

**Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League  
81st Annual Convention, November 6, 2021  
Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Basehor, Kansas**

At 10:30 AM, President Arlen Schultz, LLL Kansas District President called the Convention to order. Fred Gruhn, region 1 representative on the LLL Kansas District executive board, welcomed all of those in attendance.

Nathan Harkins, second year student at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, former vice president of LLL Kansas Zone 3 and convention committee member, led an opening prayer for the convention.

### **Nathan Harkin's Comments**

Nathan Harkins shared a few remarks about his enthusiastic support for the Lutheran Laymen's League and about his experiences as a seminary student. He reported that he had left class at 3:30 PM on Friday and had driven to Kansas City with his wife, Tiffany, in order to participate in the convention. Nathan declared that he strongly supports the outreach efforts of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Laymen's League and its annual grants of financial aid to students preparing for full-time church careers at LCMS universities and seminaries. Nathan expressed his sincere appreciation for the financial aid grants that he has received from the LLL Kansas District.

Nathan Harkins expressed his gratitude for the grants-in-aid that he received from several other organizations. Nathan emphasized that the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Concordia Seminaries continue to work assiduously to minimize the debt that pastors incur during their seminary studies.

Nathan described his positive experiences at Concordia Seminary. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunities to learn from the foremost Christian scholars. He described his friendships with other seminary students.

### **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's Households of Faith Workshop**

Following Nathan Harkin's comments, President Arlen Schultz introduced Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the Lutheran Hour Speaker. Rev. Zeigler informed the attendees that he would lead a Households of Faith workshop.

Rev. Zeigler informed the convention audience that attitudes affect outcomes, that Christians live by faith. Rev. Zeigler urged that convention attendees to live by a Good News story of the world. Rev. Zeigler asked the rhetorical questions, "How do Christians live the Good News? How do Christians raise up more people to lives of grace in Christ?"

Rev. Zeigler retold the creation story as recorded in the book of Genesis. He reminded that audience that God saw that his creation was good. Rev. Zeigler said that God had created the universe and the world for a good purpose. Rev. Zeigler declared that Christians live in the midst of a new good world by faith. Rev. Zeigler asked the rhetorical questions, "How do Christians live in the good world? How do Christians raise up other people to live in the good?"

- Rev. Zeigler apprised the convention audience that 80% of the Holy Bible is composed of narratives. So, he suggests that Christians can connect with other people by telling stories.

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- Rev. Zeigler suggested that a first step in conveying the Good News is to build interpersonal relationships.
- Rev. Zeigler urged the convention attendees to live as if they really believe in the example of Jesus Christ and in salvation by means of the Jesus Christ's sacrifice.
- Rev. Zeigler suggested that convention attendees read the Project Connect booklet *Live the Six: Learning to Live as an Everyday Missionary*, which he said could be purchased from the Lutheran Hour Ministries web site for a nominal cost of \$.50 or downloaded as a PDF file free of charge. (This booklet is to teach the reader to be an everyday missionary, inviting God into the life that the reader is already living.)

Rev. Zeigler reviewed verses in the sixth chapter of the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, taking notice of how God's commandments, as relayed by Moses, direct us how to live in the "good" in a household of faith.

Following is an excerpt from Deuteronomy 6:5-7. (New International Version of the Holy Bible.)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Rev. Zeigler reported that Lutheran Hour Ministries collaborated with the Barna Group to create three books and resource kits that can be used to guide the Christian life and to share to the Good News within congregations and communities.

- ***Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age***
  - 90% of Americans have less than one spiritual conversation in a month.
  - 70% of American Christians have less than one spiritual conversation in a month.
- ***Households of Faith***
  - The Barna Group researched how faith is being nurtured in private—with the spouses, children, parents, roommates and even frequent visitors who spend time within a household.
- ***Better Together***
  - The Barna Group researched how Christians love their neighborhoods of their own volition, even outside of professional obligation or the formal structure of ministry programs.

Rev. Zeigler recommended that members of the audience read the books *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* and *Households of Faith*, which he said could be purchased from the LHM web site Households of Faith web page ( <https://www.lhm.org/households/> ).

Rev. Zeigler said that God relates with each soul as an individual, as a member of a household, and as a member of a congregation. Rev. Zeigler said that a household can consist of the traditional nuclear family, but that a household can also consist of a single persons, of roommates, of a couple, of a single parent and his or her children, or of multiple generations of a family. He also noted that a household can be

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composed of an extended family. As an example, he referenced the extended family of Jacob that migrated to Egypt (as described in chapter 46 of the book of Genesis).

