



The Kansas Sunshine

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2026 PRE-CONVENTION ISSUE

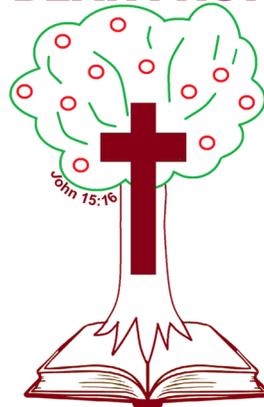
*Convention Presenters, Mission Grants and GGGF Proposals,
District Officer Candidates, Pastoral Counselor Candidates,
and more*

41st Biennial Convention
April 17-19, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn
410 South 3rd Street
Manhattan, Kansas

*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).*

BEAR FRUIT



THAT WILL LAST

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

On behalf of the LWML Kansas District I want to welcome your participation in the 41st Biennial LWML Kansas District Convention! We are excited to share the experiences we have planned for reaching our convention goals — to abide in His Word, live our life in Christ, and work in His service. We will be strengthened to bear good fruit through participating in Bible study, listening to Mites in Action speakers and leadership sessions, working at servant events, and worshipping together. I look forward to visiting with many of you on our convention adventure!

Elaine Engelman
LWML Kansas District President



Welcome to Manhattan for the 41st Biennial LWML Kansas District Convention!

Lutheran Women in Mission, get ready! We can't wait to welcome you to the **41st Biennial Kansas District LWML Convention!** Host zones, Manhattan, Hutchinson, Northwest, and Southwest, have been working alongside the planning committees and hotel staff to prepare a convention filled with faith, fellowship, and fruit-bearing joy.

Our convention theme reminds us of God's promise and purpose for each of us: *"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). From the moment we gather, our time together will be centered on growing in God's Word, worshiping together, and reconnecting with old friends while making new ones. This convention is more than an event — it's a celebration of what God has called and equipped us to do.

Mark your calendars now!
April 17–19, 2026, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Kansas

A special note:

Please bring a **previous convention bag** to use. If you have extra bags, consider sharing them with **First Timers** as a warm welcome into our LWML family, or for others who don't have a bag.

While you're in Manhattan, be sure to set aside time to explore! Visit the **Flint Hills Discovery Center**, stroll through the **KSU Botanical Gardens**, and enjoy the many other attractions this beautiful area has to offer.

We are so excited to gather, grow, and serve together once again. Let's make memories, strengthen our faith, and **paint Manhattan LWML purple!**

Gayle Grimm, Chair
Darla Abbott, Mary Bowen-George, Marcia Ricke, Co-chairs
2026 LWML Kansas District Convention Planning Committee

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2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION PRESENTERS

Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler **Bible Study Leader**



Rev. Mitchel Schuessler served as the LWML Pastoral Counselor from 2017–2021. He has served the Southern Illinois District (SID) LWML District as pastoral counselor two different times and SID Midstate, Upper Kaskaskia, and Metro Central LWML Zones, as their pastoral counselor. Pastor Mitchel and his wife, Penny, have also served as Community Life Builders at the National Youth Gatherings twice in San Antonio, Texas, three times in New Orleans, Louisiana, Atlanta, Georgia, and twice in Orlando, Florida. He has served on various boards and committees in the SID.

Pastor Schuessler and Penny have been blessed with two children, Rachael (Brandon) Beckemeyer, who lives in Collinsville, Illinois; and Matthew (Chelsey) Schuessler, granddaughter Makenzie, and grandson Andrew, who live in Columbus, Nebraska. He enjoys being Papa to these sweet grandchildren. Pastor Schuessler is an avid railfan and model railroader. He and Penny enjoy traveling by train and driving around the country to find and visit interesting and historical sights. He also enjoys reading and photography.

Chaplain Craig Muehler, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret) **Christian Life Breakfast Speaker**



Chaplain Craig Muehler, a retired U.S. Navy captain, serves as the director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. He began serving in that position in August 2014, after retiring as deputy chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps in July 2014.

As director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, he is the chief liaison to the more than 160 LCMS chaplains serving in all branches of the military active and reserve, Civil Air Patrol, and Coast Guard Auxiliary. His responsibilities include recruitment of chaplain candidates, endorsement for military duty, denominational training and education for ministry within the armed forces, maintaining updated records on all pastoral acts performed by Lutheran chaplains, and ministry support for the families of LCMS chaplains within the military, active and reserve, and the community in which they live.



Chaplain Muehler and his wife, Kristen, have four children; Seth, Jesse, Faith, and Hope.

Rev. John Kastner, Light of the World Lutheran Church **Mites in Action Speaker**



Rev. John Kastner currently serves as associate pastor at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas and pastor at Light of the World Lutheran Church, De Soto, Kansas. Light of the World is a mission congregation in Western Johnson County, Kansas, working to become a self-supporting ministry in the Kansas City suburbs. He served on the planning committee for the 2025 Kansas District Youth Gathering.

Pastor Kastner is married to Beatrice; they have three children, Anastasia, Emmett, and Theodosia.

