

Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League Board of Governors Meeting
January 27, 2018
Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas

Tim Voelker, LLL Kansas District president, called the meeting to order.

Rev. Scott Snow, LLL Kansas District pastoral advisor, led opening devotions on the theme of the Epiphany. Rev. Snow said that the Bible stories of Epiphany Sunday and the following Sundays reveal that Jesus is the Son of God.

Rev. Snow retold the story of the visit of the Magi. He passed samples of the three gifts around among the meeting participants. He noted the symbolism of the wise men's gifts. The gold symbolizes Jesus' kingship. The frankincense and myrrh symbolize and foreshadow Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.

Rev. Snow encouraged the attendees to seek Jesus every day. Rev. Snow proclaimed that Christians are blessed as they seek to better know Jesus every day. Rev. Snow told the attendees that Jesus can be found through the following activities.

- Jesus is found in His Word every day through daily reading and study of the Holy Bible. God reaches out to us every day in His Word.
- Jesus is found in worship.
- God calls us to be His witness. Jesus is found daily through witnessing.
- God gives Himself to us in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Following the devotions, the 13 attendees introduced themselves.

The meeting attendees reviewed the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting of August 12, 2017. The meeting attendees also reviewed the minutes of the 2017 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention, which occurred on November 4, 2017 at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Marysville, Kansas. Carroll Hackbart moved that both sets of minutes be accepted as printed. John Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Carroll Hackbart, LLL Kansas District treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. John Johnson moved to accept the treasurer's report. Ron Bott seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Carroll Hackbart led a discussion of the proposed budget for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year. Generally, no changes in budgeted expenses were anticipated by the board members except for the following items:

- It was proposed that the reimbursements for travel expenses for the Board of Governors be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- It was proposed that the budget for the Kansas State Fair worship service be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 to cover an expected increase in cost of renting the Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena.
- It was proposed that the budget for the pastoral advisor be increased from \$100 to \$200.
- A line item of \$500 was proposed for LHM display booths at the LCMS Kansas District Convention, the Saints Alive after 55 Gathering, and LCMS Kansas District Pastors Conference.

Carroll Hackbart reported that approximately \$4,700 had been received for the 2017 – 2018 LLL Kansas District Project as of the start of the meeting.

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Carroll Hackbart reported that the current balance of the Maike bequest investment fund, which is invested with the LCMS Foundation, is approximately \$31,000. He said that the investment fund had earned approximately \$7000 during the last two years. Carroll noted that the approximate \$7,000 that is expected to be distributed from the Maike bequest investment fund is not included in the annual budget for the LLL Kansas District.

Keith Jopp, the executive board member for Region 3 of the LLL Kansas District, presented a report of Region 3 news.

- Victor Schimming has volunteered to become the LHM congregational ambassador for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wichita. Victor and his wife drove from Wichita to Marysville last November 2017 to attend the 2017 LLL/LHM Kansas District convention.
- Keith provided a three-page document titled "Process to become a Lutheran Hour sponsor on Bott Radio". Keith reviewed the document with the attendees. Keith reported that an airing of the Lutheran Hour radio program costs \$20 per week per station.
- Keith also informed the attendees that local stations of the Bott Radio network will advertise church events.
- Keith reported that 11 congregations in the Wichita area help sponsor the weekly broadcast of the Lutheran Hour radio program on the powerful KFTI radio station.

John Johnson, editor of the LLL/LHM Reporter newsletter for the Kansas District, provided the following information about the newsletter.

- John requested that reports, articles, and announcements be sent to him either by email or U.S. Postal service for inclusion in the LLL/LHM Reporter newsletter. John requested articles or reports about local zone, congregational or group events. John also requested that digital pictures of these events be sent him by email.
- John reported that he will compose the newsletter from that reports, articles, and announcements that he receives. John said that he will not write articles himself.
- John will compose and distribute the LLL/LHM Reporter newsletter more than twice each year if he receives a sufficient number of reports, articles, and announcements.
- John repeated that the LLL/LHM Reporter newsletter is no longer printed and mailed to subscribers. John reported that a PDF file containing the newsletter would be sent to the distribution list of subscribers' email addresses. John also noted that a PDF file containing the LLL/LHM Reporter newsletter can be downloaded from the LLL/LHM Kansas District web site at the following URL: http://www.lhm-ks.org/lll_ks_newsletters.htm
- John suggested that local groups and congregations organize volunteers to print paper copies and to distribute the printed newsletters to members who want to receive a printed copy of the newsletter.
- John reported that persons who want to subscribe to the free LLL/LHM Reporter newsletter should send their email addresses to his email address johnejohnson4779@gmail.com.

