

# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District



## Convention Workbook



April 1, 2018



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR NAVIGATING THE WORKBOOK

**First things first:** This workbook should be opened with Adobe Acrobat or Reader. If you aren't seeing some of the features described in these instructions, it may be because you've opened the document with another program.

**Basic navigation:** On the left side of your document is a Bookmark Pane, which contains links (bookmarks) to the various sections of the workbook. When you click on a bookmark, the Document Pane displays that page. For example, click on Workbook Index in the Bookmark Pane, and the Workbook Index page is displayed. Using the bookmarks will allow you to move quickly through the workbook. (Has the pane disappeared? Look for the little bookmark icon on the far left, right over the paper clip, to bring it back.)

**Additional links:** Several sections have Index pages with additional links to pages within the section. These links are identified by a red underline. Some examples:

- In the Workbook Index, Speaker Bio is underlined in red. If you click on the underlined text, the Speaker Bio will be displayed.
- In Section 5, Nominations Index, the page number following each nominee's name is underlined in red and links to that nominee's biography (all candidates are listed alphabetically).

**Returning to a previous page:** When you click on a link in the document, you can't return to the original page, unfortunately. This is where the bookmark pane comes in handy. For example, if you finish reading the District Secretary bios in Section 5 and want to go back to the Nomination Index, just look to the left in the Bookmark Pane and click on the Nomination Index. This is much easier than scrolling back and forth in the document trying to find a page.

## 2018 KSD CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(Tentative – as of 4/2/18. Our plan is to post a more detailed schedule on our website closer to the convention)

### THURSDAY, JUNE 7

8:00 a.m. ....	Registration Opens
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ....	Exhibitor Area Open – Shawnee Room
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. ....	Open Hearings w/Floor Committees
11:00 – 12:00 p.m. ....	Floor Committees, as necessary
<i>Lunch on your own</i>	
1:30 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Opening</b> – Sunflower Ballroom
1:30 – 5:00 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Business</b>
5:00 – 7:00 p.m. ....	<i>Dinner on your own</i>
7:00 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Worship</b> – Sunflower Ballroom
	Host Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church – Norton, KS
	Sermon: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS President
9:00 p.m. ....	<b>President’s Reception</b> – Sunflower Foyer
9:00 – 10:30 p.m. ....	Exhibitor Area Open – Shawnee Room

### FRIDAY, JUNE 8

7:30 a.m. ....	Continental Breakfast – Sunflower Foyer
7:30 a.m. ....	Circuit Caucuses, as necessary – Pioneer Room
8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. ....	Exhibitor Area Open
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ....	<b>Convention Business</b> – Sunflower Ballroom
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.....	Synod President’s Report – Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
12:00-1:00 p.m. ....	Delegate Only Lunch – Emerald Ballroom – buffet lines in hallway
1:00 - 1:45 p.m. ....	Q & A with Synod President – Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
1:45 – 3:00 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Business</b> – Sunflower Ballroom
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. ....	Break – Exhibitor Area Open
3:30 – 6:00 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Business</b> – Sunflower Ballroom
6:00 p.m. ....	<i>Dinner on your own</i>

### SATURDAY, JUNE 9

7:30 a.m. ....	Continental Breakfast – Sunflower Foyer
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Business</b> – Sunflower Ballroom
12:00 p.m. ....	<b>Convention Adjourns</b>

## Speaker Biography, Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa



Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa is the senior pastor of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (1996-2002; 2011-present), having also served as sole pastor in Covina, CA (1991-1996) and senior pastor of The Woodlands, TX (2002-2010). During this time, he has served as an adjunct professor of theology at Concordia University Irvine, teaching Biblical Theology, the Lutheran Confessions, Systematic Theology, and History and Literature of the Old and New Testaments. As part of his service to the university, he facilitated the connection between the nursing school and the Synod's Mercy Medical Teams.

After earning an M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, he received an M.A. in Christian apologetics from Biola University, La Mirada, CA and a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Birmingham, England. He is a study notes contributor to *The Lutheran Study Bible* and wrote on "God the Son" and "Creation" in *The Lutheran Difference*. He has published essays on Luther's Christology, apologetics as pastoral practice, and C.F.W. Walther's teaching on sanctification. This summer, Concordia Publishing House will release his book *Faith that Sees Through the Culture*, on understanding biblical dualities that focus our faith and prepare us to live more effectively in the culture. He is the drafter for the CTCR's assignment, "To Encourage Confession and Absolution for Pastors" (forthcoming), which aims to strengthen pastors and their congregations.

For the past four years, he has served as a member and now vice chairman for the Board for National Mission, which writes and oversees policy for the Office of National Mission (ONM). The ONM is dedicated to working with our 35 districts to provide resources to our congregations and schools in the areas of Witness, Mercy, and Life Together. Dr. Espinosa was a key instigator for the genesis of synodical Mission Priority #7: "Strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God's design," and he is on the committee that is advancing synodical Mission Priority #4: "Collaborate with the Synod's members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness," which is most concerned with the theme of our "Life Together."

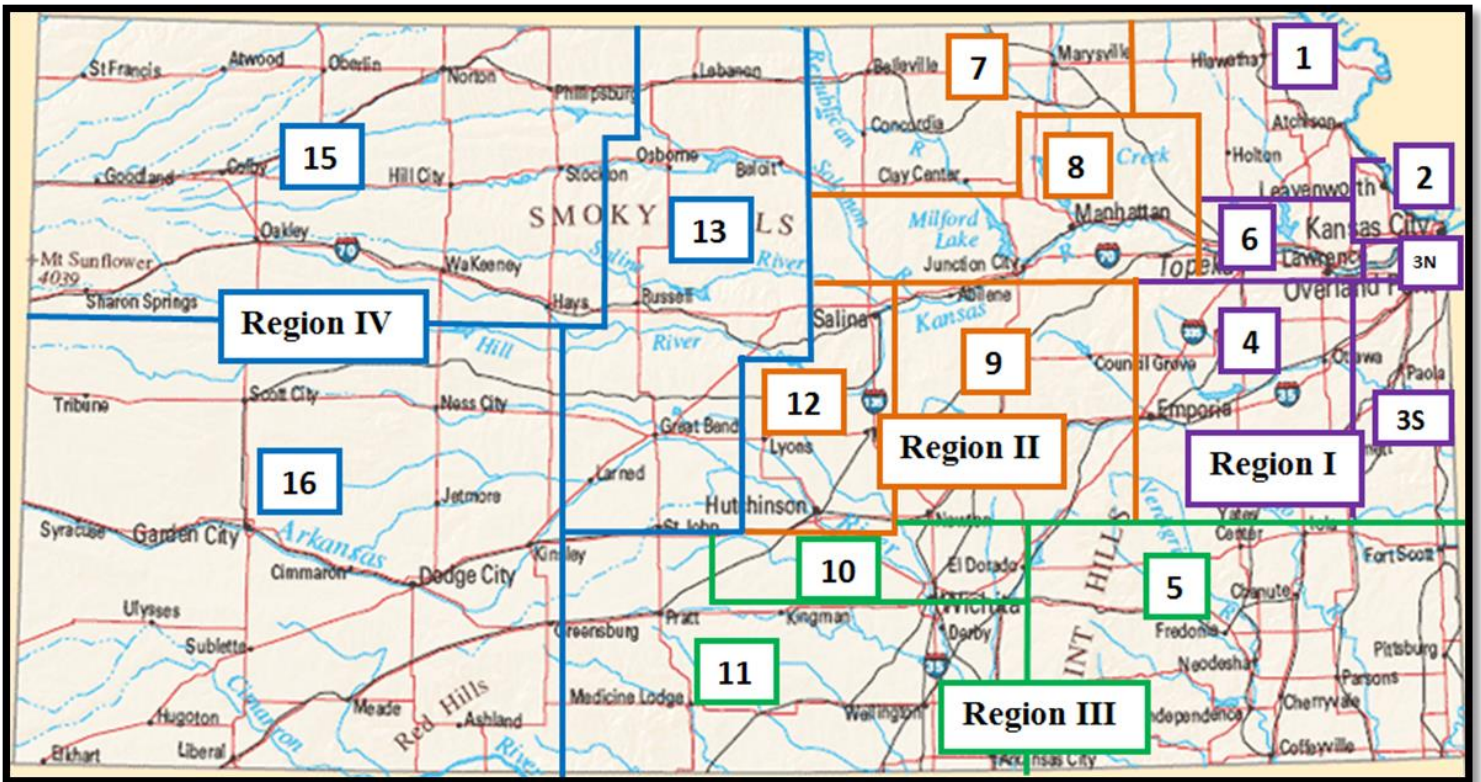
Dr. Espinosa and his wife, Traci, have been blessed with eight children, the eldest of whom is an assistant pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Louis while he works on a Ph.D. in exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

## CONVENTION SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. The chair will see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. When recognized by the chair, members of the convention will state their name, whether they are a delegate or an advisory delegate, and the congregation or ministry they represent.
3. Delegates may speak and vote. Advisory delegates may speak but not vote.
4. A delegate who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of their remarks move the previous question.
5. The two-minute rule will apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate.
6. The chair can limit debate and also the number of times a person may speak. (The Pro-Con speakers on a question will be observed at the discretion of the chair.)
7. Personal privilege will not be abused by using the time to advance the speaker's opinion. It is only to ask a procedure or parliamentary question.
8. All substitute motions and amendments must be presented in written form to the District Secretary. Material should be provided in digital format (and may be sent by e-mail to [KSDconvention@gmail.com](mailto:KSDconvention@gmail.com)) when possible.
9. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter will be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. The convention will then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
10. The convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when possible. These are to/may be sent to the Nominations Committee at [KSDconvention@gmail.com](mailto:KSDconvention@gmail.com) for review of proper credentials.)
11. During the convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice-Presidents, and (3) all other elective positions.
12. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
13. The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
14. The election of the Vice-Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
15. Upon the election of the regional Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.
16. Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply: Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates will constitute the ballot.
17. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure will be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
18. Use of portable telephones and other electronic communication devices will be permitted in the delegate section. **Not responsible for wifi connections.**
19. No distribution of literature will be allowed in the Maner Conference Center without pre-convention approval by the Office of the District President.



# KANSAS DISTRICT REGIONS



**REGION I**

- Circuit 1
- Circuit 2
- Circuit 3 North
- Circuit 3 South
- Circuit 4
- Circuit 6

**REGION II**

- Circuit 7
- Circuit 8
- Circuit 9
- Circuit 12

**REGION III**

- Circuit 5
- Circuit 10
- Circuit 11

**REGION IV**

- Circuit 13
- Circuit 15
- Circuit 16

# REGION LISTING – KANSAS DISTRICT (as of March 31, 2018)

## REGION I - (Circuits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6)

### Circuit 1 – Atchison

Atchison, Trinity .....	Rev. Robert Ziegler
Easton, St. John .....	(served by Rev. Rick Twenhafel)
Fairview, St. Paul .....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Sean Kilgo
Hiawatha, Zion.....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Sean Kilgo
Holton, Trinity.....	Rev. Brian Stark
Netawaka, Immanuel .....	Rev. Michael Van Velzer
Nortonville, St. Matthew .....	Rev. Richard Lally
Powhattan, Zion.....	(served by Rev. Tim Brisbois, NE)
Sabetha, First .....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Sean Kilgo
Wathena, Christ.....	Rev. Cody Norton
Fairview, Immanuel.....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Sean Kilgo

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Jennifer Curley, Kelly Dressler, Justin Hoffman, Jill Lowe

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Joyce Duitsman, Rachel Goodpasture, Margaret Ohlmann, Martha Pearson, Kyle Strecker

### Circuit 2 - Kansas City North

Basehor, Risen Savior .....	Rev. Robert Weinkauf
Kansas City, Bethel .....	(served by Rev. Kenneth Nettling)
Kansas City, Faith.....	Rev. Kenneth Nettling
Kansas City, Grace.....	(served by Rev. Kenneth Nettling)
Kansas City, Immanuel.....	(served by Rev. Kenneth Nettling)
Kansas City, Our Saviour .....	Rev. Tom Van Duzer
Kansas City, St. Luke .....	Rev. Luke Kammrath
Leavenworth, St. Paul .....	Rev. Van (Ed) Mease
Leavenworth, Trinity .....	Rev. Damian Snyder
Basehor, Trinity Family of Faith.....	Rev. Jason Boetcher .