2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION PRESENTERS

Rev. Sean Kilgo, Campus Ministry Mites in Action Speaker

Rev. Sean Kilgo serves as the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence, Kansas, where he has been since 2021. Previously, he served as the associate pastor of the Northeast Kansas Partnership in Sabetha, Fairview, and Hiawatha, Kansas for four and a half years. In addition to his pastoral duties and working with the students at the University of Kansas, Pastor Kilgo serves as the Circuit Visitor for the Topeka/Lawrence Circuit, the Campus Ministry Coordinator for the LCMS Kansas District, is on the board of directors for Lutherans for Life Kansas, and is a Stewardship Presenter for the LCMS Office of Stewardship.



Pastor Kilgo and his wife, Michelle, have been married for 19 years and have been blessed with two children, Isaiah and Phoebe.

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) Mites in Action Speaker



Shortly before her retirement in 2021 from her position at Zion Lutheran Church, Newton, Kansas, as a parish youth worker, Donna Williams was selected to become the second District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) for the LCMS Kansas District Disaster Response, Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), following her mentor, Rev. Rocky Mease. Drawing on God's words of promise and relying on His strength and guidance, Donna reminds herself daily that "prepare to adapt" applies not only in Disaster Response but in everyday life as well.

Donna resides in rural Hesston, Kansas, with Terry, her husband of 37 years and Australian Shepherd, Tag. They enjoy spending time with their four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild (and one on the way!). Donna also enjoys piecing quilts, gardening, and photography.

Carol Kratzer, Lutheran Church Charities, K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry Mites in Action Speaker

Carol Kratzer and husband, John, were introduced to Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry in 2017. They started with Keren Comfort Dog in May 2021. With LWML support, the Keren Stuffy Program allows them to extend the ministry even after they have left a location; a soft reminder of Jesus' love.

Carol and John have been married for 50 years, meeting in Vallejo, California. God has blessed them with a beautiful family and wonderful grandkids.



***Greetings to the Convention Body
LCMS Kansas District President Pastor Justin Panzer and
LLL Kansas District President Joe Chretien***

***LWML Representative
Shari Miller, Vice President of Christian Life***

CONVENTION SONG LEADER



Hannah Nunnenkamp-Engelman is a dedicated educator and worship leader with over 13 years of experience in music education. She has served in both public and private schools and is currently in her third year teaching at Concordia Lutheran School of Omaha. Hannah holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Kansas State University. Hannah has led music for LWML district and national conventions, including the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha. She is passionate about sharing the Gospel through music and ministry.

Hannah's husband, Aaron, works for a ministry-based company called HouseRight and will run tech at the convention. Together, they are blessed with three beautiful boys: Avriel, 8, Hiram, 5, and Royal, 1. As a family, they joyfully serve the Lord, embracing His calling in education, worship, and faith.



Don't forget—if this is your first time attending an LWML Kansas District Convention, be sure to pick up a gift from the Special Focus Ministries Committee at the registration table!

2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you to the following members of the 2026 LWML Kansas District Nominating Committee for selecting an outstanding slate of officer candidates: Chair: LaJean Rinker, Topeka Zone; Committee Members: Dayle Reynolds, KC Crossroads Zone, Lisa Brack, Lincoln Zone, Betsy Friedrichs, Linn Zone, Sara Deepe, Wichita Zone; ex-officio member: Past President Kim Burdett; and Rev. John Werner, LWML Kansas District Senior Counselor.

The following candidates have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot at the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention for these positions:

VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

Betty Amey, Wichita Zone, and Sharon Daugherty, Southeast Zone

VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH

Kris Osler, Wichita Zone, and Marie Roth, Topeka Zone

VICE PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Sharon Kolanowski, Herington Zone, and Carol Olson, Southeast Zone

VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

Tiffany Harkins, Herington Zone

TREASURER

Rachel DeBusk, Southeast Zone

PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Rev. Mark Gaschler, Linn Zone, and Rev. John Kastner, Kansas City CrossRoads Zone

2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Office of Vice President of Christian Life

Betty Amey, Wichita Zone
Holy Cross, Wichita

Local LWML: Has served as circle leader and local group president.

Zone LWML: Has served as zone president and Christian Growth Chair.

District LWML: LWML Kansas District Vice President of Caring Service, two terms as committee chair.

Other Church Related Experiences: LCMS Kansas District Older Adult Committee; Holy Cross School teacher for 21 years; currently Sunday School teacher; various church committees; has served as Youth Leader; choir member; weekly Bible study leader.

Work Experience: Besides teaching for 21 years at Holy Cross School, taught one year Preschool at Redeemer Lutheran, Wichita, and worked on an Elementary Math/Science Project at Wichita State for two years.

General: In retirement, Betty enjoys volunteering weekly at the AbleLight Thrift Store in Wichita and twice a week at the Orphan Grain Train Warehouse in Wichita. Since retirement, she and her husband have enjoyed traveling, vegetable gardening, and reading. Betty is married to Leon “Butch” Amey, and they have three children, Ben (Colette), Brian (Pam), Rebecca (Mark), and eight wonderful grandchildren.