Rev. Zeigler relayed a few findings of the Barna Group's research regarding the Christian family.

- Fathers influence less than mothers.
- Young children are catalysts for Christian activities.
- Faith formation increases with hospitality.
- Faith heritage impacts the faith of the family members.
- A spiritually vibrant household has fun interactions among its members and facilitates the happiness of its members.

Rev. Zeigler asked the attendees to fill in the Vibrancy Inventory survey in the "Households of Faith Workshop" worksheet that had been given to the attendees. Rev. Zeigler reviewed the Vibrancy Inventory, which displayed the three primary behavioral categories of actions that are observed in spiritually vibrant households.

1. The households apply spiritual disciplines.
  - a) Household members pray together.
  - b) Household members read the Bible or devotions together.
  - c) Household members pray and read the Bible individually.
  - d) Household members attend corporate worship together.
  - e) Household members attend religious small group activities or Bible studies.
2. The households extend hospitality.
  - a) They enjoy having close friends and family over for dinner
  - b) They have deep conversations with close friends and family.
  - c) They ask close friends and family for help.
  - d) They invite new people to their dwelling.
  - e) They warmly engage with people who visit unannounced.
3. The households engage in spiritual conversations.
  - a) Household members talk about God and faith together.
  - b) Household members teach one another about faith and faith traditions.
  - c) Household members teach one another about the Bible.
  - d) Household members talk about their feelings with one another.
  - e) Household members share meaningful, relational, quality time together.

Rev. Zeigler urged the convention attendees to write down a goal to engage somebody in a spiritual conversation and to tell somebody about the Good News. Rev. Zeigler told convention attendees about often-recommended practices for goal-setting using the mnemonic "SMART".

**Specific** – Make a goal specific and narrow for more effective planning.

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**Measurable** – Define what evidence will show progress in achieving the goal.

**Attainable** – Make a goal that can reasonably be accomplished with a certain time frame.

**Relevant** – Make a goal that is reasonably and realistically aligned with the long-term objective.

**Time frame** – Set a realistic, ambitious end date for the achievement of the goal.

Rev. Zeigler reviewed some of the resources that Lutheran Hour Ministries web site ( <https://www.lhm.org/> ) provides to assist the Christian in developing his or her life in Christ. Rev. Zeigler mentioned on-line classes, spiritual conversation card decks, brochures, and, in particular, the Households of Faith kit.

### **Kim Burdett's Lutheran Women's Missionary League Presentation**

Following Rev. Zeigler's presentation, Kim Burdett, the president of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) made a presentation to the convention. Kim Burdett reminded the convention attendees that the LWML often passed a mite box at meetings and asked meeting participants to put small amounts of coins and cash into the small boxes. Accordingly, Kim passed mite boxes among the attendees. Kim explained that the LWML Kansas District biannually planned goals for contributing funds to various Lutheran churches, schools, universities, seminaries, and church organizations, then raised the funds with which to make these grants. Kim reviewed some of the grants that the LWML Kansas District had made or planned to make during the year.

Kim Burdett expounded on the mission statement of the LWML Kansas District: "Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Kansas District will nurture, motivate, and prepare The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod women to serve the Lord with gladness."

Kim Burdett announced that the 2022 convention for the LWML Kansas District was scheduled to occur at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas from Friday, April 22, through Sunday, April 24.

### **Rev. Robert Weinkauff's Tour of the Risen Savior Lutheran Church Sanctuary**

Following the Kim Burdett's presentation, Rev. Robert Weinkauff, senior pastor of Risen Savior Lutheran Church, led convention attendees into the sanctuary of the church and explained the biblical and Lutheran heritage influences for the architectural and design features of the church building and sanctuary. While in the sanctuary, the convention participants sang a few hymns.

Subsequently, Rev. Robert Weinkauff and convention attendees returned to the activities center. Rev. Weinkauff prayed before the serving of a noon banquet. Before partaking of the mid-day meal the convention participants sang the Doxology.

### **Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, Missouri Presentation**

After the convention attendees had eaten, information about the Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri was presented. Brochures about the Saint Paul Lutheran High School, which accepts both residential and non-residential students, were distributed to the convention attendees.

