

Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League Board of Governors Meeting
April 17, 2021
Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas

This meeting of the Board of Governors of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Laymen's League occurred as an in-person meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas. However, three persons participated in the meeting using the Zoom video communications software. Fred Gruhn, chairman of the Technology Committee for the LLL Kansas District, set up a web camera and a microphone to capture the images and voices of the persons who physically attended the meeting; Fred Gruhn also attached a large flat-panel television to the host personal computer; the television enabled the persons who physically attended the meeting to view the images of those persons who participated in the meeting virtually by means of the Zoom video communications software, to view the images of the persons who physically attended the meeting, and to view images of documents (i.e., agenda, meeting minutes).

Arlen Schultz, president of the LLL Kansas District, called the meeting to order a few minutes after 10:00 AM.

Opening Devotion

LLL Kansas District Pastoral Advisor Rev. Dennis Kootz presented the opening devotion. Rev. Kootz reviewed a document titled "Five Things to do at the Deathbed of a Loved One". Rev. Kootz had distributed this document to the in-person meeting attendees. Rev. Kootz revealed that he was motivated to create this document by his brother's death, which occurred approximately two weeks before the meeting.

Following is a summary of the five things that Rev. Kootz documented.

1. Read passages from the Holy Bible.

The following passages of the Holy Bible were read:

Psalm 4:8, Psalm 73:26, John 10:14-29, Second Corinthians 5:1-10, Revelations 7:9-17.

2. Sing hymns.

The following hymns were listed in the document:

"Amazing Grace", "Chief of Sinners Though I Be", "The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want".

Rev. Kootz shared that the singing of hymns often provided comfort to the ill or injured person in his experience.

Arlen Schultz suggested the hymn "Abide with Me". Rev. Kootz agreed, noting that the sixth verse was particularly appropriate.

Tom Stanton shared that the singing of hymns also uplifts the spirits of the hospital staffers that overhear the singing.

John Johnson suggested that video files of appropriate hymns could be downloaded from the "Main Street Living" website (<https://www.mainstreetliving.com>) to a smart phone or tablet computer. John said that the hymns could then be played at the bedside.

3. Say prayers.

The following sample prayer was printed in the document.

Lord, be with <name>, who we now commend to your care. Remind him/her that you are always near. You are the Father and protector as his/her time passes, strengthen his/her faith. Bear him/her up in Your peace. Amen.

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Prayers was printed in the document to be prayed after the reading of the following passages of the Holy Bible: Psalm 46:1-7, Psalm 116:15.

4. **Call the pastor and ask him to visit the bedside of the dying loved one.**
5. **Talk. Share memories with the loved one and with the family.**

Rev. Kootz said that sharing memories comforts those who are remembering.

Rev. Kootz said that a pastor will observe a rite called "Accommodation of the Dying" as the loved one nears the end of his/her life. Rev. Kootz's document provided an abbreviated version of the "Accommodation of the Dying" service that a layperson could read if a pastor could not be present at the bedside. The abbreviated service contained Psalm 23, the Apostle's creed, and the Lord's Prayer.

Rev. Kootz led the singing of the first verse of the hymn "Abide with Me".

Rev. Kootz led the group in prayer. Rev. Kootz thanked God for the blessings that God had provided and will provide to the meeting attendees. Rev. Kootz prayed that the meeting attendees might be granted God's peace and comfort and be empowered to share that peace and comfort with those with whom they interact. Rev. Kootz prayed that God's blessings be bestowed upon the meeting attendees.

Following the opening devotion presented by Rev. Dennis Kootz and the opening prayer led by Rev. Kootz, the 11 persons who physically attended the meeting introduced themselves and the three persons who participated in the meeting by means of the internet and the Zoom video communications software.

Review of Minutes for LLL Kansas District Board of Governors Meeting of February 27, 2021

Richard Schrum, LLL Kansas District secretary, caused the minutes of the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors meeting that occurred on February 27, 2021, to be displayed to the meeting participants by means of the Zoom video communications software. Mr. Schrum successively displayed that pages of the minutes, summarizing the actions and discussions that had been recorded. After these minutes were reviewed, Joseph Chretien, LLL Kansas District vice president, presented a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting that had occurred on February 27, 2021. Tom Stanton, coordinator of the LLL Kansas State Fair worship service, seconded the motion. The Board of Governors members voted to accept the minutes document.

LLL/LHM Kansas District Treasurer's Report

Carroll Hackbart, LLL Kansas District treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Mr. Hackbart presented a summary of the income and expenditures for the first three quarters of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Mr. Hackbart's report showed a total operational income of \$10,233.18 as of February 28, 2021. The total income included \$1,993.09, which was carried forward from the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The total income included \$5,736.09 in rebates that were received the International Lutheran Laymen's League for the first three quarters of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Carroll Hackbart's report showed expenditures of approximately \$5,500, yielding a bank account balance of approximately \$4,600.