Sharon Daugherty, Southeast Zone
St. Peter's, Humbolt

Local LWML Group: Group President

Zone LWML: President; Vice President; Secretary; Christian Life Committee Chair; Caring Service Committee member

District LWML: Rocky Mountain District Vice President of Caring Service; President's Assistant; Christian Life Committee member; Christian Life Committee Chair; Caring Service Committee member

(National) LWML: Volunteer at Christian Life exhibit booth, 2025 LWML Convention, Omaha, Nebraska

Other Church Related Experience: Bible Study Leader; Church Secretary; Altar Guild Chair; Sunday School teacher; Vacation Bible School teacher; Director of “The Living Last Supper,” pageant, for two seasons; banner designer and maker; and church organist

Work Experience: Government work related to dams and water control; secretarial work; legal secretary; clerk in a municipal court; secretary for highway patrol; and pantry manager for the K-Mart Corporation

General: Sharon enjoys sewing, reading, creating banner designs and making those banners, member of community band playing the French horn, collecting pieces of art, and painting. Sharon is married to Rev. Ervin A. Daugherty, Jr. They are parents to five sons — Scott Robinson, Erick Robinson, James Daugherty, Eric Daugherty, and Peter Daugherty, and one daughter, Shawn Daugherty (deceased). Sharon and Pastor Daugherty are blessed to be grandparents to twenty-five grandchildren.



2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Office of Vice President of Gospel Outreach

***Kris Osler, Wichita Zone
Holy Cross, Wichita***

Local LWML: Co-Chair Annual Women's Retreat Planning Committee, 2013 to present; Co-VP of Holy Cross Group 2021–2023

District LWML: LWML Kansas District VP of Communication, 2020-2024

Other Church Related Experiences: Fellowship Commissioner at Holy Cross 2016–2019; Women's Bible Study Leader 2015 to present

Work Experience: Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, August 2011–May 2025, Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School; Upper Grade Teacher, St. Paul's Lutheran School, August 2000–May 2003; Substitute teaching in interim years

Hobbies and Interests: What I enjoy most is spending time with my children and grandchildren! I also enjoy writing devotions and Bible studies, quilting projects both large and small (especially grandbaby quilts!), and I keep trying "gardening", but it always just turns out "weeding." I love it anyway!

General: Tom and Kris have been married for 38 years and have three children. Their oldest child is daughter Erin, who is married to Mitch and has a son, Brooks. The second is Sean, who is married to Miranda, and they have two children, Tatum and Arie. Their youngest is Trent, a recent grad from K-State and doting uncle.



***Marie Roth, Topeka Zone
Faith, Ottawa***

Local LWML Group: LWML group contact for the zone, 2024–present

Zone LWML: Southeast Zone YWR to 2018 LWML Kansas District Convention

District LWML: Co-archivist-Historian (2019–present)

Other Church Related Experience: Sunday School teacher, 2017–2020; Board of Education member, 2019–2021; volunteer with VBS and the midweek educational program; Marie plays viola and handbells for church services

Work Experience: Marie currently teaches public speaking at two local colleges. In the past, she has served as a membership manager for Concordia Historical Institute and a human resources/office services representative for an insurance company. She serves as president of her local library board. Marie homeschooled her children for five years.

General: Marie enjoys spending time outside with her family. She loves going on adventures to new places and is an avid reader. Marie is married to Timothy, and they have four children: Levi (12), Nathaniel (10), Abigail (7), and Shiloh (5).



2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Office of Vice President of Organizational Resources

Sharon Kolanowski, Herington Zone
Our Redeemer, Herington

Local LWML Group: President, Tabitha Society, Our Redeemer, Herington; Group President and Secretary, Risen Savior, Chandler, Arizona; Group President, Treasurer, and Secretary, Redeemer, Huntington Beach, California

Zone LWML: Zone President and Treasurer, Huntington Beach, California

Other Church Related Experience: Kansas LCMS District Caring Ministry/Older Adult Ministry Chair

Work Experience: Retired federal service

General: Sharon enjoys sewing and working puzzles. Her family includes her mother, Helen Mitchell, and her daughter, Lydia Kolanowski Roe.



Carol Olson, Southeast Zone
Grace, Iola

Local LWML Group: Secretary; Treasurer

District LWML: LWML Kansas District 2022 Convention Co-Chair

Other Church Related Experience: Stewardship Committee; Secretary; Finance Committee; Altar Guild

Work Experience: Banker

General: Carol enjoys walking, reading, and camping. She is married to Joe. Carol has two sons, Mitch and Mark Valentine, two stepchildren, Hannah Troster and Joseph Olson, and six grandchildren.



2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATES

Candidate for the Office of Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Tiffany Harkins, Herington Zone
Faith, Abilene

Local LWML Group: Secretary; President

Zone LWML: President; Secretary; Bylaws Revision Committee member

District LWML: Special Focus Ministries Committee member; Christian Life Committee member; Christian Life Committee Chair; Gospel Outreach Committee member

(National) LWML: Christian Resources Editors Committee member

Other Church Related Experience: Youth Board member; Youth Board Chair; Sunday School teacher; Midweek teacher; Women's Retreat Committee Chair

Work Experience: Math teacher for 22 years

General: Tiffany is married to Rev. Nathan Harkins. She enjoys writing cards of encouragement, working crossword puzzles, reading, and going on walks.



