



The Kansas Sunshine

Volume 83
Number 4
2026 Post-Convention Issue



2026 POST-CONVENTION ISSUE

41st Biennial LWML Kansas District Convention April 17-19, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn
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).

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Newly Elected Officers

Vice President of Christian Life

Betty Amey, Wichita Zone, Holy Cross, Wichita

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Marie Roth, Topeka Zone, Faith, Ottawa

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Carol Olson, Southeast Zone, Grace, Iola

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Tiffany Harkins, Herington Zone, Faith, Abilene

Treasurer

Rachel DeBusk, Southeast Zone, Immanuel, Hepler

Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Mark Gaschler, Linn Zone, Immanuel, Linn

2026-2028 LWML Kansas District Executive Committee



Back Row (L to R):

Joyce Hagemann, Carolyn Fishburn, Linda Stanton, Betty Amey, Rev. Mark Gaschler, Rev. Kenton Abbott

Front Row (L to R):

Rachel DeBusk, Marie Roth, Tiffany Harkins, Elaine Engelman, Kathryn Richard, Allison Lehmann

Not Pictured: Carol Olson

2026–2028 Mission Grants

1. Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA), Kansas City, Kansas	\$ 10,000
2. First Lutheran LWML, Orphan Grain Train, Philipsburg, Kansas	\$ 5,000
3. Fairmount Ministries & Coffee Company, Wichita, Kansas	\$ 8,000
4. LeadaChild, Olathe, Kansas	\$ 10,000
5. Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Ottawa, Kansas	\$ 10,000
6. Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, St. Louis, Missouri	\$ 10,000
7. Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, Missouri	\$ 5,000
8. Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas (partial funding)	\$ 900

TOTAL **\$ 58,900**

ADDITIONAL MISSION GRANT FUNDING was made available from the Endowment Fund, disbursing an additional \$5,900 to our Mission Grants Goal for the 2026–2028 biennium. The Mission Goal approved by both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors is in the amount of \$53,000, giving a total Mission Goal of \$58,900 for the 2026–2028 biennium.



Details of Mission Grant and God's Gracious Gift Fund grant proposals are listed in the Pre-Convention issue of The Kansas Sonshine which may be found at kansaslwml.org/2026-lwml-kansas-district-convention.

2026–2028 God's Gracious Gift Fund (GGGF) Grants

Available funding in the amount of \$ 19,200 is paid immediately following convention.

1. St. John Lutheran School Greenhouse Community Outreach	\$ 2,000
2. Faith Lutheran LifeCare Center, New Parent Supplies	\$ 2,000
3. Immanuel Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Books and Bibles	\$ 1,000
4. St. Luke's Lutheran, Devotion Books for Widows	\$ 4,200
5. Calvary Lutheran Learning Center, Summer Program	\$ 3,000
6. Light of the World Lutheran Church, Community Welcome Bags	\$ 5,000
7. St. Paul's Lutheran, Bahamas Mission Team (partial funding)	\$ 2,000

TOTAL **\$ 19,200**

Convention Offerings

Convention Offering #1

Friday Worship Service \$5,794.52

2026–2028 LWML Kansas District Mission Grants

Convention Offering #2

Sunday Morning Sending Service \$4,231.34

*Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia
Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Food Co-ops*

Totals include offerings in-person, by mail, and online.

Final Credentials Report

Sunday, April 19

VOTING BODY

Board of Directors	29
Past Presidents	3
Delegates	122
TOTAL VOTING	154

NON-VOTING BODY

Appointed Personnel and Committee Members	17
General Registrants	80
Pastors and Other Registrants	32
TOTAL NON-VOTING	129
GRAND TOTAL	283
First Timers	41
YWR's	9
Teens	0

Convention Song

written and composed by Shelly Keller, Lincoln Zone President and long time LWML member

Bear Fruit that will Last

1. We live our life in Christ,
We're chosen by our Lord.
We serve and offer prayers,
The truth is in the Word. **Refrain**

Refrain

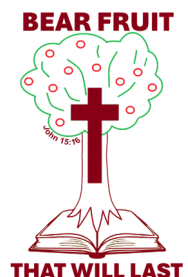
Bear fruit that will last.
He is our Beloved; we pray and give praise.
Bear fruit that will last.
Share His love and tell of Him today and always.

2. He's the Way, the Truth, the Life.
We serve with joy and love.
In His Word we will abide,
Our faith comes from above. **Refrain**

3. Jesus is with us,
Jesus is the Vine.
His love flows through us,
Let His glory shine. **Refrain**

4. Thanks to the Father.
Glory to the Son.
Praise to the Spirit.
Amen! Salvation is won. **Refrain**

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Words & Music by Richelle Keller*



Gifts from the Heart

The following items were donated as Gifts from the Heart and were used in the assembly of care kits.

Throw Blankets	225
Hand Cream/Lotion	133
Tea Bags/Boxes	150
Gum, Mints, Candy — bags	415
Chapstick/Lip Balm	315
Granola Bars/Trail Mix — pkgs	332
Drink Mix Packets — boxes	231
Peanut Butter — jars	96
Canned Meat	195
Shampoo	70
Toilet Paper Rolls	393
Gift Cards & Cash	\$350
Eyeglasses for MOST Ministries	5 Boxes



Servant Events

164 Cancer Kits were assembled and given to Johnson Cancer Research Center on Kansas State University campus for distribution to cancer patients. Encouragement cards were colored to include in the kits.

