



# The Kansas Sunshine

Volume 83  
Number 5  
Summer 2026



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1 ).*

I feel like I have come full circle after the 2026 District Convention, and yet my season is not quite finished. My adventure as your LWML Kansas District President is only half complete, so perhaps my path is more a figure eight than a circle. In any event, there is still much fruit to bear in the two years we have left together.

The Executive Committee that was newly formed following elections at the 2026 District Convention is working on establishing district committees to continue with plans already made, and to form new goals for the future when they meet together in July for Interdepartmental Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL). Please seek the Lord's guidance through His Word and prayer, and talk to your friends and family about what your gifts are and where the Lord might be leading you for the next two years. If it might be to serve on one of these committees, Gospel Outreach or Organizational Resources, please contact that committee's Vice President through the LWML Kansas District website, [kansaslwml.org/executive-committee](http://kansaslwml.org/executive-committee); or complete a Committee Appointment — Personnel Profile (CAPP) Form, found through this link, [www.kansaslwml.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-26-CAPP-FORM-9.2.2024.pdf](http://www.kansaslwml.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-26-CAPP-FORM-9.2.2024.pdf), and send it to me.

You will find a letter from the 2027 Host Committee Chairman on [page 17](#) of this issue of *The Kansas Sunshine*, with information about the LWML Convention in Oklahoma City, July 8–11, 2027, that our district is helping to host. You will also find a volunteer form to fill out and send in if you are so moved. Some ideas for table favors and decorations have been given to the national convention planners for approval and plans are moving forward for the mission walk and pre-convention outings as well.

It would be wonderful if you and your LWML groups would remember those planning the 2027 LWML Convention in your prayers! If your group would like to financially support the plans being made for the convention, donations should be made payable to **LWML 2027 CHC**, and mailed to Jonith Grundmann, Host Committee Treasurer, 2209 Fairway Drive, Duncan, OK 73533.

Unfortunately, LWML Kansas District will not be able to send a bus to Oklahoma City, in 2027. We simply could not figure a way to make it financially feasible for those riding the bus. Please speak to members of your groups and zones and find Lutheran Women (and men!) in Mission to travel with you to the 2027 LWML Convention! Sharing a vehicle could save all the passengers some traveling expense and could help someone travel to the convention who might not otherwise be able to attend.

If you would like to receive direct notices to you about the LWML pop-up stores, sign up for eNews on the LWML website, [lwml.org/stayintouch](http://lwml.org/stayintouch).

I pray that our Heavenly Father will bless your summer with everything you need to be renewed and refreshed, so that you will notice all the opportunities He gives to bear fruit that will last!

*Elaine Engelman  
District President*



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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. Kenton Abbott | Pastoral Counselor

### The Harvest and Faithfulness

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last* (John 15:16a NIV).

As summer arrives across our farming communities, many eyes turn toward the wheat fields. Harvest season is a reminder of both God's provision and the uncertainty that comes with agriculture. In some areas, the wheat harvest is abundant. Golden fields stretch to the horizon, and the combines gather a plentiful crop. In other areas, drought, hail, insects, or difficult growing conditions have left much smaller yields. Farmers know that not every field produces the same harvest.

Our Lord Jesus often used the imagery of planting and harvesting to teach the people and His followers. Jesus told His disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few"* (Matthew 9:37b). Christ Jesus was speaking about people who needed to hear the good news of God's kingdom. He was not speaking about grain, but about people whom He came to redeem through His saving work on the cross and His glorious resurrection. Everywhere Jesus looked, He saw hearts ready to receive God's Word, yet there were too few workers willing to go into the fields.

As Lutherans, we recognize that Christ Himself is the Lord of the harvest. The Church, God's redeemed people, cannot create faith, nor can we produce spiritual growth through our own efforts. Rather, God the Holy Spirit works through the Means of Grace — the preaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments—to bring sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. We are called, to sow the seed of His Word and to tell people about Jesus.

Just as some fields produce an abundant harvest, some congregations are blessed with rapid growth and many opportunities to share the Gospel. Others serve in places more like drought-stricken fields — in small towns, aging communities, or areas where the soil seems hard and the visible harvest appears small. Yet the Lord never promises that every field will yield the same results. Jesus' words in John 15 remind us that He is the Vine and we are the branches. Apart from Him, we can do nothing. Any fruit that is produced comes from Christ Himself. The fruit of faith, love, witness, and service is not our achievement but His gracious work in and through His people. This truth is reflected in *The Parable of the Talents*. The master entrusted different amounts to different servants. The servant with five talents and the servant with two talents received the same commendation, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:23a). The issue was not the size of the return but faithfulness to the master's gifts.

