

Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League Convention
80th Annual Convention, November 2, 2019
Perkins Family Restaurant, Great Bend, Kansas

Registration for the convention opened at 10:30 AM. Kevin Schultz served as the registration coordinator.

At 1:00 PM, President Arlen Schultz, LLL Kansas District President called the Convention to order. Arlen Schultz welcomed all of those in attendance. At Arlen Schultz's request, each person attending the convention introduced himself or herself.

Rev. Dennis Kootz, LLL Kansas District pastoral adviser, presented the opening devotions, based on the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation. Rev. Kootz said that the Book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John during his exile on the island of Patmos, during the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian (AD 81-96). Rev. Kootz said that the Book of Revelation was written in an allegorical style to prophesy the ultimate victory of Christ's Church. Rev. Kootz explained that the 144,000 servants of God, who are sealed on the forehead, symbolically represent the complete church of saints who will be redeemed through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Rev. Kootz said that the number 144,000 (12 x 12 x 10 x 10 x 10) symbolized the Old Testament church (viz., the 12 tribes of Israel) times the New Testament church (viz., the 12 apostles and their followers) times completion to the power of three, which represents the Holy Trinity.

Rev. Kootz then read the story of the Passover in Egypt as told in chapter 12 of the Book of Exodus. Rev. Kootz said that the blood of the sacrificed lambs that was painted on the top and the sides of the door frames of the houses of the faithful Israelites to spare the lives of the first born of the Israelite households was like the seal of the foreheads of the servants of God. Rev. Kootz referenced 1 Corinthians 5:7, in which Saint Paul identifies Jesus Christ as the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed to redeem the faithful from eternal death. Rev. Kootz said that Christians are not sealed by the blood sacrifices of one-year old lambs, but by the sacrament of Holy Baptism because of Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice and resurrection.

Following Rev. Kootz' homily, the convention attendees sang the hymn titled "Jesus, My Happy Home" (Lutheran Service Book, page 673).

Following the devotion, John Johnson, LLL Kansas District Executive Board representative for Region 3, read Theme Resolution 19-01 for the convention. In brief, the resolution declared that the International Lutheran Laymen's League would strive to boldly and clearly proclaim the Good News of Christ Jesus in Kansas and throughout the world; furthermore, the resolution stated the determination to advance the teaching of the Gospel by revitalizing and supporting the laity; finally, the resolution asserted commitment to carry out the bold vision of the LLL/LHM ministries "Sent" initiative, which was inspired by Jesus' command in John 20:21, "...as my Father has sent me, I am sending you". This resolution was approved with the singing of the Common Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".

President Arlen Schultz asked the convention attendees to read the minutes of the 79th convention of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Laymen's League, which occurred at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hay, Kansas on November 3, 2018. Subsequently, Joseph Chretien moved to accept the minutes as printed in the convention booklet. Mike Tonn, chairman of the LLL Kansas State Fair Booth Committee, seconded the motion. The convention attendees voted to pass the motion.

Carroll Hackbart, LLL Kansas District treasurer, explained the treasurer's report, which was printed in the convention booklet. The report showed that revenue for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was \$13,555.58. The report showed that the total operating expense for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was \$10,066.13. The

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report also showed that \$11,539.43 in revenue was budgeted for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and that \$9,750 was budgeted for operating expenses in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. John Johnson moved to accept the treasurer's report. Richard Schrum, LLL Kansas District secretary, seconded the motion. The convention attendees voted to pass the motion.

Carroll Hackbart reviewed the receipts of the 2018-2019 LLL Kansas District project. Carroll Hackbart reported that contributions of \$43,560.80 were received from individuals, congregations, clubs, and district events throughout the LLL Kansas District. Carroll Hackbart reported that \$331.80 in grants-in-aid was mistakenly distributed for the 2018-2019 academic year beyond the total amount of contributions received for the LLL Kansas District Project during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Consequently, \$43,229.00 were available for distribution to the purposes specified for the 2018-2019 LLL Kansas District Project. Thus, the \$40,000 goal of the 2018-2019 LLL Kansas District Project was exceeded by \$1,229.00. These extra funds were added to the financial aid that was granted to students who enrolled at LCMS colleges and seminaries during the 2019-2020 academic year to prepare for careers in full-time church work.