2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT OFFICER CANDIDATES

Candidate for the Office of Treasurer

Rachel DeBusk, Southeast Zone
Immanuel, Hepler

Local LWML Group: Vice President of Immanuel's WinGS group; organized a monthly luncheon group

Zone LWML: 2018 Southeast Zone YWR

District LWML: District YWR at 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington; chairman of Special Focus Ministries Committee

Other Church Related Experience: Congregation Secretary for six years; Board of Education; Sunday School; VBS

Work Experience: Worked at GNBank as a Credit Analyst for six years, working directly with agriculture and commercial lending. One prior year banking experience with UMB Bank. Prior to banking, worked in Ag retail as a sales representative for crop inputs for a couple of years and in wholesale Ag, marketing fertilizer throughout the Midwest.

General: Rachel and Zach have four children, Ellie, Levi, Luke, and Emily. Rachel and the children love spending as much time as possible on the farm with Zach during harvest and planting seasons. Rachel has recently taken up gardening, and involves the children with that. She enjoys crafting, sewing, and reading. Besides being active members of their congregation, Zach and Rachel both enjoy supporting agriculture in their rural community and throughout the state of Kansas. They volunteer with the Farm Bureau board, FFA Alumni group, and help local children with their 4-H projects. Rachel has had the opportunity to further support agriculture through employment at GNBank by planning Ag producer events for the local area and attending state Kansas Bankers Association Ag events.



As a Lutheran Woman in Mission, you are a gifted child of God! Enabling you to use your gifts in ministry to the people of Kansas and of the world is part of the mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The LWML Kansas District Executive Committee is always looking for volunteer personnel to serve on district committees and in appointed positions; it is most helpful to have information available with the names of women willing to serve. If you are willing to serve the Lord and lead the women of the LWML Kansas District, complete and return the *Committee Appointment — Personnel Profile (CAPP) Form*, found on the website, kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources. *CAPP Forms will be available at the Organizational Resources Committee information table at this convention.*

- Appointments are for two years, ending at the completion of the district convention.
- Committee members help plan and attend the annual Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL).
- Committee members are expected to attend district convention in the spring of even-numbered years.
- Standing Committee Chairmen are members of the Board of Directors (BOD).

Although the responsibilities are great, so are the rewards! You will be strengthened in your spiritual walk, and you will form deep and lasting friendships as you use your God-given gifts. Many of our current officers and committee members are employed outside the home; many hold offices and are also involved in their local LWML groups and zones. If you're interested, talk it over with your family, be in prayer, and discuss it with a trusted friend or a district officer.



The LWML Kansas District values you and your gifts! You have been given much. This opportunity for service may be in God's plan for you. May you continue to be blessed by serving with gladness wherever He calls you.

2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT PASTORAL COUNSELOR CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Office of Pastoral Counselor

**Rev. Mark Gaschler, Linn Zone
Immanuel, Linn**

Zone LWML: Linn Zone Counselor since 2023

Other Church Related Experience: Teaching Bible studies, particularly Old Testament

Work Experience: Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, in rural Washington County, since his ordination in 2023

General: Pastor Gaschler graduated from Concordia University, Seward, with a BA in English (2014) and from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne with a Master of Divinity (2023).

He is married to Olivia. His hobbies include reading, writing, Greek and Hebrew studies, music, and photography.



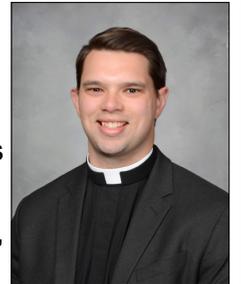
**Rev. John Kastner, Kansas City CrossRoads Zone
Beautiful Savior, Olathe and Light of the World, De Soto**

Local LWML Group: Helping to start a local group at Light of the World, De Soto

Other Church Related Experience: Served on a committee to plan and implement Kansas District Youth Gathering 2025

Work Experience: Currently serving a mission congregation in western Johnson County, seeking to establish a self-supporting ministry in a growing part of the Kansas City suburbs

General: Pastor Kastner graduated from Concordia, Nebraska, with a Bachelor of Science and Pre-Seminary degree, and Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He and his wife, Beatrice, have three children, Anastasia, Emmett, and Theodosia. Pastor Kastner enjoys the outdoors, cooking, and baking.



IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE IN THE LWML KANSAS DISTRICT,
BE SURE TO COMPLETE A COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT – PERSONNEL PROFILE (CAPP) FORM.
DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 9 OF THIS PUBLICATION OR VISIT
kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources, UNDER THE FORMS BAR.



ATTENTION DELEGATES:

There are NO Bylaws change proposals for the 2026 convention.

The bylaws changes discussed and reviewed by the Board of Directors are under further review and will not be voted on during the 2026 convention.

2026–2028 MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS

Delegates will vote for up to four (4) mission grants

1. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, Michigan

Project 72: Jesus Sent Them Two by Two..... \$5,000

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has a program for the training of Lutheran deaconesses in East Africa. Each of the three training sessions will have approximately fifteen students who will then return to their congregations to teach. These funds would help with travel and lodging for two teachers, rental for a teaching location, and teaching supplies, such as books and other teaching aids. Training forty-five church leaders will enable further training to congregations so that they may teach their people who typically number in the hundreds or even thousands of members.