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Michael May, Rev. John Niermann, Rev. David Parks

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Kevin Dierks, Denise Sprengeler, Susan Wells

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Laura Baack, Rebecca Denney, Jay Floetke, Pam Floetke, Helen Genter, Norma Jacob, Cheryl Kirkendoll, Lori Lott, Rebecca Peters, Leah Roesler, David Saving, Ellie Tebbenkamp, Rebecca Thomlinson

**Circuit 3 North**

Overland Park, Christ .....	Rev. Jeffrey Kunze
.....	Rev. Jeffrey Meyers
.....	Rev. Russell Peterson
Mission, Trinity & Shawnee .....	Rev. Mark Schulz
.....	Rev. Philip Cook
.....	Rev. Benjamin Vineyard (SMP)
Olathe, Redeemer .....	Rev. Perry Sukstorf
Shawnee, Hope .....	(Senior position vacant)
.....	Rev. Michael Penikis
Olathe, Beautiful Savior .....	Rev. Joel Schultz
.....	Rev. Michael Ada
Olathe, Augsburg .....	Rev. Jay Watson

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Roland Boehnke, Rev. Thomas Brewer, Rev. Gaylen Burow, Rev. Ronald Flentgen, Rev. Thomas Harries, Rev. LeRoy Hovel, Rev. Edward Kettner, Rev. Darrell Matthews, Rev. Richard Pingel, Rev. William Postel, Rev. Roger Schepmann, Rev. Eugene Stohs

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Korey Danley, Diane Eichholz, Daniel Gibson, Michael Grein, Sara Grein, Diane Harries, Karen Horrigan, Brent Howard, Michelle Howard, Nancy Jankowski, Marjorie Kresinski, Kathy McIntosh, LeAnn Miller, Miranda Mondary, Katie Morgan, Roberta Schempp, Carol Schneider, Amy Schultz, Calah Stichler, Lorraine Thaete, Steve Vandemark, David Willingham

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Kristine Alsin, Ronald Cornett, Nancy Chapin, Aleen Edge, Amanda Fogelman, Richard Hanebutt, Kathleen Hanebutt, Christa Lindeman, Sandra Nelson, Herbert Peter, Janette Reinke, Lester Schmidt, Arlyn Sprecher, Charise Sprengel, Nicole Tubandt, Kristen Willingham

**Circuit 3 South**

Gardner, King of Kings .....	Rev. Daniel Wehmeier
Leawood, Lord of Life .....	Rev. Burt Garwood
Overland Park, Bethany .....	Rev. Kevin Wyssmann
Paola, First .....	Rev. Mark Croucher
Paola, Trinity .....	Rev. Kevin Vogts
Louisburg, Christ Our Savior .....	Rev. James (Andy) Keltner
.....	Rev. Stephen Sweyko

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Jerome Brownlee, Rev. Paul Helmer, Rev. Paul Hoppe, Rev. Thomas Krause, Rev. Jerome Peck, Rev. Edward Trost

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Sarah Abramovitz, Megan Darby, Debra Dillon, Sharon Fries, Jana Grimm, Lisa Hellyer, Sarah Kuske, Tyler Tollefson, Randi Petrik

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Jody Brown, Lillian Brandt, Joanna Hadle, Lucy Kettler, Dean Lovig, Nancy Schulz, Mary Schultz

**Circuit 4 – Emporia**

Aliceville, St. John.....	Rev. Timothy Heath
Burlington, Trinity.....	Rev. Don Haselhuhn
Emporia, Faith .....	Rev. David Schemm
Emporia, Messiah .....	Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier
Garnett, Trinity .....	(served by Rev. Richard Pingel)
Ottawa, Faith .....	Rev. Charles Adams
Vassar, Zion.....	Rev. Joshua Woelmer

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Charlie Scott, Rev. Earl Zimmerman

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Elaine Whiteneck

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Connie Becker



**Circuit 6 – Topeka-Lawrence**

Lawrence, Immanuel .....	Rev. Randall Weinkauf
Lawrence, Redeemer .....	Rev. Robert Leiste
Topeka, Calvary .....	Rev. Benjamin Ockree
Topeka, Christ .....	Rev. Daniel Ross
Topeka, Faith .....	Rev. James Bender
.....	Rev. Jacob Wampfler
.....	Rev. Martin Albrecht (SMP)
Topeka, St. John.....	Rev. Jon Bruss
.....	Rev. Devin Kerns
.....	Rev. Roger Goetz
Topeka, Prince of Peace .....	Rev. Neil Buono

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Glenn Bitter, Rev. Thomas Brooks, Rev. Richard Bruenger, Rev. Jeffrey Duncan, Rev. Daniel Galchutt, Rev. Joseph Jones, Rev. D. Scot Kerns, Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Rev. Peter Lange, Rev. Donald Miller, Rev. Robert Nestler, Rev. Kenton Rohrberg, Rev. Frederick Smith, Rev. Peter Tremain, Rev. Norbert Wodtke, Rev. Glen Wurdeman, Rev. Richard Zabel

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Amanda Adams, James Bradshaw, Chris Francik, Debra Freiel, Philip Frusti, Ashley Brandmahl, Bethany Johnson, Rachel Kathman, Linda Kinnett, Andrea Kosmicki, Heather McCormick, Forrest (Gene) Schultz, Emma Taylor, Isaac Taylor

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Kathy Bartels, Denise Bitter, Joanna Bradshaw, Marilyn Bruenger, Robert Eggold, Betty Goetz, Donna Hass, Dennis Hintz, Robert Lehman, Walter Malone

## REGION II (Circuits 7, 8, 9, 12)

### Circuit 7 – Linn

Barnes, St. Peter .....	(served by Rev. Matthew Durance)
Bremen, Bethlehem .....	Rev. Aaron Fenker
Bremen, Immanuel .....	Rev. Aaron Fenker
Clay Center, St. Paul .....	Rev. Paul Tessaro
Greenleaf, Bethlehem .....	Rev. Matthew Durance
Hanover, Trinity .....	Rev. Rodney Fritz
Linn, Immanuel .....	Rev. Richard Rikli
Linn, Zion .....	Rev. David Gruoner
Marysville, Mt. Calvary .....	Rev. Philip Miller
Palmer, St. John .....	Rev. Jacob Sherry
Waterville, Trinity .....	(served by Deacon Don Dodd)

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Eugene Holtorf

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Roxanne Bayer, David Beikmann, Michael Glowinski, Terry Harries, Jeremy Pera, Shawna Spiehs, Rachel Werner

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Diane Beikmann, Mildred Beikmann, Jacqueline Flores, Sheryl Kruse, John Macy, Katie Olson, Susan Schotte, Jessie Uffman

### Circuit 8 – Manhattan

Alma, St. John .....	Rev. Robert Grimm
Alta Vista, St. Paul .....	Rev. Chris Schultz
Duluth, St. Paul's .....	Rev. Rick Twenhafel
Junction City, Immanuel .....	(served by Rev. David Meier)
Junction City, St. Paul.....	Rev. David Meier IIM
Manhattan, St. Luke.....	Rev. Michael Schmidt
McFarland, Trinity.....	Rev. Chris Vossler
Wamego, Mt. Calvary .....	Rev. James Price
Wheaton, St. Luke .....	Rev. Terry DeGiovanni
Manhattan, Christ .....	Rev. King Crawford

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Lawrence Boye, Rev. Alan Estby, Rev. Richard Lovick, Rev. James Mayes

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Merv Dehning, Whitney Holle, Andrew Kudray, Miriam Murray, Lisa Ochs, Charity Smith, Paul White

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Orville Altevogt, Melanie Dehning, Rebecca Frank, Tracie Hudson, Evelyn Schmidt, Kristina Schmidt, Ronda Taylor, Andrea White

**Circuit 9 – Herington**

Abilene, Faith .....	Rev. Justin Panzer
Council Grove, Calvary .....	Rev. Adam Reichart
Herington, Immanuel .....	Rev. Walter Gilkey
Herington, Our Redeemer .....	Rev. Mark Lovett
Herington, St. John .....	Rev. Walter Gilkey
Hillsboro, Zion .....	Rev. John Werner
Latimer, Zion .....	Rev. King Crawford
Lincolnton, St. John .....	Rev. Alan Stahlecker
Marion, Our Savior .....	Rev. John Werner
Ramona, Trinity .....	Rev. Clark Davis
Strong City, Grace .....	(served by Rev. Alan Stahlecker and others)
Tampa, St. John .....	Rev. Clark Davis
Newton, Zion .....	Rev. Aaron Filipek

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Richard Andrus

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Charles Eaton

**Circuit 12 - Hutchinson-Salina**

Canton, Immanuel .....	Rev. Brent Horne
Haven, St. Paul .....	Rev. Russell Bonine
Hutchinson, Our Redeemer .....	(Senior position vacant)
.....	Rev. Henry Blickhahn (SMP)
Lyons, Grace .....	(served by Rev. Thomas Thierfelder)
McPherson, Grace .....	Rev. Dale Dumperth
Moundridge, St. John .....	Rev. Ronald Rather
Salina, Christ the King .....	Rev. Calvin Reinke
Salina, Trinity .....	Rev. Mark Boxman
.....	Rev. Dennis Kootz
Ellinwood, St. John .....	Rev. Thomas Thierfelder

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Wendell Haubein, Rev. Leroy Pralle, Rev. Gerald Radtke, Rev. Victor Streufert, Rev. Allen Woelzlein

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Sharon Johnson, Jamie Kootz, Denise Lawrenz, Heather Meyer, Kate Soeken, Sarah Ann Stoelting

## REGION III (Circuits 5, 10, 11, 14)

### Circuit 5 – Independence

Caney, Trinity.....	(served by Rev. Jonathan Schultz SMP, OK)
Chanute, Zion .....	Rev. Daniel Ramsey
Coffeyville, St. Paul.....	Rev. Anthony Fields
Erie, Good Shepherd .....	Rev. Jay Hobson
Fort Scott, Trinity .....	Rev. Michael Apfel
Girard, Trinity .....	Rev. Mark Wenzelberger
Hepler, Immanuel .....	Rev. Jay Hobson
Humboldt, St Peter .....	Rev. Timothy Roth
Independence, Zion .....	Rev. Roger Mackie IIM
Iola, Grace .....	Rev. Bruce Kristalyn
Oswego, St. Paul .....	Rev. Jonathan Scheck
Parsons, Trinity.....	Rev. Jonathan Scheck
Pittsburg, Zion.....	Rev. Theodore Cook

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Angela Achong, Dorothy Bredehoft, Eric Pralle

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Drew Achong, Lisa Krenz, Kenneth Lott, Jennifer Seel

### Circuit 10 - Wichita North

Andover, Peace .....	Rev. Jeffrey Geske
Augusta, Christ .....	Rev. John Einem
El Dorado, Grace .....	(served by Rev. John Einem)
Wichita, Ascension .....	Rev. Michael Bingenheimer
.....	Rev. Scott Goltl
Wichita, Holy Cross .....	Rev. Scott Snow
.....	Rev. Daniel Myers
Wichita, St. Andrews.....	Vacant
Wichita, Risen Savior.....	Rev. Thomas Harmon
.....	Rev. Nick Cordt (SMP)
Ascension, Pratt.....	Rev. Daniel Chrismer

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Jeffrey Crane, Rev. David Ersland, Rev. Harvey Hanneman, Rev. John Pool, Rev. John Tape, Rev. Dean Von Stroh, Rev. Terry Wiechman