The same is true for Christ's Church. One congregation may serve hundreds while another serves only dozens. One pastor may preach to a packed sanctuary while another faithfully proclaims Christ crucified to a small gathering week after week. This lesson also applies to the women and groups of the Lutheran Women in Mission. Some LWML groups are large, with many hands available for service projects, mission grants, and outreach efforts. Others are small groups that gather faithfully month after month, wondering if their work makes much difference. Yet the Lord does not measure faithfulness by attendance figures or the size of a treasury. He works through willing hearts that are devoted to His mission. A small LWML group that faithfully studies God's Word, prays for missionaries, supports mission grants, and serves its congregation is just as precious in the Lord's sight as a large group with many members. Just as every field does not produce the same number of bushels, every LWML group will not have the same resources or opportunities. Yet through the mites, prayers, service, and witness of faithful women across the church, Christ continues to extend His kingdom and bring the Gospel to people throughout the world. In God's kingdom, the question is not, "How large was the harvest?" but rather, "Were you faithful with what I entrusted to you?"

Therefore, whether our congregation or LWML group is large or small, whether the visible harvest appears abundant or modest, we take comfort in Christ's promise. Our labor in the Lord is not in vain. We faithfully sow the seed of God's Word, trusting that the Lord of the harvest will accomplish His purpose through the Gospel. For in the end, our hope is not in our work but in Christ's work for us. And by His grace, we look forward to the day when He gathers all His redeemed into the eternal harvest of His heavenly kingdom.

The LORD Bless your work and life in His Church. Amen.

Pastor Kenton Abbott, Sr. Pastoral Counselor

## CHRISTIAN LIFE

Betty Amey | Vice President of Christian Life

Once again, I am privileged to serve on the Executive Committee of our LWML Kansas District. Serving as Vice President of Christian Life encourages my own walk with the Lord as I review the many resources available on our LWML website, [lwml.org](http://lwml.org). As you plan for the coming year, be inspired by playing around with the website for program ideas, prayers, and Bible studies for your own group.



The first part of the LWML Kansas District Goal Statement for the next two years is, “As people chosen by God, we will bear fruit by abiding in His Word.” The Christian Life Committee’s job is to help each member abide in God’s precious Word. LWML provides many opportunities to daily walk with God. Consider signing up for the daily devotion and listening while you stretch your muscles or start the coffee first thing in the morning.

There will be much planning for our Christian Life Committee at Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) in July. As I write this, we still need two ladies to join us on this committee. One of our major responsibilities is to plan the Christian Life Retreat in 2027. Please consider submitting your name to me or to President Elaine if you are interested in serving on the Christian Life Committee. If you have heard of good speakers or programs from LWML friends across the country, let us know. The more ideas we have to inspire our planning, the better!

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).*

## ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Carol Olson | Vice President of Organizational Resources

Hello! My name is Carol Olson. I am the new Vice President of Organizational Resources. Some of you may know my name since I have been bugging zones for bylaw reviews for the last four years. Now, in taking on the Vice President role, like many of you in new roles, I’m in a learning curve again.

I’m pleased to introduce the Organizational Resources Committee: Gloria Peterson (returning committee member), and Dayle Reynolds. I’d love to list your name here too!

If you enjoy proofreading or just want to learn more about LWML, this could be the perfect committee for you! Hesitating? Don’t worry, I did too. But there is a lot of support from others to help us figure it out. Need more info? Contact me at [resources@kansaslwml.org](mailto:resources@kansaslwml.org). Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. God will guide us!

Zone bylaws reviews completed for the 2024–2026 biennium: Lincoln, Kansas City CrossRoads, Topeka, Herington, Linn, Northwest, Manhattan, and Wichita.

Those still in process: Northeast, Hutchinson, and Southeast.

### Review schedule for 2026–2028 biennium:

Lincoln — September 2026  
KC CrossRoads — November 2026  
Topeka — January 2027  
Herington — March 2027  
Linn — May 2027  
Northwest — July 2027



Northeast — September 2027  
Hutchinson — November 2027  
Manhattan — January 2028  
Wichita — March 2028  
Southeast — May 2028  
Southwest — not scheduled, still organizing



## CARING SERVICE

Linda Stanton | Vice President of Caring Service

Bearing Fruit...being fruity! Yes, you all “went bananas” with your Gifts from the Heart at the 2026 District Convention! Thank you for your generosity in giving, for the time you spent assembling care kits, and for coloring cards to show your appreciation and encouragement. A list of items is to the right.



At convention, we were blessed with sermons, Bible study, and messages which focused on our theme verse, John 15:16. We know that we are chosen by God, appointed to bear fruit — fruit that will last (abiding fruit), and that we will receive God’s blessings according to his good plan. We have the privilege to ask God for His gifts, that we may honor him and serve others. We also learned that we must remain in Jesus, the vine who gives us life and sustains us.

The LWML provides a wonderful opportunity to come together with our many different gifts and talents and use those gifts and talents to serve and love others, giving glory to God. I encourage you to abide together in your local LWML groups. Share together in Bible study and prayer, and work to be missional in all you do. Each of your groups and congregations has special caring service projects tailored to your community. Encourage each other and stay active in doing and supporting mission work. Seek ideas from other groups and the needs you see in your own community. Remember to share your group’s service projects with *The Kansas Sonshine* editor, [sonshine@kansaslwml.org](mailto:sonshine@kansaslwml.org). God’s blessings as you proceed!

We are happy to receive ideas for future servant events at conventions. Email ideas to me at [caringservice@kansaslwml.org](mailto:caringservice@kansaslwml.org).