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**Donna Williams' Lutheran Early Response Team Presentation**

Donna Williams, LCMS Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator, made a presentation about the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). Donna Williams, who is also the Youth Coordinator for Zion Lutheran Church, Newton, Kansas, reported that LERT is a ministry that is effectuated by volunteers who respond to immediate and long-term needs following natural and human-caused disasters.

Donna Williams explained that the LERT ministry is an example of the ministry of presence, which involves Christians bringing comfort to those that are hurting. Ms. Williams said that the LERT ministry attempts to provide consolation, relief, and help to persons who are suffering as a result of natural and human-caused disasters. Ms. Williams explained that providing emergency services enables opportunities for gospel proclamation as well as enabling the volunteers to perform acts of neighborly love, reflecting the redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

Donna Williams explained that LERT teams enter a disaster-affected area after the first responders permit them to begin work in the area. Ms. Williams reported that FEMA and local emergency managements agencies often complete their work at sites of storm destruction in three days, leaving the affected residents to deal with the damage themselves. Ms. Williams reported that LERT teams follow the suggested governmental guidelines for faith-based volunteer organizations.

Donna Williams reported that there were approximately 350 LERT-trained volunteers in the LCMS Kansas District. She said that these volunteers composed 16 teams. She also reported that there were six trainers in the LCMS Kansas District. Ms. Williams noted that existence of a large number of volunteers in the Third Circuit of the LCMS Kansas District, particularly at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Gardner and Christ Lutheran Church in Overland Park.

Ms. Williams reported that the training of LERT teams for working safely in disaster areas is continual. As an example, Ms. Williams described a course in the use of chainsaws, which included three hours of training in the classroom and three hours of training in the field.

Ms. Williams said that private individuals volunteer their equipment, tractors, trucks, etc. as well as their labor. Ms. Williams reported that congregations also provide equipment for LERT teams. Ms. Williams sited the example of the youth group at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, Kansas, which configured a LERT team trailer and stocked it with items and equipment that would be useful for a LERT team.

Donna Williams made a short visual presentation about the work that LERT volunteers performed following the EF4 tornado that wrought destruction at Linwood, Kansas, on May 28, 2019. Ms. Williams said that the LERT volunteers cut up trees and tree branches that were felled and broken by the tornado and that the LERT volunteers worked to clear debris. She said that volunteers were trained in the use of chainsaws and other equipment for clearing damaged trees and brush at the Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church in Basehor, Kansas. Ms. Williams reported that LERT teams worked at Linwood continued for more than two weeks.

**Carolyn Buono's Kansas Lutheran K9 Comfort Dog Ministry Presentation**

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Following Donna Williams presentation regarding Lutheran Early Response Teams in Kansas, Carolyn Buono made a presentation about the Kansas Lutheran K9 Comfort Dog Ministry. Carolyn Buono said that comfort dogs are useful in breaking down barriers and building bridges to those suffering from the trauma of living in a world corrupted by sin and the resulting critical incidents and disasters. Ms. Buono reported that trained comfort dog teams are available to be deployed due to a disaster or critical incident at the discretion of the District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC). When the DDRC approves a comfort dog team deployment, the LCMS Kansas District may cover costs.

Ms. Buono also informed that convention attendees that comfort dogs were available to visit schools, preschools, churches, and other groups. For these types of visits, the comfort dog ministry is willing to work with the inviting entity regarding expenses.

### **Review of 80th LLL Kansas District Convention Minutes**

President Arlen Schultz asked the convention attendees to read the minutes of the 80th convention of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Laymen's League, which occurred at the Perkins Family Restaurant, Great Bend, Kansas on November 2, 2019.

Tom Stanton, coordinator of the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, brought an error in the minutes to the attention of the convention. He pointed out that the minutes referred to his wife as Wanda Stanton instead of Linda Stanton.

Mark Westerman, region 3 representative on the LLL Kansas District executive board, moved to accept the minutes printed in the convention booklet with the provision that all occurrences of "Wanda Stanton" be replaced with "Linda Stanton". Gary Neuschafer, secretary/treasurer for LLL Kansas District Zone 12, seconded the motion. The convention attendees voted to pass the motion.

### **2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Budget Report**

President Arlen Schultz reviewed the treasurer's report, which was printed in the convention booklet.

The report showed that revenue for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was \$14,830.59. The report showed that the total operating expense for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was \$9,138.98. The report also showed that \$13,191 in revenue was budgeted for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and that \$10,270 was budgeted for operating expenses in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Fred Gruhn moved to accept the treasurer's report. Tom Stanton seconded the motion. The convention attendees voted to pass the motion.

