

The Kansas Sunshine



Volume 82 : Number 1

Winter 2025

LWML Kansas District

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, Ephesians 6:18

As you are reading this we are in the season of New Year's resolutions. My thesaurus lists perseverance as a synonym for resolution, and Google reports that the word perseverance appears in the New Testament 13 times. I would like to suggest the following New Year's resolution:

WHEREAS, we are taught through God's Word and grounded in His sacraments, and

WHEREAS, we serve the Lord with gladness as Lutheran Women in Mission, and

WHEREAS, we are tasked by God to carry the Gospel to all people, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we continue striving to grow in God's grace so we will be ready to act as His "hands and feet" in the world, bringing His love to those in need around us.

This resolution can be as unique as your local situation — food for a community family, giving someone a ride to a doctor's appointment, praying for a specific need of a church member — or as broad as making mercy meals for Orphan Grain Train, supporting a district mission grant with a fundraiser, or praying for national grants that benefit hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

Many of us will keep this resolution by offering Gifts From the Heart (GFTH) to recipients at the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha. The LWML is going green for GFTH in 2025! See page 9 for details on why and how.

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, Winter 2024 edition, has been released and has a center section specifically for the national convention in Omaha. Registration is online only; be sure that those you know who would like to attend have access to a computer and a unique email address. Offer to help them navigate the site if necessary. I usually keep a copy of what I sign up for and verify the registration confirmation emailed to me to avoid any confusion upon arrival. Information regarding the Omaha convention can also be found on the LWML website, lwml.org, on the convention central tab, under news and events.

Information about zone delegates/alternates have been sent to me (THANK YOU ZONE PRESIDENTS!) and we will have Young Women Representatives (YWRs) chosen soon! I will attend a Presidents Assembly meeting in Omaha, January 22–24, 2025, to learn more about LWML convention plans and my role as District President.

In February, the Executive Committee will be making 2026 District Convention decisions to be ready for the first convention planning meeting. We will decide the location for the 2028 LWML Kansas District Convention. We also need to decide who will attend which zone spring events ASAP — so as soon as those dates, times, and locations are decided, Zone Presidents, please let me know!

*Elaine Engelman
District President*



Be sure to check out these pages ...

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. John Werner | Pastoral Counselor

A Word from Pastor Werner:

Your Senior Pastoral Counselor was able to receive — and hopefully learn — some very helpful lessons early in his pastoral ministry.

This picture is from a past Sunday evening (almost ten years ago!). I was teaching confirmation at the Olson place and decided to come home via the “scenic” route. Unbeknownst to me, this route consisted of the famous “dirt roads of Marion County” that I had heard of so frequently.



Well, now I know. And I got stuck.

Here, I do want to say a public “thank you” to Ryan Olson who pulled me to a street I could drive on after I tried to do so on my own for a half hour. One lesson learned: it is good to have friends who own a Suburban!

Most of us have been stuck at one time or another. We experienced the death of someone close to us, or we had a serious fall, or we’d had it with the pressure of work or family. We know life isn’t fair, and in spite of that, we sometimes get stuck. We love the Lord, but sometimes situations spiral us to a position that causes us to put our Bible reading aside. We go to church, but out of habit. We say a prayer of thanks before our meal, but we just become stuck in our relationship with the Lord.

Sarah and I were also struck with the remembrance of Queen Esther. She, too, found herself stuck in an uncommonly awkward and life-threatening position. She and her people had been sentenced to destruction by the evil Haman, and her husband, the king, was unaware of the particulars of Haman’s plan. Yet for Esther to entreat the king’s aid, she had to approach him, unrequested. And she knew that unless the king be merciful, anyone who dared approach the king in the inner court without being summoned would be killed.

So what did Queen Esther do? She and her maids fasted for three days and three nights, and requested that all other Jews do the same (cf. Esther 4:11-17).

Jesus, too, fasted with his disciples, even teaching them to not disfigure their faces *when* they fasted.