Submitted by Nancy Taylor, St. John Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas

2. Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Ottawa, Kansas

Playground Equipment Update/Replace \$10,000

The 23-year-old playground equipment is a prime outreach for preschool students, who are primarily non-members and are unchurched. The current playground equipment is becoming unsafe and a drain on the budget due to maintenance costs. The funds would replace and update playground equipment to include a sand and water play table, a sensory rock funnel wall, a cottage playhouse, Skyward Summit Climber, scoops, buckets, and balls. Some of the funds will go toward the purchase of a large playset that needs to be replaced.

Submitted by Stephanie Circle, Faith Lutheran Church, Ottawa, Kansas

3. Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA), Kansas City, Kansas

Laundromat \$10,000

The Argentine community in Kansas City, Kansas, faces significant economic and social challenges including limited access to affordable hygiene services, housing insecurity, and a lack of supportive educational and social resources. The Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) is requesting funding for a lower cost laundromat with wrap-around services to meet spiritual, educational, physical, and emotional needs. The laundromat will include dedicated space for Bible studies, pastoral care, Stephen Ministry, and other faith-based gatherings. The project aims to improve access to affordable laundry services while serving as a hub for social and educational support.

Submitted by Susan Parrish, Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park, Kansas

4. Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, Wickenburg, Arizona

Financial Assistance for Church Workers..... \$5,000

Church workers are in the “front lines” of bringing hope, help, and healing that the Gospel offers to people in the ministries and communities that they are called to served. Called workers experience various stages of burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds. The funds being requested will be used to financially support men and women in full-time ministry to attend a week-long retreat at Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat.

Submitted by Mary Schmidt, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Haven, Kansas

2026–2028 MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS

Delegates will vote for up to four (4) mission grants

5. Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, Missouri

Changed Lives, Shared Word: Replenishing the Bible Printing Fund \$5,000

The funds being requested will be used to replenish the Bible printing and distribution fund which enables the printing and delivery of new Bible translations to communities receiving Scripture in their heart language for the first time. Each Bible costs approximately \$20 to print. The impact of receiving Scripture in one’s own language is profound — strengthening faith, inspiring culturally relevant worship, and affirming that God speaks every language.

Submitted by Alyssa Petty, Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, Missouri

6. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, Michigan

Praise Him Africa! \$7,500

The funds requested will be used for a songbook of more than 100 children’s songs written in the heart language of those who receive them in areas throughout East Africa. The printing has begun in Swahili but is requested in more than a dozen other languages. The gift of music will reinforce the message of Christ crucified and risen to all who receive a copy.

Submitted by Elaine Engelman, Zion Lutheran Ladies Circle, Chanute, Kansas

7. First Lutheran Church LWML, Phillipsburg, Kansas

Orphan Grain Train \$5,000

The funds being requested will be used for shipping costs. Donated items are cleaned, boxed, and labeled at the Phillipsburg, Kansas, location and taken to the main warehouse in Grand Island, Nebraska. Orphan Grain Train is a worldwide relief ministry bringing Christ to those in need with spiritual, emotional, and humanitarian aid.

Submitted by Michela Hiesterman, First Lutheran Church LWML, Phillipsburg, Kansas

8. Concordia Center for the Family, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Family Discipleship Facilitators \$5,000

Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) is devoted to “Uniting homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus!” The Family Discipleship Facilitator Training is a project to unite homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. The funds for this project will be used to recruit and train at least ten new Family Discipleship Facilitators within the LWML Kansas District.

Submitted by Ann Harms, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas

9. Lutherans for Life, Nevada, Iowa

For Life Ministry Development Mission Initiative \$5,000

Using state-of-the-art communications tools, Lutherans for Life’s For Life Ministry Development mission initiative is to create new training programs for generational engagement. These tools will bring trainers to learners online through video and other interactive tools. The funds will be used for the development of these training programs to be utilized throughout the active Lutherans for Life presence in the State of Kansas.

Submitted by Gretchen Hollman, Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee, Kansas

2026–2028 MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS

Delegates will vote for up to four (4) mission grants

10. LeadaChild, Olathe, Kansas

Model Lutheran School for Sierra Leone \$10,000

LeadaChild is currently working to expand the education program in Sierra Leone from K-6 to add middle and high school students and facilitate training teachers to share the Gospel by teaching God’s Word and doctrine throughout the school day. The funds for this project will be used to provide support for this school expansion.

Submitted by Shari Albrecht, Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas

11. Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries

Opening and Operating a Maternity Home, St. Louis, Missouri..... \$10,000

A new maternity home in St. Louis, Missouri is being opened as part of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries’ network of homes which offer a home, help, and hope for women in crisis during and after unplanned pregnancies. The funds would be used to support the cost of a deaconess called to serve in this vital role in the new maternity home ministry location.

Submitted by Julia Heinz, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Sanford, Florida

12. Christ Lutheran Church

Revitalization Mission Project, Manhattan, Kansas..... \$8,000

As part of a revitalization mission project, Christ Lutheran Church reaches out to the unchurched by canvassing the neighborhood and inviting residents to attend worship and participate in special events. The funds would be used for postage, supplies, brochures, and books from Concordia Publishing House (CPH) to proclaim the Gospel to the unchurched.