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- John asked that zone officers and congregational ambassadors ask local subscribers to submit their new email addresses if their email addresses have changed.

Tim Voelker opened a general discussion about planning for the 2018 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention, which will be hosted in Region 4 (northwest Kansas) of the LLL Kansas District. No representatives from Region 4 were present at the meeting to report preliminary plans for the convention.

- The board members agreed that the scheduled date of the convention should be changed from Saturday, November 10 to Saturday, November 3, 2018.
- The board members agreed that only one session should be planned for the afternoon of Saturday, November 3.
- John Johnson suggested that a fee of \$10 be required of the attendees. A free will offering was accepted from attendees of the 2017 LLL Kansas District convention. No resolution was made regarding whether convention attendees should purchase \$10 tickets for the convention.
- President Tim Voelker proposed that a Lutheran Hour Rally or event like the Zone 7 Convocation be scheduled for Sunday after the convention. He said that he would discuss this proposal with the convention committee.
- The ideas of staging a training class or an outreach event in the morning before the main convention session were communicated by some meeting participants as means to increase attendance and to engage members.

Tim Voelker reported that the 46th annual LLL Kansas District Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 5 at 1:30 PM, at the Village Greens Golf Course, 3.5 miles west of Ozawkie on Kansas highway 92. More detailed information about the golf tournament is available on the LLL/LHM Kansas District web site at URL http://www.lhm-ks.org/lll_ks_golf.htm.

Rev. Scott Snow announced that he is a candidate for reelection of the vice president for Region 3 of the Kansas District of the LCMS. He observed that some of the clergy have a more limited view of the priesthood of all believers and of the engagement of the laity in outreach than he does. Rev. Snow asked for the support of attendees.

Rev. Snow also announced his intention to lead a tour of Israel in March 2019, and a tour in Germany and the Czech Republic during July 2020. Rev. Snow said that the tour in July 2020 will include the famous passion play in Oberammergau. Rev. Snow said that he would provide more information in the future.

Ronald Bott, coordinator for the state fair worship service, reported that the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair is scheduled for 10:00 AM on September 9, 2018 at the Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena. Ron said that the rent for the arena is \$1200 this year.

Mike Tonn, chairman of the State Fair Booth committee, reported that the LLL/LHM booth will again be in the Meadowlark Exhibit Hall at the Kansas State Fair. Mike said that the booth will be open from the beginning of the fair on Friday, September 7, through the end of the fair on Sunday, September 16, 2018. The following information about the fair booth was presented.

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- The fair booth is open from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM.
- The rent for the fair booth is \$1175.
- Between 200 and 300 Holy Bibles will be purchased for distribution.
- Magnets with the broadcast times of the Lutheran Hour radio program for different regions of the state of Kansas will be purchased and distributed from the booth.
- As in years past, Mike Tonn requested volunteers to staff the booth. At least two persons man the booth for a two hour shift.
- Mike Tonn said that certain congregations have volunteered to man the booth at certain times on certain days in the past. For example, last year, a group of 10 persons from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, manned the booth on the first Saturday of last year's fair. Mike said that he expects that groups of persons from various Kansas congregations will again volunteer to staff the booth.

The following topics were discussed during the "New Business" portion of the meeting.