I am not saying fasting is required, nor is it always the answer. But that which is entwined with fasting: repentance, turning away from the world for a brief time, and dedicating oneself to prayer and reflection on God’s Word — these gifts God gave us, and which Jesus Himself lived — can point us back to Him and reveal to us how to “unstuck” ourselves. During this Christmas season, we can look forward to feasting with friends and family in our homes and our churches in the “foretaste of the feast to come” in our heavenly home.

Praise God, we do not live in a vacuum here in time! Through the power and comfort of the Holy Spirit, we are blessed with a Christian community to uphold us in prayer, sustain us, and even pull us out of the mud — with their Suburban.

Christ’s Peace,
Pastor John Werner



CHRISTIAN LIFE

Sharon Daugherty | Christian Life Chair


UNSHAKABLE!

What in your life is unshakable? Based on my experience in Alaska with earthquakes and the ones I sat through in Washington state, pretty much everything can shake. We even shake about the general events in our lives: suffering, worry, heartache, or loss. When this occurs, can we rely on the faith that God gives us when life's sufferings shake us to the core? Come to the Christian Life Retreat and find the **ROCK** that never shakes, that will hold you and give you the strength and grace to continue in this vale of tears. By His grace you will be able to stand with the strength others have had in the past.

Donna Snow is a marvelous presenter and will be leading three sessions at the retreat with Bible study and guidance. From the moment of arrival on Friday evening to the time of departure on Saturday afternoon, attendees will be immersed in a **ROCKing**, rolling, and fun atmosphere. Everyone will experience growth and renewed **AWE**. Come and learn how we are going to be used to point people to the hope of salvation. This study is based on Hebrews 12:28–29, *Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*

Please plan to join us for the upcoming retreat, with the theme: UNSHAKABLE — Standing on the ROCK! Watch for the registration form coming soon in an upcoming issue of *The Kansas Sonshine*.

UNSHAKABLE
Standing on the
ROCK



Christian Life Retreat
November 7–8, 2025
Salina, Kansas
Donna Snow,
Presenter

save the date!

PRAYER MAIL COORDINATOR

Mary Schmidt



Greetings as we enter a new year continually surrounded by God's love and care. I accepted the appointed position of Prayer Mail Coordinator in May of 2024. I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of Velma Bass who served in this position from the beginning of its existence. The goal of the prayer mail is to bring prayer requests of all nature to you for your prayers. Since I started, I have sent out only a few prayer emails, but with each of them I have had some emails returned to me for various reasons. I have been able to track down a number of them and update the email addresses; however, there are a few that I have not been able to identify. If you thought you were on the email list and have not received a prayer request email in the last five months, please send your email address to me at pmail@kansaslwml.org and I will add your email address to the list. If you haven't been on the list and would like to be added, please send your information to me as well. And, last but not least, please continue to send your prayer requests so your sisters and brothers in Christ can offer our prayers to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace and joy in Christ,
Mary Schmidt

GOSPEL OUTREACH

Julie Hatesohl | VP of Gospel Outreach

It's a very special thing to sing the *Doxology* with LWML sisters recognizing God's grace in achieving funds for a mission grant. I often close my eyes just to soak in the beauty of the words and the harmonized voices of those who have used their hands and feet to collect their silver and gold for His will. What a beautiful experience.

So far this biennium, the LWML Kansas District Executive Committee (EC) has stood and sung the *Doxology* three times; meaning, we have already funded the first three mission grants for this biennium. Thanks be to God!

The LWML Kansas District Mission Grant/God's Gracious Gift Fund Applications for the 2026–2028 biennium will soon be available on the district website. There will be an electronic and a paper format available. The Gospel Outreach Committee has focused on improving the application form providing more clarity on how grant applications will be evaluated. This criterion is the same as that used by the (national) LWML Gospel Outreach Committee.

