

The Kansas Sonshine



Volume 82: Number 4

Fall 2025

LWML Kansas District

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) was held in McPherson, Kansas, on July 26. It was open to all group presidents, zone officers, and elected and appointed district personnel. Eighty-six women and pastors were present, ranging in age from 86 to 27. One of the questions asked during the day was how the district could help prepare the women in the pew for future service at zone, district, and national levels. The majority of respondents said they needed to have a better job description and know the time commitment. As a result, this edition of *The Kansas Sonshine* includes articles explaining the district committees' responsibilities and how much of a time commitment that might be. Each area of service has its own rewards and I pray the Spirit will speak to each of your hearts about what service fits your gifts best, so that when a need is brought to your attention you can serve gladly.

If you would like to know even more about any of these areas of service you can contact the LWML Kansas District officers through the district website, lwmlkansasdistrict.org/executive-committee. Following the district convention in April 2026, there will be a need for new members in all district committees for the next biennium (2026–2028). For information about national LWML offices, contact me and I can get that information for you. To learn more about how your zone works, please contact your zone president. A list of zone presidents and a map of Kansas showing the outline of zones are on page 24 of this newsletter.

I was asked to address two items in this issue. First — how is the convention funded? You may know that when a mite donation is made to the district, 75% stays with the district and 25% is forwarded to the national office. The 75% that stays locally helps pay for student financial aid, mission grants, and administration costs. Any expenses from offered leadership/learning opportunities, like Christian Life Retreat, Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL), and the District Convention, that are not covered by a registration fee, are paid from the district treasury with mite donations.

Second — why should convention goers dine-in instead of eating out? In June, the District Meeting Manager, the 2026 Convention Chairman, and myself met with the general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn and Convention Center in Manhattan. The four of us went through the entire convention schedule, from Thursday's Executive Committee (EC) meeting to Sunday's closing service. When we discussed food, we explained we want variety, smaller portions, and the best service for the least amount of money. With that in mind, we chose several buffets with fewer food options and the opportunity to serve ourselves smaller portions. Buffets use less staff, are less expensive, and can be set up outside the main meeting room so clearing is more time efficient. Local gratuity charges are beyond our control, but our state tax exemption status offers some savings. We estimate that 350–400 people will attend the 2026 Convention and our budget for the event to be a little over \$56,000.00. Almost half of that expense is a food and beverage minimum that must be met. The rest is housing, expenses for speakers and other special guests, AV, technology, printing, and committee expenses. The convention planners will stretch dollars and be as cost efficient as possible, but much of the budget depends on attendees choosing to sleep in and eat at the hotel to help us meet our financial commitment. The hotel bill has to be paid no matter what. If we don't generate enough income from hotel rooms, registration, and meals, the balance will be paid by the District treasury, which is funded by mites.

I am looking forward to the 2026 District Convention! We have a wonderful Bible Study leader, several mission grant recipient speakers, some engaging leadership and interest sessions, great Saturday evening entertainment, and hundreds of hugs from current and soon to be friends! Please plan to join us in Manhattan, Kansas, April 17–19, 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center, 410 South 3rd Street. I hope to see all of you there!

Elaine Engelman
District President



Table of Contents may be found on page 2

Be sure to check out these pages ...

2021-2023 LWML Mission Grant Update.....[page 4](#)
2025 LWML Convention Highlights[page 23](#)
2026 LWML Kansas District Convention Info.....[page 15](#)
2027 LWML Convention Volunteer Application.....[page 13](#)
Church Workers in Mission[page 5](#)
Convention Banner Info[page 15](#)
Counselor's Corner.....[page 2](#)

Dates to Remember.....[page 22](#)
KAOL Highlights[page 16](#)
LWML Kansas District Map[page 24](#)
Quarterly/Website Maintenance Fee Info and Form[page 19](#)
YWR Application[page 6](#)
Zone and Group News.....[page 21](#)

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. Kenton Abbott | Pastoral Counselor

Dear people loved by God, as we are in a time when the days are getting shorter and there is a crispness in the air, there is no doubt that fall is in the air. A season of change where the leaves will change colors, farmers will gather in the harvest, and preparations will be made for the cold season ahead of us. Fall is a season of change that teaches us that time does not stand still. As summer fades and winter will soon arrive, these rhythms of God's creation remind us that our lives also are full of change. Some changes in life bring joy, such as children beginning a new school year, or families celebrating milestones. Other changes bring challenges, illness, loss, uncertainty, or fear of what lies ahead.

As we go through this change, we reflect upon the theme and verses of our last LWML Kansas District Convention, "Jesus is My Anchor." *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). What a picture of security and confidence the writer gives us about Jesus.

There is a story told about a fisherman, who during a sudden storm ended up dangerously close to the rocks of the shore. His boat was in danger of not only being damaged but potentially was going to be destroyed, and then his life would be at stake. The waves pushed hard, the wind howled, and steering seemed almost impossible. But what kept him from disaster was not his own strength or skill, it was his anchor. Once dropped, the anchor held firm to the seabed. Though the storm raged on, the boat stayed secure because it was fastened to something stronger and unmoving beneath the surface. Christ Jesus our LORD is the anchor for our souls and our lives. He is the One who has gone before us into death, through the grave, resurrected and now reigns and rules at the right hand of God the Father. Because He lives, we have a hope that is sure, steady, and unshakable. No matter what this world or life may bring us or throw our way, Jesus holds us fast to Himself and His redeeming Grace. Our salvation is not based on how strong our grip on Him is or how well we weather the storm, but that He has His firm grasp on us and that He is victorious over the storms of life.

And so, as we meditate on Jesus being our anchor for our Christian life, we also think about the change fall brings. For our life in Christ is not only about being secure and safe, but Jesus also sends us out to bear fruit. *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you* (John 15:16). Jesus anchors us and roots us into His Word, nourishes us by His grace and the Sacraments of the Church, and empowers us by the Holy Spirit to "Bear Fruit that will Last."

This is the upcoming LWML Kansas District Convention theme, "Bear Fruit that will Last." So, as we are in the season of change, as you see the beauty of the leaves changing and taste the bounty of the harvest, let these signs of creation remind you of the greater work God is doing in you. For God, in Christ Jesus, has anchored you in His Word so that you may now bear fruit that will last. God is not only at work in you, but He is at work in the leaders of your LWML Kansas District, planning and preparing so that you can come and bring forth, in your life, faith, hope, and fruit that will neither wither nor fade, but will endure into eternity.