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Brian Amey, Karen Boettcher, Janet Dobler, Paige Edgington, Jenny Myers, David Ochs, Gwen Thomas, Terri Van Wey, Gregg Wolgast

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Betty Amey, Pamela Amey, Teddy Boetcher, Brent Dieckhoff, Jac E Lu Ersland, Lindsey Flaten, Mike Freed, Carol Garrett, Ted Helmer, Susan Kleber, Doreen Scheuerman, Kent Stephens, Mary Stigge, Norma Weikal, Karen Wilgers, Sandra Yount, James Zickfield

**Circuit 11 - Wichita South**

Argonia, Zion .....	Vacant
Arkansas City, Redeemer.....	Vacant
Cheney, St. Paul.....	Rev. Joseph Seifert
Derby, Faith .....	Rev. Thomas Johnson
Wellington, Calvary .....	Rev. William Wingfield
Wichita, Bethany .....	(served by Deacon Mike Parmenter)
Wichita, Grace .....	Rev. Geoffrey Boyle
.....	Rev. Daniel Metzger
Wichita, Immanuel .....	Rev. Ronald Gloe
Wichita, Trinity .....	Rev. Geoffrey Boyle
.....	Rev. Daniel Metzger
Winfield, Trinity .....	Rev. Roderick Hathaway
Medicine Lodge, Trinity .....	Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer
Nashville, St. John .....	Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer
Preston, St. Paul.....	Rev. Michael Schotte

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Marvin Barz, Rev. Richard Boyer, Rev. Kenneth Haskell, Rev. Al Hoger, Rev. Gilbert Holstein, Rev. Mark Wenger, Rev. Clifford Winter

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Rebecca Hillman, Brian Mann, Mark Schotte, Cheryl Voss

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Kayla Foss, Charles Jedele, Pauline Jedele, Keith Jopp, Gary Merritt, Noell Miller, Roland Mueller, Karla Ohmie, Judy Stigge, Patricia Wenger

## REGION IV (Circuits 13, 15, 16)

### Circuit 13 - Lincoln-Hays

Downs, Zion .....	Rev. Jason Toombs
Ellsworth, Immanuel .....	Rev. Luke Brown
Ellsworth, St. Paul .....	Rev. James Judson
Hunter, Trinity .....	Rev. Matthew Schneider
Lincoln, St. John .....	Rev. Benjamin Siebert
Lincoln, St. Paul .....	(served by Rev. Ben Siebert)
Sylvan Grove, Bethlehem .....	Rev. Christopher Craig
Claffin, Zion .....	Rev. Daniel Harders
Great Bend, Our Savior .....	Rev. Nicholas Martinez
Hoisington, Concordia .....	Rev. Gary Wolf
Holyrood, St. Peter .....	Rev. Daniel Harders
Larned, Grace .....	Rev. Nicholas Martinez

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Garry Dassow, Rev. Lloyd Sprick

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Emily Abbott

### Circuit 15 – Colby

Atwood, Redeemer .....	Rev. George (Tim) McCall
Colby, Trinity .....	Rev. Robert Alexander
Hoxie, Immanuel .....	Rev. Michael Brockman
Kensington, First St. John .....	Rev. David Hutson
Norton, Immanuel .....	Rev. Wayne (Rick) Rostek
Oakley, Immanuel .....	Rev. Michael Brockman
Oberlin, St. John .....	(served by Rev. Bradley Rick, NE)
Phillipsburg, First .....	Rev. Joel Hiesterman
Hill City, Grace .....	(served by Rev. Rick Rostek)
Hays, Messiah .....	Rev. Rocco Mallardi
Natoma, Peace .....	Rev. Michael Schmidt
Plainville, First .....	Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Ordained Advisory** - Rev. Larry McDermott

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Benjamin Venteicher

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Janine Mallardi

### Circuit 16 - Garden City

Lakin, Immanuel .....	Rev. Patrick Gumz
Dodge City, Holy Cross .....	Rev. Randall Jahnke
Elkhart, Christ .....	Rev. Ervin Daugherty
Garden City, Trinity .....	Rev. Michael Hageman
Jetmore, St. Paul .....	(served by Rev. Randy Jahnke)
Liberal, Grace .....	Rev. Andrew Wehling
Meade, St. John .....	Rev. Rocky Mease IIM
Offerle, Zion .....	Rev. Stanley Palmer
Scott City, Holy Cross .....	Rev. Warren Prochnow
Ulysses, Grace .....	Rev. Patrick Gumz
Kinsley, Our Redeemer .....	Rev. Stanley Palmer
Greensburg, Peace .....	(served by Rev. Marvin Barz)

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Merlyn Lohrke, Rev. Patrick (Dennis) Mason, Rev. Lynn Spencer

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** - Cynthia Lavrenz, Erika Troester

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** - Mindy Brunkhardt, Leland Jackson, Sherry Moentmann, Andrea Prochnow, Miriam Wehling





# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

## SECTION 2

### Voting Delegates by Circuit

Delegate forms received as of March 31, 2018

Circuit#	Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
101	Trinity	Atchison	Rev. Robert Ziegler	Adam Goodpasture
102	St. John	Easton	<i>[not eligible]</i>	Kent Ervin
103	St. Paul	Fairview	Rev. Michael Dunaway	Carol Walter
104	Zion	Hiawatha	"	"
109	First	Sabetha	"	"
111	Immanuel	Fairview	"	"
105	Trinity	Holton	Rev. Brian Stark	Roger Hower
106	Immanuel	Netawaka	Rev. Michael Van Velzer	
107	St. Matthew	Nortonville	Rev. Richard Lally	Eric Niemann
108	Zion	Powhattan	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
110	Christ	Wathena	Rev. Cody Norton	Roland Benitz
201	Risen Savior	Basehor	Rev. Robert Weinkauff	Steven Mariano
203	Bethel	Kansas City	<i>[not eligible]</i>	Kathy Jaynes
204	Faith	Kansas City	Rev. Ken Nettling	Verna Douglas
205	Grace	Kansas City	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
206	Immanuel	Kansas City	<i>[not eligible]</i>	Carol Hockenberry
207	Our Saviour	Kansas City	Rev. Tom Van Duzer	Marty Galutia
208	St. Luke	Kansas City	<i>[excused]</i>	Jack Wagner
209	St. Paul	Leavenworth	Rev. Ed Mease	Stephen Fruechtenicht
210	Trinity	Leavenworth	Rev. Damian Snyder	Laura Gray
211	Trinity Family of Faith	Basehor	Rev. Jason Boetcher	Wes Griffith
301	King of Kings	Gardner	Rev. Daniel Wehmeier	Richard Hughey
302	Christ	Overland Park	Rev. Jeff Meyers	Bill Hibbard
303	Lord of Life	Leawood	Rev. Burt Garwood	Kevin McElyea
304	Trinity	Mission/Shawnee	Rev. Mark Schulz	Dan Owsley
305	Redeemer	Olathe	Rev. Perry Sukstorf	Gary Ernst
306	Bethany	Overland Park	Rev. Kevin Wyssmann	Bart Miller
307	First	Paola	Rev. Mark Croucher	Richard Sinclair
308	Trinity	Paola	Rev. Kevin Vogts	Paul Brack
309	Hope	Shawnee	Rev. Michael Penikis	Terry Gansebom
310	Beautiful Savior	Olathe	Rev. Joel Schultz	Doug Mahnken
311	Augsburg	Shawnee	Rev. Jay Watson	Craig Senzig
312	Christ Our Savior	Louisburg	Rev. James A. Keltner	Beth Ramsey
401	St. John	Westphalia	Rev. Timmothy Heath	Darrel Becker
403	Trinity	Burlington	Rev. Don Haselhuhn	Robert Fitz Jr.
404	Faith	Emporia	Rev. David Schemm	Kenneth Theel
405	Messiah	Emporia	Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier	Dustin Lantow
406	Trinity	Garnett	<i>[not eligible]</i>	Marty Alley
407	Faith	Ottawa	Rev. Charles Adams	Melvin Bauck
408	Zion	Vassar	Rev. Joshua Woelmer	Jim Bauck
502	Trinity	Caney	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
503	Zion	Chanute	Rev. Daniel Ramsey	Ross Henrickson
504	St. Paul	Coffeyville	Rev. Anthony Fields	Ronald Neidigh

<b>Circuit#</b>	<b>Congregation</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Pastoral Delegate</b>	<b>Lay Delegate</b>
505	Good Shepherd	Erie	Rev. Jay Hobson	Bruce Weber
508	Immanuel	Hepler	"	"
506	Trinity	Fort Scott	Rev. Michael Apfel	Art Murrin
507	Trinity	Girard	Rev. Mark Wenzelburger	Jesse Niederklein
509	St. Peter	Humboldt	Rev. Timothy Roth	Leon Storck
510	Zion	Independence	Rev. Roger Mackie	Keith Confer
511	Grace	Iola	Rev. Bruce Kristalyn	Cornelius Kristalyn
512	St. Paul	Oswego	Rev. Jonathan Scheck	Cris Leonard
513	Trinity	Parsons	"	"
515	Zion	Pittsburg	Rev. Theodore Cook	Larry Dunekack
601	Immanuel	Lawrence	Rev. Randall Weinkauf	
602	Redeemer	Lawrence	Rev. Robert Leiste	Kevin Frederickson
603	Calvary	Topeka	Rev. Benjamin Ockree	Michael Reb
604	Christ	Topeka	Rev. Daniel Ross	Brian Childs
605	Faith	Topeka	Rev. Jacob Wampfler	Sharon Lowe
607	St. John's	Topeka	Rev. Dr. Jon Steffen Bruss	Clayton Kinnett
609	Prince of Peace	Topeka	Rev. Neil Buono	Greg Hoglund
701	St. Peter	Barnes	[not eligible]	Melvin Pralle
702	Bethlehem	Bremen	Rev. Aaron Fenker	Oren Holle
703	Immanuel	Bremen	"	"
704	St. Paul	Clay Center	Rev. Paul Tessaro	David Parry
705	Bethlehem	Greenleaf	Rev. Matthew Durance	Dale Hiesterman
706	Trinity	Hanover	Rev. Rodney Fritz	David Kruse
708	Immanuel	Linn	Rev. Rick Rikli	Gene Helms
709	Zion	Linn	Rev. David Gruoner	Stanton Uffman
710	Mt. Calvary	Marysville	Rev. Philip Miller	Bill McClellan
711	St. John	Palmer	Rev. Jacob Sherry	Dan Thalmann
712	Trinity	Linn	[not eligible]	Donald Dodd
801	St. John	Alma	Rev. Robert Grimm	Ervan Stuewe
802	St. Paul	Alta Vista	Rev. Christian Schultz	
803	St. Paul	Duluth	Rev. Rick Twenhafel	Jamie Ringel
804	Immanuel	Junction City	[not eligible]	Curtis Heidel
805	St. Paul	Junction City	Rev. David Meier	Jeremy Clark
806	St. Luke	Manhattan	Rev. Michael Schmidt	Brian Carter
807	Trinity	McFarland	Rev. Christopher Vossler	Rick Schley
808	Mt. Calvary	Wamego	Rev. James Price	Trevor Jensen
809	St. Luke	Wheaton	Rev. Terry De Giovanni	Milton Falk
810	Christ	Manhattan	Rev. King Crawford	Gayle Stockwell
908	Zion	Latimer	"	"
901	Faith	Abilene	Rev. Justin Panzer	Cliff Ascher
902	Calvary	Council Grove	Rev. Adam Reichart	Steve Tiffany
904	Immanuel	Herington	Rev. Walter Gilkey	Jamie Schlesener
906	St. John	Herington	"	"
905	Our Redeemer	Herington	Rev. Mark Lovett	Jeremy Obermeyer
907	Zion	Hillsboro	Rev. John Werner	
910	Our Savior	Marion	"	
909	St. John	Lincolnton	Rev. Alan Stahlecker	Marvin Meisinger
911	Trinity	Ramona	Rev. Clark Davis	Mervin Deines
913	St. John	Tampa	"	
912	Grace	Strong City	[not eligible]	
914	Zion	Newton	Rev. Aaron Filipek	Mike Carpenter
1001	Peace	Andover	Rev. Jeffrey Geske	Gordon Bowser
1002	Christ	Augusta	Rev. John Einem	Dennis Roberts
1003	Grace	El Dorado	[not eligible]	Ed Gard
1005	Ascension	Wichita	Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer	Beth Ann Ortstadt
1006	Holy Cross	Wichita	Rev. Scott Snow	Randy Allenbach
1008	St. Andrew's	Wichita	[not eligible]	Neal Hall
1009	Risen Savior	Wichita	Rev. Tom Harmon	Richard Wilson
1010	Ascension	Pratt	Rev. Daniel Chrismer	Ron Piester
1101	Zion	Argonia	[not eligible]	
1102	Redeemer	Arkansas City	[not eligible]	Tabitha Brown
1103	St. Paul	Cheney	Rev. Joseph Seifert	Lin Dehning
1104	Faith	Derby	Rev. Thomas Johnson	Thomas Bevington

