiss them. Listen, and try to incorporate those ideas into your group.
6. Keep asking — if a young woman tells you "no," keep asking. Don't be too pushy, but let her know that you'd still like to have her be part of your LWML group.

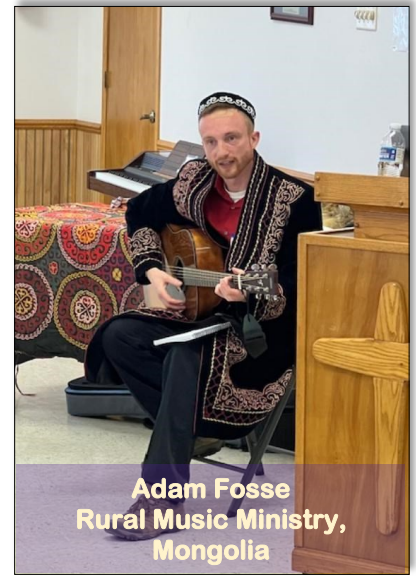
There are great resources for Young Women in Mission under the Fellowship tab of the LWML website, lwml.org!

The YWR application for the 2026 Kansas District Convention will appear in the Fall *Sonshine*. Be on the lookout for it!

Young Women
IN MISSION

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

On March 30, 2025, the **LINN ZONE SPRING EVENT** was held at Immanuel, Bremen. Thirty one guests attended. The speaker was Adam Fosse, from Zion, Linn, who is involved in rural music ministry, and is a school bus driver for Linn Public and Linn Lutheran Schools. He spoke about his six years as a missionary in Mongolia, a mostly Muslim and Buddhist country, the rural music ministry, efforts to publish a hymnal and service book in the Mongolian and Kazakhstan languages, establishing of home churches, and the native culture. Adam played a hymn, "The Lord's Prayer," on his guitar in native dress and language, and closed with a prayer for Muslims to be converted to Christianity. Sarah Kleopfer, VP of Special Focus Ministries, was the district representative. Betsy Friedrichs and volunteers presented a skit, with songs "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed," and "Sweet the Moments, Rich the Blessing." Election results were as follows, President, Pat Kruse; Vice President, Ruth Schotte; Secretary, Kay Bott; and Special Focus Ministries, Marsha Stohs. Pastor Gaschler installed the new officers. Our Gifts from the Heart were collected for Swaddling Clothes. Immanuel 150th Anniversary cookbooks were given to each of the attendees, and door prizes were given away. Refreshments were served by the ladies of Immanuel.



Adam Fosse
Rural Music Ministry,
Mongolia

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District President
Elaine Engelman,
LWML President Edna Keefe,
Past-President Kim Burdett

KANSAS CITY CROSSROADS ZONE met Saturday, April 5, for their Spring Event, with the theme, *Jesus is Our Anchor*, at Hope, Shawnee. Pastor Jacob Mueller presented the Bible study, *Pictures of Hope*, based on the theme verse, Hebrews 6:18b–20a. President Elaine Engelman was the LWML Kansas District representative. Officers were elected and installed. Gifts from the Heart were collected for Shawnee Community Services. Morning refreshments were served by the ladies from Our Saviour, Kansas City, and lunch was served by the ladies from Hope, Shawnee.

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On March 29, Faith and Messiah Lutheran churches of Emporia, co-hosted the **TOPEKA ZONE SPRING MEETING**. Pastor Reichart gave a devotion on Psalm 136:12 and Donna Spain spoke about Loving Hands, a foster ministry of Messiah Lutheran that provides essential items to children entering foster care. The Topeka Zone also elected Shari Albrecht as Zone President and re-elected Rhonda Scott as Treasurer. Christian life events held since the meeting include a prayer walk among the tulips at Lake Shawnee in April, the LWML prayer service on May 1, and a luncheon presentation on forgiveness by Donna Snow on May 31. Faith, Topeka, will host the Fall Zone meeting on September 20.



LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

HERINGTON ZONE SPRING MISSION EVENT was held at Faith, Abilene. The featured mission speaker was Adeline Johnson, creator of Our Place After School Care, Inc. in Hastings, Nebraska. She shared how she started this after-school care program when seeing the need for her daughter and others ages 14–21 with disabilities to have a place to go after school to learn socializing and life skills. The program has expanded to include a Freedom Factory Store where students may sell their projects to earn self worth and a small monetary reward. As the number of students and their needs grows, a larger facility with more staff is needed. She can't wait to see what God has in store for them. Gifts from the Heart of food donations were collected for the Abilene Food Pantry. Debbie Howe from the Food Pantry thanked everyone and told how the Food Pantry began by just one church providing food for their families in need, which sparked other churches to join in the mission. It has expanded to include Food Pantries in Abilene, Chapman, and Herington. Praise be to God! Elections of officers were held, with Pastor Nathan Harkins installing the new officers and chairpersons, followed by a delightful lunch served by the Faith LWML ladies.