Our 2026–2028 Caring Service Committee members are as follows: Chairman, Cindy Manche; members, Mary Kellogg, Tina Lenz, and Tammy Taylor.

### GFTH Convention

Throw Blankets	225
Hand Cream/Lotion	133
Tea Bags/Boxes	150
Gum, Mints and 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
Cancer Kits Assembled	164
Military Gift Bags	150
Eyeglasses for MOST	5 Boxes

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Carolyn Fishburn

Have you tried **ONLINE GIVING** to the LWML Kansas District yet? Group and zone treasurers, as well as individuals, are encouraged to submit mite offerings, memorial gifts, or other contributions online at [kansaslwml.org/giving](http://kansaslwml.org/giving). Another option is to use the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App on your smartphone. The mobile app was recently updated, so if you currently use it, you may be prompted to update your app. NO remittance voucher, NO envelope, and NO stamp needed with an online or mobile app donation! You can easily set up a recurring donation, such as a monthly donation to mite offerings.

If you prefer to mail your donations, be sure to include a remittance voucher, [kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources](http://kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources), under Expense and Remittance Vouchers, and **please make checks payable to LWML Kansas District**. If your group or zone has recently elected a new treasurer, please make sure that she knows about the different options to submit offerings.

If you have questions about sending in your contributions by mail or making donations online or in the mobile app, please contact me at [financialsecretary@kansaslwml.org](mailto:financialsecretary@kansaslwml.org). Mail your offerings to me at: Carolyn Fishburn, LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary, PO Box 491, Haven, KS 67543.

## GOSPEL OUTREACH

Marie Roth | Vice President of Gospel Outreach

### **GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT FUND**

Following the LWML Kansas District Convention, the Gospel Outreach Committee has been processing and distributing payments for God's Gracious Gift Fund grants. This year, seven grant proposals were selected:

- \$2,000 to St. John Lutheran School, Alma, Kansas, Greenhouse Community Outreach project.
- \$1,000 to Immanuel Lutheran Early Learning Center, Junction City, Kansas, books and Bibles for classrooms.
- \$3,000 to Calvary Lutheran Learning Center. Topeka, Kansas, scholarships for the summer program.
- \$4,200 to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas, devotion books for widows.
- \$2,000 to Faith Lutheran Church Living Hope, Ottawa, Kansas, new parent supplies.
- \$5,000 to Light of the World Lutheran Church, De Soto, Kansas, community welcome bags.
- \$2,000 to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cheney, Kansas, supplies for the 2026 Bahamas mission trip.

Please pray for the eight mission grant recipients selected for this biennium. Posters for each grant will soon be available on the LWML Kansas District website on the [Gospel Outreach](#) page. Consider posting these so your congregation can join in prayer for each recipient. Mite offerings are currently funding the \$10,000 mission grant for Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) in Kansas City, Kansas. They will be using the funds to open a lower-cost laundromat with wrap-around services and housing to meet spiritual, educational, physical, and emotional needs in Kansas City's Argentine community. The poster for this mission grant is on [page 10](#) of this newsletter.

Plan to follow along as each grant is paid using the mission grants bookmarks or thermometer poster found on [pages 7-9](#) in this newsletter. These can also soon be found on the website.



### **STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

Over the past several years, the LWML Kansas District has assisted called church workers through the Student Financial Aid program. This year, two deaconesses have received calls. We ask that you continue to support these women through your prayers as they go into the mission field to serve:

- Peggy Gott, Deaconess, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas.
- Nola Gray, Deaconess for Deaf Ministry, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas.

In addition, five seniors in the Concordia University system who have received scholarships through the Student Financial Aid program are completing their studies. We ask that you pray for these individuals as they move to their first placements:

- Rachel Ada, Teacher
- Lorelei Humphrey, Deaconess
- Luke Lawrenz, Director of Christian Education
- James Schultz, Teacher
- Karaleigh Warren, Teacher

The Gospel Outreach Committee is looking forward to working with you, the LWML Kansas District, to support and fund the remaining mission grants and the Student Financial Aid recipients over the upcoming biennium. All praise and glory be to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

**LWML KANSAS DISTRICT  
2026-2028 MISSION  
GRANTS**

1. Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA)  
Kansas City, Kansas (\$10,000)

2. Orphan Grain Train  
Phillipsburg, Kansas (\$5,000)

3. Fairmount Ministries & Coffee Company  
Wichita, Kansas (\$8,000)

4. LeadaChild  
Olathe, Kansas (\$10,000)

5. Faith Lutheran 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 (\$900)

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

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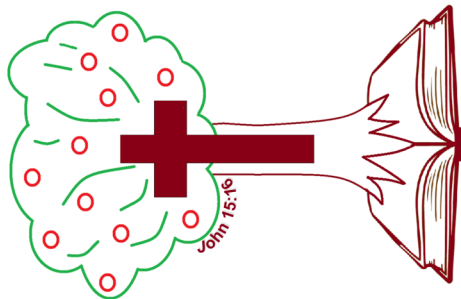


**Kansas District Mission Statement**

Led by the Holy Spirit, the LWML  
Kansas

District will equip women to proclaim  
Christ, support missions, and serve the  
Lord with gladness.