President Arlen Schultz reported that he had received an email message from Polly Gregali, Community Facilitator of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, regarding the rebate that the LLL Kansas District would receive. Arlen Schulz reported that the email message said that the rebate is calculated as 2.5% of accumulated ministry appeals, sponsor and memorial donations that the International Lutheran Laymen's League

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(LLL) received from the donors in the Kansas District. Arlen Schultz relayed that the email message reported that \$109,186.46 was received from donors in the Kansas District during the third quarter of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Arlen Schultz reported that the LLL Kansas District would receive a rebate amount of \$2,745.41 from the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

Carroll Hackbart reported that he had recently paid approximately \$978 for the new video conferencing equipment, which was being used for the first time at the April 17 Board of Governors meeting. Fred Gruhn, chairman of the Technology Committee for the LLL Kansas District, reported that the large flat-panel television cost slightly more than \$400, the tripod and camera cost slightly more than \$200, and the two Zoom account licenses cost slightly more than \$300. Fred Gruhn reported that the cost of the Zoom account licenses would be an annual expense.

Fred Gruhn presented a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Joe Chretien seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The Board of Governors members voted to accept the treasurer's report.

Discussion regarding Uses of Video Conferencing Equipment and Software

John Johnson, ambassador for Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Manhattan, asked whether one of the Zoom accounts could be used for meetings unrelated to the Board of Governors meetings or the LLL worship service at the Kansas State Fair. In particular, John Johnson asked if one of the Zoom accounts could be used for the **Life's Biggest Questions** class that the Trinity Lutheran Church planned to commence on April 22, 2021. Fred Gruhn reported that meetings of 40 minutes or less could be hosted without a Zoom license and without cost. Fred Gruhn reported that a Zoom account license holder would be required to inaugurate Zoom meetings of a longer duration. Fred Gruhn reported that Zoom account license holders for the LLL Kansas District, Tom Stanton or Fred Gruhn, could inaugurate Zoom meetings remotely without actively participating in the meetings.

John Johnson suggested that the presentation of the **Life's Biggest Questions** class by means of Zoom video conferencing represents an opportunity for the LLL Kansas District to support a new potentially effective outreach program.

At Tom Stanton's request, Pastoral Advisor Rev. Dennis Kootz explained that the **Life's Biggest Questions** class was an outreach class developed and refined by Rev. Mark Boxman, Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina, over a period of 20 years. Rev. Kootz related that the **Life's Biggest Questions** class is presented in seven or eight sessions, which may last for as long as 90 minutes each. Rev. Kootz said that the **Life's Biggest Questions** class shares the tenets of the Lutheran faith through discussions of the big questions that people often ponder about their lives. Rev. Kootz described the general approach as the presentation of the gospel, followed by the review the law, followed by the presentation of the gospel.

Fred Gruhn opined that Trinity Lutheran Church should acquired their own Zoom video conferencing account because the class is presented repeatedly. Both Fred Gruhn and Tom Stanton opined that depending on them to remotely initiate Zoom meetings for this Life's Biggest Question class session might be problematic given their busy schedules.

2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project

Carroll Hackbart again reported that approximately \$15,000 in contributions to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project had been received. Mr. Hackbart reported that approximately \$20,000 in contributions to the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District project had been received by the middle of April 2020.

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President Schultz reported that Saint Peter Lutheran Church in Holyrood had scheduled a fund-raising pancake feed for May 2. Arlen Schultz said that he hoped and expected that fund-raising events and collections for the LLL Kansas District Project would occur at Kansas District LCMS churches in April and May 2021.

Fred Gruhn stated his belief that Kansas Lutherans will contribute generously to the LLL Kansas District Project if LLL Kansas District volunteers effectively and persistently focus on the message that the LLL Kansas District Project grants financial aid to students at LCMS colleges and seminaries who are training for careers as full-time church workers or pastors. Fred stated his belief that this message primarily motivated the Wednesday morning men's Bible study group at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, to make a large monetary contribution to the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District project.

Joe Chretien agreed with Fred Gruhn. He added that the LLL Kansas District should consistently focus on the message that it financially supports church workers and pastors in Kansas. Joe Chretien reported that members of his congregation have responded favorably to this message at a recent fund-raising pancake feed at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays, Kansas.

LLL Kansas District Reinvigoration Discussion

Tom Stanton asked what the LLL Kansas District was doing to reignite LLL activity in Kansas. Tom Stanton asked what initiative should be planned to incite LCMS Kansas District congregations that do not have on-going LLL groups or programs to become involved again in LLL/LHM programs.

Carroll Hackbart suggested that the LLL Kansas District hold a training course for the congregational ambassadors in conjunction with the LLL Kansas District Convention. Carroll Hackbart suggested that the LLL Kansas District pay the ambassadors' travel and lodging expenses. Carroll Hackbart expressed that hope that such a training course would equip ambassadors to better communicate LLL/LHM programs and resources with their congregations.

