

Kansas District LLL Convention

November 3 & 4, 2023

Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas

The Convention was called to order by President Joe Chretien. Joe also welcomed everyone to the Convention.

Pastor Dennis Kootz had the opening devotion. It was based on Romans 12:2. Why are we here? This is answered every day by what we do. God continues to work through each of us. We are to be ambassadors to help others to be reconciled to God.

Betty Amey, Vice President of Caring Service for the Kansas LWML spoke to the Convention. She spoke about the joy of serving in the LWML. The LWML has a goal of \$145,000. Some of the recipients include the Orphan Grain Train, the Concordia Universities, the Seminaries, the Seminary in Kenya, and other schools and churches. She asked us to pray for them. She also reported they were giving \$40,000 in scholarships to church workers. She also spoke of their Gifts from the Heart, which are received in their In-Gatherings and given to missions. Their 2024 Convention in Wichita in April with the theme from Hebrews 6:19, "Jesus is my Anchor."

Kansas LCMS President, Justin Panzer spoke to the Convention about Partnerships. What do we have to do to provide Pastors to all the areas of Kansas. He shared a separate sheet entitled the partnership planning progress. It included four parts, Reflect, Assess, Implement and Plan. He also shared a Pro/Con list concerning partnerships. He shared different types of partnership models including: Standard Dual Parish, Helping Hand (where a large church helps a small church), Circuit Rider (where a Pastor serves a number of congregations), Connect with technology, Multi-site Mergers and the Blessed End (when a church closes).

A Lutheran Hour Ministries video was shown. It was entitled "Gifted for More". It was made to help Christians share their gifts. Everyone has a gift or gifts from God to share with others. Ps. 139:13-14, Col. 1:16 and John 3:16-17 were mentioned. We should see ourselves and others as gifts from God. This can change the way we look at the world. It asked what was a vibrant community and what gifts are present there. When it comes to gifts, we are on a developmental journey, a journey of maturation. First we need to be aware of our gifts. Then we need to develop our gifts, intentionally grow our gifts. Then generously share our gifts with others. You may be in different places on your journey with different gifts. Proficiency is the goal. LHM has an Every Gift Inventory individuals can take. Everyone is called. We have different callings. Luther called it our different realms including: in household, in local church, in our vocation or occupation and in society or community. We should be curious and explore our gifts. You can go to lhm.org/gifted.

We broke for Lunch.

Arlen Schultz read the Theme Resolution "Gifted for More". It was adopted.

Rev. Tom Harmon, Pastor of Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Wichita gave us information for relating to and ministering to the Muslim community. We went to the Mosque across the street and listened to a presentation and looked into the Mosque. When we returned Pastor Harmon gave a presentation on the Muslim.

John Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2022 Convention as printed. Seth seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report. It was printed in the Convention Booklet. John made a motion to accepted the Treasurer's Report. Seth seconded. Motion carried.

Nathan Harkins spoke about receiving Kansas LLL financial aid. He expressed his gratitude and and said he would graduate with very little debt.

John Johnson read the District Project Resolution that was printed in the Convention Booklet. It was adopted.

It was reported that 13 students received financial aid from the Kansas LLL this year.

The State Fair Booth Report was given by Mike Tonn. It is printed in the Convention Booklet. Mike also thanked all who helped with the booth. There were about 60 individuals and 10 congregations that helped. Keren the Comfort Dog was there five times. The expanded space this year made it better and allowed more interaction. It was money well spent. John encouraged people to help in the booth because it was a great experience. Spanish Bibles were mentioned and Dean explained Spanish interpretation was available on a phone.

John and Carol Kratzer with Keren the Comfort Dog came before the convention. Carol spoke about Keren's work. Keren has places to go nearly every day. Keren is triple vested so she can go into many situations.

Joe gave the State Fair Worship Service Report. It was printed in the Convention Booklet. President Justin Panzer was the speaker. There were 100 people at the service and the collection was \$669.10. Next year's speaker will be Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler on September 8, 2024.

Joe also gave the the Golf Report. It is printed in the Convention Booklet. \$1338 was raised for the District Project.

There was no old business.

For new business the election of officers was held. John made a motion to elect by unanimous ballot. Arlen seconded. Motion carried. Elected officers are: Vice President – Vacant; Treasurer

– Jim Johnson; Secretary- Tim Voelker; Region II Board Member – Tracey Brunner; Region III Board Member – Warren Briggeman; Pastoral Advisor – Rev. Gary Wolf.

The Thank Resolution in the Convention Booklet was read by Ray Keller.

The results of the silent auction were announced. A total of \$338 was raised for the District Project.

CJ Cross made a motion to adjourn. Tracey Brunner seconded. Motion Carried

Pastor Wolf led us in a closing prayer.