

2025 Kansas LLL District Convention

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas

November 1, 2025

Fred Gruhn welcomed everyone to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and explained a few logistics concerning the Convention.

President Joe Chretien opened the Convention and also gave a welcome to everyone.

Pastor Gary Wolf led the opening prayer.

LWML State President Elaine Engelman spoke to the Convention. She encouraged the women and men to serve the Lord with gladness. She shared about the many fantastic scholarships, financial grants and gifts of love the LWML offered. She shared how they were equipping women to share the Gospel. She showed a video, "Lutheran Women in Mission Focused on Jesus." She spoke about the Hebrews 13:20-21 that says, "Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to Him be glory forever and ever. Their hope is to engage and involve each woman in the Church. Their State Convention is in Manhattan on April 17-19, 2026. The National LWML Convention is in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on January 9-11, 2027.

A video was shown from Lutheran Hour Ministries. On the video Kurt Buchholz, LHM President and CEO, spoke about the Goals of LHM and how it is important to have a global presence. LHM should be a Global Mission Organization that does work in North America and in many parts of the world. New ministry centers have opened in Peru, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Congo. LHM uses local leaders to start mission centers. They are training people using an Evangelistic Ministry Model to train staff around the world. There is also a new team starting in Bolivia. LHM is also actively reaching out digitally, using blogs, videos, e-books, on-line Bible courses and digital conversations. Many times they start by dealing with real life issues and build relationships and share the Gospel. We also heard from ministries in Latin America and Latvia.

Fred Gruhn encouraged everyone to get the Lutheran Hour Ministries App.

The Keynote Speaker was Reverend Doctor Michael Zeigler. He talked about how we are equipped to share the Gospel. Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. He spoke about how AI has become so dominate in society. Many people are searching for answers, but instead of talking to someone they ask AI. He shared the Robert Frost poem "A time to Talk". He shared the importance of conversation. There are many reasons not to trust AI. It makes things up, it tells you what you want to hear, it is not a person. All the questions that AI is asked is revealing a need. We need to connect with people and share how they can connect to God.

People need to be known. We are made for relationships. John 17:3 tells us eternal life = knowing God. We need to help people know God.

God knows us so well. He is our true Father and we are His true children. Prayer should be a conversation with a father or a friend. The 10 Commandments are God's Promise. They show us what a healthy life looks like. They also help us to know him. They say what God loves and what he hates. Luther told us how to talk to God in "A Simple Way to Pray". It had four parts: 1. Instruction – How God is teaching me to love what He loves. 2. Thanks –How is God showing Himself true to what He loves, giving me more reason to thank him. 3. Confession – How have I fallen short and broken God's heart. 4. Request – What help do I need to love others, even as God loves me?

The Beautiful Savior Church Fellowship Board provided us with a wonderful lunch.

Arlen Schultz read the Theme Resolution.

Rev. John Kastner spoke about planting a new church in De Soto, Kansas, Light of the World Lutheran Church. He talked about the steps they are using to simplify church planting. 1. Concept 2. Feasibility 3. Planning 4. Start Up 5. Formation 6. Transition. He read several Bible passages including I Cor, 3:6-7, Rom. 10:17 and Mark 16:15. He spoke about how the Church in De Soto got started and about its first two years. He said we could support them with prayer, by visiting them and by giving to them. There are three other recent Church Plants in Kansas, one in Concordia, also a Spanish Church in the Argentine area in Kansas City and one in Spring Hill.

The Convention moved to the sanctuary for a Bell Concert. An amazing concert was enjoyed as three handbell ensembles performed many arrangements. The ensembles were the Santus Ringers, the Intermezzo Ringers and Beata Handbell Ensemble. They were directed by Luran Delancy.

The Minutes were approved. Tom Stanton made the motion and Warren Briggeman seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report. It is printed in the Convention Booklet. He talked about different ways that one can give to the District Project. Church groups hold fund raisers and individuals give. He even received a donation from a grain elevator and from IRA's. The District Project, to date, has received about 20% of the goal. The Golf Tournament brought in \$4000. Tom Stanton made a motion to accept the Treasurer's and John Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

John Johnson read the District Project Resolution. Jim Johnson made a motion adopt the resolution. Richard Schrum seconded. Motion carried.

Joe Chretien read the State Fair Booth Report.

Tom Stanton stated that the State Fair Worship Report was in the Convention Booklet. He encouraged other congregations to participate. If any congregation is interested they should contact Tom at 620 694-9802.

Joe Chretien read the Golf Tournament Report. Joe thanked Mark Hatesohl and Dennis Tegtmeier for their work on the tournament.

Joe also read the Officer Election Resolution. The Election Ballot was presented. Tom Stanton moved that the Resolution be accepted, the slate of officers be adapted and elected unanimously. Fred Gruhn seconded. Motion carried. The results of the Election are as follows: Vice President – Ray Keller, Region III Board Member – Warren Briggeman, Region I Board Member – Fred Gruhn, Treasurer – Jim Johnson, Secretary – Tim Voelker.

Joe Chretien gave his President's Report. He has worked to streamline the duties of the President. He documented all that was done in the Kansas District. He mentioned the importance of cooperation with the LWML.

The Officers were installed by Pastor Gary Wolf.

Ray Keller read the Thank You Resolution.

Tim Voelker and Arlen Schultz announced the silent auction results.

\$515 were raise through the silent auction.

46 people attended the Convention.

Joe announced that Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays now has a Pastor. Their new Pastor is Reed Shoff.

The convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Voelker, Secretary