Tom Stanton asked how many of churches in the LCMS Kansas District had LLL/LHM congregational ambassadors. Arlen Schultz replied that he believed that 67 of the 160 churches in the LCMS Kansas District had LLL/LHM congregational ambassadors. In response, Tom Stanton asked by what means can LLL/LHM congregational ambassadors be recruited in the many churches that did not have ambassadors. Tom Stanton asked by what means can men in their thirties and forties could be impelled to become active members of LLL groups and congregational ambassadors.

Arlen Schultz encouraged all of those laymen, who were themselves involved in LLL/LHM activities, to also invite the younger family members to participate. Arlen recited a few examples in which he had invited his children and grandchildren to participate in LLL/LHM activities.

Arlen Schultz and Tom Stanton said that they remembered instances in which past LLL Kansas District presidents spoke about LLL projects in Kansas and about LHM outreach programs and resources at various LCMS congregations in Kansas.

Tom Stanton asked whether pastors might participate in a 15-to-30-minute Zoom video conference in which a LLL representative. Tom Stanton suggested that the LLL representative would ask for assistance in starting an LLL-affiliated group in the congregation during such a video conference. He suggested that the LLL

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representative explain that an LLL-affiliated group would more actively involve men in and better integrate men into a congregation.

John Johnson suggested that short presentations regarding LLL be made to pastors during circuit meetings. John Johnson said that presentations regarding LLL were made to pastors in previous years. Tom Stanton suggested such presentations regarding LLL/LHM be made by the ambassador of the church at which the pastors' circuit conference was being held.

Arlen Schultz opined that congregational ambassadors should attempt to make personal contact with members of their congregations as well as communicating by mail and email.

Polly Gregali's Report: Households of Faith Workshops

Polly Gregali, Community Facilitator of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, joined the meeting using the Zoom video conference application. President Arlen Schultz asked Polly Gregali whether LHM had programs that targeted young Lutherans. Polly Gregali replied that the **Households of Faith** and **Developing Spiritually Vibrant Homes** programs would appeal to and be valuable to young Christian families. She suggested that the LLL Kansas District could partner with congregational ambassadors and congregations to host 3-hour-long **Households of Faith** workshops. Polly suggested that these workshops would be useful in engaging young families with LLL/LHM resources and with LLL Kansas programs. Such workshops could be leveraged to encourage young Kansas Lutherans to financially support the LLL Kansas District's grants-in-aid to Kansas students preparing for careers as full-time church workers and pastors.

Polly Gregali expounded that the Spring 2021 LLL Virtual Event broadcast some presentations from the **Households of Faith Workshop**. Polly explained that Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) was offering the **Households of Faith Workshops** virtually until LHM staffers would be able to safely travel to churches to lead the workshops. Polly explained that LHM staffers were not allowed to travel at least until June 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Polly said that hybrid in-person and virtual workshops could also be presented when LHM staffers are permitted to travel. Polly informed that neither the LLL Kansas District nor a congregation would be required to pay a fee to LHM to host a workshop. She suggested that the LLL Kansas District or the hosting congregation could provide refreshments to the participants. She said that the LLL Kansas District or the hosting congregation would be required to print hand-outs for each workshop.

Polly Gregali's Quarterly Reports for the LLL Districts

Polly Gregali said that she would continue to send the following information to the district president in January, April, July, and October in each year.

- A list of the current ambassadors in the Kansas District.
- A list of the churches in the LLL Kansas District that downloaded LHM Sunday materials.
- A list of the churches in the LLL Kansas District that ordered one of the Barna Group kits.
- A list of persons who registered for the Spring or Fall LLL Virtual Event.

Arlen Schultz asked that these reports be sent to the district vice president, the district secretary, and Elmer Kellner, ambassador at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Atwood, Kansas.

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Polly Gregali's Report: Focus on Ambassador Recruitment

Polly reported that she had requested that all LLL districts focus on ambassador recruitment in order to improve congregational engagement with LHM. Polly reported that the board members in some other LLL districts contact pastors in their regions to share information about LHM programs and resources and to obtain referrals for ambassador candidates.

Polly said that LHM had created a district services web site (<https://www.lhm.org/districtservices>), which contain tools that are intended to help the LLL districts conduct their business. Polly informed that meeting attendees that the LHM district services web site contains a template for a letter that can be sent to churches that do not have an ambassador. She added that the LHM district services web site also contains a letterhead template so that district officers can use to create a district letterhead.

Polly Gregali informed that meeting attendees that LHM can provide a report of LHM sponsors and donors for each congregation. Polly Gregali recommended that when a district representative meets with a pastor, he or she show the listing to the pastor and ask whether pastor could recommend any members from the list as potential liaisons between the congregation and LHM.

Polly Gregali also suggested that the district representative ask the pastor to connect him or her with the congregation's evangelism/outreach committee. Polly suggested that the district representative ask to make a presentation to the evangelism/outreach committee regarding the resources that LHM provides for congregational outreach. Polly suggested that district representative ask if any member of the evangelism/outreach committee would serve as the liaison to LHM when meeting with that committee.

Polly Gregali's Report: Provide Information to Ambassadors

Polly Gregali said that LHM periodically sends ambassadors newsletters that contain information to be shared with the congregation. Polly said that LHM works to connect ambassadors with training events, LHM virtual events, and district events, like the district conventions.