Each grant application will be evaluated by the following criteria:

- Be mission in emphasis, extending the ministry of the Word — in other words, spread the Gospel.
- Fit into plans and projections of the LCMS — in doctrinal agreement with the LCMS.
- Be current and ready for implementation once funding is received.
- Be ongoing in nature, with the assurance of continuing after the grant monies have been expended.
- Have clearly stated purpose so the Gospel Outreach committee can tell how the money will be used.
- Be submitted by an LWML Member, Group, Zone, District, or the LCMS Board for National Mission or the LCMS Board for International Mission.

Each grant goes through a rigorous review process by the Gospel Outreach Committee, the Kansas District LCMS Office, the LCMS Office in St. Louis, the LWML Kansas District Executive Board, and the LWML Kansas District Board of Directors.

The Mission Grant and God's Gracious Gift Fund applications are due September 1, 2025. The approved grant proposals for the 2026–2028 biennium will be voted on by the delegates at the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention.

CHURCH WORKERS IN MISSION (CWIM)

Joyce Duitsman | CWIM Coordinator



A warm LWML welcome to

Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf, Associate Pastor at Risen Savior, Basehor

Our CWIM Coordinator sends a packet of information to new-to-Kansas church workers. If you know someone who fits that description, but hasn't yet been recognized in the *Sonshine*, you may contact Joyce at churchworkers@kansaslwml.org. *Please welcome and support all our church workers!*

For ideas on how to support church workers, visit lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

Carol Olson | Organizational Resources Chair



WOW! 2024 is behind us — that is clear; but what does 2025 have in store for us? As the Organizational Resources Committee is digging into the 2024–2026 biennium of zone bylaw reviews, we are focusing on clarity. Is the wording of your bylaws clear and concise? Does each article and section describe the current practice of your zone? Would someone not familiar with how your zone operates be able to read your bylaws and find the guidance they need? There are some zone current practices that are less clear in the bylaws but everyone just knows, “It’s how it’s always been done.” We have all heard that before! It is just fine if it has always been done that way, but please include it in your bylaws or standing rules for all to know.

The Organizational Resources Committee suggests that you have someone unfamiliar with your bylaws and standing rules to read through them. Have them make note of what items are unclear or could be worded differently to provide clarity. Also have someone who is experienced in the zone and familiar with the bylaws, recommend wording that leaves no question as to what is meant.

As we encourage new people to become involved in LWML, it is important that we provide them with clear guidance so they can feel comfortable and confident in the resources available to them as they grow in God’s grace.

BEAR FRUIT



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

41st Biennial Convention
of the
LWML Kansas District
Lutheran Women *in Mission*

April 17–19, 2026
Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, Kansas

Editor’s Note: Be sure to stay informed of plans for the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention, hosted by the Huthinson, Manhattan, Northwest, and Southwest Zones. Read *The Kansas Sonshine* when it’s published, visit kansaslwml.org often, and share the information with your local LWML sisters!



COMMUNICATION

Allison Lehmann | VP of Communication

Resolution: *a firm decision to do or not do something.*

Did you make a New Year's resolution this year? Exercise regularly, lose weight, save money, or learning how to play an instrument are some popular resolutions. But, how many people keep their resolutions? After the birth of Christ, the Magi resolved to seek the newborn King. Their road was not easy and was met with many conflicts, but the Magi stayed committed to their goal.

Have you ever thought to make a New Year's resolution to our Lord? The following are a few ideas.

- * Be in the Word daily: daily devotions, Bible studies, and visual faith are all ways to strengthen your faith. You can find many ideas at lwml.org/all-spiritual-growth, or in the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (LWQ)*.
- * Find ways to serve others: tying quilts with others, assembling kits for Orphan Grain Train, or preparing/serving food for others are wonderful acts of service. If you have a "serving" picture you'd like to share, or if you'd like to see what other women in Kansas are doing, head over the LWML Kansas District Facebook page, or submit an article for *The Kansas Sonshine* and read, there, what other women in the district are up to.
- * Encourage and lift each other up: speaking a kind word, leaving a Mustard Seed devotion for a waitress or worker, or giving a devotional are wonderful ways to spread God's love. Resources can be found at lwml.org/mission-service-activities, or at the LWML Store, lwml.cph.org.