### **2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project Report**

President Arlen Schultz reviewed the receipts of the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District project.

Contributions of \$23,642.12 were received from individuals, congregations, clubs, and events throughout the LLL Kansas District. \$580 were received as a memorial for Bill Proctor. \$4,601.14 in grants-in-aid that had been distributed for the 2020-2021 academic year had been returned for distribution for

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the 2021-2022 academic year. Interest income of \$43.73 was received on the collected district project funds. \$1,564.58 in grants-in-aid were distributed for the 2020-2021 academic year beyond the total amount of contributions received for the LLL Kansas District Project during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Consequently, \$27,302.41 were available for distribution to the purposes specified for the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project. Thus, the minimum goal of \$31,500 for student financial aid for the 2021-2022 LLL Kansas District Project exceeded available funds by \$4,197.59. In order to cover this shortfall, the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors voted to pay \$4,197.59 from the Delmar Maike bequest fund to the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project fund.

President Arlen Schultz reported that zero dollars would be paid to the other budgeted line items of the 2020-2021 LLL Kansas District Project because of the shortfall in contributions received. However, Arlen Schultz reported that the \$1,000 allocated from the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District Project for the recognition dinner for fourth year students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was available to fund the 2022 dinner because that dinner had not occurred in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, President Schultz reported that the \$1,000 allocated from the 2019-2020 LLL Kansas District Project for the LLL/LHM Kansas State Fair worship service and booth was used in September 2021 because the 2020 Kansas State Fair had been cancelled. President Schultz said that the shortfall in contributions effectively prevented the contribution of \$4,000 to the Lutheran Hour Ministries Argentina ministry office, the contribution of \$4,000 to the Lutheran Hour Ministries overseas Bible correspondence courses, and the contribution of \$500 to the Lutheran Hour float in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

### **Ministry Action Resolution 21-02 for 2021-2022 LLL Kansas District Project**

Mark Westerman, region 3 representative on LLL Kansas District executive board, read Ministry Action Resolution 21-02 for the 2021-2022 LLL Kansas District project.

Ministry Action Resolution 21-02 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.

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

- 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.

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Mark Westerman moved that the resolution be accepted. Elmer Kellner, ambassador for Redeemer Lutheran Church, Atwood, Kansas, seconded the motion. The convention attendees voted to pass the resolution.

**Tom Stanton’s Report of the 2021 Kansas State Fair Worship Service**

Tom Stanton, coordinator for the LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair, presented the report for the worship service that occurred on September 12, 2021. Tom Stanton reported that Pastor Tom Harmon of Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas, conducted the service and preached the sermon. The Risen Savior Lutheran Church Praise Band presented the music. Tom Stanton reported that music preformed by the band before the worship service attracted many fair attendees. Mr. Stanton said that about 125 persons attended the worship service. Mr. Stanton reported that a Project Connect tract rack, purchased with Merle Lietz memorial funds, was set up at the entrance of the Peoples Bank and Trust Arena so that attendees could freely take booklets. Mr. Stanton reported that a free-will offering of approximately \$350 was collected.

**Old Business**

President Schultz opened the floor for the discussion of topics of old business. However, none of the convention attendees raised issues of old business.

**New Business**

President Schultz opened the floor for the discussion of topics of new business. President Schultz presented the proposal that had been made by the LLL Kansas District Zone 15 executive board regarding the scheduling of LLL Kansas District conventions.

- LLL Kansas District conventions should be scheduled every other year rather than every year.
- LLL Kansas District conventions should be scheduled in the spring rather than around the first weekend of November.
- LLL Kansas District conventions should be scheduled on the same weekend as the LWML Kansas District convention at or near the same venue that hosts the LWML Kansas District convention.

President Schultz asked that LLL Kansas District zones and local groups consider and discuss this proposal. A resolution regarding this proposal was not presented to the convention.

President Arlen Schultz reviewed the tentative schedule for events for the LLL Kansas District during 2022.

January 29	Board of Governors Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas
February 6	Lutheran Hour Sunday
April 23	Board of Governors Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas



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May 7	Kansas District LLL Golf Tournament
May 31	Deadline for contributions to 2021-2022 Kansas District LLL Project
August 27	Board of Governors Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, Kansas
September 9 – 18	LLL/LHM booth at the Kansas State Fair
September 11	LLL/LHM worship service at the Kansas State Fair
November 4 – 5	82nd Kansas District LLL Convention

President Schultz said that the next LLL Kansas District convention would be hosted by Region 2. (Region 2 is composed of zones 7, 8, 9, and 12. Region 2 is generally situated in north central Kansas.) President Schultz suggested that the next LLL Kansas District convention be held in Salina, Kansas.