**BEAR FRUIT**



**THAT WILL LAST**

**Websites**

For more information:

Kansas District Gospel Outreach:  
[www.kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach-committee](http://www.kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach-committee)

Ways to Give:  
[www.kansaslwml.org/giving](http://www.kansaslwml.org/giving)

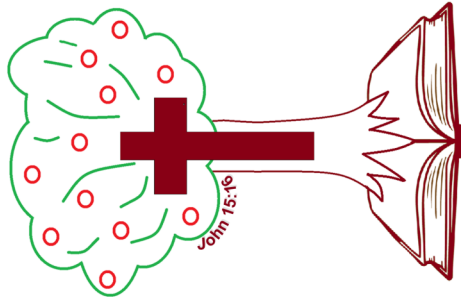


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Ways to Give:  
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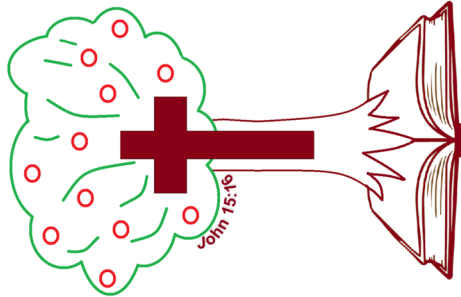


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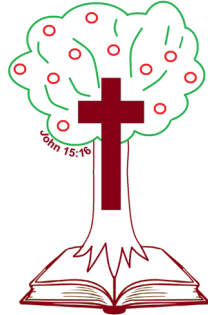
Kansas District Gospel Outreach:  
[www.kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach-committee](http://www.kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach-committee)

Ways to Give:  
[www.kansaslwml.org/giving](http://www.kansaslwml.org/giving)

# LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION KANSAS DISTRICT

## MISSION GRANTS & STUDENT FINANCIAL AID 2026–2028

### BEAR FRUIT



### THAT WILL LAST

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

1. Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA), Kansas City, Kansas	\$10,000
2. Orphan Grain Train, Phillipsburg, 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	*\$900
 <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,900</b>

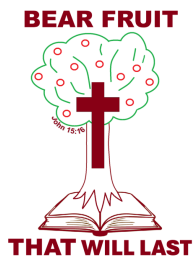
\* Partial Payment

**Fall 2026—Student Financial Aid: \$8,750**

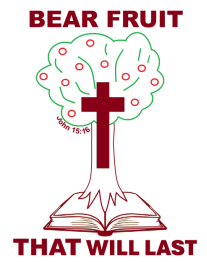
**Spring 2027—Student Financial Aid: \$8,750**

**Fall 2027—Student Financial Aid: \$8,750**

**Spring 2028—Student Financial Aid: \$8,750**



## 2026-2028 KANSAS DISTRICT LWML MISSION GRANT #1



# *Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA)*

**Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA), Kansas City, Kansas \$10,000**

The money will be used to purchase a lower cost laundromat with wrap-around services to meet the spiritual, educational, physical, and emotional needs for the Argentine community. 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.



**PRAYER:** Almighty God, grant Your Holy Spirit to Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) in their ministry to the Argentine community, that Your saving Word may be heard among them. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## ARCHIVIST/HISTORIANS

Amanda Engelman and Kerri Lynne Brown | Co-Chairs

Rock Springs 4-H Camp has hosted numerous LWML Kansas District events, including family retreats, pilot workshops, and Board of Directors meetings. The photo below shows the 1995 Lutheran Family Retreat attendees. Lutheran Family Retreats were planned in partnership with the Lutheran Layman's League to provide a time of relaxation and inspiration away from the daily routine in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship. Attendees spent Friday evening through Sunday evening enjoying camp activities and worship together. Today, Rock Springs Camp hosts Kansas District youth events.

*(article and photo submitted by Marie Roth)*



## CHURCH WORKERS IN MISSION (CWIM)

Joyce Duitsman | CWIM Coordinator

A warm LWML welcome to Kansas to these pastors:

Rev. Reed Shoaff, Messiah, Hays, installed January 11, 2026

Rev. Richard Bridgeman, Messiah, Emporia, installed February 15, 2026

Rev. Andrew Gunzelman (SMP), Lord of Life, Leewood, installed February 22, 2026

Rev. David Weaver, St. John, Ellinwood, installed April 12, 2026

Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, Trinity, Medicine Lodge, and St. John's, Nashville, installed April 26, 2026

Rev. Nathan Neugebauer, Holy Cross, Dodge City, installed May 3, 2026

*“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding”  
(Jeremiah 3:15).*

## SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

Tiffany Harkins | VP of Special Focus Ministries

*Greetings from the Special Focus Ministries Committee!* Here is a brief introduction to each committee member of our 2026–2028 biennium.

**Tiffany Harkins**, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries:

I am delighted to work with the committee to ensure that ALL women feel welcome and find joy in the mission of LWML Kansas District and in helping pastors connect and see their value in relationship to LWML as well.