The Grace, Mercy, and Peace of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you. Amen.



Pastor Kenton Abbott
Jr. Pastoral Counselor

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Cathi Temple | VP of Christian Life

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6–7).

In July, while attending the Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL), I was asked by a couple of attendees, “What exactly is the Christian Life Committee and what does it do?” As I struggled to find just the right answer, that wouldn’t take an hour to deliver, I realized that the best answer is just that we are a group of four women joined together with Christ to help other women navigate their Christian life pathway.

As the Vice President of Christian Life, I have the pleasure of heading the committee, but, believe me, the work is carried out by the ladies with whom I have the pleasure of serving. My role is primarily one of reporting our progress to and working with the other members of the LWML Kansas District Executive Committee and working with the Christian Life Committee Chairman to relay information pertaining to the committee’s role within the LWML Kansas District. The chairman of the Christian Life Committee plans meetings and works with me and the other committee members to carry out our duties, which are all related to bringing activities and devotions to women wherever they might be on their Christian path. This includes planning the Fall Christian Life Retreat, held in odd-numbered years, and the Christian Life Prayer Breakfast, held at the LWML Kansas District Conventions. We also plan and carry out a Path to Prayer (Prayer Walk) at annual KAOL meetings and district conventions. Currently, the committee primarily meets via text and email, with infrequent face-to-face meetings when required.

If you are an LWML member who loves people, planning events, writing devotions, or all of the above, the Christian Life Committee is your place to be. You may fill out a *Committee Appointment — Personnel Profile* (CAPP) form, found on the Organizational Resources page of the LWML Kansas District website, kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources.

Please reach out to the committee if you need resources to help you or your group travel your own Prayer Pathway. Remember to register for the Fall Christian Life Retreat this November 7–8, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina. The retreat registration form can be found in the Spring and Summer issues of *The Kansas Sonshine*. **I hope to see you there!**

MEETING MANAGER

Joyce Hagemann

Serving with Gladness! 

When asked to write about my district position, it seems that the Meeting Manager position is kind of a chameleon; duties are always changing depending on the event and venue being used. One of the easiest tasks to describe is providing food and lodging for all district events, such as Executive Committee meetings, Board of Directors meetings, and Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL). Close work is done hand in hand with the convention chairman and district president in selecting the convention site and food menus. The Meeting Manager is the president’s assistant, helping her wherever possible, which includes a variety of tasks.

Since I am relatively new to this position, I rely on the Executive Committee and mentors who have held this position before me for guidance. Two simple hints I received when starting this position were, “Find out what your president’s favorite snack is and always have that available,” and, “Always have chocolate, these women love their chocolate.”

I would love to talk to you more about my position as Meeting Manager. As with anything, there are highs and lows, but the greatest thing for me so far is getting to know so many wonderful, willing to serve, Lutheran women from across the great state of Kansas. If you’d like to know more about this position, you may contact me at meetingmanager@kansaslwml.org.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

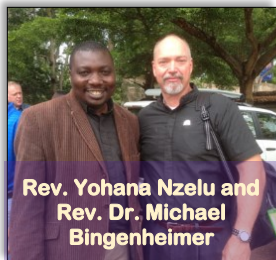
Christine McCombs | VP of Organizational Resources

If you've attended district or zone events, you've likely heard the call: LWML needs workers and leaders to serve on various committees. Maybe you've considered it but hesitated, wanting more details before committing. If so, let me shine a light on the work of the Organizational Resources (OR) Committee. It might be just the place for you!

As a member of the OR Committee your primary responsibility is to review each zone's bylaws over the course of the biennium. We follow a rotation schedule made by the committee chair to keep us on track. This is all done electronically using DropBox, Microsoft Word, and email. We look for grammar, style, and content edits using the LWML Style Guide and sample zone bylaws provided by the LWML to guide us. We rarely meet in person, utilizing Zoom and district events such as Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) to touch base. In all, I would say the time commitment is several hours a month.

The Organizational Resources Committee Chair plays a larger role on the committee. She works closely with the VP of Organizational Resources to keep the committee running smoothly. Besides creating the rotation schedule mentioned above, she notifies zone presidents when it is time for their bylaw review and then coordinates the review with the OR committee members, ensuring each member has a chance to review the document and make comments. The chair may occasionally submit an article to *The Kansas Sonshine* as well. The Committee Chair is also part of the District Board of Directors (BOD) which means she must attend BOD meetings once a year as well as provide a written report to the Board of Directors of that year's work. Don't forget attendance at KAOL and District Convention providing support to the VP at these events as needed.

Still think you're not qualified? Let me share my story. I filled out a Committee Appointment — Personnel Profile (CAPP) form at the 2018 District Convention, hoping to serve on the Christian Life or Caring Service committees. So when I got a call from President Elaine, then VP of Organizational Resources, asking me to consider serving on her committee, I was surprised. Organizational Resources? Bylaws? I don't know enough about LWML to do that! But God knows me best and the talents with which He has blessed me. I took a leap of faith and said yes. I went home from my first committee meeting as chair of the committee. Yes, me who questioned it all from the start. All of that LWML knowledge I didn't have then, I still don't have it all now. The women of LWML are wonderful mentors and teachers. They are strong in faith and have lifted me up and encouraged me in ways I never anticipated. Next time you hear the call for help in LWML, prayerfully consider where God may be leading you. Take that leap of faith and trust in the abilities He has given you to serve Him with gladness!



2021–2023 LWML MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer, Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas, has announced that Yohana Nzelu from Tanzania reported that the dispensary at the Mwadui Lutheran School in Shinyanga, Tanzania, has received government approval to open. The 2021–2023 Mission Grant for \$68,182, "Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania," enabled this to be completed. Pastor Bingenheimer states, "Now God's gift of medicine can provide healing to people formerly without care. **God be praised!**" (*Emphasis by this editor.*)

This grant was presented to representatives of Ascension, Wichita, at the 2022 LWML Convention in Overland Park by LWML VP of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison.