President Schultz reported that the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors had created a Technology Committee. He reported that the purpose of the Technology Committee was to investigate technologies that could be used to enhance communication among LLL volunteers in Kansas and to enhance outreach. He reported that the Technology Committee was tasked with proposing the acquisition of hardware and software to the LLL Kansas District Board of Governors. President Schultz identified the Technology Committee members as Fred Gruhn, Tom Stanton, and Joseph Chretien, vice president of the LLL Kansas District.

**Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler’s Lutheran Hour Ministries Presentation**

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler made a presentation regarding Lutheran Hour Ministries. Rev Zeigler reviewed that history of The Lutheran Hour radio program, noting that it was the longest running Christ-centered radio program in the world. Rev. Zeigler listed the ten speakers who have proclaimed the Good News on this radio program since the first broadcast occurred on October 2, 1930.

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Tenure</b>
Rev. Dr. Walter A. Mainer	Speaker from 1930 - 1950
Rev. Dr. Alexander Melendez	Spanish Lutheran Hour 1941 - 1972
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Acker	Speaker from 1950 - 1951
Rev. Dr. Armin Oldsen	Speaker from 191 - 1953
Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffman	Speaker from 1955 - 1988
Rev. Wallace Schultz	Associate speaker from 1977 - 2002
Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer	Speaker from 1989 – 2001 Interim speaker from 2017 - 2018
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Klaus	Speaker from 2002 - 2010 Interim speaker from 2017 - 2018

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<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Tenure</b>
Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz	Speaker from 2011 - 2017
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler	Speaker from 2018 - present

Rev. Zeigler explained that Christian outreach by means of The Lutheran Hour radio program had encountered obstacles, which he categorized as messenger, media, and money.

1. Messenger
  - a) Currently in North America, less than 10 percent of young persons are willing to talk to religious professionals. Young people are skeptical of ordained clergy persons.
2. Media
  - a) The golden age of radio is long past. As many as 25 million people listened to the initial Lutheran Hour speaker, Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier, each week. Presently, approximately one million persons listen the The Lutheran Hour broadcasts on radio each week.
  - b) A very large number of The Lutheran Hour presentations are available as pod casts from The Lutheran Hour Ministries web site. However, the world wide web contains a huge number of web sites addressing a huge number of subjects. The internet user generally must search for The Lutheran Hour or specifically enter the URL of The Lutheran Hour web site in the browser address line in order to access audio programs.
3. Money
  - a) The average donor to the Lutheran Hour Ministries is 76 years old. Younger generations do not contribute based on institutional loyalty.

Rev. Zeigler emphasized that these disadvantages can be overcome by means of God-inspired strategies and initiatives. Rev. Zeigler referred to God's guidance of and interventions for the Israelites, as recorded in the first and second books of Samuel. Rev. Zeigler also reviewed the story of the combat between David and Goliath, as reported in the second chapter of the book of Judges. He noted that David's defeat of Goliath was based on his unconventional perspective regarding the weapons that could be used in the combat. Rev. Zeigler suggested that just as God inspired David to view his combat from an unconventional perspective, so also the Lutheran Laymen's League will be guided to try new methods of bringing Christ to the nations and the nations to the Church.

Rev. Zeigler showed a video about the international ministries. He reported that following information about the international ministries.

- Lutheran Hour Ministries has local offices in 37 counties.
- The Lutheran Hour Ministries empowers the local international ministry offices to determine the methods of outreach that are most effective in the countries that they serve.
- Through radio, television, bible correspondence course, internet ministries, and other methods, the international ministry offices reach more than 130 million people each week.
- In 2020 \$500,000 of reserves were invested in the ministry to Iceland.

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Rev. Zeigler reported that more than 50% of the persons surveyed by the Barna Group said that they would talk to a neighbor or friend about spiritual matters. Rev. Zeigler informed the convention attendees that personal outreach was the most effective method of informing persons of the Good News of Jesus Christ's redemptive sacrifice and of bringing them into the church. He summarized such personal ministry with the motto, "Each one reach one."

Rev. Zeigler recommended that Christians read the book *The Reluctant Witness* in order to obtain fresh insights and best practices for engaging in spiritual conversations. Rev. Zeigler reported that this book is available from the "Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age" web page ( <https://www.lhm.org/conversations/> ) on the LHM web site.