Carroll Hackbart reviewed the report in the convention booklet that detailed the source of contributions from LCMS Kansas churches, church clubs, individuals, and LLL Kansas zones. Mr. Hackbart reported the 16 students received grants-in-aid. Mr. Hackbart noted that only two of the students, who were awarded grants-in-aid, were members of LCMS congregations that contributed to the 2018-2019 LLL Kansas District Project.

In response to this report, John Johnson suggested that the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors consider whether a student must be a member of a congregation that contained members or clubs that contributed to the LLL Kansas District Project in order to be eligible to receive financial aid. Carroll Hackbart suggested that the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors consider whether letters or email messages should be sent to the congregations that contained members, who received student grants-in-aid, but did not directly or indirectly contribute to the LLL Kansas District Project. Mr. Hackbart suggested that such correspondence should inform such congregations that the LLL Kansas District Project had not received contributions from the congregations, their members or clubs despite the fact that one or more members had received student financial aid. Elmer Kellner suggested that such an action plan include oral communication from congregational ambassadors or representatives of the LLL Kansas District to officers of or meetings in the congregations.

Nathan Harkins, LLL Kansas Zone 3 vice president and member of the LLL Kansas District Project Committee, read Ministry Action Resolution 19-02 for the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District project.

Ministry Action Resolution 19-02 contained the following fund-raising goals: \$39,500 for financial aid for Kansas students attending a synodical school or seminary preparing for full time church work; \$1,000 for the annual dinner for fourth year students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; \$4,000 for overseas Holy Bible correspondence courses, \$4,000 for the Argentina Lutheran Hour Ministry; \$1,000 for State Fair Booth and Worship Service; \$500 for Tournament of Roses Parade float. The total fund-raising goal was \$50,000.

Nathan Harkins explained that the following rules would be applied when the amount of contributions received exceeded or fell short of the total fund-raising goal.

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- Any amount received over the total project goal will be designated for additional financial aid to Kansas District students who are preparing for full-time church work.
- Should the total amount of the contributions received be less than \$42,000, then the amount designated for financial aid to students will be \$31,500, and the amounts designated for all other purposes will be prorated to accommodate the shortage of contributions.
- Should the total amount of contributions received be greater than \$42,000 but less than \$50,000, then the amount designated for financial aid to students will be reduced to accommodate the shortage of contributions.

Elmer Kellner moved that the resolution be accepted. John Johnson seconded the motion. The convention attendees voted to pass the resolution.

Brenda Piester, president of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, addressed the convention. She shared greetings from her parents, Nathan and Jo Ann Schepmann, who had attended the annual LLL Kansas District Convention during the current and previous six decades.

Brenda Piester informed the convention attendees that she had driven from the LWML Kansas District's Christian Life Retreat, which was meeting in Salina, Kansas during the same weekend. Ms. Piester reported that approximately 125 women were participating in the retreat.

Brenda Piester informed the convention attendees that the LWML Kansas District was starting its 78th year. She emphasized that the Lutheran Women's Missionary League focused on outreach and the financial support of outreach LCMS outreach programs. Brenda Piester reviewed the LWML Kansas Districts goals for financial aid to Christian outreach programs and grants-in-aid for students who are preparing for careers in full-time church work. President Piester informed the convention attendees that a recent project of the LWML Kansas District was the collection of printed materials for free distribution from the LLL/LHM booth at the Kansas State Fair.

Brenda Piester expressed appreciation for the Lutheran Laymen's League and the Lutheran Hour. Ms. Piester expressed admiration for the Lutheran Hour Ministries amazing outreach resources. Ms. Piester expressed appreciation for the Spanish language outreach media and resources.

Brenda Piester advised that personal relations and connections bring people to the Christian church. Ms. Piester advised the convention attendees that positively engaging with people and treating them with Christ-centered kindness and respect is an effective way to witness the Gospel.