Don't forget that *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and Website Maintenance Fee Remittance Forms are due by April 1, and may be found [here](#), or on the Organizational Resources page of the website, kansaslwml.org/organizational-resources under the Forms bar.

The Communication Committee would like to welcome Laura, the new LWML Kansas District Webservant! Please be patient as we transition the website management and make updates.

The LWML Kansas District would like to thank Elise Christensen for the expertise and service she has provided as webmaster for the past three years. Elise, we appreciate you and pray you will find countless joys in your new role as mother!

May God bless you in this new year
as you continue to serve our Lord
with gladness in **tried** and **new** ways!



The LWML Kansas District Communication Committee is looking for a **Technology Manager** to assist with technology and manage Power Point presentations for district events. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact communication@lwml.org.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Carolyn Fishburn

Praise God! Our mite offering giving is slightly ahead of our goal for this point in the 2024–2026 biennium. The \$59,981.85 received, as of November 30, represents nearly 40% of our \$150,000 mite offering goal for the biennium. As of November 30, we are 36% of the way through the biennium, which would equal \$54,000. Although we are ahead of our goal, please continue to be faithful in feeding your Mite Box.



I am still receiving mail that is forwarded to me from Kathryn Richard, our former financial secretary. Please ask your group treasurer to send your group offerings to me at the following address:

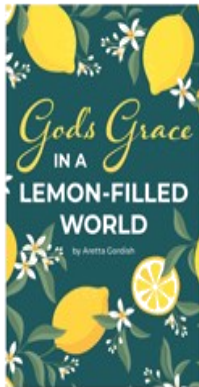
Carolyn Fishburn
LWML Kansas District Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 491
Haven, KS 67543

Be sure to include the remittance voucher found on the website, kansaslwml.org, on the [Organizational Resources page – Expense and Remittance Vouchers](#) bar. My address and a remittance voucher may also both be found on the website on the [Giving page](#) under both the *Mite Offerings* and *By Mail* bars. As instructed on the remittance voucher, checks should be made payable to **LWML Kansas District** (not to the Financial Secretary).

You may also submit your individual, group, or zone mite offerings, memorial gifts, or other contributions online at kansaslwml.org/giving. NO remittance voucher is needed with an online donation.

Are you a Thrivent member? If so, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to LWML Kansas District. Funds received through Thrivent Choice will be directed to the God's Gracious Gift Fund.

If you have any questions, please email me at financialsecretary@kansaslwml.org.



We are excited to announce that the most recent LWML e-News, found at lwml.org/posts/news/enews-new-devotional-2025-prayer-service, highlights the newest LWML devotional booklet, *God's Grace in a Lemon-Filled World*. Author Aretta Gordish lives in Wichita, Kansas, and is an individual LWML member in the Wichita Zone. The devotional booklet consists of 20 devotions that demonstrate how God's grace prevails when life gives us lemons. It is available for purchase at lwml.cph.org/c-2585-new-products. Congratulations to Aretta for the publication of her devotional booklet!

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:7*

CARING SERVICE

Linda Stanton | VP of Caring Service

The new year has arrived! After experiencing the joy and peace of Christmas, celebrating the Savior's birth, we are renewed with hope and gratitude for His coming to earth and into our lives. The new year makes way for new hope and aspirations for each of us. Many of us are looking to change or improve some area of our lives. With God's help, and by His grace, may we grow in Him and proclaim His love to everyone around us.