- Tim Voelker encouraged the attendees to make presentations to their congregations for Lutheran Hour Sunday, February 4, 2018.
- Tim Voelker reminded the group that the 2018 LWML Kansas District Convention is scheduled from Friday, April 22, through Sunday, April 24, at the Atrium Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson, Kansas.
 - Tim Voelker announced that he had accepted an invitation to speak at one of the sessions.
 - Tim Voelker asked that volunteers be recruited to staff a display table for Lutheran Hour Ministries during the convention. Tim said that Polly Gregali, LHM Ministry Resource Manager, would provide display materials.
- Tim Voelker reminded the group that the 2018 LCMS Kansas District Convention is scheduled from Thursday, June 7, through Saturday, June 9, at the Capital City Plaza Hotel in Topeka.
 - Tim Voelker announced that he had accepted an invitation to make a presentation. He said that he will show a video that will be provided by the Lutheran Hour Ministries and will speak briefly using the talking points that the LHM will provide him.
 - Tim Voelker asked that volunteers be recruited to staff a display table for Lutheran Hour Ministries during the convention. Tim said that Polly Gregali, LHM Ministry Resource Manager, would provide display materials.
- Tim Voelker told the group that the Saints Alive after 55 conference is scheduled for Sunday, July 29, through Tuesday, July 31, at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. Tim Voelker asked that volunteers be recruited to man a display table for Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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- Tim Voelker said that a table display for Lutheran Hour Ministries should also be planned for the LCMS Kansas District Pastors Conference, which he expected to occur in October 2018.
- Tim Voelker informed the meeting that he had received a gracious letter of appreciation from Rev. Lawrence Boye for the grant that was provided by the LLL Kansas District to defray the expense for Dr. Paul Meyer's presentation at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego on June 4, 2017.
- It was announced that approximately \$6,500 of the distribution that was received from the Maike bequest investment fund is yet to be expended before the end of the fiscal year, May 31, 2018.
 - Tim Voelker asked that board members and interested laymen come to the next Board of Governors meeting prepared to discuss how to best make use of the unspent portion of the distribution.
 - Tim Voelker reminded the meeting participants that, during the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year, most of the distribution from the Maike bequest investment fund was given to the LCMS Kansas District for the purpose of making grants to pastors to reduce their student loan debt.
 - Arlen Schultz, vice president of the LLL Kansas District, suggested that the portion of the distribution from the Maike bequest investment fund that remained unspent on May 31, 2018, be given to the LCMS Kansas District for the purpose of making grants to pastors to reduce their student loan debt.
- Tim Voelker reminded the meeting participants that \$100 grants were available from the Maike bequest fund to reimburse congregations, LHM groups, and zones for the expense of outreach events.
 - Polly Gregali noted that the grants could be used to reimburse the expense of Men's Network Work Day events. Men's Network Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2018.
 - Polly Gregali noted that any men's group that registers its work day with the Men's Network will receive a Men's Network cap for each participant (with a maximum of 25 caps per group).
- Tim Voelker noted that the appointive office of District Ambassador Coordinator remains unfilled. He asked that district and zone officers work to recruit a volunteer for this office. He asked that zone officers and affiliated group officers work to recruit congregational ambassadors since the office District Ambassador Coordinator is empty.
- Tim Voelker announced that the following officers will be elected at the 2018 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention: President, Vice President, executive board representatives for Regions 2 and 4. Tim Voelker asked that district and zone officers and congregational ambassadors begin to think about recruiting candidates for these offices.

The following information about spring zone rallies was presented by meeting participants. Definite plans had not yet been made for some of the rallies.

Zone 3 – April 29, Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, Kansas

Zone 7 – May 6, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bremen, Kansas

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Zone 8 – April 29, 2:00 PM, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas

Zone 12 – March 11, 3:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas

Zone 13 – Mid April, Saint Peter Lutheran Church, Holyrood, Kansas

Zone 15 – April 14, 10:00 AM, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Atwood, Kansas

Polly Gregali, LHM Ministry Resource Manager, made a presentation about International Lutheran Hour Ministries activities and plans. Following is a summary of some of the information that was included in her presentation.