Polly Gregali recommended that the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors establish consistent, periodic communication with its ambassadors.

Polly Gregali suggested that the LLL Kansas District send the list of students that received grants-in-aid to the congregational ambassadors and request that prayers be said for these students.

Polly Gregali suggested that the LLL Kansas District provide information about the calls received by graduating seminary students who received financial aid from the Kansas LLL in order to highlight the valuable support that the LLL Kansas District's financial aid provides to the LCMS.

Polly Gregali's Report: More Information about the LHM District Services Web Site

Polly Gregali informed the meeting attendees that a user name and password was required in order to access the LHM district services web site (<https://www.lhm.org/districtservices>). She said that district and zone officers and ambassadors could request login credentials from her, should they not already have login credentials.

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Polly Gregali informed the meeting attendees that the LHM district services web site also contained PowerPoint presentations and talking point outlines that LLL Kansas district, zone officers and ambassadors can download and utilize when making presentations.

Polly Gregali listed other resources that are available on the LHM district services web site:

- templates for district golf tournament posters,
- district treasure reports,
- videos from the district presidents meetings,
- links for the LHM virtual events.

John Johnson asked that Polly Gregali provide an overview for the short promotional videos for particular LHM outreach resources. Polly replied that short promotional videos could be freely downloaded for the following LHM outreach resources.

- LHM Bible studies.
- LHM Learn on-line training courses.
- LHM Ambassador duties.

Polly Gregali's Report: Create a District Video for Presentations

Polly Gregali reported that the Indiana LLL District had created a video for its board members to show to pastors that they visited. Polly said that one purpose of the video was to provide continuity and focus in the information that Indiana LLL District Board of Governors wanted to communicate to the pastors. Polly said that the video included an explanation of the role of the Indiana LLL District and how that district could partner with churches in ministry.

Polly Gregali reported that the Indiana LLL District video was shown at the Fall 2020 LLL District Presidents virtual meeting. Polly recounted that the other district presidents were impressed and expressed the desire to create and use similar videos in their districts. Polly reported that LHM has created a script around which a script for district-customized videos can be composed. Polly reported that the core script summarizes that LHM programs in which congregations can be involved.

Polly Gregali reported that other LLL districts have produced or are producing videos in which the LLL district pastoral advisor shares information about how LHM and the LLL districts can partner with churches and about the resources that can be provided to the congregations.

Polly Gregali said that the LLL Kansas District could create such a video, adding information about the LLL Kansas District Project, other district projects and events. Polly suggested that the video be posted on the LLL Kansas District web site so that it could be easily accessed and shown during visits with pastors or church committees.

Polly Gregali's Report: Lutheran Hour Speaker's Visit to Kansas

Polly Gregali reported that Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, the Lutheran Hour speaker, remained scheduled to speak in person at the 2021 LLL Kansas District Convention and at the Zone 7 Convocation in Washington, Kansas. Polly Gregali said that she would reconnect around the end of May with Arlen Schultz, Fred Gruhn,

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chairman of the 2021 LLL Kansas District Convention, and Steve Ohlde, chairman of the 2021 LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation, to finalize the dates, times, and locations of these events. Polly Gregali cautioned that LHM would determine whether the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic allowed the Lutheran Hour speaker to travel and appear in person. Polly implied that LHM would create promotional materials for these two events by the middle of September 2021.

Polly Gregali informed the meeting attendees that LHM would ship table displays of LHM resources to churches for fund-raising events. Polly requested that LHM volunteers contact her and provide her information about the date of the event, address and contact information of church or person to which the display should be shipped. Polly said that the display should be shipped back to LHM headquarters after the event. Polly said a table display could be requested by sending an email message to polly.gregali@lhm.org. Polly said a table display could also be requested by calling her at telephone number **1-800-944-3450, extension 4164**.

LLL Kansas State Fair Ministry Endowment Fund Report

Tom Stanton gave a report of the status of the state fair ministry endowment fund managed by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kansas. Tom Stanton reported that the balance was \$20,851.83. \$1,500 was last withdrawn from the fund. Tom Stanton reported that Terry Simpson, member of the state fair booth committee and LHM ambassador at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, is the only person who is authorized to request a withdrawal from the fund.

Spring 2021 LLL Virtual Event

Arlen Schultz reported that 10 persons from the LLL Kansas District registered for and viewed the Spring 2021 LLL Virtual Event. Polly Gregali explained that Rev. Dr. Tony Cook, Vice President, Global Ministries, hosted instead of Jennifer Prophete because of uncertainty regarding whether her husband had been infected by the COVID-19 virus. Polly explained that Rev. Dr. Tony Cook also presented instead of Rev. Jason Broge, who had been infected by the COVID-19 virus. Ashley Bayless presented as had been scheduled. Approximately 260 people from throughout the United States participated in the virtual event.