Following Brenda Piester's presentation, Mike Tonn, chairman of the LLL Kansas District State Fair Booth Committee, gave a report about the LLL/LHM booth at the 2019 Kansas State Fair, which commenced on Friday, September 6, and closed on Sunday, September 15. Mike Tonn reported that eight congregations provided volunteers to staff the booth, which was located near the southwest corner of the Meadowlark Exhibition Hall, from 9:00 AM through 8:00 PM each day of the fair. Mike Tonn reported that more than 20 congregations provided printed material and other items for free distribution to fair goers who stopped at the booth. Mike Tonn reported that English and Spanish language translations of the Holy Bible were freely given to fair goers that requested the copies of the Holy Bible. Mr. Tonn reported that some excess printed materials, which were not distributed from the fair booth, were given to the Reno Country jail.

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Mike Tonn asked that convention attendees consider volunteering to staff the LLL/LHM booth at the 2020 Kansas State Fair. Mike Tonn said that volunteers at the LLL/LHM booth will encounter opportunities to witness the Good News and to serve the Church and fair attendees by handing out Christian printed materials and other items.

Mike Tonn reported that 2019 was the thirty-fourth year that the LLL Kansas District displayed a booth at the Kansas State Fair. Mike Tonn said that Charles Kinast and Marvin Wambsgans were the founding fathers of the LLL booth at the Kansas State Fair. Mike Tonn praised these gentlemen for the outstanding work in Christian outreach that they did over many years. Mike Tonn reported that Marvin Wambsgans had passed away on October 22, 2019. Mr. Tonn informed the convention attendees that Marvin Wambsgans had recruited him to volunteer on the LLL Kansas District State Fair Booth Committee. He expressed profound appreciation for the opportunity to continue and advance this important ministry.

Following the report about the LLL/LHM booth at the 2019 Kansas State Fair, Tom Stanton, coordinator for the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service, presented a report about the worship service, which occurred at 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at the Bretz and Young Injury Lawyers Arena in the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Tom Stanton reported that the worship service began with four hymns: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice!", "Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus", "Take My Life and Let It Be", and "A Mighty Fortress is Our God". Tom Stanton reported that Rev. Quentin Nutmann, Senior Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, officiated the worship service. Mr. Stanton reported that the choir from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church sang the anthem "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing". Mr. Stanton reported that the hymn of the day was "I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus". Stanton reported that Rev. Nutmann preached a terrific sermon covering Law, Gospel, and application to daily life. Mr. Stanton reported that the singing of the hymn "Sent forth by God's Blessings".

Tom Stanton reported that 125 persons attended the 2019 LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service. Tom Stanton reported that a free-will offering of \$480 was received and forwarded to the LLL Kansas District Project.

Tom Stanton expressed appreciation to the volunteers who assisted in the staging of the worship service at the Kansas State Fair. Mr. Stanton asked the convention attendees tell their fellow Lutherans about the LLL/LHM state fair worship service. Mr. Stanton said that he intended to increase advertisements for the 2020 LLL/LHM state fair worship service. Mr. Stanton informed the convention attendees that he intended to advertise the state fair worship service in July/August edition of the Lutheran Witness magazine.

Joseph Chretien suggested that bulletin inserts or congregational newsletter articles about the LLL/LHM Kansas District worship service could be provided to LLL Kansas District congregations. Ron Bott suggested that a request be made to the LCMS Kansas District to add the LL/LHM Kansas District worship service to its calendar of events.

Following Tom Stanton's report about the Kansas State Fair LLL/LHM worship service, Linda Stanton informed the assembly that her recently deceased father, Merle Lietz, had a small life insurance policy that named the LLL Kansas District as the beneficiary. Linda Stanton said that she believed that the death benefit was approximately \$1,400. Linda Stanton said that she had given this insurance policy to

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President Arlen Schultz. Linda Stanton said that her father had not stipulated a particular use for the proceeds that may be received from the life insurance policy.

Jeff Craig-Meyer, Vice President, Constituencies for Lutheran Hour Ministries and president of The Lutheran Hour Ministries Foundation, made a presentation to the convention. Mr. Craig-Meyer began his presentation by reviewing his biography. He said that he was born in Taipei, Taiwan to missionary parents. He said that one of his maternal grandparents were Dr. Merle Radke, former chair of the English department at Concordia University—Chicago and Marjorie Ruth Radke. He said that his paternal grandparents were Dr. Herb “Bulldog” Meyer, former coach and athletic director at Concordia University—Seward and Norma Meyer. Mr. Craig-Meyer said that he was recruited to work at the Lutheran Hour Ministries by Robert W. Garmatz, a former executive director, after the start-up single-engine business jet company, for which he was working in Saint Louis, failed.