Submitted by Rev. James Woelmer, Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas

13. Fairmount Ministries and Coffee Company

Mission Outreach at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas..... \$8,000

The Fairmount Ministries Coffeehouse is a safe space for Wichita State University students and young adults to have conversations about faith life. The location provides a bookshelf that offers free Bibles, copies of Luther’s Small Catechism, and other Lutheran and Christian literature for their guests. The funds would be used to continue to offer these items free to visitors.

Submitted by Debra Wilson, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas

Mission grants are funded from Mite Box offerings and other designated offerings. Grants are selected by delegates at the 2026 LWML Kansas District convention in Manhattan. Mission grants are awarded throughout the 2026–2028 biennium as donations allow and in the order of number of votes received.



God’s Gracious Gifts Fund (GGGF) is supported by memorials, honorariums, Thrivent Choice® dollars, and other designated donations. The recipients are selected by delegates at the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention in Manhattan. GGGF grants are disbursed immediately following the 2026 convention.

2026–2028 GOD’S GRACIOUS GIFT FUND (GGGF) PROPOSALS

Delegates will vote for up to four (4) GGGF Grants; \$19,200 available funding

1. St. Luke’s Lutheran, Manhattan, Kansas

Devotion Books for Widows\$4,200

This grant would fund the purchase of three copies of *Life After...Devotions for Widows* and *Life Continues On...Devotions for Widows*, books published by the LWML, for each LWML group within the Kansas District to distribute to widows in their congregation or surrounding community. This would help to point the widows to the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ while they learn to navigate an often unwelcomed chapter of life.

Submitted by Susan Brunkow, St. Luke’s Lutheran LWML, Manhattan, Kansas

2. Immanuel Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Junction City, Kansas

Classroom Books and Bibles\$1,000

These resources would support the current school curriculum. Currently the school borrows books and Bibles from libraries and classes must share copies. Getting the classrooms their own copies of these materials will help the children, many of whom do not attend church with their families, to better learn and grow with the words of our Lord.

Submitted by Chelsey Brosious, Immanuel Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Junction City, Kansas

3. Faith Lutheran, Ottawa, Kansas

LifeCare Center New Parent Supplies\$2,000

Faith Lutheran has a ministry group called Living Hope that works with LifeCare Center to serve as mentors for parents facing an unplanned pregnancy. These funds would be used to supply baby cribs, car seats, strollers, and baby swings to parents who complete multiple parenting classes and mentoring sessions with the center as a way to show Christ’s care and concern in a tangible way to empower families to choose life for their unborn child.

Submitted by Marie Roth, Faith Lutheran, Ottawa, Kansas

4. Light of the World Lutheran, De Soto, Kansas

Community Welcome Bags.....\$5,000

The mission congregation, Light of the World, would like to be intentional about outreach to their ever expanding and growing part of Johnson County. With this grant they plan to purchase canvas bags and fill them with information about the congregation and a copy of the CPH booklet, *A Simple Explanation to Christianity*. These bags will be hand-delivered to build relationships with new residents as they move into the area.

Submitted by Pastor John Kastner, Light of the World Lutheran, DeSoto, Kansas

5. St. John Lutheran School, Alma, Kansas

Greenhouse Community Outreach\$2,000

Nearly two-thirds of the neighbors around St. John Lutheran Church and School are not connected to any church. This grant would allow the building of a greenhouse and would enable the students from St. John Lutheran to build relationships with local elementary students in USD 329, Wabaunsee, by including them in their science, math, and art lessons in the greenhouse. Neighboring families would then be invited to start plants of their own in the greenhouse as the school year ends in the spring, allowing relationships to grow in an age where digital interactions often overshadow face-to-face encounters.

Submitted by James MacGregor, St. John Lutheran School, Alma, Kansas

2026–2028 GOD’S GRACIOUS GIFT FUND (GGGF) PROPOSALS

Delegates will vote for up to four (4) GGGF Grants; \$19,200 available funding

6. Calvary Lutheran Learning Center, Topeka, Kansas

Summer Program \$3,000

Calvary Lutheran Learning Center is working to share the Good News and love of Jesus with little hearts, sometimes for the first time. This grant would provide a safe and affordable Gospel-centered summer program, expanding the teaching of the love of Jesus to additional local families and children of higher ages, including many foster children.

Submitted by Deaconess Lara McComack, Calvary Lutheran, Topeka, Kansas

7. Trinity Lutheran Church, Atchison, Kansas

Jail Ministry \$2,000

After Trinity’s jail ministry Bible study team noticed how appreciative those at the jail were of any special meals or treats they received, they knew they could put their words into action and provide some of that delight as well. The team is not allowed to leave Bibles or Christian literature, but with this grant they would provide two meals for the 50–100 inmates and jailers around Easter and Labor Day, as well as cookie treats for other holidays throughout the year. This act of service would include a Bible verse with each meal and reinforce the Gospel message shared during the Bible studies.