The LWML Kansas District also supported work at the Mwadui Lutheran School in Tanzania with a 2020–2022 God's Gracious Gift Fund Grant of \$5,300.



CHURCH WORKERS IN MISSION (CWIM)

Joyce Duitsman | CWIM Coordinator



Rev. James Bender, Our Savior, Kansas City, installed June 22
Rev. Matthew Vathauer, St. Paul, Clay Center, installed July 27
Rev. Robert Choate, Bethany, Overland Park, installed August 3
Rev. Shawn Fenske, Holy Cross, Wichita, installed August 10
Rev. Travis Orr, Trinity, Hanover, installed August 24
Rev. Frank Johnson, Zion, Hillsboro and Our Savior, Marion,
installed August 24
Rev. Avery Hjulberg, Christ, Topeka, installed August 31

Deaconess Alyssa Choate, Bethany, Overland Park, installed August 3
Teacher Corrie Clatt, Redeemer, Olathe, installed August 10
Teacher Amy Duever, Linn Lutheran, Linn, installed August 17
Teacher Christina Heiss, Hope, Shawnee, installed August 17
Deaconess Lara McComack, Calvary, Topeka, installed August 17
Teacher Sophia Sandcork, Bethany, Overland Park, installed August 24

A warm welcome  to these
pastors and church
workers!

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

Sarah Kloepper | VP of Special Focus Ministries

It is time to start thinking about Young Women Representatives (YWRs) for the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention! Each zone may have up to two young women (between the ages of 20–35) attend the convention in Manhattan. The Special Focus Ministries Committee has already started planning special events during the convention for these young women and we are excited to meet them. The YWR application is available on the district website, kansaslwml.org/special-focus-ministries and pages 6–11 of this newsletter. Please encourage the young women of your congregation (or even someone you know from across the state) to attend the 2026 Convention, to apply for this great opportunity, and to learn more about LWML. The application deadline to your Zone President is January 15, 2026.

It's also time to start thinking about being on an LWML Kansas District committee. The Special Focus Ministries Committee deals mainly with YWRs. Our committee meets by zoom a couple of times during the first year of the biennium, mainly to select the YWRs who will attend the (national) LWML convention. We meet more frequently by Zoom and in person in the second year of the biennium. During the second year, we make plans for the YWRs who will attend the district convention and we are very hands-on at the convention, hosting all the extra activities for these young women. Please consider completing a [Committee Appointment — Personnel Profile \(CAPP\)](#) form and serving on one of the district committees!



Thank you for sending me to Omaha for the LWML 41st Biennial Convention, "Growing in God's Grace." There were four of us young women representatives from Kansas and we had a wonderful and memorable experience that I am looking forward to sharing about and continuing the excitement. Thank you for being sisters in Christ that I can learn from and lean on, growing in God's grace, deepening our faith, and planting the seeds.

Sadie Meyer
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairview
Northeast Zone

Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Special Focus Ministries

To: LWML Zone Presidents
LWML Zone Special Focus Ministries Chairmen

Attention all Zone Presidents and Zone SFM Chairmen: Please see that each group's counterpart listed below gets a copy of the enclosed pages.

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To: LWML Group Presidents
LWML Group Special Focus Ministries Chairmen
LWML Members

Greetings from the Kansas District Special Focus Ministries Committee!

The Kansas District LWML Special Focus Ministries Committee will be hosting a special program for Young Women Representatives at the Kansas District LWML Convention April 17–19, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas.

Each Zone in the Kansas District will be able to sponsor two Young Women Representatives (YWR). The suggested age is 20 through 35 (as of March 28, 2026). Other information about the application process is listed in the attached guidelines.

Please encourage any young woman fitting the guidelines to apply. The application does not have to be given out only by presidents or Special Focus Ministries Chairmen; any LWML member may, and should, encourage a young woman to apply!

The completed application forms need to be postmarked no later than January 15, 2026, and should be returned to the zone president. **Each zone will be responsible for selecting two Young Women Representatives and submitting the two chosen YWR applications to the SFM Committee, along with the convention registration forms, and a check to cover the registration fees.** Hotel reservations will be made by the LWML Kansas District Special Focus Ministries Committee. Each zone will be responsible for paying the hotel expenses for their YWR upon checkout.

All forms and fees are to be submitted to the LWML Kansas District Special Focus Ministries Committee by **February 1, 2026**. Please direct any questions and the registration forms to:

Sarah Kleopfer
2526 Coyote Rd
Morrill, KS 66515
ministries@kansaslwml.org

In His Name,
Sarah Kleopfer
VP of Special Focus Ministries
LWML Kansas District

Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Special Focus Ministries

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION FOR KANSAS DISTRICT YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE

What is a Young Woman Representative? The YWR (acronym) is a young woman who represents her church, group, zone and district for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML); she does not have to be a member of LWML! She will attend the District Convention as a special guest and have the opportunity to see how the LWML operates in its missionary service. More importantly, she is mentored on how to develop a strong relationship with God and others through her work in LWML.

Who may apply?

1. She must be a mature young woman between the ages of 20–35 (as of March 28, 2026) who is a member of the LCMS Kansas District.
2. She shall have a deep love and devotion to her Lord Jesus Christ and be willing to participate in all aspects of the YWR program of the LWML.
3. She must be able and willing to attend all sessions and YWR activities of the convention. YWR's will be seated together but will not vote.
4. She must be able to be away from home and/or work for the convention.

What can the YWR expect from the experience?

1. She will be given a "mountain-top" experience that will be spiritually uplifting, inspiring, fun-filled, entertaining and interesting.
2. She will be a special guest at the convention, and the Zone LWML will cover registration, travel, housing and meal package costs.

What can the District expect of the YWR?

1. The YWR will become an active participant in her group, zone and the district.
2. The YWR will encourage other young women to become part of the excitement.
3. The YWR will complete a Personnel Resource Profile after the convention.

How to apply:

1. Complete the attached forms (4 pages) and return it to your Zone President:

Zone President Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

2. The application must be returned and/or postmarked no later than **January 15, 2026**.
3. Each Zone Committee will select two YWR's to the Kansas District LWML Convention, and send their selections to the Special Focus Ministries Committee by **February 1, 2026**.
4. All applicants will be notified by their Zone President also by February 1, 2026, with the selection of the applicants chosen to represent their zone as a YWR at the Kansas District LWML Convention.