Jeff Craig-Meyer made a comprehensive presentation of the Lutheran Hour Ministries’ SENT initiative. Following is a summary of the information that Mr. Craig-Meyer presented.

- ◆ Following is Lutheran Hour Ministries vision.
 - Every person has the opportunity to hear the Gospel in an understandable way;
 - New believers are connected to faithful Christian communities where they can grow in their faith and witness;
 - All Christians are disciples who reach out in love to those who don’t yet know the Savior.
- ◆ Christianity is at a crossroads.
 - Two-thirds of the seven billion people on this planet are not followers of Christ.
 - 36% of Protestants in the United States do not feel a personal responsibility to share their faith.
 - Younger generations have grown skeptical of the church’s relevance.
 - Islam is the world’s fastest growing religion.
- ◆ The SENT Initiative is inspired by Jesus’ command to his disciples in verse John 20:21, “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” The SENT Initiative is an embodiment of the Lutheran Hour Ministries’ response to Jesus’ direction. The SENT Initiative is expansive, holistic, multilayer plan for sharing the Gospel employing specific strategies and tools that address the unique social characteristics of the digitally connected world of the twenty-first century.
- ◆ Planning for and work on the SENT Initiative began in 2014. The SENT Initiative was publicly launched in 2018. The SENT Initiative was planned to conclude in 2020.
- ◆ The SENT Initiative has four goals.
 1. Energize, equip, and engage the laity for outreach.
 2. Grow God’s kingdom through expanded media outreach.
 3. Bring the Gospel to the unreached around the world.
 4. Engage communities in the digital mission field.
- ◆ **Energize, equip, and engage the laity for outreach.**

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◆ Lutheran Hour Ministries partnered with Barna Group to produce a series of three research reports about how Americans are expressing their faith. The reports examine the influence that Christ-followers have in three broad spheres of their lives:

1. the conversations that individuals have;
2. the influence that the family has on spiritual development;
3. and the impact of Christians on the broader community.

- The Barna Group produced a monograph titled “Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age”. A boxed kit, which contains the monograph, the book titled “The Reluctant Witness”, a workshop DVD, selected Project Connect booklets, 25 Curve Cards, and online course information, was made available for purchase from the LHM web site in July 2019.

- Outreach Magazine awarded the “Spiritual Convention in the Digital Age” monograph the 2019 Outreach Resource of the Year in the Evangelism Category.

- The Barna Group produced a monograph titled “Households of Faith”. A boxed kit, which contains the monograph, the book titled “The Spiritually Vibrant Home”, a small group study DVD, selected Project Connect booklets, Vibrant Conversations cards, and online course information, will be made available for purchase from the LHM web site in April 2020.

- In 2020, the Barna Group will focus on the creation of a monograph titled “Communities in Action”.

- Research about Christians' attitudes regarding their responsibility and capability for outreach. In 1993, 89% of Christians believed that they were individually responsible for sharing their faith. In 2018, 64% of Christians believed that they were individually responsible for sharing their faith. In 1993, 78% of Christians believed that they were sufficiently trained to share their faith with the unchurched. In 2018, 58% of Christians believed that they were sufficiently trained to share their faith with the unchurched.
- In order for Lutherans to become “eager conversationalists”, they must (1) embrace the Gospel, (2) apply spiritual discipline, (3) grasp that they have been called to share their faith with the unchurched, (4) expect spiritual conversations, and (5) respond confidently when the persons with whom they engage in spiritual conversations ask questions.
- LHM has made on-line courses available at URL <https://www.lhm.org/learn/> to assist the Christian in strengthening their faith so that they may be better equipped to reach out with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.
- Online Mission Trips on-line learning program has been replaced by the Gospel Adventures on-line learning program in 2019. The interactive web site (<https://www.gospeladventures.org/>) and curriculum enables children to remotely experience a mission trip that will teach them about other cultures around the world while instilling them with the importance of God's work and spreading the Gospel. Gospel Adventures is available for free to Christian Schools and home-schooled students. In 2019, the featured country is Peru. In 2020, the featured country is Mongolia.