<b>Circuit#</b>	<b>Congregation</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Pastoral Delegate</b>	<b>Lay delegate</b>
1105	Calvary	Wellington	Rev. William Wingfield	Vickie Wingfield
1106	Bethany	Wichita	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
1107	Grace	Wichita	Rev. Geoffrey Boyle	Kyle Nelson
1109	Trinity	Wichita	"	"
1108	Immanuel	Wichita	Rev. Ron Gloe	Victor Schimming
1110	Trinity	Winfield	Rev. Rick Hathaway	Timothy Smith
1111	Trinity	Medicine Lodge	Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer	Fred Mattal
1112	St. John	Nashville	"	"
1113	St. Paul	Preston	Rev. Michael Schotte	Warren Briggeman
1201	Immanuel	Canton	Rev. Brent Horne	Travis Sebitts
1202	St. Paul	Haven	Rev. Russell Bonine	Jackie Wagner
1204	Our Redeemer	Hutchinson	Rev. Henry Blickhahn	Timothy Givan
1205	Grace	Lyons	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
1206	Grace	McPherson	Rev. Dale Dumperth	Richard Lawrenz
1207	St. John	Moundridge	Rev. Ron Rather	Stanley Schrag
1208	Christ the King	Salina	Rev. Calvin Reinke	Bob Campbell
1209	Trinity	Salina	Rev. Mark Boxman	CJ Cross
1210	St. John	Ellinwood	Rev. Thomas Thierfelder	Marvin Pipes
1301	Zion	Downs	Rev. Jason Toombs	Samantha Toombs
1302	Immanuel	Ellsworth	Rev. Luke Brown	Bill Evans
1303	St. Paul	Ellsworth	Rev. James Judson	Josh Hulse
1306	Trinity	Hunter	Rev. Matthew Schneider	Kelly Schneider
1307	St. John	Lincoln	Rev. Benjamin Siebert	Victor Suelter
1308	St. Paul	Lincoln	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
1311	Bethlehem	Sylvan Grove	Rev. Christopher Craig	Tyler Gier
1312	Zion	Claffin	Rev. Daniel Harders	Tiffany Harders
1315	St. Peter	Holyrood	"	"
1313	Our Saviour	Great Bend	Rev. Nicholas Martinez	Russell Linderer
1316	Grace	Larned	"	"
1314	Concordia	Hoisington	Rev. Gary Wolf	
1501	Redeemer	Atwood	Rev. Tim McCall	Mark Wolters
1502	Trinity	Colby	Rev. Robert Alexander	David Kruse
1503	Immanuel	Hoxie	Rev. Michael Brockman	Alex Gaede
1507	Immanuel	Oakley	"	"
1504	First St. John	Kensington	Rev. Dave Hutson	Steve Wangerin
1506	Immanuel	Norton	Rev. Rick Rostek	Ben Brakenhoff
1508	St. John	Oberlin	Rev. Bradley Rick	Melvin Waterman
1509	First	Phillipsburg	Rev. Joel Hiesterman	Michela Hiesterman
1510	Grace	Hill City	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
1511	Messiah	Hays	Rev. Rocco Mallardi	
1512	Peace	Natoma	Rev. Michael Schimdt	Phil Hilgers
1513	First	Plainville	"	"
1603	Immanuel	Lakin	Rev. Patrick Gumz	Bruce Ansel
1615	Grace	Ulysses	"	"
1605	Holy Cross	Dodge City	Rev. Randall Jahnke	Dean Cole
1606	Christ	Elkhart	Rev. Ervin Daugherty	Richard Harlow
1607	Trinity	Garden City	Rev. Michael Hageman	Steve Hamann
1609	St. Paul	Jetmore	<i>[not eligible]</i>	
1610	Grace	Liberal	Rev. Andrew Wehling	Kyle Hammel
1611	St. John	Meade	Rev. Rocky Mease	Lester Tacha
1612	Zion	Offerle	Rev. Stanley Palmer	Debra Lancaster
1617	Our Redeemer	Kinsley	"	"
1613	Holy Cross	Scott City	Rev. Warren Prochnow	Stephan Kucharik
1618	Peace	Greensburg	<i>[not eligible]</i>	



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

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### District President Rev. Peter Lange

#### Introduction

As the LCMS Kansas District gathers in convention for the 73rd time since its founding in 1888, we do so under the theme “Life Together in Mission,” based on Philippians 1:5, where the apostle Paul thanks God because of the “partnership in the Gospel” that he shares with the saints at Philippi. The Greek word that Paul uses for “partnership” is *koinonia*—a “fellowship” or “close relationship”—that we Christians have first of all with God, through Christ, and then with each other, by virtue of being joined together in the body of Christ. This “partnership” or *koinonia*, is both “in” the Gospel, as it is established by our being joined together with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation, and it is also for the sake of the Gospel as our churchly union with Christ and each other moves out into the world through our vocations to serve as God’s instruments to draw others into this saving life together with God. And so, we gather in convention to review and celebrate our “Life Together in Mission” that we have shared during this past triennium and to look forward toward how we plan to build on this “Life Together in Mission” during the next triennium.

#### Follow-Through from the 2015 Kansas District Convention

A key part of reviewing and celebrating our “Life Together in Mission” during the past triennium is to survey the key resolutions that were adopted by the 2015 Kansas District convention through which the Kansas District leadership was given a charge for the triennium.

2015 KSD Resolution 15-01-02 – To Reaffirm the Ongoing Relationship of the Kansas District and l’Église évangélique luthérienne de Guinée: Not only did the Kansas District reaffirm our 21-year relationship with the Lutheran Church in Guinea and fulfill the resolves of this resolution, but we worked very hard with the Synod’s Office of International Mission during this triennium to expand and formalize our commitment to the region in a new, written, and detailed agreement. We are now working hand-in-hand with the Synod in support of missions throughout French-speaking West Africa, with an emphasis on Guinea.

2015 KSD Resolution 15-01-03A – To Encourage the Kansas District to Work Together in Mission: Though the scope of this resolution was focused specifically on the Synod’s Planting Gospel Seeds While Serving Human Needs initiative for working together in mission, the Kansas District made great strides in the entire area of missions during the past triennium by reinstating funding in the budget for an Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship and then calling the Rev. Dan Galchutt to fill that position. As can be seen in detail elsewhere in these convention reports, Rev. Galchutt, the Board of Missions, and the Board of Directors have undertaken many new initiatives during this triennium to encourage and lead the Kansas District in working together in mission.

2015 KSD Resolution 15-06-04A – To Seek More Clarity for Congregations in the Call Process: This resolution was primarily directed toward the Synod so that we, as a district, had little ability to effect much change on the specific resolves. However, on the district level, we have worked very diligently during this triennium to decrease the amount of time that congregations must wait on the district office while calling for pastors, and to communicate progress with congregational leaders and circuit visitors at key intervals during the pastoral call process. Currently the amount of time that the “ball is in the court” of the district president during the pastoral call process is, on average, 10% of the total time of the average vacancy.

2015 KSD Resolution 15-06-01 – Koinonia Project: The Kansas District President’s Council has spent much time during this past triennium discussing how we might further implement the Koinonia Project in the Kansas District. These discussions have led to the decision to make the Koinonia Project the topic of the fall Pastors Conference in 2018 in hopes that the Koinonia process might be expanded more widely in the district. Even the theme of this district convention, “Life Together in Mission,” is a result of ongoing conversation and attention to this resolution. It is my hope that we can make further progress in this area during this next triennium. A definition and details about the Koinonia Project can be found at <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/koinonia-project>.

#### Strategic Planning

At the 2015 Kansas District convention, Vice-President Rick Rostek reported on the strategic planning that had been undertaken by the Board of Directors from 2013-2015 with the assistance of consultant J. David Schmidt. The results of this planning were commended to the new Board of Directors in July 2015.

Within two months after our last convention, the new/current Kansas District Board of Directors agreed to proceed with the framework of the strategic plan as modified by the new Board. The framework is divided into Vision Targets, Breakthrough Goals, and Possible Initiatives. The three Vision Targets are:

1. Serving in Biblical Unity, Love, and Community
2. The District Office Functions as a Highly Valued Partner
3. Congregations and Church Workers Are Faithful and Purposeful in Ministering to People

The Board of Directors set aside significant time at each quarterly meeting to review the Breakthrough Goals and Possible Initiatives and to discuss prioritization as well as how best to implement many of these goals and initiatives. During this triennium, many of the goals and initiatives have been accomplished. Others are being worked on, with significant progress made to date. Still others are in process, but at more of a beginning stage. A few of the stated goals and initiatives have yet to be tackled.

Understanding that strategic planning is ideally an ongoing process, and as we look to a new triennium, the executive staff is already beginning to discuss the next generation of strategic planning and is anticipating good conversation around this with the new Board of Directors.

### Three Years in 25 Points

Perhaps one of the most succinct ways to provide an overview of key accomplishments during the past triennium is to provide the following list that the executive staff compiled together. Many of these items are expanded upon elsewhere in the reports of this convention workbook, and some will be elaborated upon in the president's verbal report to the convention.

As your servant leaders, the executive staff and Board of Directors strive to be good stewards of the mission gifts our congregations entrust to the District for our common work together. Here is how we have sought to advance the mission and vision of the Kansas District during this triennium.

1. New mission and vision statements
2. Ongoing strategic planning
3. Streamlined the call process for pastors
4. Realigned and balanced the budget
5. New Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship
6. New part-time Administrative Assistant for Missions and Stewardship
7. New part-time Communications Specialist
8. New website and District logo
9. Service board and executive staff report summaries on the website, enhanced budget summary on the website, Board of Directors minutes on the website
10. New partnership with LCMS Mission Advancement and Mission Central
11. New partnership with the LCMS Office of International Mission for West Africa/Guinea
12. Church planting (e.g., Pratt, KS and Concordia, KS)
13. Proactive, triennial congregational visitations by Circuit Visitors, District President, and VPs
14. Annual visit by the DP to each monthly circuit conference of pastors
15. 10 "Meet the District" staff events throughout the district, with the entire executive staff
16. Increased intentional personal visits to central and western Kansas
17. New strategies for church worker care
18. New Kansas District Life Coordinator
19. Reorganized District disaster response efforts; new District Disaster Response Coordinator
20. Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) for pastors in first three years of ministry
21. Annual full-day new worker orientation for all new workers in the District
22. Increased attention to and re-evaluation of the District Retreat Center in Herington
23. Significant improvements to District office building
24. Completely revised personnel manual and significantly updated operations manual
25. New District Archivist

### Vision Targets for the New Triennium

Looking ahead to the next triennium, as the Lord grants opportunity, I hope to lead the Kansas District toward the following vision targets:

- Support the workers, congregations, and schools of the Kansas District by continuing to do the best of what was instituted during the last triennium, and by identifying new goals and initiatives toward the same end
- Encourage the members of the District by working intentionally to increase unity, concord, and harmony in the Kansas District for the sake of God's mission, and by identifying new goals and initiatives toward the same end



- Grow in our understanding, appreciation, and confession of our Lutheran identity in order to advance the mission of God through a clear, Christ-centered Gospel message

### Conclusion

The Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is 160 congregations, 14 parochial schools, 45 preschools, 207 ordained ministers, 198 commission ministers, and approximately 55,000 baptized people of God who gather around altars, pulpits, and fonts where Jesus Christ meets us until the end of the age, and where His saving Gospel is proclaimed clearly according to the confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church—all so that our own souls as well as many souls that are not yet part of this fold (John 10:16) may be ushered eternally into the courts of heaven.