**Claire Banion**, Committee Chair:

I'm excited to chair the committee to gain a better understanding of how the Board of Directors (BOD) works together to collaborate and create our district conventions. I'm also excited to share ideas with past and future Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) about how to best encourage and involve them in LWML.

**Sadie Meyer**, Young Woman Representative (YWR) focus:

The reason I want to stay active is to give back after being a YWR myself.

**Mary Jensen**, YWR focus:

I'd like to help introduce LWML to young women and encourage them to get involved.

**Kecia Frevert**, Special Ministries focus:

I am excited to work with the LWML Kansas District Special Focus Ministries Committee on what Kansas can implement from the (national) LWML Special Ministries work towards making sure all women have the opportunity to celebrate God's blessings and hear Christ's words regardless of their different needs.

**Joyce Duitsman**, Church Workers in Mission focus:

As a (retired) church worker, I feel a connection and I like to try to stay current with the personnel to help encourage their support for local LWML groups.



As you prepare for the Fall Zone Events, the Special Focus Ministries department encourages you to invite your Young Women Representatives from the 2026 District Convention to share their experiences and provide input on how to get more young women involved, and to watch for YWR applications for the 2027 LWML Convention to share. Also, take note of vision, hearing, and/or physical needs that are present in your zone, and work to design and advertise a zone event that will be welcoming and inclusive of all women!

## KANSAS ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS

Joyce Hagemann | District Meeting Manager

Each year, LWML Kansas District holds a Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) event to encourage and support our district LWML leaders, and give committees an opportunity to meet together. This year's KAOL will meet Saturday, July 11, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, in Salina. Brenda Peister will lead the Executive Committee, district committees, and zone presidents through discussion and team building activities. District committees will have an opportunity to meet with their respective vice president to brainstorm ideas for the coming year. Registration opens at 8:15 a.m., and the meeting will begin with singing at 8:45. Lunch will be provided, and donations for the meal are appreciated.

Prior to the Saturday event, the Board of Directors (BOD) will meet on Friday evening, July 10, at 7 p.m. If you have questions about either the KAOL event, or the BOD meeting, please contact Joyce Hagemann at [meetingmanager@kansaslwml.org](mailto:meetingmanager@kansaslwml.org).



## LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

On March 8, the **LINN ZONE LWML SPRING EVENT** was held at Bethlehem, Greenleaf. The theme was Kindness and Comfort Tea Party. Attendees wore tea party attire with hats and gloves, along with tea party place settings for each person. Pastor Jahnke, Bethlehem, Greenleaf, led opening devotions. Pastor Koch and Adam Fosse, Zion, Linn, gave a presentation about their mission trip to Nicaragua. Betsy Friedrichs and friends presented a skit on a comparison of teapots and people. Election results: Vice-President/Christian Life – Ruth Schotte; Treasurer/Gospel Outreach – Linda Beikmann; Caring Service – Olivia Gaschler; Historian – Deb Dwerlkotte. Julie Hatesohl, LWML Kansas District Vice President of Gospel Outreach, gave a report of district and national events coming up. Pastor Gaschler led closing devotions based on Psalm 121. President Pat Kruse adjourned the meeting.



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**KANSAS CITY CROSSROADS ZONE SPRING EVENT** was held Saturday, March 7, at Risen Savior, Basehor, with a theme of Fruits of the Spirit. There were 40 in attendance, two guests, and two pastors. Pastor Burgdorf, Risen Savior, opened the meeting with the Matins Service. Gifts from the Heart were collected for Sparrow Women’s Clinic, Lansing. Pastor Phil Cook spoke to the group about Lutheran Urban Mission Association (LUMA), located in Kansas City, Missouri. The event closed with installation of officers, a devotion by Pastor Weinkauf, and a delicious lunch of slider sandwiches, salads brought by those in attendance, and dessert provided by the ladies of Risen Savior.

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The **HERINGTON ZONE SPRING MISSION EVENT** featured Rev. Michael and Shanna Hageman, new missionaries to Tanzania, as speakers to the attendees of their event. The Hagemans traveled to several states to raise support for their work. The Herington Zone presented a check to the Hagemans in support of their upcoming mission work in Tanzania.



**SOUTHEAST ZONE** met March 22, 2026, at Grace, Iola. Twenty-nine members and two pastors were in attendance. Guest speaker was Donna Kachi of Allen County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. The zone collected 104 items and \$75 cash for the pantry. LWML Kansas District President Elaine Engelman was the district representative. President Elaine discussed our district convention coming in less than a month, as well as openings for (national) 2027 LWML Convention committees. Diane Leonard is serving as Zone Caring Service Chairman. Kecia Frevert has been appointed Christian Life Chairman. We welcome both to the Zone Board. Sharon Daugherty will be stepping away from Zone President and Vice President Jennine Marrone will finish out her year. The new Vice President is Heather Owens, and Lorene Hoffman was elected Secretary. Pastor Goodroad, Iola, led a Bible study, and new officers were installed by Pastor Jennings, Zone Counselor.

## LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Nearly 40 ladies of the **HUTCHINSON ZONE** met at St. John's, Ellinwood, for Spring Mission Day, where items were collected for both the Ellinwood food bank and MOST Ministries. Mission speaker was Lin Dehning, who shared information about his many trips with MOST Ministries, sharing the Gospel of Christ. His encouraging words were inspiring for many who are considering short term missions. Zone Counselor Pastor Masinelli installed Donna



Erikka Geuy,  
Donna Briggeman

Briggeman as Vice President of Gospel Outreach, and Erikka Geuy, LWML Kansas District 2025 National YWR, as Zone Secretary. What a joy to have three young women represent the Hutchinson Zone at the District convention! Emily Miller, Natalea Anna Geuy, and Cassia Weber. We look forward to seeing how that experience encourages them to bear good fruit. Glory to God for the support for St. Paul's Lutheran, Cheney, Bahama's Mission selection as a God's Gracious Gift fund recipient at convention. President Elaine came to St. Paul's,



Elise Lorenz-Cleary, Emily Miller,  
Cassia Weber, and Natalea Anna Geuy

Cheney, to present a check to Pastor and Cheryl Masinelli. A huge thank you to all the Hutchinson Zone ladies who worked to make the LWML Kansas District Convention a success! It truly is such a joy to serve the Lord with gladness with all of them!

Elise Lorenz-Cleary, Hutchinson Zone President

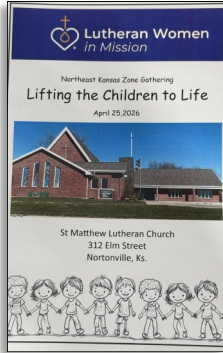


Immanuel, Lawrence, hosted 47 LWML members from the **TOPEKA ZONE** on April 11, 2026. President Elaine Engelman attended and shared LWML Kansas District and LWML (national) convention news and taught us the new hymn, "Bear Fruit That Will Last," in preparation for the district convention. Following officer and committee reports, the zone membership elected Nancy Taylor, St. John, Topeka, to a second term as Vice President, and Cathi Temple, St. John, Aliceville, as Secretary. St. John, Aliceville, will host the fall gathering on October 17. Pola Farve, director of Haskell LIGHT, a campus ministry affiliated with Lutheran Indian Ministries at Haskell Indian Nations University, informed the group about the mission work and student activities of the ministry, and introduced students who shared experiences and answered questions. Several LWML members participated in the LWML prayer service graciously hosted by Haskell LIGHT on campus on May 7.



Pola Farve and  
Haskell student, Angel  
Ehtone Elizarraras

## LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS



Greetings from the **NORTHEAST ZONE**! The Spring Gathering, April 25, 2026, was held at St. Matthew, Nortonville, with a theme of *Lifting the Children to Life*. Speaker was Pastor Lally of St. Matthew, who is part of Child Beyond International, providing for children in Guatemala. Pastor Lally has traveled to Guatemala and assisted with building housing and infrastructure at a new property for a new orphanage. Gifts from the Heart were items requested by this group for Pastor's upcoming trip. The following members were installed to serve as officers for the next two years: Treasurer, Peggy Coder, Caring Service, Lela Middendorf, and Special Focus Ministries, Becky Myer.

Tami Rutten, Northeast Zone President



The **LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION OF ST. PAUL'S, HAVEN**, have held three "Muffins for Mites" opportunities during Bible Class Fellowship time. The donations from church members have totaled \$508.17, to support our Mission Grants. In February, the group assembled 100 Hygiene Kits for the Wichita Orphan Grain Branch. In March, the group assembled and delivered 210 Appreciation Bags to all the employees of the Haven School District.



**OUR SAVIOUR, KANSAS CITY**, invited all KC CrossRoads Zone churches to the 2026 Prayer Service, P.R.A.Y.E.R., in March. The nice turnout included zone members, (national) LWML President Eden Keefe, and LWML Kansas District Past-President Kim Burdett. Pictured here with Pastor Jim Bender, of Our Saviour.



## GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT FUND (GGGF)

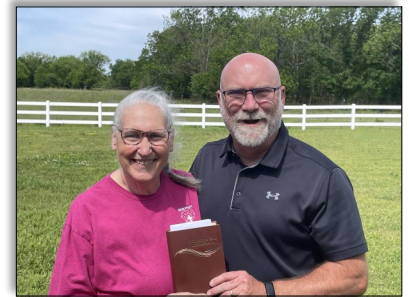


God's Gracious Gift Fund (GGGF) grants are awarded immediately following a district convention. Convention delegates chose the grant recipients for the current biennium at the LWML Kansas District Convention in Manhattan, April 17–19, 2026. Funds available were \$19,200.

Rev. John Kastner, Light of the World Lutheran Church in De Soto, received a \$5,000 GGGF check. The grant will be used for materials to put in new resident welcome bags.

## TWO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Pictured with LWML Kansas District President Elaine Engelman, is Kent Kunkel, Development Officer for Lutheran Bible Translators. Mr. Kunkel presented a complete translation of the Bible in the Komba language to the LWML Kansas District in recognition of their prayerful and monetary support through the completion of this project. This Bible is written in the heart language of the Komba people who live in Kombaland, Ghana, West Africa, and has been over 30 years in the making. The Komba language had to first be written, so the project started by making written symbols for all of the sounds found in the spoken language. The New Testament was translated first and printed in 2014.