◆ **Grow God’s kingdom through expanded media outreach.**

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- The Lutheran Hour is now available on Sirius/XM, iTunes, iHeart Radio, Amazon Alexa, and YouTube. The Lutheran Hour is now broadcast on more than 1800 radio stations in the United States and Canada.
- Beginning in August 2019, Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler began to create a series of weekly podcasts titled “Speaking of Jesus”. These podcasts are recorded conversations with real people about their lives, Jesus Christ, and what His life, teachings, and sacrifice mean to their lives.
- LHM smart phone apps that are available for download from URL <https://www.lhm.org/apps/default.asp>. The smart phone apps are available for The Lutheran Hour, Daily Devotions, video bible studies, and Project Connect booklets.
- The Lutheran Hour, Daily Devotions, Ayer, Hoy I Siempre, Sentido Latino, Action in Ministry, and Speaking of Jesus may be streamed or downloaded without charge for the Lutheran Hour Ministries web site.

◆ **Bring the Gospel to the unreached around the world.**

- Lutheran Hour Ministries now has ministry centers in 35 countries. Each ministry center is staffed locally and works closely with dedicated volunteers and church partners within each country. Lutheran Hour Ministries provides ministries to more than 50 countries, using a culturally appropriate venues and media.
- Lutheran Hour Ministries continues its partnership with SAT-7, the first and largest Middle East and North African Christian television network. Lutheran Hour Ministries’ programs on the SAT-7 network are viewed by an estimated audience of between six and seven million people each week.
- Lutheran Hour Ministries has also began to offer vocation training courses, which include Gospel lessons. For example, LHM teaches a baking and confectionery training courses in Mexico and Paraguay. Lutheran Hour Ministries ministry centers in Cameroon and Kenya has provided vocational training courses.
- Lutheran Hour Ministries developed the Project JOEL (Jovenes con Espiritu Libre, or youth with a free spirit) program in Panama and has introduced it into some other Latin American countries. Using games, sporting events, puppet shows, workshops, and songs, Project JOEL implements Bible studies into schools to share the Gospel with unreached youth. Lutheran Hour Ministries attempts to partner with schools so that the teachers can reinforce what the young persons learn from the Project JOEL activities.

◆ **Engage communities in the digital mission field.**

- Lutheran Hour Ministries has launched and will launch ministries online to reach new audiences and to guide them as they learn more about Jesus and His church. Lutheran Hour Ministries intends to plant the seed of faith in a young person’s mind and soul, relying on God’s grace and the Holy Spirit to bring that person to the point where he or she will join a welcoming Christian community.

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- Lutheran Hour Ministries endeavors to engage communities in the digital mission field with the THRED social media web site, which was launched in 2018. THRED as an online social network that enables young adults to communicate with each other individually and through discussion groups. THRED attempts to engage young adults, proclaim the Gospel to these young adults, then guide them to faith in Jesus Christ. THRED attempts to engage young adults with thought-provoking questions and digital content.

Jeff Craig-Meyer concluded his presentation with information about the impact of the “Sent” initiative.

- An original goal of the “Sent” initiative was to reach 108 million people per week was surpassed in 2018 and was increased to 137 million people per week. Happily, Lutheran Hour Ministries judged that it had reached 136,294,719 people per week by June 1, 2019.
- A “Sent” initiative was to receive responses from 715,535 people annually. Happily, Lutheran Hour Ministries judged that it had received 807,303 responses in 2019.
- LHM hoped to raise \$242,000,000 over five years to fund the programs of the “Sent” initiative. Approximately \$213,210,329 had been raised as of June 1, 2019.

Jeff Craig-Meyer announced that a national LLL/LHM conference is scheduled to occur between October 16 through 18, 2020 at the Union Station in Saint Louis, Missouri.

In response to a question from John Johnson, Jeff Craig-Meyer stated that Bible correspondence courses continued to be valued as effective outreach programs in the international ministries.