As your servant leaders of the LCMS Kansas District, our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

To God be the glory.

### **First Vice-President, Region 3 Rev. Scott Snow**

During the days of the past triennium, the congregations of Region 3 have continued their faithful service to the Savior, guided by the Holy Spirit, working through the Word and Sacraments, in order to preach, teach and share the Law and Gospel – encouraging all people to know and serve the Savior. Some of the strongest and most vibrant Kansas District congregations and schools serve side by side in this region of the district.

Throughout the past the triennium, Region 3 has faced significant change and opportunity for service. Included among these are...

- The re-election of Pastor Scott Snow (serving his second term) as regional vice-president – now as First Vice-President – alongside Rev. Peter Lange, the newly elected president of the Kansas District.
- Disbanding one of our circuits through the process of “re-circuiting” by sending the congregations of Circuit Fourteen (14) to bolster and assist the Gospel proclamation of neighboring sister circuits.
- The growth, remodeling and expansion of the campus ministry of the Lutheran Student Center (LSC) across the street from the campus of Wichita State University (WSU) and the addition of the Fairmount Coffee Company.
- Congregations that are committed to the process of church planting such as Ascension, Wichita planting Ascension, Pratt. Still other Region 3 congregations are “somewhere along the church planting path” to birth new daughter LCMS Word and Sacrament ministries.

We pray God’s continued blessing and the guidance of His Holy Spirit as we look to the coming triennium. The district will continue the work of refining a strategic plan for the mission and ministry of the Kansas District – its churches and schools, professional workers and congregational members. May God help us to seek His will for our work in this corner of His vineyard!

We joyfully and expectantly anticipate the ways in which the Lord will lead us, as His Church, in His service – strengthening the saved through His precious Word and Sacraments as we continue to intentionally, steadfastly and tirelessly strive to reach the lost with the life-giving message of the Gospel, and as we cultivate faithful and generous Christian stewards.

To God alone be the Glory!

### **Second Vice-President, Region 2 Rev. Justin Panzer**

God be praised for His faithfulness given to us. God be praised as we continue to work together to faithfully bring His Word and Sacraments both to the faithful and to a lost and dying world. *Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and who gave Himself for me.”*

By the grace of God in this last triennium, I have:

- +attended the meetings of the President’s Council and of our District’s Board of Directors.
- +attended the circuit winkels (7, 8, 9, 12) for the congregations of Region 2.
- +been privileged to serve on the Board of Stewardship with Rev. Rick Rostek, Ruth Holste, Rev. Dan Galchutt, and Jeff Maltz. I have also served as the recording secretary for this service board.
- +assisted the other vice-presidents in preparing for the annual Pre-Lent Retreat and have been in attendance for the circuit visitors conferences.

+attended numerous installations for pastors with whom God has blessed the congregations of Region 2.

The Mission of the LCMS Kansas District *"is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church."* It has been my privilege to work with the pastors, churchworkers, and congregations of the district in fulfilling this mission. Come soon Lord Jesus!

### **Third Vice-President, Region 4**

#### **Rev. Rick Rostek**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord and our District as Third Vice-President for the past three years. It has been an honor and a privilege. I have attended quarterly Board of Directors meetings in Topeka and have served as a member of the Board of Stewardship.

Over the past three years, we have gratefully filled many vacancies in our region. We are blessed by the addition of new pastors and DCEs to serve the congregations of western Kansas. I was able to attend several of the ordinations/installations in Region 4. While the circuit visitor reports from Region 4 have provided detailed circuit-specific information, I can certainly say that we are blessed with pastors, DCEs, teachers, and laypeople who have a heart for the Gospel as they seek to bring the saving message of Jesus Christ to their congregations and communities. It is a pleasure to serve alongside them.

Region 4 continues to face the challenges posed by declining population in many of our rural communities. With heavy hearts, we observed the closing of St. Luke's, Bazine and Faith, Hugoton during this triennium. But we remain determined to bring Word and Sacrament ministry to the communities we serve that more might hear the Gospel and come to faith in Jesus. To that end, we still have many strong congregations in western Kansas, and some have even experienced growth in the past three years.

I have really enjoyed working with the leadership of the District as we seek to serve the congregations entrusted to us. May the Holy Spirit guide the Kansas District and its congregations as we share the love of Christ with all whom we meet, that more may know salvation through His death and resurrection.

### **Fourth Vice-President, Region 1**

#### **Rev. David Schemm**

It has been my privilege to serve as a vice-president of the Kansas District. A couple of things come to mind as I write this brief report. First, I have grown in my appreciation of all that the staff and personnel in the district office do as they work very hard on a broad range of tasks that benefit the rest of us in the Kansas District. It's important that we keep all of them in our prayers. My second observation is that daily life across the Kansas District brings a complicated combination of joys and burdens. And I see that this can be demanding both emotionally and physically. I appreciate those who willingly show up every day to take on those burdens. I would like to thank them for all that they do. The Lord be with you.

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## **Circuit Visitor Reports (where congregations have submitted them)**

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### **Circuit 1 - Rev. Mike Van Velzer, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 1 in Northeast Kansas continues to experience God's abundant blessings on the eleven congregations in the circuit.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Atchison is served by Rev. Robert Ziegler and Deacon Mike Carney. This congregation continues to reach out and call on her neighbors to worship and grow with them. Even as the city of Atchison declines in population, Trinity continues to grow in number. The congregation has over 1200 baptized members and is blessed with an increasing average worship attendance. The Lutheran school and preschool enrollment is strong, offering many scholarships for children in their community.

Christ Lutheran Church in Wathena is served by Rev. Cody Norton. The congregation continues to experience growth in its small community.

The Northeast Kansas Partnership includes Zion Lutheran in Hiawatha, Immanuel Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairview, and First Lutheran Church in Sabetha. These churches, served by Rev. Michael Dunaway and Rev. Sean Kilgo, continue to take Word and Sacrament to their communities. Rev. Dunaway is the new circuit visitor.

St. John Lutheran Church in Easton is currently being served by Pastor Rev. Rick Twenhafel. The congregation is committed to continuing to proclaim the Gospel to their surrounding area.

St. Matthew in Nortonville is served by Rev. Richard Lally. The congregation continues to strive to share the Gospel and continues to participate in a food bank and clothing bank ministry in the community.

Zion Lutheran Church in Powhattan is currently served by Pastor Rev. Timothy Brisbois from Beatrice, NE.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Holton continues to be served by Rev. Brian Stark. The congregation continues to strive to reach out to current and new members of their community.

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Netawaka is served by Rev. Michael Van Velzer. The saints at Immanuel continue strengthening their community and reaching out with the love of Christ.

## **Circuit 2 - Rev. Damian Snyder, Circuit Visitor**

### **Risen Savior, Basehor**

Risen Savior has completed its second major building program in the last six years. With the completion of additional classrooms, gym, and additional gathering space, a K-12 Academy School will launch Fall 2018. Preschool is planned for Fall 2019. Since 2014, Risen Savior continues in the Vicarage Program.

### **Trinity, Leavenworth**

Trinity continues to reach out to the Leavenworth/Lansing and surrounding communities, seeking to gather people to build relationships in Christ with the hope that by 2025 Trinity will, by God's grace, be a center of Leavenworth County life which receives, trains, and sends forth Christians to worship, learn and reach out to all through God's Word and Sacraments by discipling youth and people of all ages, nurturing and involving members, reaching out to the community, and developing an expanded multipurpose ministry facility.

### **St. Luke's, Kansas City**

Scott Eberlein resigned his call at St. Luke's in the summer of 2015. St. Luke's is expanding its inner-city ministry through the 32-acre "Disciple Garden" development. The Disciple Garden is a holistic Word and Sacrament ministry focused on creation, compassion, and community.

### **Immanuel, Kansas City**

Juan Benito was ordained at Immanuel on Sept 23, 2017. His call is to our "sister" Hispanic ministry just across the state line in Missouri, Jesus el Buen Pastor Lutheran Church. His call includes assisting Immanuel with our evangelism efforts, plus preaching once a month. DCE Deb Hartje is in her third year of leading Immanuel's youth ministry at Immanuel (and at Jesus el Buen Pastor).

### **Faith, Kansas City**

Faith, Kansas City remains a stable presence in the northeast neighborhood of Kansas City. Begun as an African American mission in 1949 by the Rev. Martin E. Nees, Faith still reflects its cultural roots. Rev. Ken Nettling served as vicar at Faith, St. Luke's, and Immanuel from 1996-97, and was ordained and installed as pastor of Faith on July 27, 1997.

### **Immanuel, Kansas City**

Immanuel, Kansas City was founded in 1884. Through the early 1900s, German was the only language spoken in the church. Now on its third language, Immanuel provides weekly ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to the Hispanic neighborhood of Argentine. Deacon Tom Eckard continues to serve as Hispanic missionary and conducts a Spanish service on Saturday evenings to the congregation. Juan Benito, a Cuban immigrant who joined the church, was ordained last fall at Immanuel and installed as assistant pastor at El Buen Pastore, Kansas City, MO. Rev. Ken Nettling has provided pastoral care to Immanuel since May 1, 1998.

### **Grace, Kansas City**

Grace, Kansas City, continues to serve the midtown community. Although only a handful strong, the "remnant" maintains a significant presence in this once Lutheran neighborhood. Two African American churches rent space in their spacious building that once housed a Lutheran school. Teacher Norma Jacob served her entire teaching ministry at Grace, arriving as a supply teacher from Concordia, Seward in 1947; she is still an active member in the congregation. She celebrated her 90th birthday and 70 years in ministry last fall. Former Kansas District President Eugene Schmidt served Grace as pastor from 1960 to 1980. Rev. Ken Nettling has provided pastoral care to Grace since February 2011.

### **Bethel, Kansas City**

Bethel, Kansas City, daughter congregation of Grace, and granddaughter of St. Luke's, remains a presence in the old western Wyandotte neighborhood. Chartered in 1955, Bethel continues to offer worship on Saturday afternoons to a faithful group of seniors. Rev. Ken Nettling has provided pastoral care to Bethel since February 2011.

### **Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor**

Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor, called their first pastor, the Rev. Jason Boetcher, in November of 2015. Our focus as a congregation has been to learn and grow in our understanding and practice of discipleship and spiritual formation. We have had regular local missions and service projects with Metro Lutheran Ministries, Hope Faith, and Voice of Love (a ministry to refugees). We also embarked on our first mission trip as a church family in May of 2017 when 20 members traveled to Tijuana, Mexico to build a home for a family in need and to share the good news of Jesus. DCE intern Austin Dukes from Concordia University, Nebraska has served with us during the 2017-2018 school year, assisting in music and youth ministries.

### **St. Paul, Leavenworth**

St. Paul, Leavenworth continues to be served by the Rev. Ed Mease (who has been senior pastor there since 1994). Rev. Kenton Rohrberg, retired and living in Topeka, serves part-time as Visitation Pastor. Also, at the date of writing, the process of calling a commissioned minister to serve as principal for their school is underway. By the time of convention, they hope to be able to announce that a principal is on his/her way to join in ministry in Leavenworth! The congregation is heavily involved in community ministry by means of an after-school program for at-risk elementary-age children from the neighborhood; food ministries that include a free monthly meal (that serves nearly 600 meals on a Saturday) and an annual Thanksgiving Day dinner (that serves nearly 2000 meals); participation in community ministries through Backpack Buddies and the Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope (which provides a homeless shelter and related daytime services); and an annual "Be the Church" weekend in which members are encouraged to, rather than come to church, be the church ... the church in action by serving others in some special way (being certain to also share why they are doing it – making the Gospel come alive in the fulfillment of the latter part of Matthew 25). The members of St. Paul have also been involved for a number of years with the construction of a retreat center in the Alaskan bush – this past year also sending youth to assist with Vacation Bible School in Seward, Alaska. They strive to show that they C.A.R.E. – that they are "Cultivating Awesome Relationships for Eternity." One primary way they do that is by "Personalizing a Christ-Centered Education that Develops the Whole Child."