It's not too soon to plan for the upcoming convention in Omaha. Gifts from the Heart is **going green!** You won't have to lug any gifts to the convention; instead, you are encouraged to utilize Amazon wish lists. There are three recipients for the convention ingathering — Camp Luther of Nebraska, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, and The Chapel: The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry. Shop online and have the items shipped directly to the recipient of your choice. An online link will be provided, along with the wish lists, in the February 2025, *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. See the flyer on [page 9](#) of this newsletter.



The Caring Service Committee will work to help anyone who may not have access to online shopping. It is our goal to make sure that every group and individual has the opportunity to give in this manner. We ask that each group president identify someone to help members who may need assistance. The Caring Service Committee will be here to answer questions and help in any way we can. The new year brings this new opportunity, with a new way to share our Gifts from the Heart at convention!

DON'T MISS THE BUS TO Omaha!



We look forward to sharing the bus experience and time with you! The bus is scheduled to depart from Wichita on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. and will return to Kansas on Sunday, June 29. Stops in Salina, Topeka, and Fairview, are included in the route.

To reserve YOUR place on the bus, please complete the reservation form and the participation release form (*found on [pages 10–11](#) of this document*). Mail these two forms along with a \$100 deposit to secure your seat. These are due to Travel Chairman Donna Smith by **March 1, 2025**. The deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE unless the bus is canceled. The remainder of the cost is due May 1, 2025.

The estimated price for the trip is \$648 for 2/room, \$528 for 3/room, or \$468 for 4/room, based on **25** passengers. The price includes the bus cost, four (4) nights lodging, and gratuities for the bus driver and travel chairman. We don't anticipate the price being higher than these estimates, but it could be lower if we have more than 25 people. An itemized expense sheet will be provided with exact amounts as soon as possible after the hotel is booked. ***In order to get these prices, we need at least 25 people to make a reservation by the deadline of March 1.***

For your convenience the LWML Kansas District Executive Committee has included a gratuity for the bus driver and the travel chairman in the price of the trip. If you feel you would like to tip an additional amount at the end of the trip, there will be an opportunity to do so.

All meals and convention registration fees are your responsibility. When you register for the convention, you will be given the opportunity to book your hotel. **DO NOT book a hotel through the convention registration! The travel chairman will book your hotel for you.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Donna Smith, LWML Kansas District Travel Chairman, buschair@kansaslwml.org.



Gifts from the Heart IS GOING GREEN!

Gifts From the Heart is getting a Makeover for Omaha!



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Change. Yes, change. Positive and necessary change.

The days of packing and hauling boxes across the country are over!



WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

Utilize Amazon Wish Lists.

- ▶ Shop online and ship directly to our recipients in the months before the convention.
- ▶ Select items from an Amazon Wish List of each recipient's top needs.
- ▶ Use the online link provided.
- ▶ Shop individually, or make it a group event.

WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS?

Three ministries have been selected as Gifts From the Heart recipients for the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha.



Camp Luther of Nebraska



Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska



The Chapel: The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry

WHAT'S NEXT? Watch for more information in the winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* in the convention section. **Wish List shopping will open in February 2025 and continue through convention weekend.**

The time is now to embrace new options for collecting Gifts from the Heart ingathering items! **Ready? Set. Here we GO!**



Learn more about the Lutheran Women in Mission's 42nd Biennial Convention at lwml.org/convention



2025 CONVENTION BUS RESERVATION FORM
 LWML Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
 June 26-29, 2025



Please print clearly

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Congregation/City/State: _____

Emergency Contact at Convention:Name/Phone: _____

PREFERENCES

Number of People in Your Room: _____

Names of Roommates (if known):

The bus trip will start in Wichita on June 25, 2025, with stops in Salina and Topeka. The bus will leave Omaha at the close of convention on June 29, returning to Kansas that day.

A \$100 deposit will hold your seat on the bus and is due March 1, 2025. The deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE, unless the bus is canceled. RESERVATION FORM, PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND RELEASE FORM, AND DEPOSIT MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER. Remainder of cost is due May 1, 2025.