Following Jeff Craig-Meyer's presentation, Rev. Micah Glenn, LHM Regional Ministry Facilitator, made a presentation regarding the witnessing of the Gospel through spiritual conversations. Rev. Glenn began his presentation by briefly reviewing his biography. He said that his family moved to Ferguson, Missouri when he was 11 years old. Rev. Glenn said that he attended the local public schools for three years until, concerned by his growing behavior problems, his parents enrolled him in Lutheran High School North in nearby St. Louis. He shared that he was not able to achieve funding for college until he was 25 years old. He said that he earned his BA in Chemistry from Concordia University Chicago. He said that he subsequently entered Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis and earned his Master of Divinity degree in 2016. Rev. Glenn reported that he began serving as a national missionary and executive director of the Lutheran Hope Center in Ferguson, Missouri in July 2016. Rev. Glenn said that he joined Lutheran Hour Ministries in March 2019.

Rev. Glenn presented the findings of the the Barna Group’s research regarding spiritual conversations. Rev. Glenn said that the Barna Group identified two groups of spiritual conversationalists.

- **Reluctant conversationalists:**
Christians who engage in fewer than 10 spiritual conversations within a year are classified as reluctant conversationalists. According to the Barna Group’s research, approximately **73 percent** of Christians are reluctant conversationalists.
- **Eager conversationalists:**

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Christians who engage in more than 9 spiritual conversations within a year are classified as eager conversationalists. According to the Barna Group's research, approximately **27 percent** of Christians are eager conversationalists.

Rev. Glenn revealed that the Barna Group research revealed the following characteristics of eager conversationalists.

- 98% say their faith is very important in their daily life.
- 98% pray weekly.
- 64% read the Holy Bible weekly.
- 62% attend church services weekly.
- 90% hold a strong belief that all have sinned and need forgiveness and that salvation can only be experienced through through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 77% possess a personal sense of responsibility for sharing the Gospel with non-believers.
- 65% feel ready and prepared to share their faith.
- 55% say that spiritual conversations usually happen unexpectedly.
- 70% felt joy and 78% felt peace when sharing their faith in spiritual conversations.
- 86% experience a feeling of gladness after sharing their faith in spiritual conversations.
- 78% seek to share their faith by the way they live.

Rev. Glenn presented the word "EAGER" as an acronym that represents imperative sentences, which can guide Christians to be eager conversationalists.

- E** Embrace the Gospel.
- A** Apply spiritual disciplines.
- G** Grasp the calling.
- E** Expect spiritual conversations.
- R** Respond confidently.

Rev. Glenn described the spiritual conversation as consisting of three phases, which can be described by the following phrases and key words.

1. **Unreceptive Phase:** The Christian attempts to gain a hearing.
 - a) **Chat:** The conversation begins with chatting about life, building trust between the conversers.
 - b) **Relate:** The conversers relate to each other's joys and pains, deepening the connection.
2. **Receptive Phase:** The Christian communicates the Gospel.
 - a) **Share:** The Christian shares that Jesus is at work in his or her life; the Christian affirms Jesus relevance to his or her life.
 - b) **Connect:** Connecting Jesus to daily life reveals the Good News.
3. **Seeking Phase:** The Christian guides his or her friend toward faith.

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- a) **Explore:** Exploring questions about faith encourages searching.
- b) **Clarify:** Clarifying the costs and rewards of following Jesus prepares the friend for faith.

Rev. Glenn advised the potential Christian witness should adopt Saint Paul's strategy for sharing the Good News of redemption from sin and eternal death through faith in Jesus Christ's self-sacrifice. Rev. Glenn referenced Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 9, verses 19–23.

*“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.** Now this I do for the Gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”*

Rev. Glenn made the following suggestions for effective witnessing during a spiritual conversation.

- The Christian witness should consider the spiritual posture for the friend with whom he or she will share the Gospel.
- The Christian witness to make the best use of time when witnessing.
- The Christian witness should always be gracious and respectful to the person with whom her or she is conversing.
- The Christian witness might find that responding to questions with questions aid him or her to better understand the direction of a series of questions, to understand the idea on which a line of questions is based, or to guide to the friend to an answer.
- The Christian witness should determine whether the person with whom he or she is conversing is “church hurt”. The Christian witness should always be gracious and respectful to the church-hurt person.