### **Circuit 3N - Rev. Lee Hovel, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of 3N continue to grow and have vibrant creative ministries reaching out with the Gospel, witnessing in bold ways to Northeast Johnson County and beyond.

### **Beautiful Savior, Olathe**

Beautiful Savior welcomed their seventh vicar since 2011 – Vicar Jess and Johanna Biermann in August of 2017. The vicarage program is a great blessing to their congregation, and their members relish the opportunity they have to help train future pastors for the church.

Rev. Mike Ada continues as Associate Pastor. His area of focus is on youth and family ministry and outreach. Rev. Joel Schultz continues as Senior Pastor and continues to emphasize generosity and vocation with good outcomes.

Their preschool continues with a strong enrollment under the leadership of Mrs. Amy Schultz.

Beautiful Savior continues to grow through the addition of many young families and many baptisms of children and adults. Beautiful Savior members are reaching out to the surrounding community with care, compassion and the Gospel.

Their partnership with El Divino Salvador Lutheran Church in Zacapa, Guatemala continues. They assist the congregation with Bible training for children and adults as well as other projects as needed.

Beautiful Savior has completed its three-year capital campaign and has collected 98% of its \$1 million dollar goal. The resulting playground, narthex expansion, sanctuary improvement, and the paying down of debt has been a great blessing over the last three years.

### **Christ Lutheran Church and School, Overland Park,**

Recently added to their staff two DCEs, Katie Morgan, Children's Ministry Director and Korey Danley, High School Ministry Director. Both are serving under the leadership of DCE Brent Howard, Director of Children and Youth Ministries. This ministry is now fully staffed, and the congregation is truly blessed by their passion and servant-heart leadership.

The congregation recently called Pastor Russ Peterson to fill a new position as Director of Outreach and Member Engagement. Pastor Russ brings experience and strong leadership to our mission.

The congregation continues to be blessed in their Early Education Center and their K-8 school. Currently the school has 135 enrolled in their preschool with projections to be even higher for next year. Christ Lutheran School is projecting to have over 160 students in 2018-19. Five out of nine grade levels are already full for next year with waiting lists.

The master plan put into place for Christ Lutheran back in the early 90s includes a double-graded K-8 school. Ministry growth is outpacing their facilities! So, they are launching their next building campaign the weekend of February 10-11. This will be an ambitious growth phase, projected to cost 15-17 million. It will include additional ministry classrooms, a multi-purpose room with full kitchen, gymnasium and additional parking. All of this by God's grace and His glory alone!

### **Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee**

Hope celebrated Pastor Tom Harries's 40 years of ministry and his retirement.

As part of a year filled with celebrations of the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation, Hope hosted many events. In February 2017, Hope hosted Dr. Mary Jane Haemig, Professor of Church History at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, for a special presentation. Dr. Haemig's presentation, "Luther and the Reformation: Why It Still Matters," focused on Luther as catechist and his emphases on the grace of God in Christ and Christian vocation. The event concluded with evening worship of "Luther Chorales and Readings," a service written by the presenter.

Also part of their 500<sup>th</sup> celebration, in October 2017 Hope Lutheran observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with special worship services featuring Luther chorales and a German dinner following services. In November 2017 the church and school wrapped up its special events for REFORMATION 500 with a "Reformation Fall Festival" featuring a Reformation Walk back in time, to which the public was invited.

The congregation has sponsored several mission trips in the last three years – to Jamaica to build homes and two trips to Guatemala to conduct eyeglass clinics.

In Winter 2017–18, the Board of Trustees began a five-year capital improvements campaign to provide for upgrades and repairs to infrastructure, security, and communications equipment.

The congregation is now in the calling process for their next senior pastor.

Hope Lutheran School has seen many changes in their school and church staff in the past triennium. In August of 2015, they celebrated the retirement and 25 years of faithful service for teacher Sandy Nelson. Also, the congregation celebrated teacher Kris Alsin's 25 years of service and retirement as Hope's kindergarten teacher in July of 2017.

Call were extended in this triennium to Principal Nancy Jankowski, teachers Daniel Gibson, Jena Birt and Lisa Jeager.

The school began offering in the school year of 2016-17 all-day kindergarten and began offering a home school program to offer extra curriculum and other activities to home school students.

### **Redeemer, Olathe**

Since the last triennial convention Redeemer in Olathe has primarily focused on growing in Gospel-centered generosity. Aided by the talents and services of Larry Ulrich, they began a process in 2015 of responding to God's blessings in their life by increasing their individual and congregational gifts. As a result of this focus, which they called "Flourish: Grow, Transform, Engage," their facilities were spruced up to welcome visitors, a new A/V system was installed and they expanded their ministry to their neighborhood via large, neighborhood Trunk-or-Treat festivals.

They also began a weekly ministry to a large apartment complex nearby through "homework helpers," "Wacky Wednesday," and "Fun Fridays." This ministry compliments their monthly free dinners at the local elementary school. These events have helped them to build relationships with their neighbors, which are now bearing Gospel fruit as they share with them the Good News of Jesus.

Beginning March 2018, they will be renting a unit in the complex for our ministries there so that they don't have to meet in the laundry room or outdoors when the weather isn't the best.

### **Trinity, Mission and Shawnee**

Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, continues to be a vibrant "Community Following Jesus." Their ministry focus, as those redeemed by Christ, is on their life of discipleship, as they grow in love for Jesus and for neighbor.

During the last triennium Pastor Phil Cook was installed as the lead pastor at Trinity's Shawnee campus. Trinity also hired a new praise team leader at the Shawnee campus and a new organist at the Mission campus.

A revised constitution was approved by the District.

A visioning team met several times to assess the future development of the Shawnee campus.

They also completed a major renovation of the fellowship hall at their Mission campus.

Trinity was privileged to be part of the metro-wide Reformation 500 Hymn Festival at the Kauffman Center in October.

In January Trinity extended a call to a youth family minister to lead their ministry to youth and their families at both campuses.

As a part of their commitment to staff wellness, several staff members completed sabbaticals during the triennium, which are offered to full-time ministry staff members every five years.

They continue to explore ways to reach out into their communities, including training in the development of missional communities and consideration of a new mission start.

### **Augsburg, Shawnee**

During the last triennium, Augsburg Lutheran has continued to be about Christ's Mission of purely preaching and teaching the Gospel and administering the Holy Sacraments in accordance with His institution. While, with many other congregations they have lost members, they are blessed to continue to be able to operate their budget in the black. During the last triennium there were no baptisms or funerals, but Augsburg was blessed with the parish's first marriage. Augsburg continues to be a destination for fellow Lutherans visiting or residing in Kansas City/Johnson County who wish to receive Christ's gracious gifts in a highly liturgical, reverential, and sacramental setting. The Divine Service has been celebrated every week (and on other festivals and feast days) since Augsburg's chartering in 2004. While we all stumble, fail, and disappoint, the Word works. Soli Deo Gloria

### **Circuit 3S - Rev. Kevin Wyssmann, Circuit Visitor**

#### **Louisburg: Christ Our Savior**

Christ Our Savior, Louisburg in the past three years has found joy in first-fruit giving and added faithful members. Shepherded by Pastor James Keltner, the congregation decided to tithe to the District on the giving of our members. Even when giving is down we send a tenth of our receipts to the District. The members of the congregation are encouraged to follow this example of first-fruit giving. Our staff has increased by adding Pastor Stephen Sweyko as an assistant pastor. We are blessed to be in a growing community. The congregation benefits from this growth. The leadership of this congregation is strong. There is a strong core of young families. We serve all ages. Ministry is exciting and diverse. Ministries are led by capable volunteers. Opportunities abound for ministry. Our strong focus on Word and Sacrament is our source of strength. We have much to celebrate. We look forward to three opportunity proclaim Christ as Lord in the next triennium. God is gracious and good. Word and Sacrament ministry accomplishes much. God's Word is truth. Together, we celebrate that we are the beloved children of God in Christ. As such, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

#### **Leawood: Lord of Life**

We sent 37 to Haiti in January to work with our brothers and sisters at Christ the King Lutheran Church and School. Our medical team saw over 700 patients. We ran an eyeglass clinic that served nearly 300. Our VBS team served 400 students. We provided leadership training to their Board of Directors hosted community Bible Studies for women, and did business training for self-sustainability to help them launch local business. We also worked with them to further the success of our clean water project where we installed a well and they are able to provide clean bottled water to their community for a small fee that goes to support their ministry. Our senior high youth will be going there this summer as well. Our January Haiti trips are an annual thing.

We run a monthly event called "Family Experience" that brings parents and their elementary children together to talk about their faith in Jesus and godly living, that starts at 12 p.m. the first Sunday of the month. These events are creatively structured around food, skits, games and learning activities. For example, in February, the event started with a chili cookoff competition. The March event started with a basketball shootout. The goal is to make a fun and engaging environment where parents feel supported by the church to talk about faith with their children. We continue to hand out bags filled with 936 marbles at every baptism. The 936 marbles represent the 936 weeks a parent has from when their child is born until they turn 18 and graduate from high school. The goal is that sitting down with your child each week to move a marble from the bag to a jar is an opportunity for the parent to instruct their child in the faith. If they know how



many weeks they have left, they will be more intentional making each week count for Jesus. We run “Parent University” for families of junior and senior high students that accomplishes a similar thing. We also have organized our parents into cohorts where they meet with other parents with kids the same age to talk about parenting issues and raising their children in the faith. These learning cohorts meeting on Sunday mornings from January to May.

Our Stephen Ministry now has 11 trained and active Stephen Ministers. We will be launching a new class this fall. Small group Bible studies continue to grow and multiply. We are also running a group for young 20s, called “Roaring 20s” which happens every Sunday during Sunday School hour. We have about 20 in regular attendance. Plus, we have several small groups during the week that focus on reaching out and discipling those in their 20s and early 30s. It has become a strong, growing and vibrant ministry for us and is attracting young professionals who have moved to KC to begin their careers after graduation. These groups are filled with marrieds and singles.

We started three new 6 a.m. men’s groups, geographically located around KC to gather our men before they head off to work. These groups are strong and growing. Our goal is to start several more this year and also offer a later start time (7 a.m.) in those new groups for men who don’t have to be a work early (not everyone is a morning person!). Our men are responding and excited to get engaged in the discipleship process.

### **Bethany: Overland Park & Stilwell**

Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann has served as senior pastor since the fall of 2011. During this triennium resources have been invested in repairing the internal conflicts that have been allowed to exist within the parish for many years. Ambassadors of Reconciliation was brought in at the invitation of the staff and lay leadership. The efforts of Ted Koberg and his team were fruitful, and the parish has begun the necessary work toward health and reconciliation. Multiple bids and a pending contract exists on the sale of 70 of the 80 acres the parish owns in Stilwell, which would effectively reduce the parish’s indebtedness in half and make it possible to totally eliminate its debt in the next few years. Mission teams are being sent each year to the Czech Republic and Hong Kong. The elementary school continues to grow within the limited space available on our Overland Park campus. The preschool has also reached capacity and is turning a sizable profit that is being reinvested in expanding that ministry out in our Stilwell location. The parish has begun adding staff as it manages its resources effectively. Rev. Jerry Brownlee, DCE Randi Petrick and Child Ministry Director Mrs. Lynn Borkowski were brought on this past summer. Intentional efforts are being made to increase our giving to the District and Synod. As lay leadership explores various options for reengaging the communities around our two campuses, we remain optimistic that the parish has a bright tomorrow directly ahead of itself to the glory of God and the building of His kingdom!