Questions? Contact: Sarah Kleopfer 785-741-1832 or ministries@kansaslwml.org.

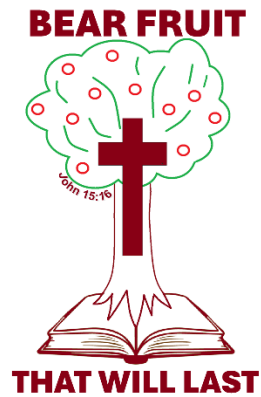
Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Special Focus Ministries

YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATION

Manhattan, Kansas — April 17–19, 2026



Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____, Kansas Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Occupation _____

Home Congregation _____

Church City _____

LWML Zone _____

Page 1

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Special Focus Ministries

1. The LWML motto is *Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2). How do you do this in your life?

2. What is your knowledge of and level of participation in LWML, if any?

3. Why do you desire to be a Young Woman Representative for this Zone at the LWML Kansas District Convention?

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Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2). Special Focus Ministries

- Questions? Sarah Kleopfer 785-741-2832– or – ministries@kansaslwml.org
➤ This complete application (4 pages) must be mailed to your **zone president** and postmarked no later than **January 15, 2026**.

Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Special Focus Ministries

YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATION

Letter of Reference

Applicant's Name _____

Why do you feel that this individual would be a good Young Woman Representative (YWR) to the LWML Kansas District Convention?

Reference written by:

Name _____

Phone _____

Relationship to Applicant _____

Email _____

Local LWML Group President Signature _____

Return this letter of reference to the YWR applicant, so she may return it to her zone president with the YWR application forms.

Questions? Contact Sarah Kleopfer: 785-741-1832 or ministries@kansaslwml.org

The application must be postmarked no later than **January 15, 2026.**

ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN

Marie Roth | Archivist-Historian Co-Chair

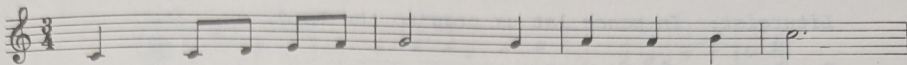


Did you know that the LWML Kansas District has had members write music to sing at conventions? In recent history, Shelly Keller has written beautiful songs for us. Marilyn Blume Seefeld wrote "Come, Jesus Calls" for the 1981 International LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Marilyn permitted the LWML Kansas District to use the song during the 1982 District Convention in Wichita, which honored the LWML Kansas District's 40th anniversary. This song was sung in the opening worship service on April 27, 1982. The first line is included below.

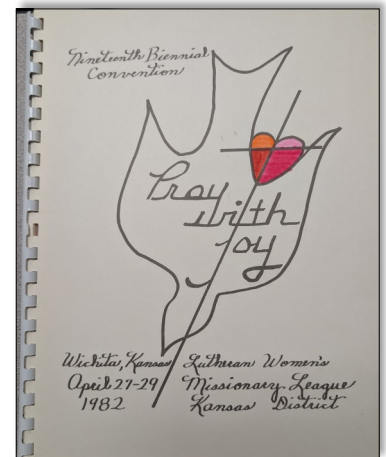
In addition, the District provides many opportunities for artists to share their talents through making banners and artwork for many projects. Ruth Brees of Wichita designed the cover for the 1982 Convention manual. Thank you to all our artists who have shared their talents with the LWML.

Come, Jesus Calls

MARILYN BLUME SEEFELD



1. Come, Je- sus calls to me, His own spe- cial child;
2. Come, Je- sus calls to you, this wa- ter to drink;
3. Come, Je- sus calls to us, His own liv- ing church;



*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God
(1 Corinthians 10:31b).*

LOOKING FORWARD TO CONVENTIONS

In the upcoming months we will be asking many of you to volunteer as helpers during the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention in April.

A second opportunity for service will be the 2027 (National) LWML Convention in Oklahoma City!! The LWML Kansas District is one of four districts that will host the 2027 Convention and we are looking for volunteers! Please prayerfully consider completing the form on pages 13-14 and sending it in as soon as possible so you can be counted for the committee on which you would like to serve.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH GLADNESS!!

Volunteer Application

2027 Oklahoma City LWML Convention

Name: _____ Email Address: _____
 Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Age Range ☐ 20-39 ☐ 40-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70+
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 District: _____ Zone: _____ Congregation: _____

***Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).***

What spiritual gifts and talents has God given you? Check all that apply.

Spiritual Gifts	Talents and Abilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Crafts
<input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual
<input type="checkbox"/> Helps	<input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerical
<input type="checkbox"/> Serving	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction
	<input type="checkbox"/> Creativity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Decorating
	<input type="checkbox"/> Driving
	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Arranging
	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design/Layout
	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Director
	<input type="checkbox"/> Music/Instrumental (specify) _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Music/Vocal
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization
	<input type="checkbox"/> People Skills
	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Publicity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Puppets/Mime
	<input type="checkbox"/> Relate to Children
	<input type="checkbox"/> Scheduling
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Story Telling
	<input type="checkbox"/> Take Meeting Minutes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

After prayerfully evaluating your gifts and talents, **please check three (3) areas** in which you feel qualified and are willing to serve. **List in order of preference.**

Communications/Personnel Department– promotes the convention and encourages and enlists spiritual support of the involvement of the hosting district(s).

<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity - Convention Logo Polo Shirt Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Data Mgmt – Worker Scheduling
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity - Hosting Districts Newsletter Editor	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Data Mgmt – Workers Room

Guest Services Department – seeks out and arranges for quality services to meet everyone's personal and membership needs.