ALL FORMS AND ALL PAYMENTS should be mailed to:
 Donna Smith, P.O. Box 194, Council Grove, KS 66846

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

Estimated pricing for the bus alone is \$283. This price is based on 25 people. If we have more, the price will go down. I will make room reservations for you, once we have been assigned a hotel for our bus by the National Travel Chair. **You will be responsible for paying for your room cost when we check out of the hotel.**

ALL meals AND convention registration/fees/meals are YOUR responsibility. Visit www.lwml.org for registration information.

Riding the bus is a great way to make new friends and rekindle old friendships. Onward to Omaha!

God's blessings,
 Donna Smith, Travel Chairman



NAME (please print) _____

FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE KANSAS DISTRICT
TRAVEL PARTICIPANT INFORMATION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT,
ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE FORM
(Charter Bus Passenger June 2025)**

The purpose of this Travel Participant Information, Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk and Release Form is to identify each person ("Participant") who wishes to participate in LWML Kansas District-sponsored travel and LWML Kansas District activities related to that travel. As a condition to becoming a Participant, LWML Kansas District requires you to provide the following information and to release LWML Kansas District from any liability for your safety and wellbeing while participating in any LWML Kansas District travel-related activities, including optional activities scheduled in conjunction with conventions or any meetings. LWML Kansas District may copy this form for use at optional activities. Please return the form as requested. The forms will be securely stored for use during the travel dates specified by the Kansas District Travel Chairman, buschair@kansaslwml.org.

Name/Address: _____

(*the following four questions are optional as your event may require)

***Allergies and Other Known Health Risks/Problems:** _____

***Special Diet Restrictions (not preferences):** _____

***Reaction to Diet Restriction/Medication Needed:** _____

***Person to Contact in the Event of an Emergency (Name, Address, Telephone Number(s), Relationship):** _____

GENERAL RELEASE

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees as follows: LWML Kansas District assumes no, and disclaims all, liability for my safety and well-being while I am a Participant. In consideration of LWML Kansas District permitting me to be a Participant, I (a) acknowledge and agree that LWML Kansas District cannot and does not accept any (and expressly disclaims all) responsibility for my safety and well-being; and (b) waive all claims arising from my participation in LWML Kansas District sponsored or LWML Kansas District-related activities. Knowing and understanding the risks relating to my being a Participant, I release and discharge LWML Kansas District, its directors, officers, employees, and agents from all claims, demands, actions and causes of action that I may have, now or in the future, relating to or resulting from any illness or injuries (including death), loss or damage suffered by me while I am a Participant.

PHOTO RELEASE

I grant to LWML Kansas District and its assigns the right and permission to take photographs and audio and video recordings during my participation, and to retain, publish and distribute, without charge or fee, such photographs and audio and video recordings. Without limiting the foregoing, I agree that these images and recordings may be used in publications, including electronic publications and websites, and in audio-visual presentations, promotional literature, advertising, and in other similar ways.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE (if under 18): _____

DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

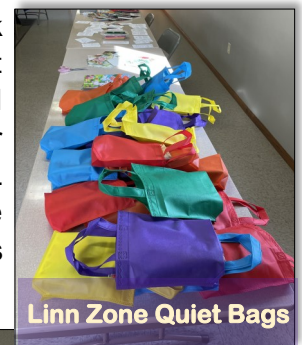
The **LINCOLN ZONE** Fall Workshop was held at First Lutheran Church in Plainville, on Saturday morning, October 12, with 28 in attendance. The Bible Study was led by Zone Counselor Pastor Chris Craig, focusing on the hymn, *Abide With Me*. Gifts from the Heart was collected for Plainville's Suitcase Project for foster children. Our special guest for the day was LWML Kansas District President Elaine Engelman. Everyone enjoyed the day with a wonderful salad luncheon, followed by singing, a skit, drawings, mite offering, and the zone business meeting.