Technology Committee Report

Fred Gruhn, chairman of the Technology Committee for the LLL Kansas District, reported that he had purchased the following equipment, which he had set up so that persons could virtually participate in Board of Governors meeting by means of Zoom video conferencing software running on their personal computers:

- a large flat-panel television;
- a web camera;
- a tripod;
- two Zoom video conferencing account licenses.

Fred Gruhn said that he intended to work with Rev. Dennis Kootz to store the equipment at Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas.

Arlen Schultz expressed his hope that zone leaders and ambassadors would use the Zoom video conferencing technology to participate virtually in future Board of Governor meetings. Fred Gruhn suggested that ambassadors would be more likely to participate virtually in shorter meetings.

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2021 LLL Kansas District Convention

Fred Gruhn, chairman of the 2021 LLL Kansas District Convention committee, reported that he had talked with Rev. Robert Weinkauff and confirmed the willingness of Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 14700 Leavenworth Road, Basehor, Kansas, to host the district convention on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Fred reported that Risen Savior Lutheran Church has amazing facilities and a beautiful sanctuary. Fred reported that Risen Savior Lutheran Church has a fellowship hall that will provide an excellent venue for the convention. Fred reported that Risen Savior Lutheran Church has WIFI and audio-visual technology, projectors, and screens that can be utilized for the convention.

Fred Gruhn also reported that a block of rooms had been reserved at a hotel in the Legends shopping and entertainment district of Kansas City, Kansas, which is a few miles southeast of the church.

Fred Gruhn said that a decision would be made during the summer regarding whether a reception for Rev. Ziegler should be held Friday evening, November 5, 2021.

Fred Gruhn said that he anticipated that the 2021 convention would be video-conferenced so that persons who cannot attend the convention in person would be able to view the proceedings on their personal computers, smart phones, or tablet computers using the Zoom video-conferencing software.

Polly Gregali reported that Ben Marriott, Senior Ministry Advancement Counselor for LHM, would be the only other representative from LHM to participate in the convention in person.

Polly Gregali said that Rev. Ziegler's presentations will focus on the **Households of Faith** program and resources. Polly said that Rev. Ziegler would be available to give several presentations and a banquet speech, if requested. Fred Gruhn said that he intended to schedule multiple presentations for Rev. Ziegler.

Polly Gregali reported that the Zone 7 Convocation is currently scheduled for Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Washington High School, Washington, Kansas. Polly Gregali said that Steve Ohlde had requested another date for the convocation. She said that the feasibility of another date for Rev. Ziegler's sermon in Washington, Kansas would be researched and discussed with Steve Ohlde, Arlen Schultz, and Fred Gruhn. Fred Gruhn expressed a preference for scheduling the LLL Kansas District Convention and the LLL Kansas Zone 7 Convocation on different weekends.

Lunch Break

Arlen Schultz provided a delicious lunch to the persons that attended the meeting in person after a prayer was said by Rev. Dennis Kootz. The meeting attendees contributed amounts of their choice to compensate Arlen Schultz for the expense of the lunch. Arlen Schultz reported that contributions for the lunch exceeded expenses by \$30. Arlen Schultz reported that \$30 was contributed to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project.

LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair Worship Service Report

Tom Stanton, coordinator of the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, reported that all arrangements for the LLL/LHM worship service have not changed since the Board of Governors meeting of February 27, 2021. Following are the arrangements that Tom Stanton reported during the preceding meeting.

The LLL/LHM worship service will occur at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 12, 2021. The worship service will be presented at the Peoples Bank and Trust Arena (formerly Bretz Young Injury Lawyers

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Arena) on the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Kansas. Rev. Tom Harmon, Senior Pastor at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas will preach.

Tom Stanton reported the following information regarding preparations for the worship service.

- He planned to obtain Kansas State Fair tickets and distribute them to the pastor, choir, and others who will assist in the production of the worship service.
- He had not yet received the Project Connect rack and booklets, which he planned to place at the entrance to the arena.
- In response to Arlen Schultz's suggestion, He agreed to research where he can obtain low-cost Holy Bibles to be distributed free-of-charge to those attending the worship service or passing by the arena during the worship service.

LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair Booth Report

Pursuant to discussions in previous Board of Governor meetings, Mike Tonn, chairman of the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair Booth committee, reported that he had researched the possibility of renting a larger corner booth in the Meadowlark Exhibition Hall on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

- Mike Tonn reported that Meadowlark Exhibition Hall contained corner booths in the southwest and northeast corners. Mike said that he expected that these booths could be rented for only about \$100 more than the \$1,300 for which regular booths could be rented. Mike commented that he expected that the corner booths had already been rented.
- Mike Tonn asked whether the Board of Governors would advise the renting two adjacent booths in order to acquire more space for the LLL/LHM booth at the Kansas State Fair. He commented that he did not know whether two adjacent booths were available to be rented.
- Arlen Schultz and Carroll Hackbart initially supported the renting of two adjacent booths in order to attract more attention and allow more people to concurrently look at the displayed materials. Fred Gruhn commented that he had observed that attendance at large public events was between 50% and 60% less than before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, he suggested that the renting of adjacent booths be deferred until the 2022 Kansas State Fair, when he hoped that possibility of the spread of COVID-19 virus infections would be tiny and would no longer constrain attendance at the state fair. Carroll Hackbart requested that Mike Tonn attempt to rent a corner booth, if one was still available.
- Mike Tonn said that he would rent a corner booth in the Meadowlark Exhibition Hall for the 2021 Kansas State Fair should one become available. Otherwise, Mike Tonn said that he would rent a single booth in the Meadowlark Exhibition Hall.