<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care/Youth - Nursery (6 mos. - 4 yrs.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tours and District Charter Motorcoaches - Tours
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care/Youth - Intermediate (5 - 12 yrs.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tours and District Charter Motorcoaches – Dist. Charter Motorcoaches
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care/Youth - Teens (13 - 17 yrs.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation - Airport Greeters/Luggage Rm
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Services - Hostess Scheduling	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation - District Motorcoaches Hostess
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Services - Traffic Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation - Shuttle Buses
	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation - VIP Drivers

PAGE 1

Hostesses and Assistance Department – provides appropriately gifted people resources for the responsibilities of hosting the convention.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality - Exhibit Hall Hostesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet Materials/Reg. - Packet Assembly/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality - Information & Wheelchair | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality - Lost & Found | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Dress - LWML Store Hostesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality - On-Site Hostesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Dress - Special Dress & Distribution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers – Pages | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers – Handouts and Main Floor Ushers |

Missions Department – envisions, suggests, and carries out approved activities and settings which impact one's convention experience.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities - Blood Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Outing – PR and On-Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities - Mission Pledge Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorships & Prizes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities - Servant Activities (2) | |

Properties Decorations, and Worship Support Department – provides the best possible physical arrangements for the efficient operation of the convention body. (Includes a lot of walking and lifting.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Properties – Properties Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Support – Music Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Properties – Signage Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations – Banners/Country Mission Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Support – Elements/Communion Ware
(knowledge of Altar Guild duties) | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations – Centerpieces |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations – Convention Favors |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations - Photo Op |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations – Stage Décor |

Please write a short paragraph outlining your special gifts for the position(s) in which you have volunteered to serve. (Note past or present service in LWML, service to your congregation, positions held in the business world, current and past employment, service organizations, etc.) Use additional paper if needed.

Please send the completed application to:

Karen Karner at lwmlhcc2027@lwml.org

Questions? Call – 405-414-0191

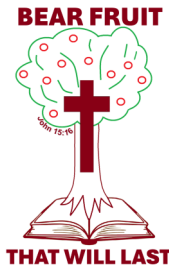
Duplicate this form as needed.

PAGE 2

CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Gayle Grimm | Chair

2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION



You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (John 15:16)

Don't forget to put April 17–19, 2026, on your calendar!
Come to the Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, and help paint the town LWML purple! Enjoy a weekend of Bible studies, fellowship, and service to others!

Your LWML Kansas District Executive Committee and the Convention Planning Committee are working hard to plan great activities for everyone to enjoy. We ask for your continued prayers as preparations are made with our Bible study leaders, pastors, mission speakers, and all other speakers. Please add to your prayers our planners, our committees, all the participants, and for the Mission Projects and God's Gracious Gift Fund projects that will come before the voting assembly.

Watch for the convention issue of *The Kansas Sonshine* for all the details and make plans to join us in Manhattan!

CONVENTION BANNERS

Judy Kolterman | Banner Chairman

Just a reminder that the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention is right around the corner. A letter will be sent to each zone president with more details. If you need more information, please contact your zone president. The banner specification summary is as follows:

- Finished banner size is 3 ft. X 5 ft.; with fringe, it may be longer.
- Your zone's name MUST be on the front of the banner, along with a small tag on the back.
- Place two ribbons to tie banner to the pole on the back.
- Please attach the banner to a one inch dowel rod with a screw eye on each end.
- Stands and poles for the banners are provided by the Host Committee.



Thank you!

Judy Kolterman

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS (Psalm 100:2a).

COMMUNICATION

Allison Lehmann | VP of Communication

Did you or someone in your group attend Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) this summer? District, zone, and group leaders from across Kansas were able to meet, share ideas, and learn many leadership tips. You can find information, pictures, and videos from our presenter, Susan Brunkow, under the *Events* tab on the LWML Kansas District website ([here](#)). If you were able to attend, share a couple things you learned with women in your group or at your fall zone event.

There will be twelve zone events during September and October. If your zone or group has elections this fall, don't forget to send updates to the District Directory Manager at directory@kansaslwml.org.

Are you planning to attend the Christian Life Retreat? Invite a friend to spend a joy-filled and uplifting weekend with other women. Maybe ask a new mom, your pastor's wife, ladies in your Bible study group, or someone who is interested in LWML to attend with you. And the District Convention will be here before we know it, another great event to spend with friends or a new LWML-er. What a great way to begin a conversation!

Have you ever shared an LWML *Quarterly* Bible Study or story with a family member or co-worker? What a wonderful way to share the love of Christ! Don't forget that the *Quarterly* Remittance and Website Fee will be due this spring. You can find the remittance form and frequently asked questions on pages 19–20.

The LWML Store will continue to be present at district events with many items to keep, gift, or share. If you are interested in LWML clothing items, be on the lookout for the LWML pop-up stores on Facebook or the LWML eNews email.

What great opportunities we all have to share the wonderful happenings in the Kansas District! National and District Mission Grants and God's Gracious Gift Fund grants, applications for YWRs, registration for the Christian Life Retreat, and volunteer forms for the 2027 National Convention in Oklahoma are just a few bits of information found at kansaslwml.org that could make great conversation starters.

KANSAS ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS (KAOL) 2025



All three video sessions are available for you to watch at kansaslwml.org/2025-kansas-assembly-of-leaders.

Growing Grace-filled Leaders

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).

Growing

- * increasing faith and service through Bible study

Grace-filled

- * strengthening relationships with those around us

Leaders!

- * serving with gladness at home and at church within all levels of LWML

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Carolyn Fishburn

Just a reminder that your mite offerings and donations to God's Gracious Gift Fund, Day of Prayer, memorials, etc., can be submitted electronically using your computer or your smartphone. Visit kansaslwml.org and click on the 'Giving' tab to donate online or to find directions for using the mobile app on your smartphone. Group treasurers are encouraged to create an account with your city and church/group name in the name fields to easily identify that the donation is coming from your group. For example: *Haven St. Paul's LWML* or *Haven St. Paul's Dorcas Circle* could be entered in the "Name" field. Another option is to enter the city/church/group information in the Other Note box on each donation. The same would apply for Zone treasurers. Remember the benefits of an online donation: NO remittance voucher, NO check, NO envelope, and NO stamp needed! Individuals may also choose to make a one-time electronic donation or set up a recurring donation each month.