150 Military Gift Bags were assembled and given to USO Ft. Riley for distribution to military personnel. Greeting cards were colored to include with kits.

Food, personal hygiene items, and gift cards were given to Flint Hills Breadbasket, Manhattan.



HANDS
TO SERVE,
hearts
to love



2026 YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVES



Back Row (L to R): Isla Puckett, Sarah Hjulberg, Ruth Sunderman, Cassia Weber, Emily Miller, Natalea Anna Geuy
Front Row (L to R): Heidi Fender, Hannah Hernandez, Mallory Brown

Young Women
IN MISSION



2025 LWML Convention YWRs



(L to R): Erikka Geuy, Sadie Meyer, Claire Banion, Olivia Gaschler



MEET THE 2026 YWRS!



Convention Highlights



Friday Worship
Pastor Procession



Friday Worship
Pastor John Werner



President Elaine
and tech-son Aaron



Friday Session
Pastor Mark Frith



Chairman Gayle Grimm
and Elizabeth



Saturday Banner
Procession



Friday Session, LWML Panel Discussion



Song Leader Hannah



Past District Presidents
Betty Kruse, Brenda Piester,
Kim Burdett



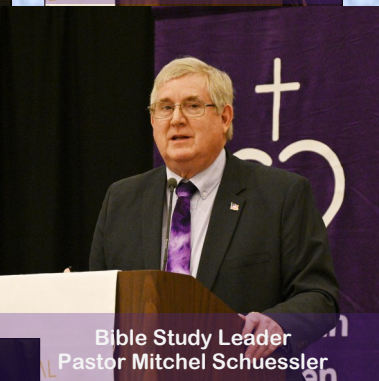
Saturday Banner
Procession



Carol von Soosten



Convention Host Zone Leaders



Bible Study Leader
Pastor Mitchel Schuessler



Voting for Officers, Mission Grants
and GGGF Grants



LWML Representative
Shari Miller

More Convention Highlights



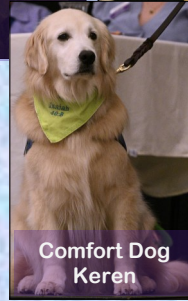
Mites in Action
Pastor Kilgo and-Crimson and Blue Crew



Mites in Action
Pastor Kastner



Mites in Action
Carol and John Kratzer



Comfort Dog
Keren



Mites in Action
Donna Williams, LERT



President Elaine and Pages
Amanda and Hannah



Saturday Men's Luncheon



2024-2026 Executive Committee — Mixed Fruit Stand!



Invitation to 2028 District Convention


**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**
KANSAS DISTRICT



Invitation to 2027 LWML Convention



Saturday Entertainment
Harmony Hill Farmstead and Band



Installation of New Officers



Sunday Christian Life
Breakfast
Chaplain Muehler

In Memory of LWML Kansas District Past President

Irene Duitsman

Mrs. Irene Tewes Duitsman, LWML Kansas District Past President, entered into heavenly rest on March 29, 2026, in Wichita, Kansas.

Irene Tewes was born on March 11, 1931, in Clay Center, Kansas, was baptized at St. John's, Palmer, on March 22, 1931, and was confirmed on March 25, 1945. Irene and Kenneth Duitsman were married on September 4, 1949, and lived on their family farm, north of Linn, their entire married life. They were blessed with three children, James, Kathleen, and Bradley, several grandchildren, and a long list of great-grandchildren.



Irene became a charter member of the LWML at Zion, Linn, in 1952. She presided over the 1982 LWML Kansas District Convention, Wichita, with the theme, *Pray with Joy*, and an attendance of 602; and the 20th Biennial Convention in Manhattan, 1984, with the theme, *Reflecting God's Love*, and 690 attendees. The first all-district Lutheran World Relief pick-up began during her presidency in 1984.

Several district past presidents were among the women with whom Irene served on the Executive Committee during the years 1980–1984: Mrs. Lavada Traskowsky (District President, 1984–1988), Mrs. Donna Wehmeier (District President, 1992–1996), and Mrs. Velma Bass (District President, 1996–2000). The pastors serving with her during that time were Rev. Arno Meyer, Wichita; Rev. Elton Temme, Larned; and Rev. Larry Klaskow, Emporia. Irene served in LWML alongside many dedicated women during those four years, and the years before and after her presidency.

Irene's comments about her LWML service include, "I cannot pinpoint any one most memorable time for me while I was District President, but I can say that the four years I was privileged to serve in that capacity were among the best years of my life." "Being with so many Christian people during that time, and serving our Lord, was a great blessing for me. I felt very inadequate, but knew I had the Lord by my side the whole time I was serving."



Mrs. Irene Duitsman served her Lord and LWML with all her heart. We give thanks to God for raising up such a faithful leader in the LWML Kansas District.





LWML Kansas District 2028 42nd Biennial Convention

April 26-30, 2028

Hotel Topeka, Topeka, Kansas

Peace in His Presence

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!
(Psalm 105:4).

Hosted by Herington, Lincoln, and Topeka Zones

2027 LWML 42nd Biennial Convention

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

July 8-11, 2027



Transformed in Christ, Romans 12:2

Hosted by these LWML districts:

Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Oklahoma

*Watch for information about how YOU can serve the Lord with
gladness as a convention volunteer!*



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.