Mike Tonn reported that the Kansas State Fair has not yet required the installation of transparent plastic sheets to separate booth attendants from fair attendees.

Mike Tonn informed the meeting attendees that he hoped to be placed on the agenda of either the May or June 2021 meeting of the Wichita area (Circuits 10 and 11) pastors so the he can speak about the LLL state fair ministries and so that he can request volunteers to staff the LLL/LHM booth at the 2021 Kansas State Fair. Mike Tonn said that he intended to ask Polly Gregali for LHM printed materials to distribute at the meeting

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LLL Kansas District Articles in Lutheran Witness Magazine

Mike Tonn reported that he had submitted an article for the May 2021 edition of the **Lutheran Witness** magazine about the LLL/LHM fair booth at the 2021 Kansas State Fair. Mike said that the article requested volunteers to staff the booth, and that it requested the contribution of printed materials for gratis distribution from the booth. Mike Tonn said that he had also included information about the LLL/LHM worship service at the 2021 Kansas State Fair.

Mike Tonn said that he intended to submit an article that repeated information about the LLL/LHM fair booth and the LLL/LHM worship service at the 2021 Kansas State Fair for either the June/July edition and/or the August edition of the **Lutheran Witness** magazine.

Arlen Schultz asked Fred Gruhn to provide information about the 2021 LLL Kansas District Convention to Mike Tonn so that he would be able to include that information in an article to be published in the September and November editions of the **Lutheran Witness** magazine. Mike Tonn informed the meeting attendees that articles must be submitted six weeks prior to the publication of an edition. Fred Gruhn responded that he would provide that information about the 2021 LLL Kansas District Convention to Mike Tonn in a timely manner.

Bible Distribution at the Kansas State Fair

Tom Stanton reported that he had found that 100 Holy Bibles could be purchased for \$210. He said that he would purchase these bibles for gratis distribution at the LLL/LHM worship service and the LLL/LHM booth at the Kansas State Fair.

Arlen Schultz asked that the bibles be identified as having been provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Tom Stanton replied that he would arrange for LLL/LHM bookmarks to be put into each bible that is distributed.

During an afternoon session discussion of the funding of the LLL/LHM booth and the LLL worship service at the Kansas State Fair, Mike Tonn mentioned that the fair booth committee had received 150 bibles from Ralph Unger's group at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Oberlin, Kansas. Tom Stanton responded that he might defer the purchase for additional bibles until the next year if these 150 bibles were suitable for gratis distribution at the LLL/LHM worship service.

48th LLL Kansas District Golf Tournament

President Arlen Schultz read a report regarding the 2021 LLL Kansas District Golf tournament that Mark Nieman, chairman of the LLL Kansas District Golf Tournament, had sent by email to Richard Schrum, Arlen Schultz, Joseph Chretien, and Carroll Hackbart. This report contained the following information.

- The golf tournament committee considered canceling the tournament because no entries had been received until Hanover called with entries for 5 teams and Nortonville offered to enter one or two teams.
- Mark Nieman expressed the hope that at least 10 teams would enter the tournament.
- Mark Nieman expressed the hope that Thrivent would grant one or two cards for the tournament.
- Mark Nieman expressed to hope that at least \$1,000 could be raised for the LLL Kansas District Project.
- Mark reported that he had sent email messages that advertized the tournament to more than 30 churches.

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- Mark expressed disappointment that no teams from Atchison, Leavenworth, the Kansas City metropolitan area, Lawrence or Topeka have entered the tournament during his tenure as chairman of the tournament committee.
- Mark expressed appreciation that teams from the Manhattan area regularly entered the tournament.

Richard Schrum showed the LLL Kansas District web site page that contained information about the golf tournament. (https://www.lhm-ks.org/lll_ks_golf.htm) Following is essential information that was displayed on the web site about the 48th LLL Kansas District Golf Tournament.

- The golf tournament is scheduled for **Saturday, May 1, 2021, 1:30 PM**, Village Greens Golf Course, 5615 Highway K-92, Meriden, Kansas. The location is about 3.5 miles west of Ozawkie, Kansas, near the intersection of K-4 and K-92 highways. This golf course is near Lake Perry.
- The registration fee is \$65 per golfer. The entry fee includes green fees, golf cart rental, and lunch.
- The lunch is served between 12:00 pm and 1:15 PM.

Richard Schrum reported that Mark Nieman had told him that entries would be accepted on the day of the tournament as well as any day before May 1, 2021.