The complete Old and New Testament together went to print in fall 2025, and is now being used in many classrooms and teaching stations in Ghana as the people are learning to read and write their own language. Kent shared a picture he took the last time he was in Ghana, of a young girl whose cover of her Komba New Testament was in tatters from so much use. She was so glad to have the whole story of God's plan; she couldn't wait to start reading her new Bible. This is what *Mission in Action* is all about; this is what our mighty mites do! Proof that we are helping to spread the Gospel at home and abroad with our mission grants and God's Gracious Gift Fund grants.

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LWML (national) Mission Grant #23, Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas, \$38,800, received a partial payment in the amount of \$7,000. The grant will supply food, hygiene supplies, and ministry resources for the food pantry at Inwood Crossings Apartments.

Pictured: L to R (front): Carolyn Fishburn, LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary, Elaine Engelman, LWML Kansas District President, Marilyn Cook, Laurie Casey, Ramona Peshek  
L to R (back): Pastor Matthew Goltl, Gaylon Miller, Pastor C.J. Luttinen

## A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Karen Karner | LWML 2027 Convention Host Committee Chairman

Did you know that over a year ago plans began for the LWML Convention to be held in Oklahoma City, July 8-11, 2027? It started with two people, and grew to another five, then more were recruited, and since that first day I and (to date) 63 sisters and brothers in Christ from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, have worked diligently to create and deliver plans and product for an event where we hope many will be *Transformed in Christ*. We have prayed, met, zoomed, emailed, researched, written, designed, networked, and prayed some more for all that has been done and all that will be done.



Remember Omaha? Did you get your yellow shirt and join us on the convention floor? What an opportunity for all of us to join together, sharing our joy at being chosen to invite everyone to Oklahoma City. Imagine that excitement over the next year as we continue sharing this experience. How do we do it? We've many ways for all women of the LWML to share their gifts, talents, and time making the convention a success. Here are just a few:

- Pray for the LWML Convention Planning Committee, Convention Management Team, and the Host Committee as we navigate the moving parts involved to deliver a convention that inspires and encourages all to be transformed to serve in the mission field.
- Ask your district leadership for the Call for Volunteers application. These volunteers will be the hands and feet of the convention, before it starts, during its activities, and after it closes. Ways to serve are listed on the application. Choose what you think best suits you, then send it to Lisa Snow in one of the manners listed on the application. Workers who put in eight hours (two four-hour shifts) of service at the convention will receive a discount on their convention registration.
- Prayerfully consider a leadership position on the Host Committee. We've a few rostered positions left. Ask your district leadership for an updated list of openings, then ask for the Chairman or Director application. Complete and send to me in any of the ways listed on the application. These also come with small stipends to offset the cost of attending a convention.
- Keep that yellow shirt handy. Wearing those shirts as our special dress the first day of convention is a strong possibility. We hope that as attendees arrive, they will recognize the shirts and feel comfortable after their travels. "But I'm not planning to work the convention," you say. Consider gifting the shirt to someone who does plan to work it but didn't buy the shirt because she didn't go to Omaha. That would be a special way of assisting the crew of this convention.

I could go on, but this is enough for now. Know that you are invited to serve. You and your gifts are wanted. Don't wait to be asked. Now is our time to shine. Pray, then complete and send your application to me. I can't wait to hear from you and share the joy of serving with you.

Your sister in Christ,  
Karen Karner, HCC  
LWML 2027 Convention



# CALL FOR WORKERS! Volunteer Application

**LWML 2027 Convention  
July 8 – 11, 2027  
Oklahoma City, OK**

The assistance of hundreds of willing workers (including men!) is needed.

- Duplicate this form and share it with other members of your congregation.
- Indicate all the areas in which you would be willing to serve.
  - o Assignments of areas for service will not occur until the spring of 2027
- Type or print clearly in dark ink.
- Some of the positions require being at the convention before it actually starts.
- Return completed form to the address on page 2. Return form as soon as possible so that directors know of your interest, but no later than February 1, 2027

Thank you! *Hosted by Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ LWML District: \_\_\_\_\_

LWML Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Host Committee Position \_\_\_\_\_

**My abilities:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am able to do a lot of walking.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am able to stand for up to 4 hours.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am able to handle heavy physical work (lifting, moving, securing props, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am a delegate and will help when the convention is not in session.

**Please check all areas where you would be willing to serve.**

If desired, number your areas in order of preference. We will try to accommodate your choices.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will pray for the convention, the speakers, and those serving on the Host Committee.**

**At home before the convention** (does not qualify for hours toward discount registration coupon):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Centerpieces
- \_\_\_\_\_ Golf Outing (getting sponsors, donations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sewing (for special dress attire)

**Note:** Those who volunteer to work eight hours (two 4-hour shifts) or more in Oklahoma City are eligible for a reduced registration fee. Reduced fees will be provided at a later date, but the earlier you register for the convention, the bigger the discount. Please plan to work eight hours. You will receive your assignments after you register for convention. We are so glad you are accepting the promise to work at least eight hours. Should you decide not to volunteer for the convention, you will receive an invoice for the balance of the registration fee. Delegates do not receive the worker discount because their attendance is paid for by their zone or district.