### **Paola, First**

In 2015 First Lutheran began a journey to evaluate our strategic mission and habits of generosity so that we were better prepared to fund and carry out the mission to which Jesus has called us. This process has been a blessing and has borne fruit, opening doors for us to call a Director of Christian Education and to hire a full-time office position. A small but mighty group of families headed to Wichita to engage in service and the study of God’s Word so that we might bring what we learned home to Paola and our surrounding communities. There was opportunity for adults all the way to 2-year-olds to practice, discuss, and learn the value of helping others together as God’s people. Through the calling of a DCE we are seeking to reinvest in our intentional efforts to engage young families through an increased discipleship emphasis, a renewed effort toward leadership training, and the building of a bridge between our own SonShine Preschool which has grown to include a mixed-age program in addition to our traditional programing.

### **Paola: Trinity**

Trinity, Paola rejoices to celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2018. Shortly after being founded in 1868 at the historic German settlement of Block, the congregation also launched the first Missouri Synod mission in Kansas City, thus becoming the “mother church” of all the LCMS congregations in the Kansas City area. In honor of this history, Trinity was the main sponsor of the Reformation Hymn Festival held at the Kaufmann Center for the Performing Arts to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

We are also celebrating our congregation’s historic past by building for the future, breaking ground for a major building addition and modernization in March 2018 that is expected to be completed (Lord willing!) in time for our 150th anniversary celebration in the fall. Included is a three-story addition and extensive reconfiguration of existing space, featuring a new elevator and stairs to all three floors, Heritage Room with fireplace, doubling of kitchen space, Music Room, expanded Youth Room, large Gathering Room, and covered drive. Upgrades in the existing building include new ceilings, lighting, windows, HVAC systems, carpeting, and paint.

This latest project follows the success of our recently completed Shelter House. This substantial structure was erected as a memorial to our beloved former parochial school building, which was destroyed in a fire. It has the exact same dimensions and location, thus filling a “hole” left in both our church campus and our hearts by the loss of the school. A beautifully landscaped grove has been developed near the Shelter House, including a basketball court and large children’s playground. Open to all members of the community, the Shelter House has quickly become a favorite spot for

family and community events. It also provides a beautiful location for a new tradition of several outdoor worship services that we hold there each year. Future development may include a nature trail through our beautiful 42-acre campus.

Every year on the third Saturday of September we celebrate our German heritage at Block with “Blocktoberfest,” a free event that attracts over 1,000, mostly visitors from the community. With a focus on children’s activities, such as a petting zoo and wagon rides, it also includes traditional activities including a professional German band and dancing, full German dinner, and German beverages. You are all invited to join us for “Blocktoberfest” this year, beginning at noon on September 15, 2018!

### **Gardner: King of Kings**

Under the pastoral care of Pastor Daniel Wehmeier, King of Kings continues to be an active presence in the southern Johnson County region. They enjoy reaching out to many new families moving into the area and welcoming them into their communities and congregation. With the help of their dynamic Open Arms Child Development Center and VBS ministries, they look for ways to equip and involve families and friends in the mission field beginning in their own backyard and reaching the ends of the earth through servant and mission opportunities. Highlights include the joy of watching unchurched and dechurched individuals and families grow in the faith, understanding, and service in response to God’s grace and guidance. Another new ministry is their Lutheran Early Response Team (L.E.R.T.), which has grown to be the training team for the Kansas District. King of Kings is actively looking for new ways to share the unchanging God in a constantly changing society through worship and ministry. This spring they began another phase in their expanding campus with the addition of classroom, storage, and multi-ministry wing.

### **Circuit 4 - Rev. Don Haselhuhn, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 4 is seven churches strong from Aliceville to Vassar and Emporia to Ottawa and a few in between. As a circuit we meet during the school year monthly for worship, Bible study, fellowship, and to share concerns and joys in the ministry. I became Circuit Visitor a little over a year ago when Luke Brown took a call to another circuit in Kansas. Three churches within the circuit have been blessed with filling vacancies these past three years. Retired pastor David Schemm came to Faith, Emporia, and now Faith is in the process of exploring future plans as Pastor Schemm will retire at the end of 2018. Joshua Woelmer was ordained and installed at Zion, Vassar. Timmothy Heath, Sr. was installed at St. John, Aliceville. Messiah in Emporia, Faith in Ottawa, and Trinity in Burlington enjoyed continued service of their pastors. Messiah Lutheran also has enjoyed the work of MCE Elaine Whiteneck. Trinity, Garnett has been provided pastoral support by retired pastors Rich Pingel and Bill Postel. Trinity is also pleased to share, through God’s blessings, that they have paid off the mortgage on their building in less than 17 years. Three of our churches, Faith Emporia, Faith Ottawa, and Trinity Burlington have blessed their communities and congregations through the work of Lutheran preschools.

God’s grace and love has been evident throughout the circuit, and we pray His continued care and mercy be on His churches, workers, and people as we all reach out with the Good News of Jesus each and every day.

### **Circuit 5 – Rev. Theodore Cook, Circuit Visitor**

#### **Zion, Chanute**

Congregational life and activities for the triennium 2015-2018:

Zion Lutheran Church, Chanute, is served by Pastor Daniel Ramsey, who was called in 2003. During the past triennium:

- The congregation expanded the SONshine Preschool to include Child Care. SONshine continues to provide a solid, Christ-centered education for 3- and 4-year-olds in our community, as well as meeting the needs of parents with jobs by caring for children after Preschool hours.
- Throughout this triennium Zion continued to work through the recommendations of the consultation with Transforming Churches Network. The results have been positive in some ways, less productive in others.
- Zion has been involved in several outreach endeavors into our community. While we may be meeting with limited success, every soul who is connected to Christ is a celebration. We also continue to provide an FM broadcast of the Lutheran Hour on a local FM pop music station with a broadcast radius of 30+ miles. In addition, Zion offers a Vacation Bible School program to the community each summer.
- In June 2016, after polling the congregation, it was decided to cancel worship services on Saturday evenings and instead hold two services on Sunday morning. After trying this out for a period of time, it was decided that worship would be more uplifting with a filled sanctuary and so in October 2017, the congregation decided to move to one worship service on Sunday mornings.
- Our Adopt-a-Student-Africa program has concluded with the Liberian Lutheran seminary student finally obtaining his diploma.
- Zion sent 11 youth and 3 adults to “In Christ Alone,” the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, July 2016.
- We’ve also had several youth attend the Jr. High Rallies in eastern Kansas and the Sr. High District Youth Gatherings in this triennium.

- Our celebrations of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation included a service each month leading up to the anniversary that focused on some aspect of the Reformation. Reformation Sunday included Confirmation of some youth as well as special music. We continue to reflect on the blessings of God's Word as we journey through the 500<sup>th</sup> year since the Reformation began.
- By God's good grace we look forward to celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the next few months as we continue Word and Sacrament ministry and serve the needs of others in our community.
- In July 2018 we received a letter from LCEF informing us that an anonymous donor had paid off the balance of our loan on our Family Life Center! We will celebrate the mortgage burning at our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

### **Good Shepherd, Erie**

God's Word and Sacraments are still being given to forgive and sustain the faith of the people of Good Shepherd. Along with the Divine Service on Sunday, the office of Compline is a weekly benefit that many members of the congregation partake of on Thursday evenings. We participate in community events, have church cookouts, regular Bible studies, and maintain a lively church community.

### **Trinity, Girard**

Trinity Lutheran Church in Girard continues to faithfully proclaim the Gospel and administer the Sacraments, feeding and nourishing God's people and reaching out to others with the Good News about Jesus. Over the past three years, the congregation has continued to support the training of pastors through the Adopt-A-Student program, provided for the physical and spiritual needs of the children of Zvannieki Orphanage in Latvia via Orphan Grain Train, and supported the work of Rev. Tim Norton among the Navajo people through Lutheran Indian Ministries. Special events in the life of the congregation have included the retirement of all debt and a celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. During the 2017/2018 school year, Trinity has been privileged to partner with Concordia, Nebraska by hosting a Director of Christian Education intern.

### **Immanuel, Hepler**

The Word and Sacraments continue to feed, nourish, and grow the people of Immanuel. Immanuel is blessed to continue our community meal on Thursdays every week, regularly serving around seventy-five people. Our midweek school classes for pre-K through 8th graders continues to flourish as a source of Christian teaching both to those in our congregation and many in the community. Our new congregational garden is a recent means of service and outreach to our community.

### **Grace, Iola**

God's Word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever (LSB 582).

- Babies have been baptized.
- Children and adults catechized.
- Marriages blessed.
- Saints laid to rest (we wait for the resurrection).
- Burdens have been carried and shared.

(Our) hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness (LSB 575).

### **Zion, Pittsburg**

Zion Lutheran in Pittsburg continues to hold her own though suffering lower attendance. She celebrated with great joy her 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 24, 2016 with the return of many former members and area guests. Son of the congregation Rev. Walt Snyder preached the morning service, and his daughter Laura played the organ. Paul Snyder played the afternoon with Pres. Peter Lange preaching. Walt's grandson played trumpet.

Zion continues to serve the needs of Lutheran students at PSU. This school year we welcomed a student in worship from southern Brazil.

Zion's LWML group is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> year in the congregation, highlighting their many activities in community, Zone and Synod.

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast locally and cosponsored now by Zion, Trinity Girard and Immanuel Joplin.

### **Circuit 6 - Rev. Jon Bruss, Circuit Visitor**

The pastors of Circuit 6 in 2017 concluded a nearly 5-year-long first and hopefully not last iteration of the *Koinonia Project*, culminating in a document that outlines areas of significant agreement on doctrine and practice, along with areas where work toward full agreement is still needed. In the course of the project, the pastors of Circuit 6 made two presentations at district church workers conferences, and two of them attended a synodical meeting in St. Louis to develop strategies for fostering the *Koinonia Project* throughout the Synod. In 2017 and 2018 in celebration of the Lord's goodness in preserving

“God’s Word and Luther’s teaching pure” for 500 years, the circuit also sponsored several events, including a Run, Martin! 5K walk/run, commemorating the flight from Worms; a Divine Service including all the Topeka congregations; a circuit-wide mercy project, Feed My Starving Children; a year-long Koinonia-esque lay study, which brought together members of the various parishes to study the Book of Concord; and a Reformation 500 Chili Cook-Off and Reformation Trivia night.

### **Calvary Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas**

In 2015 Calvary celebrated our Jubilee proclaiming God’s Word and administering the Sacraments to God’s people in North Topeka. In 2016, Pastor Dan Galchutt took a call to serve as Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship for the Kansas District. In 2017, Pastor Ben Ockree was called as sole pastor. Calvary thanks Pastor J.S. Bruss and Pastor D.M. Kerns for their service during the interim.

The last three years have been marked by growing stability in the congregation. Important repairs and upgrade to the facilities have been made, and the congregation continues to aggressively pay down its debt with a target of being debt free by 2020. The Calvary Lutheran Learning Center continues to grow.

We at Calvary thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us in the last three years.

### **Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas**

Christ continues to call all people to faith and proclaim the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ through the proclamation of God’s Word and the faithful administration of His Sacraments.

It does so through three regularly scheduled Divine Services a weekend (one Saturday night, two Sunday morning), regular youth and adult catechesis, Sunday morning Bible studies, and various Bible studies throughout the week that take place either on the church campus or members’ homes. Christ also continues to hold a free weeklong morning VBS. In 2016, six youth attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Planning and fundraising is already underway for the 2019 NYG. The elders at Christ have also started an effort to reach out to inactive members.

Pastor Daniel Ross succeeded Pastor David Schemm, being elevated to Lead Pastor in June of 2015 upon Pastor Schemm’s retirement. In May of 2016, Amanda Adams was installed at Christ as Director of Christian Education, replacing Thomas Moll who left (accepting another call) in May 2015.