Activities in the LLL Kansas District

Arlen Schultz predicted that additional LLL groups would form in Zone 13 over time. He said that Les Walters had told him about a group of younger Christians at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sylvan Grove. Arlen said that he encouraged the formation and existence of LLL groups in order to increase support for the LLL Kansas District Project.

Joe Chretien reported that the members of the Noble Men of Messiah group at the Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, were mostly around 40 years of age. Joe reported that the Noble Men of Messiah group had already held a pancake feed and would likely send a contribution of the LLL Kansas District Project in the week following the Board of Governors meeting.

Fred Gruhn said that the Zone 3 board had not reconvened yet because of the complications that the COVID-19 pandemic presented for in-person activities. Fred Gruhn reported that the men's bible study group at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe would submit a contribution to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project.

John Johnson and Carroll Hackbart reported that the LLL group at Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Manhattan held a virtual pancake feed in which boxes of pancake breakfast ingredients were sold to members of the congregation. He reported that approximately \$1,000 was raised for the LLL Kansas District Project.

Arlen Schultz reported that the LLL group at Saint Peter Lutheran Church in Holyrood implemented a curb-side pick-up for its pancake feed. Arlen said that the proceeds from the drive-up-and-pick-up pancake feed exceeded the proceeds from the pancake feed of the prior year.

Gary Neuschafer, secretary/treasurer for LLL Kansas District Zone 12, reported that the LLL men's club at Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, held a pancake feed two weeks prior to the Board of Governors meeting. Gary reported that the pancake breakfasts were served to be either carried-out or to be eaten at the church. Gary reported that 262 pancake breakfasts were served. The pancake feed raised between \$800 and \$900 dollars for the LLL Kansas District Project.

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Gary Neuschafer reported that LLL men's club at Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina planned to put on an ice cream social in July 2021 to raise additional funds for the LLL Kansas District Project.

Discussion about the LLL Kansas District Student Financial Aid Committee

Fred Gruhn reported that an endowment fund exists that pays for the tuition of all pastoral students at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. Fred Gruhn reported that the endowment fund did not pay for the living expenses of the seminary students.

Fred Gruhn reminded that the meeting attendees that Nathan Harkins, former vice president of the LLL Kansas Zone 3 and former member of the LLL Kansas District Project committee, was currently in his second semester as a full-time student at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Fred Gruhn reminded the meeting attendees that Nathan Harkins had urged that the financial aid given to students preparing for careers as Lutheran school teachers, directors of Christian education and other non-pastoral full-time church worker careers be equal to that given to students preparing to be pastors.

Fred Gruhn asked many questions about the Student Financial Aid committee of the LLL Kansas District in order to determine whether the Board of Governors could pass a resolution directing the committee to award grants-in-aid to students preparing for non-pastoral full-time church worker careers that were equal to the grants-in-aid awarded to seminary students. Following were the answers that Fred received from the other Board of Governors members.

- The Student Financial Aid Committee works the LLL Kansas District and not for the LCMS Kansas District.
- The chairman of the Student Financial Aid Committee is Charles Friedrichs. Jerry Siebold and Douglas Rengstorf are members of the Committee.
- The committee determines the size of the grants that are dispensed to the non-pastoral students and to the pastoral students who applied for the grants-in-aid.
- In the past, the committee has distributed grants-in-aid of equal size to each of the non-pastoral students who applied; likewise, the committee has distributed grants-in-aid of equal size to each of the pastoral students who applied.
- In the past, the committee has distributed larger grants-in-aid to the pastoral students than to the non-pastoral students.
- The majority of the Board of Governors members believed that the Board of Governors should not provide guidelines or recommendations to the Student Financial Aid Committee regarding the size of the grants-in-aid as well as the criteria for selecting grantees.

Allocation of Delmar Maike Bequest Funds

President Arlen Schultz asked the meeting participants to suggest the purposes for which funds, which have been distributed from the Delmar Maike bequest fund investment account in the LCMS foundation, should be spent. Carroll Hackbart suggested that the available distributions from the Delmar Maike bequest fund investment account should be applied to cover the predicted shortfall in contributions to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project. Subsequent discussion produced the following points of information.

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- Arlen Schultz referenced Polly Gregali's opinion that the LLL Kansas District could reduce or eliminate its planned \$4,000 contribution to the Argentine LLL Ministries Office.
- Mike Tonn said that the state fair worship service and the state fair booth did not need the \$1,000 allocated from the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District project to pay for expenses at the 2021 Kansas State Fair.

Based on the discussion, Fred Gruhn presented a motion that a portion of the Delmar Maiké bequest fund be paid to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project to make up any shortfall in contributions received less than \$31,500 so that the full budgeted amount of student financial aid would be given to the Kansas District students who are studying at LCMS colleges and seminaries in preparation for careers as full-time church workers during the 2021-2022 academic year.

In the same motion, Fred Gruhn also proposed that the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors consider, during its August 2021 meeting, whether an additional portion for the Delmar Maiké bequest fund be paid to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project so that some or all of the other budgeted items are fully or partially funded in the event that contributions received do not exceed \$31,500.