If you prefer to mail your group or zone mite offerings or other donations, please do so. All money sent to the LWML Kansas District **must be accompanied by a remittance voucher** which can be found on the [Organizational Resources page](#) of the LWML Kansas District website. Note: fill out the contact information with the congregation, city, and group name (or just the zone name if a zone offering) and the group or zone treasurer's name, address, phone, and email; then make photocopies so you will not have to fill out that information each time. **Checks should be made payable to "LWML Kansas District" (not to the financial secretary)** and mailed with the remittance voucher to:

Carolyn Fishburn
LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary
PO Box 491
Haven, KS 67543

If you have questions about making donations by mail or online, feel free to contact me at financialsecretary@kansaslwml.org.

TREASURER

Relda Galli

I have served as LWML Kansas District Treasurer since 2022. As District Treasurer, I have the honor of writing the checks to all of our mission grant recipients as those grants are awarded and also to the various Concordia colleges for students who receive financial assistance. I am responsible for paying the District's bills and I work closely with both the District Financial Secretary, Carolyn Fishburn, who collects all the money, and District President, Elaine Engelman, who approves each voucher before the checks are written. I have monthly and quarterly responsibilities, and reporting responsibilities. The amount of time involved in the Treasurer position varies depending on district activities.

Serving as Treasurer has truly been a wonderful blessing to me as I have learned so much more about how the District works. I have been blessed by the friendships of the other executive committee members who serve in their various positions to conduct district business. I would encourage anyone who likes checkbook accounting to consider serving as Treasurer! You will be truly blessed — remember, God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called, and He will always provide the resources or abilities needed to accomplish His work!

Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you
(1 Samuel 12:24).

GOSPEL OUTREACH

Julie Hatesohl | VP of Gospel Outreach

The reward for serving the Lord with gladness can be reflected while serving as the LWML Kansas District Vice President (VP) of Gospel Outreach. The reward has been so much greater than expected. Handing checks to organizations who were selected for God's Gracious Gift Fund grants to receiving such kind and heartfelt thank you messages from students and recipients of mission grants during each biennium make this role so special. Growing alongside a strong chairperson and committee; I just cannot fully describe the experience of these past four years.

Did I know what I was doing when I was elected? Not a clue! However, I had great resources from the previous Vice President, chairperson and, of course, the LWML Kansas District Presidents. One of the good things about volunteering for LWML is that you are allowed to make mistakes with grace and learn from great leaders who are always there to support you.

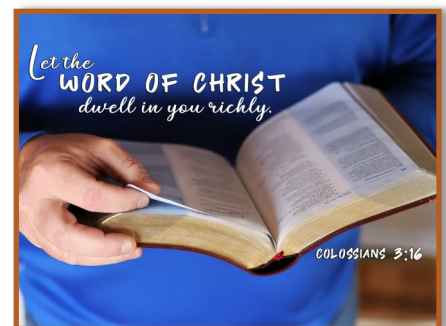
During the past four years, the busy times have surrounded the student financial aid (June 1 is always the deadline for applications annually), and the Mission Grant/God's Gracious Gift Fund applications (September 1 is always the deadline the fall prior to the LWML Kansas District Convention). Much of the work can be completed electronically via virtual meetings and email. The grant proposal review is a face-to-face meeting every two years after September 1 so that each application can be reviewed and discussed before proposing the grants to the Executive Committee and, ultimately, the Board of Directors.

Another joy of this position is awarding financial aid to students enrolled in church work studies. This year, the LWML Kansas District will support 16 students. We ask for prayers for these students.

FALL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

We ask God's blessings for these young men and women who are preparing for church work in our LCMS congregations. Please keep them in your prayers!

Danniel Christensen, Pastor, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Dominic LaBelle, Pastor, Concordia, Nebraska
Caylen McCoy, Pastor, Concordia, Nebraska
Peggy Gott, Deaconess, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Nola Gray, Deaconess, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Lorelei Humphrey, Deaconess, Concordia, Nebraska
Luke Lawrenz, DCE, Concordia, Nebraska
Christopher Reimer, DCE, Concordia, Nebraska
Danielle Turner, DCE, Concordia, Nebraska
Olivia Craig, Music, Concordia, Nebraska
Sam Olson, Music, Concordia, Nebraska
Rachel Ada, Teacher, Concordia, Nebraska
Camryn Beikmann, Teacher, Concordia, Nebraska
Lydia Fink, Teacher, Concordia, Nebraska
James Schultz, Teacher, Concordia, Wisconsin
Karaleigh Warren, Teacher, Concordia, Nebraska



**Don't forget to download the current District Mission Grants Poster, found [here](#).
Print and share with your LWML Group and your church family.**

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY AND WEBSITE MAINTENANCE

2026 SUBSCRIPTION RATES HAVE CHANGED!

BE SURE TO USE THE 2026 REMITTANCE FORM

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and Web Maintenance Fee

PAYMENT DUE BY APRIL 1, 2026.

Why make a Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (LWQ) payment?

The LWQ is sent out four times a year to each group that elects to receive them. They are sent by the LWML office in St. Louis. LWML sets the rates for each subscription a group receives. The current rates are \$6.50 each for 10 or more subscriptions and \$8.00 each for 9 or fewer subscriptions. The LWML Kansas District is billed by LWML for the total amount of all the LWQs the district receives. If an LWML group doesn't pay for the subscriptions it receives, the money to pay for the LWQ comes out of mite donations.

Why make the LWQ payment at this time?

The LWML office allows an LWML group to increase the number of subscriptions it wants to receive at any time during the year. However, decreases in the number of LWQ subscriptions a group wants is allowed only one time a year — in the spring. That is why there is a due date listed on the LWQ remittance form each group is asked to send with their payment. Payment by the requested date allows the LWML Kansas District to send the changes to the LWML office in St. Louis by their deadline date.

Why make a Web Maintenance Fee payment?

The web maintenance fee is a one-time yearly payment of \$10.00. Every LWML group in the Kansas District is asked to pay this fee. The fee helps pay the LWML Kansas District website hosting fee, website domain registration, and the website administrator's fee. The website has an abundance of useful information that each group, zone, and district leader can use and share with others to keep everyone informed. Check it out at www.kansaslwml.org.

Where is the form to send with the LWQ and/or Web Maintenance Fee payment?

The form may be found on the Organizational Resources page of the LWML Kansas District website, www.kansaslwml.org. The form is listed under the heading of "Forms." The form may also be found in this issue of *The Kansas Sonshine*.

Where is the payment sent?