**Tuesday, Jul 6, (time to be determined)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Packets Assembly

**Wednesday morning, July 7, prior to the beginning of convention**

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration Set-up \_\_\_\_\_ Golf Outing

**Wednesday afternoon, July 7, through Thursday, July 8 noon**

_____ Airport/Train Greeter	_____ Hostess—Exhibitors	_____ Servant Activities
_____ Banner Room	_____ Hotel Greeter	_____ Tour Information
_____ Blood Drive	_____ Information Kiosk in Convention Center	_____ VIP Driver (requires car)
_____ Choir Registration	_____ LWML Store, set-up	_____ Walk Registration
_____ Communion—Altar Guild	_____ Charter Motorcoach / Shuttle Greeter	_____ Wheelchair Rental
_____ Convention Registration	_____ Newspaper Reporter	_____ Workers' Room
_____ Decorations, set-up	_____ Properties Room	_____ as needed

**Thursday, July 8, afternoon through Sunday, July 11, afternoon**

_____ Airport/Train Greeter	_____ Hostess—On-Site	_____ Pack Communion Ware
_____ Communion Assistant	_____ Hostess—Photo Op	_____ Properties Room
_____ Convention Registration	_____ Hostess—Prayer Chapel	_____ Usher—Floor
_____ Decorations	_____ Information Kiosk	_____ VIP Driver (requires car)
_____ Hostess—Choir	_____ Lost and Found	_____ Walk Registration
_____ Hostess—Exhibitors	_____ LWML Store, take down	_____ Wheelchair Rental
_____ Hostess—Food Service	_____ Newspaper reporter	_____ Workers' Room
_____ Hostess—LWML Store	_____ Charter Motorcoach / Shuttle Greeter	_____ as needed

**Friday and Saturday**

Child/Youth Care (assist with program, 8 am–5 pm, preferably for two days). Check preferred age:

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 months–4 years \_\_\_\_\_ 5–8 years \_\_\_\_\_ 9–12 years \_\_\_\_\_ 13–17 years

**For Teens**

\_\_\_\_\_ Page (must be 14–17 years old)

**For Clergy**

\_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Chapel, spiritual counsel, or prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with communion at the Thursday evening worship service (does not qualify for hours toward worker discount).

\_\_\_\_\_ Other areas where needed—**PLEASE CHECK AREAS ABOVE**

Please return completed form as soon as possible to Lisa Snow, Personnel Data Management Chairman, by email: [snowflake@taylortel.net](mailto:snowflake@taylortel.net) or USPS: 13900 CR 495, Hawley, TX 79525  
Questions? Call or text Lisa Snow at 325-829-0695.

**Thank you for your willingness to serve while being “Transformed In Christ”**

## Dates to Remember

### 2026

June 25	2027 LWML Convention (national) banner design DEADLINE
July 1	2028 LWML Kansas District Convention logo design DEADLINE
July 10	Executive Committee (EC) Meeting #3
July 10	Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting #2
July 10–11	Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) Interdepartmental Meeting
August 29	2028 Convention Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting #1
October 28–31	National Assembly of Leaders, St. Louis
November 13–14	EC Meeting #4 (location TBD)

### 2027

January 1	Names of delegates to 2027 LWML Convention to President Elaine DEADLINE
February 5–6	EC Meeting #1 (location TBD)
February 27	2028 CPC Meeting #2, Lincoln Zone or Zoom

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRAYER MAIL COORDINATOR

If you haven't heard from Prayer Mail Coordinator Mary Schmidt, with prayer requests since April 1, please contact Mary and give her your email address again. Your email address may be one that she needs to reinstate in her list. Contact her at [pmail@kansaslwml.org](mailto:pmail@kansaslwml.org).

*Please send group or zone officer changes to District Directory Manager Brenda Piester, at [directory@kansaslwml.org](mailto:directory@kansaslwml.org).*

### Don't forget —

There are still openings on two district committees for the 2026–2028 biennium. Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to serve in this way. The CAPP form may be found at [kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources](http://kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources).

### DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT THE 2027 LWML CONVENTION???

- ◇ Proceeds from convention shirt sales are used to support the cost of hosting the convention.
- ◇ There are FOUR districts serving as hosts for the 2027 LWML Convention.
- ◇ A convention sketch is available for use in LWML group or zone meetings or events.
- ◇ The location, theme, scripture verse, goal statement, and objectives are listed on the Convention Central page of the LWML website.
- ◇ See the Call for Workers Volunteer Application, [pages 18-19](#) of this newsletter, if you'd like to volunteer at the convention.

Stay up-to-date on all things 2027 LWML Convention at [lwml.org/convention](http://lwml.org/convention).



**Lutheran Women**  
in Mission  
KANSAS DISTRICT

### 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.*