Submitted by Joyce Duitsman, Trinity Lutheran, Atchison, Kansas

8. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Cheney, Kansas

The Bahamas Mission Team..... \$5,000

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church is planning a mission trip to Nassau, Bahamas. This trip will include Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Bible studies at a Haitian refugee village to spread the Gospel. The team will provide hygiene products for residents of All-Saints Aids Camp and Unity House, as well as provide basic maintenance, repairs, and cleaning to the Lutheran Church of Nassau and parsonage. Funds for this grant will help purchase supplies for these planned mission trip activities.

Submitted by Cheryl Masinelli, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Cheney, Kansas

Did you know that you can follow the progress of our mission grants on the website?
Visit kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach.

CONVENTION OFFERINGS

Recipients of Convention Offerings are as follows:

Convention Offering #1, Friday Evening Worship

- 2026–2028 Mission Grants

Convention Offering #2, Sunday Morning Sending Service

- Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Food Co-op
- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Food Co-op



Convention Offerings may be given online through the website, kansaslwml.org, OR on the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App from your phone. Information for using the Vanco App is also available on the [Giving page](#) of the website. Convention offerings will be available for online giving from **March 15 through April 30**.

Mite Offerings made by mail should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Carolyn Fishburn, P.O. Box 491, Haven, KS 67543, **by March 15** in order to be included in this biennium.

CONVENTION PRAYER ROOM

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 invites us into a conversation with the Father.

The Convention Prayer Room will be a quiet space where you can pour out your heart to God in prayer and praise alike. In this dedicated space you will find a place for private prayer requests and prayer requests to be shared within our convention community.

A Legacy Book will also be available in the Prayer Room, where you can memorialize both LWML members and pastoral counselors who have passed on to Glory.

You are invited to come to the Prayer room, bear fruit in prayer, and walk closer with Jesus who has both chosen us and appointed us to “Bear Fruit that will Last.”



CONVENTION BANNERS AND MISSION FLAGS



Each zone is asked to provide a banner made with the convention theme, *Bear Fruit that will Last*, and bring it to convention. Zone Presidents will carry their zone’s banner in the Saturday morning procession. Zone Young Women Representatives will carry mission flags. Both the banner and the flags will be displayed during convention. Photos of the banners and information about the banner design and designer will be posted on the [LWML Kansas District website](#) following convention. Please be sure to admire the wonderful handiwork of the dedicated, talented women who designed and constructed the banners!

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

At this convention, our Gifts from the Heart are items for Cancer Care Kits, Military Personnel Gift Bags, and specific food and personal care items for Flint Hills Breadbasket, a Manhattan charity. Items are listed below. *Please bring only these items to convention.*



Cancer Care Kits

Smaller size throw blanket
Curel (only this brand) hand cream
Tea Bags
Hard Candy
Gum
Mints
Chapstick or lip moisturizer

Military Personnel Gift Bags

Granola Bars
Trail Mix
Drink mixes
Gum
Candy

Flint Hills Breadbasket

Manhattan
Peanut Butter
Canned Meat
Shampoo
Toilet paper

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).*



Servant Events will take place on-site on Friday, from 1:00–4:30 p.m., and are come and go events. *There is no need to register for servant events.*

Assemble Cancer Care Kits

Assemble Military Gift Bags

Coloring Cards will be available for cancer patients and for military personnel

HOTEL INFORMATION

Reservation information:

Booking your Hilton Garden Inn room reservation is as easy as a click of your mouse!

Access the Hilton Garden Inn website from the registration form or here:

1. Click on [LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION](#), or copy and paste this address into your browser: www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/mangigi-93u-aa8c0bc4-3d13-4a59-821f-367695c804e4/
2. Click BOOK A ROOM;
3. Select the type of room you want then click QUICK BOOK. Enter your payment and guest details to finalize your stay.

NOTE: If you need to adjust the days of your stay click EDIT STAY in the upper right corner of the page, place your cursor on the date and click. Adjust your date on the calendar.

More hotel information:

Kansas State University is holding it's Open House Weekend the same weekend as our convention. Please keep this in mind as you consider attending the convention. The LWML block of rooms that are not reserved by the designated cut-off date of March 21, may be released by the hotel to the general public. If you are planning to attend the convention, please make your room reservations before March 21.

Your Convention Registration fee includes the Saturday evening banquet and entertainment. We are excited to announce the entertainment will be provided by

Harmony Hill Farmstead and Band

Harmony Hill Farmstead and Band is a first-generation family bluegrass band from the hills of Wilson County, Kansas. The Kleopfer family comes from a long line of faithful families rooted in Christ and are blessed to share their gifts playing hymns and gospel music around the Midwest. The band consists of Dad (Matt — banjo), Mom (Jenessa — bass), 14-year-old Kamden (fiddle), 12-year-old Kennedy (mandolin), 10-year-old Karson (guitar), 9-year-old Kortlan (dobro), 2-year-old Calvin (spoons), 10-month-old Klyde (undecided). Each September, Harmony Hill hosts the annual Hymns on the Hill at their family farm in Fredonia, Kansas. The farm is home to the world famous "Grain ol' Opry" amphitheater made from a neighbor's old grain bin. Visit Harmony Hill Farmstead and Band on Facebook.



Bring Your Own convention Bag!

