

## **Kansas District LLL Convention**

**October 25 & 26, 2024**

### **Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, Kansas**

Joe Chretien brought the Convention to order.

Pastor Gary Wolf had an opening prayer and thoughts on Psalms 89:1-11. It is a Psalm of praise about what God has done for us. God has been so good to us and we as the LLL proclaim the hope of salvation for the whole world.

Joe reminded everyone about the silent auction.

Kansas LWML President Elaine Engelman brought greetings from the LWML. She spoke about their Mite Boxes. She also mentioned their many grants and scholarships. She mentioned their Gifts of Love program which help people with charitable estate giving. She talked about the Lutheran Women in Mission videos. She showed us a video which talked about keeping the focus on Jesus and serving others.

We then viewed a video from Kurt Buchholz. CEO of Lutheran Hour Ministries. He encouraged everyone to familiarize themselves with the many LHM resources that are available. He spoke of how congregations could host workshops to learn more about LHM, sharing your faith and other topics. He emphasized the importance of all those that generously give to LHM and encouraged everyone to contribute to LHM as they continue to spread the Saving Gospel throughout the world.

Polly Gregali gave us an update from LHM. LHM is all about people. LLL was started by 12 men in 1917. Since then, LLL and LHM have continued to grow using cutting edge technology to spread the Gospel. We all have ways to share. We each have different gifts. The current Connect Initiative has the following goals: 1. Impacting people globally. 2. Impacting people through digital engagement. 3. Impacting people where they are.

LHM has new ministries in Peru, Congo, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan. These Ministry Centers are run people from that area. LHM recruits and trains workers for each ministry team. Areas of emphasis are: Multimedia, Social Media and Children/Youth.

LHM is reaching into Arabic countries using SAT 7, PAK 7, radio broadcast, and social media.

The United States is also a mission field. Barna has gathered data to help produce programs to help us in our own neighborhoods. Spiritual Conversations teaches us how to talk about our faith. Households of Faith teaches us how to help children have a relationship with God. Hopeful Neighbors and Gifted for More teach us to help and serve in our community.

LHM offers many Bible Studies including a new one which has lessons for High School aged students. They also have Gospel Adventures which help grade school children learn about Christians in other countries. This year the country is Australia and next year it is Kenya. Many Spiritual Growth and Equipping Resources are available. Polly also talked about the Lutheran Hour, the LHM App., LHM Learn and Ministry Impact.

Stacey Stultz spoke to us about MOMCO which is Mom Community. MOMCO helps mothers by supporting them as they raise children. Moms are mentors to other moms. It is also an outreach for the church as moms are also taught the importance of having a relationship with Jesus. This is great for moms new in the community. They meet once a month and have devotions, prayer, speakers, creative or service activities and table discussions. It helps build friendships, spiritual growth and leadership. It helps make better communities and better moms.

Rev. Joel Hiesterman spoke to us about the Orphan Grain Train. More than 3,728 semi-trailer truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies and religious materials have been sent to 69 countries and also to disaster areas since 1992. This past year OGT has made 105 international shipments and 173 domestic shipments. Less than 2% of donations are used for administration. Norfolk, Nebraska is the home base, but there are 26 regional collection sites. Mercy Meals, that are packed at several different sites, are sent to fight hunger throughout the world.

Lunch was served. Lunch was catered by J D Country Style Chicken.

Arlen read the Theme Resolution, Energizing Missions.

Sheryl Butler spoke about Dream Inc. and the Dream Camp. They work with children from families that have someone who has a substance abuse issue. 50% of the children in these situations become addicts. 70 – 75% of youth in treatment are from addict families. In Kansas 140,000 children are in families of addicts. At the Dream Camp the children are educated on how to break the cycle. They are taught, I didn't cause it, I can't control it and I can change myself and work on myself so I don't fall into the same pattern.

We then had the business meeting. Ray moved to approve the minutes from the last convention. John seconded. Motion approved.

Jim Johnson gave the treasurer's report. The operating fund had \$1183 in it. The bequest fund had \$60,000 in it. Interest from this goes to the operating fund. The District Project fund raised \$56,545 last year. This year we have only collected \$6900 so far. Tom moved to accept the treasurer's report. John seconded. Motion carried.

John read the Kansas District Project Resolution. Warren made a motion to accept the resolution. Elmer seconded.

The State Fair Booth Report was in the Convention Booklet and was read by Joe. Elmer encouraged people to collect recent Portals of Prayer for the State Fair Booth to hand out.

The State Fair Worship Service Report was in the Convention Booklet. Tom suggested we ask our Pastors or congregations if they would like to be involved in the Worship Service.

Rachel Albin spoke to us about Operation Christmas Child. This program works with local churches to give children gifts. The gift is a packed shoebox. The shoebox contains gifts. The children hear the Gospel message when they receive the gift. She shared her experience in Africa when she went to hand out gifts. Messiah Lutheran Church has been involved for 14 years. They packed 1400 shoeboxes this year. This is a joint mission project to share the Gospel in 170 countries.

Joe read the By-laws and Constitution Resolution. Tracy moved to accept the Resolution. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

Arlen read the ballot for elections and asked for nominations from the floor. For President- Joe Chretien. Warren moved that nominations cease. Elmer seconded. Motion passed. Vice President – No Candidates. Region IV Board Member – Ray Keller. Pastor Wolf moved that nominations cease. Arlen seconded. Motion passed. Region I Board Member – Fred Gruhn. John moved that nominations cease. Ray seconded. Motion passed. Each candidate was elected to office.

Joe gave the Golf Tournament Report that was written in the Convention Booklet.

Joe gave the Presidents Report. He stated that he worked hard on the Bylaws and Constitution. He also is updating a list of persons involved in LLL in Kansas. This will give us a picture of where we stand in Kansas. He is also working on a designing a template of what a Kansas LLL District President has to do. This will be given to the next President.

Pastor Wolf installed the new officers.

Ray Keller read the Thank Resolution.

Tim invited everyone to the Zone 7 Convocation on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Washington County High School in Washington, Kansas. Information is in the October Lutheran Witness.

Tim announced the results of the Silent Auction. \$310 was raised for the District Project.

Pastor Wolf gave some closing thoughts. God is good. All the time. He then had a closing prayer.

John moved that the Convention be adjourned. Arlen seconded. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Voelker, Secretary