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and Web Maintenance Fee (2026) payments should be sent to the LWML Kansas District Distribution Manager. The Distribution Manager keeps track of how many LWQ subscriptions each LWML group has requested and of the LWQ and web maintenance fee payments made by each group.

The current LWML Kansas District Distribution Manager is:

Marj Aufdemberge, 2232 E. Elk Dr., Lincoln, KS 67455

email: distribution@kansaslwml.org

All other payments such as mite offerings, Day of Prayer offerings, or other donations should be mailed to the LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary or paid online at www.kansaslwml.org/giving.

Thank you for making your 2026 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and web maintenance fee payment on time.

Remember — nonpayment by your LWML group reduces our mite donations for missions.

***Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and Website Maintenance Fee Remittance Form (2026)**

Complete this form and mail it with your payment by April 1, 2026.

LWML GROUP INFORMATION:

Group Name _____ Church/City _____

Address *Quarterly* is to be mailed to _____

Attention _____

Group Treasurer's name _____ LWML Zone _____

Treasurer's phone _____ Treasurer's email _____

REMITTANCE INFORMATION:

Number of *Quarterly* subscriptions requested # _____

Multiply by rate (1-9 copies, \$8.00 each; 10 or more copies, \$6.50 each) x _____

SUBTOTAL = \$ _____

Add Yearly Website Maintenance Fee (****see explanation below**) + \$ **10.00**

TOTAL REMITTANCE DUE = \$ _____

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

Mail only this **form** and the **payment** to: **(DO NOT send a district remittance voucher)**

**Marj Aufdemberge
LWML Kansas District Distribution Manager
2232 E. Elk Drive
Lincoln, Kansas 67455**

Contact information: (email) distribution@kansaslwml.org

*****Website Maintenance Fee explanation: This \$10.00 fee helps pay the website web hosting fee (paid yearly), the website domain registration (paid yearly), and the website administrator's fee (paid every six months). It takes all of these things to make the website work for our district, our zones, our groups, and all of our members, congregations, and guests who use the LWML Kansas District website. The website has an abundance of information that group, zone, and district leaders use and share with others to keep everyone informed. It is requested that ALL groups in the LWML Kansas District please pay this minimal annual fee, and it is very much appreciated. Thank you for your support of the LWML Kansas District website.***

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The **NORTHEAST ZONE** was quite blessed to have approximately 16 members and one Young Woman Representative, Sadie Meyer, attend the LWML Convention in Omaha, June 26–29, 2025. Trinity Lutheran Church, Atchison, hosted a meal for the Miles 4 Mites bike riders on their way to convention. This function was attended by about 20 people. A few Northeast Zone members also attended the activities in Fall City, Nebraska for the Miles 4 Mites ladies. Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) was held in McPherson, July 25–26, and was attended by seven members of the Northeast Zone. The Zone Fall Gathering will continue with the theme, *Growing in God's Grace*, and will be held September 20, 2025, at Zion, Hiawatha. Gifts from the Heart for this meeting will be non-perishable items for The Trinity Center, a food bank in Hiawatha.



Northeast Zone LWML Convention Attendees, Omaha

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OUR SAVIOUR, KANSAS CITY, hosted missionary Ruth Maita and her family on June 16. They were on a two-month furlough from their service in Puerto Rico. Ruth's husband, Rev. Gustavo Maita, is pastor of *Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz* (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church) in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. LWML at Our Saviour met Ruth through LCMS Mission Central with a gift to "a missionary of greatest need." Later, Our Saviour's congregation gave a gift through its budget for missions. We've "known" the Maita family since December 2023, and it was wonderful to meet them in person! Twelve KC-metro churches were invited, including eight from the KC Crossroads Zone. A free meal was served and a freewill offering was collected for Ruth's service through Mission Central.



Maita Family at Our Saviour, KCK

Photo info: The Maita family is holding a flag of Puerto Rico, which was signed by those attending presentations at US churches in Summer 2025. They'll show their church in Puerto Rico how Lutherans in America are supporting them. Left to right: Mikhaela (age 5), Ruth, Ivanna (age 1), Rev. Gustavo, and Isaiah (age 3).

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What joy it was to attend the National LWML convention in Omaha, Nebraska with the ladies of the **HUTCHINSON ZONE**! **One of the highlights of the convention was pinning our own Erikka Geuy as one of the YWRs representing our district.**

Erikka has been participating in her own LWML group at Our Redeemer in Hutchinson, as well as helping out at St. Paul's in Cheney, where she taught in the preschool. She serves as Special Focus Chair in our zone and is in charge of print publication for the upcoming LWML Kansas District Convention. The Hutchinson Zone is blessed to have women using talents and skills as hosting zones' planning for the 2026 convention continues. Please pray for safe travels as the Planning Committee meets and for God's guidance in all they do while serving the Lord with gladness!



YWR Erikka Geuy,
Elise Lorenz-Cleary

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

ASCENSION, PRATT WinGS (Women in God's Service), hosted 44 Miss Kansas and Miss Kansas Teen contestants for a taco bar dinner the week of their June 2025 pageants in Pratt, Kansas. Youth of the congregation handed out gift bags of Lutheran Women in Mission materials including a stack pencil, notepad, Scripture Memory Cards — and chocolate!



WinGS Hostesses: Sue Rohleder, Amy Schrag, and Nancy Briggeman



Gift Bags



Contestants visited with Ascension members



Miss Kansas
Miss Kansas' Teen

DATES TO REMEMBER

2025

September 20	Fall Zone Events: Manhattan, Northeast, Topeka
September 28	Linn Fall Zone Event
October 4	Southwest Fall Zone Retreat
October 11	Fall Zone Events: Southeast, Wichita
October 12	Lincoln Zone Fall Event
October 18	Fall Zone Events: Herington, Hutchinson, KC CrossRoads, Northwest
November 7–8	District Christian Life Retreat at Hilton Garden Inn, Salina
December 5	Winter 2026 Sonshine articles DEADLINE

2026

January 15	YWR applications to Zone Presidents DEADLINE
January 15	ALL convention information to Sonshine Editor DEADLINE
February 1	YWR registrations to District VP of Special Focus Ministries DEADLINE
February 6–7	EC meeting at St. Luke's, Manhattan
February 7	Convention Planning Committee at St. Luke's, Manhattan
April 16	EC meeting at Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan
April 16	District Board of Directors meeting at Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan
April 17–19	LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan

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.