Bring a previous convention bag to use — if you have an extra, bring one to share with someone who doesn't have one.

How old is your oldest convention bag???

CONVENTION DATES, DEADLINES, AND QUICK LINKS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| February 7 | Convention Planning Meeting #3, St. Luke's, Manhattan |
| March 1 | Zone YWR Registration Forms Due to VP of Special Focus Ministries |
| March 1 | Deadline Convention Early Bird Registration |
| March 15 | 2028 District Convention Theme and Bible Verse Ideas Due to President Elaine |
| March 16 | Deadline Convention Shirt Orders |
| March 21 | Deadline Convention Hotel Reservations at LWML Rate |
| March 28 | Deadline Convention Registrations to include meals |
| April 16 | Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan |
| April 17–19 | LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan |
| May 1–2 | Executive Committee (old and new) Transition Meeting, location TBA |
| May 30 | Convention Planning Transition Meeting, St. Luke's, Manhattan |

Hotel Information: [LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION](#), or copy and paste the following address into your browser: www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/mangigi-93u-aa8c0bc4-3d13-4a59-821f-367695c804e4/

LWML Kansas District Convention webpage: kansaslwml.org/2026-lwml-kansas-district-convention
Convention Registrar: Jolene Stackhouse, conventionregistrar@kansaslwml.org

2026 LWML Kansas District Convention T-Shirt Order Form



Please mail payment with order form to:
 Claire Banion, 6101 SW Brookfield Circle, Topeka, KS, 66614

Questions? Text 785.250.8905

ORDER INFORMATION

**ORDER AND PAYMENT
 MUST BE RECEIVED BY
 MONDAY, MARCH 16TH**



This t-shirt is a Gildan soft-style tee in a heather berry-colored “Antique Heliconia” with the convention logo on the front and no design on the back.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

| Adult | Qty |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="radio"/> S | |
| <input type="radio"/> M | |
| <input type="radio"/> L | |
| <input type="radio"/> 1X | |
| <input type="radio"/> 2X | |
| <input type="radio"/> 3X | |

PAYMENT METHOD



Cash



Check payable to “LWML Kansas District Convention 2026”

QUANTITY _____ X \$20

TOTAL DUE _____

DELIVERY METHOD

**ALL SHIRTS ORDERED TOGETHER
 WILL BE GROUPED TOGETHER TO
 BE COLLECTED AT THE
 CONVENTION ON APRIL 17-19**

NOTES

CONVENTION SHIRTS ARE PRE-ORDER ONLY AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT CONVENTION.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

2026 LWML KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 17–19, MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Thursday, April 16

6 p.m.
7–10 p.m.

(Pre-Convention Activities)

Board of Directors Dinner and Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn
Exhibitors and Committees Setup

Friday, April 17

7 a.m.–6 p.m.
7:30 a.m.
8 a.m.–10 p.m.
8 a.m.–10 p.m.
9 a.m.
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
11:15 a.m.
1–4:30 p.m.
1–1:45 p.m.; 2–2:45 p.m.
3:45–5 p.m.
5–6:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
9 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

(Pre-Convention Activities)

Registration and Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) ingathering open
Executive Committee (EC) Prayer Breakfast
Prayer Room Open
Exhibitors and Committees Setup
Banner Procession Practice — includes YWR's
Exhibits Open; CPH and LWML Stores Open
YWR/Mentor lunch (by invitation only)
On-site Servant Events (come and go, self-guided projects)
Leader Development Sessions
Choir Practice
Dinner Buffet
Pre-service Music
Convention Opening and Worship with Holy Communion
Reception with the Executive Committee
YWR Friday Night Party

Saturday, April 18

6:30 a.m.–10 p.m.
6:30–7:30 a.m.
6:30–8:30 a.m.
8:15 a.m.
6:30–9 a.m.
7–8 a.m.
7:45 a.m.
8 a.m.
8:15 a.m.
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Convention Session 1

Prayer Room Open
Breakfast Buffet
Registration

DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 8:15 A.M.

Gifts from the Heart ingathering
Exhibits Open; CPH and LWML Stores Open
Pre-session Singing
Banner Procession
Bible Study; Business Meeting with Voting for Grants and Officers
Lunch and Men's Luncheon
Exhibits Open; CPH and LWML Stores Open

Saturday, April 18

12:45 p.m.
1 p.m.
3:30–5 p.m.
3:30–6 p.m.

Convention Session 2

Pre-session Singing
Mites in Action Speakers
Interest Sessions
Exhibits Open; CPH and LWML Stores Open

Saturday, April 18

6:30 p.m.
9 p.m.

Convention Session 3

Banquet/Inspirational Music with Harmony Hill Farmstead and Band
YWR Gathering with LWML Representative Shari Miller

Sunday, April 19

7 a.m.–12 p.m.
7 a.m.
8:45 a.m.
9 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
NOON

Convention Session 4 and Sending Service

Prayer Room Open (public prayer requests may be left until 10:30 a.m.)
Christian Life Breakfast with Speaker Chaplain Craig Muehler
Pre-session Singing
Final Business Meeting with Bible Study
Sending Service with Installation of Officers
Convention Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: *This is a preliminary convention schedule which may change.*