Adeline Johnson
Our Place After
School Care

+++++

The **HUTCHINSON ZONE** met on Saturday, March 1, at Immanuel, Canton, with a collection of items for Cradles to Crayons Daycare. Our mission speakers were Pastor Tony and Cheryl Masenelli from St Paul's, Cheney. They shared their experiences in Africa, Haiti, and the Bahamas. Their encouragement to step outside our local setting to experience Christ's Church in action in the mission field was made even greater with an invitation to join them this summer in the Bahamas! We are excited that our own previous Zone YWR will represent LWML Kansas District at the (national) LWML convention, riding with us on the bus. Be sure to welcome Erikka Geuy to the LWML Convention experience. Newly elected zone officers, President, Elise Lorenz Cleary, and Treasurer, Carolyn Fishburn, were installed by outgoing Zone Counselor, Rev. Aaron Wagner. We thank him for his heartfelt devotions, Bible studies and his singing! We welcome Pastor Tony Masenelli as our new Zone Counselor.

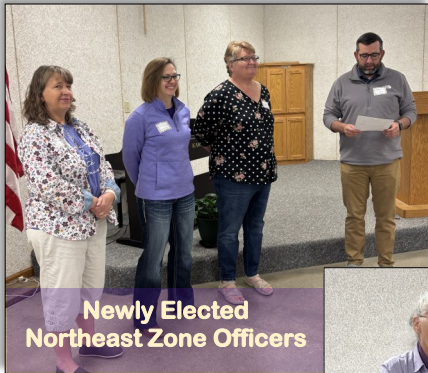


Carolyn Fishburn and Elise Lorenz Cleary
installed by Pastor Aaron Wagner

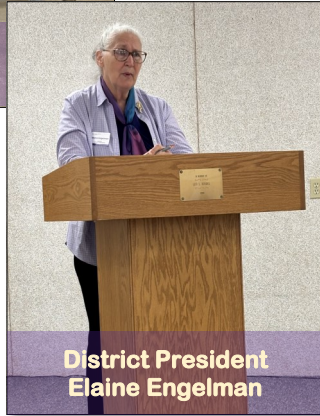


Pastor Tony Masenelli

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS



Newly Elected
Northeast Zone Officers



District President
Elaine Engelman

The **NORTHEAST ZONE** held their Spring Gathering on April 12, 2025, at the Fairview Community Building, hosted by St. Paul LWML, Fairview. We were honored to have LWML Kansas District President, Elaine Engelman, join us for the morning. We enjoyed Marcia Schwartz as our speaker. She has written several devotion books. One of her poems was published in the Lutheran Witness. Her advice is to “keep pursuing your dream, you’re not dead yet!” Trinity LWML, Atchison, will host the ladies from Miles for Mites on the evening of June 20 as they ride their bikes through part of the Northeast Zone on their way to the LWML Convention in Omaha. Newly elected zone officers are: President, Tami Rutten, Sabetha; Secretary, Melissa Fuhrman, Atchison; and Christian Life Chairman, Jill Lowe, Atchison.

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The ladies of **TRINITY, GARDEN CITY**, members of the Southwest Zone have been busy spreading the Gospel through outreach projects throughout the Garden City Community. This year, the group has collected coats and hats for the needy, collected diapers for the local Family Crisis Center, raised money for mite offerings by sponsoring a soup night during Lenten services, and just recently, provided Mother’s Day gifts for new mothers at the local pregnancy center.



Trinity, Garden City LWML Group

Editor’s note: Thank you to all the LWML Kansas District zones and local groups for submitting information and photos for The Kansas Sonshine! Your information is always appreciated, and is a blessing and inspiration to other zones and groups. Keep up the good work!

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 24–25	Presidents' Assembly, Omaha
June 26–29	LWML Convention, Omaha
July 17–18	Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55), Salina
July 24–25	EC Meeting #3, McPherson
July 25	Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, McPherson
July 26	Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL), McPherson
August 16	Convention Planning Meeting #2, Manhattan
Sept./Oct.	Zone Fall Events
November 6–7	EC Meeting #4, Salina
November 7–8	District Christian Life Retreat, Salina

Do you need help with programs for your LWML group or zone???

Are you looking for a Bible study to open your meeting???

Do you need a sketch to liven up one of your LWML meetings???

Visit lwml.org/program-helps for program resources. Each month, there are suggested resources for the month — Bible study, devotion, and sketch. Use the suggested resources or choose a different month. You may also access the planner for the biennium, a downloadable resource, and choose what you'd like to use. Resources are listed by monthly suggestions, theme, and alphabetically. All resources are free for your use, and have been through the LWML doctrine review process. Watch the [LWML website](https://lwml.org) for the new 2025–2027 planner.



LWML Kansas District Reminders:

Please send group and zone officer updates to Brenda Piester, Directory Manager, directory@kansaslwml.org

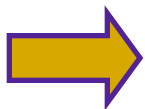
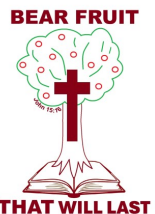
Prayer requests, that you'd like to share with your Kansas LWML sisters, should be sent by email to Mary Schmidt, Prayer Mail Coordinator, pmail@kansaslwml.org



Visit kansaslwml.org for information about district mission grants paid, necessary forms/music/applications, Orphan Grain Train kits, and much more!

2026 LWML Kansas District Convention information will be continually updated on the district website. Visit it often!

Don't forget to check out the [LWML Kansas District Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/LWMLKansasDistrict)! Stay up-to-date online!



Please note this CORRECTION TO SPRING 2025 *The Kansas Sonshine*, Archivists—Historians article on page 13:
CORRECTION: Mrs. Raymond Briggeman of **Iuka** was the newly elected president.



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.