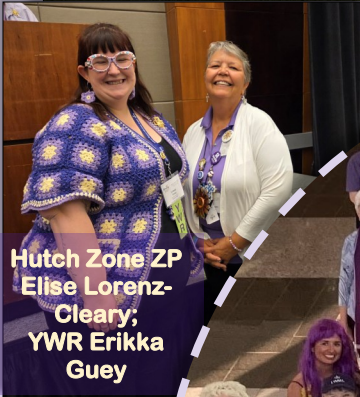


Visit kansaslwml.org for information about district mission grants paid, necessary forms/ music/applications, Orphan Grain Train kits, and much more!

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](#)!

LWML CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS, OMAHA



Hutch Zone ZP
Elise Lorenz-
Cleary;
YWR Erikka
Guey



Northeast ZP Tami
Rutten;
YWR Sadie Meyers



Topeka ZP Shari
Albrecht;
YWR Claire Banion



Linn ZP Pat Kruse;
YWR Olivia
Gaschler



YWRs and their Zone Presidents



LWML Kansas District 2025 Delegates (L-R)
Marla Reinert, Northwest; Tami Rutten, Northeast; Marilyn Will,
Herington; Lynnette Scheele, Linn; Pam Steinmeyer,
Manhattan; Valerie Crawford, Lincoln; Carol Olson, Southeast;
Karen Peterson, Topeka; Brooksie Appel, Southwest; Ruth
Valdez, Wichita; Kris Standley, Hutchinson; Jan Carroll, KC
President Elaine Engelman at podium

Remember — you can watch all the LWML Convention highlights at lwml.org!

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT

2025–2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE PRESIDENTS

Herington Zone, Donna Ascher

Hutchinson Zone, Elise Cleary

Kansas City CrossRoads Zone, Sherri Rose

Lincoln Zone, Shelly Keller

Linn Zone, Pat Kruse

Manhattan Zone, Julie Hatesohl

Northeast Zone, Tammi Rutten

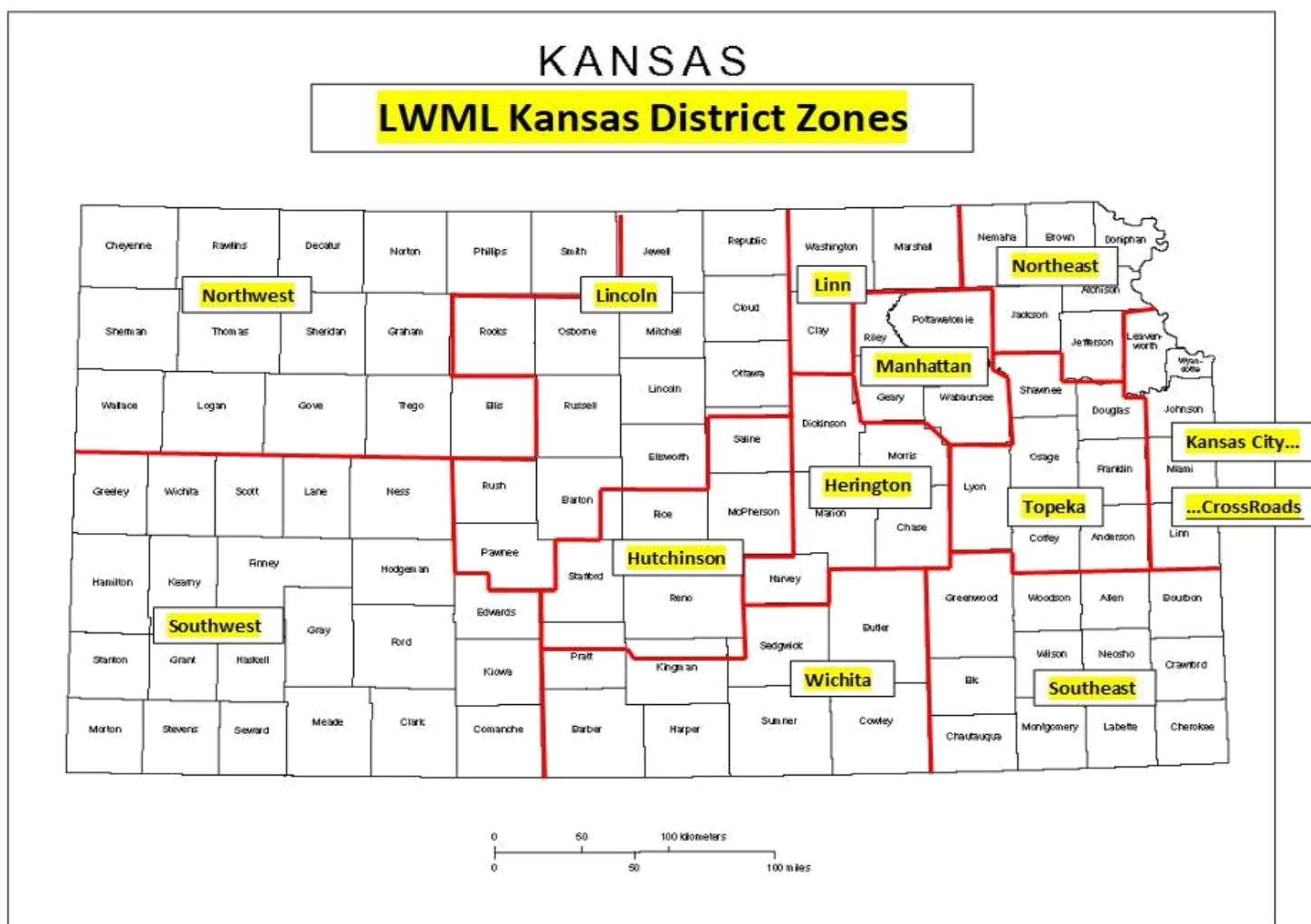
Northwest Zone, Betty Kruse (acting)

Southeast Zone, Sharon Daugherty

Southwest Zone, Marcy Ricke

Topeka Zone, Shari Albrecht

Wichita Zone, Shannon Bergner



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.