Rev. Glenn estimated that approximately 90 percent of the population of Ferguson, Missouri was unchurched when he began his ministry in that city.

Following Rev. Micah Glenn's presentation, Bervin Mirtsching, LHM Ministry Advancement Officer, made a presentation regarding means by which contributions could be made to Lutheran Hour Ministries. Bervin Mirtsching provided information to the convention attendees about giving from an IRA, giving through charitable gift annuities, giving through endowments, giving through wills, giving through charitable trusts, and giving through real estate. Bervin Mirtsching also asked the convention attendees to consider making a charitable contribution in response to the Lutheran Hour Ministries matching grant appeal.

Following Bervin Mirtsching's presentation, Jeff Craig-Meyer made a motion to exalt and celebrate Bervin Mirtsching's 19 years of service to Lutheran Hour Ministries. Richard Schrum seconded this motion. The convention attendees passed the motion.

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President Arlen Schultz presented the ballot for LLL Kansas District officers for a two-year term beginning November 2019 and ending November 2021. President Schultz reported that the incumbent secretary, Richard Schrum, was standing for reelection without opposition. He reported that the incumbent treasurer, Carroll Hackbart, was standing for reelection without opposition. President Schultz reported that no candidate was standing for the office of executive board representative for Region 1. He reported that Ron Bott was standing for election as executive board representative for Region 2, without opposition. He reported that Mark Westerman was standing for election as executive board representative for Region 3, without opposition.

President Schultz asked that convention attendees volunteer to stand as candidates for the office of executive board representative for Region 1 or to nominate other persons for this office. Convention attendees did not submit any nominations for this office.

President Schultz reported that the office of vice-president for the term ending November 2020 was also unfilled. President Schultz asked that convention attendees volunteer to stand as candidates for this office or nominate other persons for this office. Joseph Chretien, ambassador at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, Kansas, volunteered to stand as a candidate for the office of vice president.

Bill Wiese moved that nominations cease and that the candidates on the ballot be elected by acclamation. John Johnson seconded the motion. The motion to elect the three candidates on the ballot to their respective offices by acclamation was passed.

Rev. Dennis Kootz, LLL pastoral advisor, then installed Joe Chretien to the office of vice president, Carroll Harkbart to the office of treasurer, Richard Schrum to the office of secretary, Ron Bott to the office of executive board representative for Region 2, and Mark Westerman to the office of executive board representative for Region 3 of the LLL Kansas District.

Tim Voelker, prior president of the LLL Kansas District then read the Convention Thanks Resolution 19-03. This Resolution thanked the members of Region 4 of the LLL Kansas District for the unselfish contribution of their time and talents for the presentation of an inspiring and Christ-centered 80th Kansas District LLL/LHM Convention. This resolution was accepted with the exclamation "Thank You! Amen" from the convention attendees.

President Arlen Schultz announced that the boundaries of the regions and zones in the LLL Kansas District had been changed to match the boundaries of the regions and circuits in the LCMS Kansas District, in accordance with Section I of Article XIII of the By-Laws of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Laymen's League. President Schultz reported that the change in the boundaries of the regions caused the reduction in the number of regions from five to four. President Schultz announced that Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 will host the annual LLL Kansas District Convention in sequence. President Schultz announced that Region 1 would host the 81st Lutheran Laymen's League Kansas District Convention in 2020.

President Arlen Schultz introduced Nathan Harkins, vice president for LLL Kansas District Zone 3 and a member of the committee that is organizing the 81st Lutheran Laymen's League Kansas District Convention. Nathan Harkins presented an invitation to the 2020 LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention, which is scheduled to occur on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Nathan Harkins said that the venue for the convention is Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 14700 Leavenworth Road, Basehor, Kansas, which is a few

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miles west of the popular Legends shopping and entertainment district in western Kansas City, Kansas. Nathan Harkins reported that more specific information about the convention agenda, hotel room blocks, and ticket costs would be disseminated to LLL Kansas District members in 2020 .

Subsequently, an auction of some donated items was held. Tim Voelker served as the auctioneer. Approximately \$213 was raised for the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District Project.

There being no more business, Nathan Harkins moved that the convention be adjourned. John Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Secretary

Richard Schrum