Tom Stanton seconded this motion. The Board of Governors voted to pass the motion.

Nominations for District Offices

President Arlen Schultz reminded the meeting participants that the following LLL Kansas District officers will be elected at the 2021 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention for a two-year term (i.e., November, 2021 – November, 2023):

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Executive board representative for Region 2 (north-central Kansas)
- Executive board representative for Region 3 (south-central and southeastern Kansas)

Carroll Hackbart reminded the meeting participants that he would retire from the appointed position of chairman for the LLL Kansas District Project as well as the elected position of treasurer for the LLL Kansas District on November 6, 2021 at the 2021 LLL Kansas District Convention. Carroll Hackbart recommended that two different persons perform the two offices. Arlen Schultz agreed with Carroll Hackbart's recommendation and asked for the nomination of a candidate to chair the 2021-2022 LLL Kansas District Project.

Carroll Hackbart suggested that the Board of Governors give future consideration to placing the contributions received for the LLL Kansas District Project into a separate bank account from the operating funds for the LLL Kansas District. Mr. Hackbart submitted that having separate bank accounts for these funds would ease bookkeeping if the positions of LLL Kansas District treasurer and chairperson for the LLL Kansas District Project were held by two different persons.

Arlen Schultz reported that Ron Bott had agreed to seek reelection to the position as executive board representative for Region 2. Mark Westerman agreed to seek reelection to the position of executive board representative for Region 3.

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Arlen Schultz asked that the meeting participants seek candidates for these positions. Arlen appointed the region representatives and the vice president to the nominations committee.

Other LLL/LHM Kansas District Business

President Arlen Schultz reported that he had received an email message from Marcia Rozell, sports and leisure sales manager for the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau. Marcia Rozell asked that the LLL Kansas District consider holding its next convention in Manhattan. Arlen Schultz noted that Region 2, in which the city of Manhattan is situated, is scheduled to host the LLL Kansas District convention in 2022. Arlen Schultz noted that Ron Bott, executive board representative for Region 2, will lead the process of selecting where the 2022 convention will be hosted.

President Arlen Schultz informed the meeting attendees that Ray Keller, executive board representative for Region 4, was unable to attend the Board of Governors meeting because he was assisting in preparations for a fund-raising smoked-meats dinner at the community center in Vesper, Kansas. Arlen Schultz said that the purpose of the dinner was to raise funds to assist in payment of cancer treatment expenses for Ryland Gier, 14 years old. Arlen encouraged meeting participants to attend that dinner, if practical, or purchase raffle tickets from him or submit donations to him.

President Arlen Schultz asked that the Board of Governors determine the purpose for which the \$630 that the LLL Kansas District received as a memorial for Bill Proctor, who passed away on December 28, 2020, should be spent. After discussion, a general agreement was achieved that the memorial funds should be contributed to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project because it contains a line item for the state fair ministries. Fred Gruhn proffered a motion that the Bill Proctor memorial funds be contributed to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project. Mike Tonn seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Richard Schrum moved that the LLL Kansas District contribute \$50 to Lutheran Hour Ministries in memory of Bill Proctor. Fred Gruhn seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

President Arlen Schultz announced that the next meeting of the LLL Kansas Board of Governors would occur at 10:00 AM on August 14, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina, Kansas.

Fred Gruhn said that he would set up the video conferencing equipment at the next LLL Kansas Board of Governors meeting so that ambassadors, district and zone officers would be able to remotely participate in the meeting using the Zoom video conferencing software. Fred said that he would send out the video conference URL prior to the next meeting to the current email distribution list that receives information about the Board of Governors meetings. Fred asked the meeting attendees to send him the email addresses of ambassadors who should be invited to participate in the next Board of Governors meeting virtually. Fred said that he will send the video conference URL to those ambassadors by email.

Closing Devotion

There being no more business to be addressed by the Board of Governors, Arlen Schultz declared the meeting adjourned. Rev. Dennis Kootz closed the meeting by reading Psalm 23. Rev. Kootz proclaimed that Jesus is the good shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. Rev. Kootz prayed thanks to God for His sanctifying grace; he asked that the meeting attendees be empowered to share their faith; he prayed that the Lutheran Laymen's League be strengthened. Arlen Schultz led the singing of the sixth verse of the hymn "Abide with Me".

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Secretary,
Richard Schrum

	Attendee	Position
1	Arlen Schultz	District President
2	Joseph Chretien	District Vice President
3	Carroll Hackbart	District Treasurer
4	Richard Schrum	District Secretary
5	Rev. Dennis Kootz	District Pastoral Advisor
6	Fred Gruhn	Region 1 Representative
7	Mark Westerman	Region 3 Representative
8	Mike Tonn	State Fair Booth Committee Chairman
9	Tom Stanton	State Fair Worship Service Coordinator
10	Gary Neuschafer	Zone 12 Secretary-Treasurer
11	John Johnson	Ambassador, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas
12	Richard Riemer	Ambassador, Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, Kansas
13	Marilyn Riemer	
14	Polly Gregali	Community Facilitator, International LLL