On Wednesday, October 23, seven ladies from the **LINCOLN ZONE** enjoyed a road trip to the Orphan Grain Train Warehouse in Wichita. Attending from Trinity, Hunter were Beverly Wiese, Ann Heller, Jayne Heller, Pam Schneider, Marilyn Schneider, and Becky Keller. Shelly Keller attended from Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove. They travelled together to deliver quilts, school kits, and health kits that had been assembled by their LWML groups. Fifty quilts made by the LWML Group of St. John, Lincoln, were also delivered. The ladies provided a sandwich luncheon for all the workers at the warehouse. After lunch, the ladies helped pack boxes of health kits, after first checking all the kits to be sure they had the correct supplies inside. The boxes were packed, taped, and labeled, and then put with the other boxes of health kits in the store room; they will be sent to those in need. The Wichita site sent a container the previous week to Ukraine, filled with many supplies and kits, medical equipment, bicycles, and clothing. The cost of that shipment was \$16,000, indicating how they rely on generous donors for shipping funding, as well as donating the needed items and kits.



LINN ZONE LWML met at St. John, Palmer, for their Fall Event. Pastor Mark Gaschler lead our Bible study based on Matthew 5. LWML Kansas District President Elaine Engelman, informed us on what is going on in our LWML district, and promoted *The Kansas Sonshine* as a place to find information, forms, and other LWML Group events. She also encouraged us to attend the upcoming LWML (national) convention. The group packed 27 quiet bags for kids that will be distributed to our zone churches. A skit, *The Tater Family*, led by Betsy Friedrichs and helpers, was presented. A dessert bar was enjoyed for refreshments.



LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

The **HUTCHINSON ZONE LWML** Fall Meeting was held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran, Salina. Forty-six members, pastors, and guests were in attendance. Gifts from the Heart were collected for the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank. Pastor Kootz led the opening devotions, and Pastor Wagner led the Bible study, *Getting Ready to Serve*, based on recent LWML Sunday material. Julie Hatesohl, VP of Gospel Outreach, was our district representative. A delicious lunch was served by Trinity LWML, followed by our business meeting. The Hutchinson Zone will co-host the 2026 LWML Kansas District Convention in Manhattan. Darla Abbott, Convention Co-chair filled open positions on the Convention Planning Committee. Thank you to all who volunteered! A mite offering of \$354 will go toward missions. Members of the Executive Committee participated in a skit, *"BREAKING NEWS from Downtown Omaha, Nebraska"* promoting the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha. A card and a plaque were given to our long time LWML sister, Mary Schmidt. She and her husband, John, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Pastor Wagner led closing devotions.



Linda Kootz
Trinity LWML President



Darla Abbott
Convention Co-Chair



The **NORTHEAST ZONE** held their Fall Event on September 21, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Atchison. Twenty-four ladies and two pastors were in attendance. Our Gifts from the Heart were school kit items for Orphan Grain Train. We collected 22 complete kits, 40 backpacks, and additional school kit items. The Zone Spring Event will be hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Ladies in Fairview, Kansas, on April 12, 2025.



Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body (Proverbs 16:24) was the theme for the **TOPEKA ZONE** Fall Event. Fifty-two women gathered at Redeemer Lutheran in Lawrence, on October 5. Pastor Kilgo give a Bible study on the theme verse before he headed off to help the Red and Blue Lutheran Crew (Redeemer's campus ministry), which has just received an LWML Kansas District mission grant! Twenty-five school kits were assembled for Orphan Grain Train. On October 11, Christ Lutheran, Topeka, hosted the second Orphan Grain Train pick up. Area groups packed the truck with quilts and kits.