Rev. Zeigler also recommended that Christians read the book *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* in order learn about the vital practices of spirituality, hospitality, and community that nurture a thriving household of faith. Rev. Zeigler reported that this book is available from the "Households of Faith" web page ( <https://www.lhm.org/households/> ) on the LHM web site.

Rev. Zeigler reminded the convention attendees of Jesus Christ's words in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, to the close of the age." He reminded the convention attendees about the process by which persons come to faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship in the church. Rev. Zeigler quoted 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

Rev. Zeigler presented a summary of new initiatives in the Lutheran Laymen's League digital ministries.

- <https://www.vivenciar.net/> is a Christian outreach web site that ministers to Latinos. This web site has been expanded to address Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking persons in the United States as well as those in Latin America. The digital platform offers guidance, support, and direction to individuals seeking help through live chats, blog posts, articles, e-books, and courses. Deaconess Noemí Guerra is LHM's program developer for Hispanic ministry.
- The strategy of the THRED internet social network ( <https://thred.org/> ) is being redesigned to target the younger generations.
- <https://www.hopefulneighborhood.org/> web site has been created to provide resources and an online network for The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. The Hopeful Neighborhood Project is a new collaborative network of people who are committed to improving neighborhood well-being around the world. This project is based on Barna Group research, which is communicated in three books, which are available for purchase from the web site. These books are titled *Better Together*, *The Hopeful Neighborhood*, and *The Hopeful Neighborhood Field Guide*.

### **Dean Ehrenheim's LHM Ministry Advancement Presentation**

Following Rev. Michael Zeigler's presentation, Dean Ehrenheim, Senior Ministry Advancement Counselor for LHM, made a presentation regarding means by which contributions could be made to Lutheran Hour Ministries. Dean Ehrenheim provided information to the convention attendees about methods by

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which charitable contributions can be made to the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Mr. Ehrenheim provided some information about the following methods of giving:

- qualified charitable distribution from an IRA,
- charitable gift annuities,
- gifts from endowments,
- gifts from wills,
- gifts from charitable trusts,
- gifts of real estate,
- making the LLL beneficiary of life insurance policies.

Dean Ehrenheim also asked the convention attendees to consider making a charitable contribution in response to the Lutheran Hour Ministries matching grant appeal.

### **Election of Kansas District Officers**

President Arlen Schultz presented the ballot for LLL Kansas District officers for a two-year term beginning November 2021 and ending November 2023. President Schultz reported that Tim Voelker, former district president, was standing for election as the district secretary without opposition. He reported that John Johnson, former district president, was standing for election as treasurer without opposition. He reported that Mark Westerman was standing for reelection as executive board representative for Region 3, without opposition.

President Schultz reported that no candidate was standing for the office of executive board representative for Region 2. President Schultz asked that one or more of the convention attendees volunteer to be candidates for this office. However, no convention attendees volunteered for this office.

Elmer Kellner moved that nominations cease and that the candidates on the ballot be elected by acclamation. Ray Keller, executive board representative for Region 4, seconded the motion. The motion to elect the three candidates on the ballot to their respective offices by acclamation was passed.

Rev. Robert Weinkauff, senior pastor at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Basehor, Kansas, then installed Tim Voelker to the office of district secretary, John Johnson to the office of district treasurer, and Mark Westerman to the office of executive board representative for Region 3 of the LLL Kansas District.

### **Convention Thanks Resolution 21-03**

Ray Keller then read the Convention Thanks Resolution 21-03. This Resolution thanked the members of LLL Kansas District Region 1 convention committee for the unselfish contribution of their time and talents for the presentation of an inspiring and Christ-centered 81st Kansas District LLL/LHM Convention. This resolution was accepted with the exclamation "Thank You! Amen" from the convention attendees.

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Fred Gruhn, chairman of the convention committee, expressed heartfelt appreciation to Rev. Robert Weinkauf and all of the staff and members of Risen Savior Lutheran Church who contributed to the hosting of the 81st LLL Kansas District Convention.

Subsequently, an auction of some donated items was held. Tim Voelker served as the auctioneer. Approximately \$53 was raised for the 2021-2022 LLL Kansas District Project.

There being no more business, President Arlen Schultz declared the convention ended. Rev. Robert Weinkauf said a closing prayer.

Richard Schrum  
Secretary (November 2017 – November 2021)