- Some of the DVD's that were sent to congregational ambassadors were defective. If an ambassador discovers that DVD that he or she has received does not play properly, then the ambassador should call the LHM headquarters and ask for a replacement.
- The title of the 2018 Lenten devotions is "Silent Witnesses". The author for the 2018 Lenten devotions is Dr. Kari Vo. The Lenten devotions are available at URL <https://www.lhm.org/lent/> and are available as daily devotions during Lent at URL <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp>.
- The acceptance of nominations for the position of Lutheran Hour Speaker was closed on January 14, 2018.
- The national Lutheran Hour Ministries conference is scheduled for August 3 – 5 at the Phister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. More information can be found in the March – April 2018 edition of **The Lutheran Laymen** newsletter.
- A new five-year plan has been developed with four strategic priorities.
- The Lutheran Hour radio program is broadcast on more than 1,800 radio stations.
- The Lutheran Hour Ministries wants connect with laity and provide them with resources for the growth and strengthening of their personal faith and for spreading the gospel throughout the nation and the world.
- LHM Learn has recently launched program to provide a series on online, self-paced courses for individual Christians.
 - These courses are available at URL <https://www.lhm.org/learn/>
 - These courses are designed for the adult learning.
 - Discussion guides are available for small groups and for congregational use.
 - LHM plans to offer a new course each month in 2018.
- Lutheran Hour Ministries continues its partnership with the Barna Group in researching digital outreach.
 - This year, the Barna group is working with Dr. Tony Cook, Executive Director of United States Ministries for Lutheran Hour Ministries, on the development of materials for Project Connect.
 - Next year, efforts will focus on the Christian family.
 - The following year, efforts will focus on communities of faith.
- There are tentative plans for four outreach conferences in the coming year. These conferences will present the findings of the Barna Group's research.

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- A new booklet on discipleship is being developed. This booklet is being developed for children in the age range of four to eight years of age.
 - Approximately two million children's booklets have been distributed during the last three years.
- Polly Gregali recommended the Online Mission Trip videos of vacation Bible school classes and Sunday school classes. These video resources can be downloaded from the LHM website at URL <https://www.lhm.org/onlinemissiontrips/>.
- “This is the Life Classics” DVD is now available on the Men's Network web site (<https://www.lhm.org/men/studies.asp>). The “This is the Life” television series is available for viewing on PureFlix (<https://pureflix.com/>). PureFlix is a streaming service like Netflix. PureFlix provides Christian-oriented video series and movies.
- The THRED outreach program utilizes social media to introduce the Gospel and Christian mores to the online community. The URL for the THRED home page is <https://thred.org/>.
 - A purpose of THRED is to involve persons in the 25 – 40's age range in conversations about Christian themes.
 - THRED utilizes Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
 - Persons with a Facebook account can “like” and “share” THRED videos or conversations. Alternately, persons can directly comment on a conversation thread in the THRED web site.
 - THRED attempts to induce persons in the online community to watch videos and engage in conversations by posing topics and questions that are relevant to their lives. Bible verses are interspersed throughout videos. For example, a video that was introduced by a question about the existence of or nature of heaven was view more than 62,000 times.
 - It is the hope of the THRED outreach that online relationships will lead to face-to-face relationships.
 - THRED conversations are moderated by volunteers. Most of the volunteers are older and/or retired because they have more time for online conversations.
 - LHM has been informed that some pastors have shown the videos from the THRED web site to their congregations' youth groups.
- In August 2017, LHM began a partnership with SAT-7, which is the largest Christian television network serving the Middle East and North Africa.
 - Initially, LHM will collaborate with SAT-7 to co-produce a television series for Arab youth from the SAT-7 studio in Cairo, Egypt.
 - The intent is that LHM will collaborate with SAT-7 in programs for following up with the audience, for developing social media platforms, for joint fundraising, and for joint research.

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- LHM is developing a booth and table display kits that can be used by the LLL/LHM districts, zones, and groups at conferences and conventions.
- LHM is developing packets of materials that can be distributed from state fair booths. The present plan is to allow these packets to be ordered in groups of 50.
- Polly Gregali expressed the following opinions.
 - Greater communication among congregations should be developed.
 - LLL/LHM districts must work purposefully and diligently to pass the torch to the next generation. In order to accomplish this, personal inter-generational relationships must be built

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled to occur at 10:00 AM on April 7, 2018, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 111 West Magnolia Road, Salina, Kansas.

There being no more business, Tim Voelker declared the meeting adjourned. Tim Voelker then closed with prayer.

Secretary,
Richard Schrum