Orphan

Grain

Train



LWML KANSAS DISTRICT ZONE AND LOCAL GROUP NEWS

On September 28, Lutheran Women in Mission **WICHITA ZONE**, met at Trinity, Winfield, for our annual Fall Event. Newly elected District President Elaine Engelman and 37 other guests from nine Groups attended. Pastoral Counselor Rev. Seth Meyer began the day with interactive Bible study of Elijah in 1 Kings 17–19, exploring the importance and meaning of names in scripture. Our mission speaker was Mrs. Heather Meyer; she presented a brief history of Haiti and described her family’s ongoing commitment to missions and lasting relationships with missionaries there. Pastor Meyer, Mrs. Meyer, their older children, and Mrs. Meyer’s parents, have traveled to Haiti several times over the years to help build, rebuild, and proclaim the Gospel to this troubled island.

Quilts were tied for Orphan Grain Train as the service project. Generous amounts of food and cash were collected for the Winfield Food Pantry and for mite offerings. Zone President Chris thanked the women of Trinity, Winfield, for hosting and all guests for making time to come together to serve the Lord and enjoy fellowship.



Pastoral Counselor
Rev. Seth Meyer



Katie Wilson and
Elaine Engelman



Mission Speaker
Heather Meyer



CHRIST THE KING (CTK), SALINA, Lutheran Women in Mission, held their Annual Fall Fundraiser in October. They sold delicious homemade cinnamon rolls and bierocks. The proceeds from this fundraiser help fund the CTK LWML general budget. Items include kitchen appliance repairs, funeral dinners, seminary student sponsorship, and providing Portals of Prayer for the congregation.

UPCOMING LWML GROUP EVENTS



SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

WOMEN’S RETREAT at Holy Cross, Wichita

Speaker — Deb Burma, *Leaning on Jesus*

Early Registration — \$25; Registration after February 9 — \$30

Registration info available at holycrosslutheran.net

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

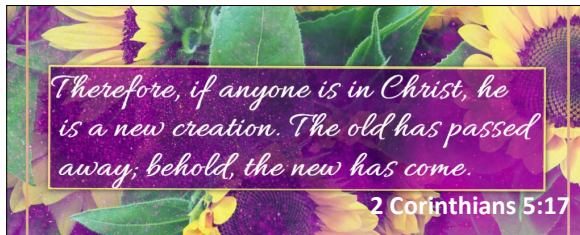
♥If your LWML group is planning an event and you’d like to inform **all** LWML Kansas District groups, email Sherri at sonshine@kansaslwml.org. ♥

2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

January 15	Selection of district YWRs for LWML Convention
January 22–24	Presidents Assembly, Omaha
February 1	Names due for LWML Kansas District Nominating Committee (KC Crossroads, Lincoln, Linn, Topeka, and Wichita Zones)
February 7–8	Executive Committee meeting, Retreat Center, Herington
March 1	CHARTER BUS TO OMAHA RESERVATIONS AND DOWN PAYMENT DUE Twenty-five people are needed to ride the bus to receive previously stated price
March 1	First day to register for LWML Convention (online only)
March 15	Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (LWQ) and Web Maintenance Fees due
March/April	Zone Spring Events
June 26–29	LWML Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
July (date TBD)	Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL)



Zone Spring Events are coming soon! Zone Presidents, please inform President Elaine of your zone event's date, time, and location as early as possible.



THIS SUMMER Kansas Assembly of Leaders (KAOL) includes all district committee members, zone counterparts, and group presidents. If this includes you, please watch for information to come! KAOL is a great leadership tool for our district.

NEED RESOURCES?

Be sure to check out the Group Resources page of the LWML website, lwml.org/growthanddevelopment. There you can find resources for meeting helps, program helps like devotions and Bible studies, and the League Pledge and songs. AND MORE!!



KANSAS RESOURCES

Resources for the LWML Kansas District mission grants may be found at kansaslwml.org/gospel-outreach. Print bookmarks of the 2024–2026 Mission Grants for your upcoming zone event, group event, or make them available to your congregation. Also, follow the progress of mission grants using the Mission Grants poster, which may also be printed. Use the resources from our website!

LWML KANSAS DISTRICT 2024-2026 MISSION GRANTS

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



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.