Christ has recently embarked upon installing a Faith Steps program in an effort to better teach the faith to all ages. The initial classes were/are: Worship/Acolyte for 5/6<sup>th</sup> graders, First Communion for 6/7/8<sup>th</sup> graders, and a First Bible Class for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. All classes had parents, sponsors, or guardians participating with the youth. There are plans for additional classes for younger children, singles, parents, and older members, touching upon such things as Baptism and even funeral and legacy planning.

Christ continues to be an avid supporter of Topeka Lutheran School and TLS’s Center for Young Children through prayer, leadership, and financial support in association with St. John’s and Faith.

### **Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas**

Faith added to the staff three new persons, DCE Heather McCormick, SMP pastor Martin Albrecht, and DCE intern from Concordia University, St. Paul, Ben Meyer. Sr. Pastor Jim Bender and Associate Pastor Jake Wampfler continue as called staff from the last report. Two traditional services and one contemporary service are held each Sunday. Faith participates in the Lutheran School Association of Topeka with other LCMS churches in Topeka. A significant fundraising campaign has enabled the church to aggressively attack debt and to ponder building expansion.

Our children, youth, and family ministry has increased in discipleship focus and in numbers. Volunteer/teacher training has been upgraded. About thirty children attend Topeka Lutheran School as Faith Lutheran is a vital partner in the association with other Topeka churches. We serve about eighty-five people of all ages each Wednesday in our Wednesday Christian Education program.

Global mission efforts have increased. Teams have been sent to Nicaragua (families focused), Guatemala (adults), and Hong Kong (families and college age). Hong Kong has reciprocated the relationship and has sent about two dozen 10- to 12-years-olds during the summer, at which point the Gospel is shared through VBS.

Local mission efforts have been highlighted and strengthened. Many members, some sponsored in church activities and some informally and anonymously, participate in mercy ministries through Doorstep, Let’s Help, Topeka Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Sharefest, and Meals on Wheels (which honored Faith Lutheran recently).

Word and Sacrament ministry is strong as the Gospel is preached and the Bible is opened. Worship attendance percentage has increased. About 120 people serve in the music ministry. 200 have joined small groups.

Generosity has increased, and plans are being realized and created. A new vision of "Grow to Share in his Grace, across Generations, and around our Globe" has created a 30% increase in offering plate giving. The sanctuary's lighting, sound, visual, and aesthetics have been upgraded. The debt is scheduled to be retired at the end of 2018.

Faith Lutheran has joined others in celebrating Reformation 500 through the creation of a very large and eye-catching public piece of art, hosting the Lutheran Arts Fair, and participating with the circuit in Reformation worship service and in a year-long study of the Book of Concord.

### **Hope Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas**

After nearly 60 years of the Lord's work to save sinners from sin, death, and the power of the devil through His Holy Word and Blessed Sacraments in East Topeka, Hope Lutheran Church closed its doors in April of 2017, grateful for all the Lord had done through the decades. The remnant of Hope Lutheran Church were transferred to local LCMS congregations, where they have become active and faithful members. The church property was sold to a non-denominational congregation that had been working in the area, though without real estate. Pr. Troy Scroggins received peaceful release from his call.

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kansas**

Immanuel Lutheran Church and University Student Center (ILCUSC) continues to conduct its ministry, always mindful of its mission statement: *To share the love of God in Jesus Christ by word and deed.*

Immanuel continues its strong emphasis upon Word and Sacrament ministry. In 2015, the average attendance at our midweek Advent worship services was at a 10-year high, and the average attendance at midweek Lenten worship services just two less than the 10-year high. This increase in worship attendance had much to do with the addition of suppers prior to the worship services.

ILCUSC became a partner with (2014) and began to house (2015) Justice Matters, a coalition of 20 houses of worship in Lawrence. The mission of Justice Matters is three-fold: "(1) to move Lawrence toward a city where justice rolls down like a mighty river; (2) to surface, understand, and address issues of justice in the region; and (3) to strengthen understanding of the scriptural imperative to do justice." This ministry uses Micah 6:8 and Matthew 22:34-40 as its Scripture basis.

2016 was a year of celebration. In January ILCUSC held a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of University Lutheran Church (now known as Immanuel Lutheran Church and University Student Center). We rejoiced in 50 years of ministry at 2104 Bob Billings Parkway to the students, professors, and staff of The University of Kansas, as well as to the town and gown ministry we have today.

In November 2016, the congregation planned a celebration of Pastor Randy Weinkauff's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination into the office of public ministry. A committee planned a worship service with celebratory music, preaching by former Kansas District President Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, a program featuring Pastor Randy's life and ministry, and a lunch of his favorite foods.

On June 3, 2017, Pastor Jon S. Bruss, circuit visitor, met with the members of the Church Council and Elders as part of his circuit visitor duties. During this meeting, with Pr. Bruss' guidance and leadership, we (and he) were able to see ILCUSC's strengths (committed to our mission of Word and Sacrament, as well as to our community; solid preaching and teaching; a stable financial position, etc.), as well as challenging areas that need to be addressed (engagement of more members in the affairs of the congregation; the annual "negotiations" of pastor's salary; the need for additional staff, lackluster outreach, etc.).

Special celebrations marked 2017. In July, we honored the Reverend Donald L. Miller and his wife Diane with a special celebratory worship service for his 50 years of service in the pastoral ministry! Pr. Miller served as parish pastor of the newly formed Immanuel Lutheran Church and University Student Center from 1986-2005. In August, we celebrated at ILCUSC for the first time "The Feast of the First Tomato." Similar in thought to a Thanksgiving Day worship service, this service of Evening Prayer commemorated God's gracious providing of the tomato. Following the worship service, we enjoyed a supper of bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwiches. In October, we commemorated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, with a festive worship service featuring the Sunday School children, as well as both the chancel and handbell choirs.

### **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas**

The last triennium for Prince of Peace has been one of change. District Education Executive Jim Bradshaw began a two-year process with the congregation developing Christ-like servant leaders for greater service in the congregation and beyond. The congregation launched a second Sunday morning service using a contemporary format. Together, we are continuing to focus on being the healthy, caring, Christ-centered missionary community of faith God has called us to be. In December 2016, the called DCE departed for another position within the Kansas District. In the fall of 2017, Pastor Buono

announced his intent to retire from parish ministry. Most recently, a long serving and beloved preschool teacher was diagnosed with cancer and is no longer on the staff. The congregation is now entering the call process in preparation for Pastor Buono's departure.

#### **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, Kansas**

Redeemer Lutheran continues to seek to bear witness to the work of our Savior using all the gifts that our Lord has provided. Our sense of mission work though in the past eighteen months has expanded. We have established much closer ties with Haskell Light, now under the direction of Deacon Bob and Deon Prue. We are seeking help in their Sunday evening activities with the goal of becoming familiar with the students so that they would be comfortable having Redeemer as their worship site.

In summer of 2017 we were approached about allowing an NA meeting in our basement. We agreed to this and began hosting a Wednesday evening. Soon after that, we were asked about a Friday evening meeting. As God is gracious bringing in people through our doors we are slowly doing outreach to these groups, hoping to form a bridge that will introduce a segment of the population that in many cases has not had a church home in a long time, if ever.

The congregation continues to have two worship opportunities each week, one on Wednesday which uses a printed service and our liturgical service on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. The congregation uses four of the divine services found in LSB and has the Lord's Supper every week at both the Sunday and Wednesday services.

The congregation continues with a strong education program for all ages, including Sunday School, an adult Bible class, a Monday morning Bible class, a Tuesday men's breakfast class and a college class that meets monthly.

The congregation feels privileged to have a number of students from KU attending and becoming involved in the life of the congregation as the congregation seeks to continue to be both a "town and gown" congregation.

#### **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas**

St. John's continues to focus single-mindedly on vigorous proclamation, teaching, and application to life of God's Word that's neither shallow nor beholden to cultural whim, but that's faithful to the whole counsel of God and holds fast to the timeless message of salvation through Christ alone.

To that end, in addition to two regular Sunday Divine Services, adult Bible classes, and Sunday School, St. John's has established a lively Wednesday evening Sound Words Academy (SWA) with nine separate classes for all ages, Jr. Lutherans (a quiz game for children ages 4 through start of Youth Catechesis), a meal, Evening Prayer, and a newly-established LCMS-U chapter serving students at nearby Washburn. Other midweek study opportunities include a monthly theology reading group for pastors and a weekly women's Bible study. St. John's has also extended worship opportunities by celebrating feasts when they fall and continues to send high school youth to Higher Things and to host an annual youth catechesis retreat for our own and area LCMS youth, as well as an annual Saturday afternoon of lectures from a seminary professor.

A significant effort to encourage inactive members to receive the Lord's gifts in the Divine Service was begun in 2014 and continues as a regular part of pastor and elder work. As a result, while overall membership rolls have decreased, Sunday attendance at the Divine Service has increased significantly, a great encouragement, "and all the more as we see the Day drawing near."

The congregation has made large strides against debt on our most recent addition through a capital campaign. *Paid in Full* was launched in spring of 2016 and is blessed to be on a trajectory to retire the debt five months earlier than the projected three-year retirement date.

St. John's continues to send children to Topeka Lutheran School, our association school with Faith Lutheran and Christ Lutheran. The St. John's head count at TLS has held steady at 26 children for some years.

St. John's supports three OIM missionaries and the work of two Lutheran pastors in Saratov, Russia, and sends significant in-kind and labor support as well as funding to local caritative agencies. These funds are partially raised through three annual events for that purpose. Local outreach continues through SWA, VBS, and an annual neighborhood block party.

The last three years have seen numerous staff changes. Senior pastor P.K. Lange was elected district president, summer 2015; Pr. J.S. Bruss was installed as senior pastor, fall 2015; Pr. D.M. Kerns as assoc. pastor, summer 2016; and Bethany Johnson as assoc. kantor, summer 2017. In fall of 2016, Pr. G.R. Bitter retired as visitation pastor, and in winter 2018 Dcns. Linda Kinnett announced her summer 2018 retirement.

In the midst of so much change, the congregation has been blessed that the Lord in His grace and mercy has continued to uphold the pure teaching and preaching of His Holy Word and the right administration of His Blessed Sacraments. To Him be all glory and honor forever and ever.

### **Circuit 7 - Rev. Paul Tessaro, Circuit Visitor**

Following are reports that have been submitted by the pastors in Circuit 7 (Linn). I have compiled and edited them for this workbook. It is a joy to serve with each of the pastors and other church workers in our circuit. In addition, our circuit has a large number of dedicated and talented lay people that are all eager to serve the Lord in various ways and to share His Gospel.

#### **Trinity Lutheran, Afton**

Trinity is served by Deacon Don Dodd, who is supervised by Rev. Richard Rikli. Deacon Dodd has recently begun the colloquy process to become ordained. He reports that Afton replaced the wooden front doors on the church. They have done repairs (roof and siding repair) on the buildings due to the hail storms last year. In addition, Trinity has contracted replacement of the steps with a ramp. Deacon Dodd has performed one wedding and two funerals.

#### **St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barnes, Kansas**

After faithfully serving God's Word and Sacraments for ten and a half years Rev. Rodney Fritz resigned from his pastoral duties. The Rev. Matthew Durance now ministers to these people of God. St. Peter's continues to serve the Lord through the preaching and teaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments.

#### **Immanuel and Bethlehem, Bremen**

This dual parish is currently served by Rev. Aaron Fenker. They also are a vital part of the Good Shepherd School association.

#### **St. Paul Lutheran, Clay Center**

Rev. Paul Tessaro continues to serve at St. Paul in Clay Center. It has again been a busy triennium for the congregation. God has blessed them with many opportunities to minister and for the congregational members to be active in service to our Lord. Mr. Jeremy Pera continues to serve as the congregation's Director of Christian Education. Mrs. Susan Melton and Mrs. Shanna Sterling are co-directors of the preschool. In the past three years the congregation has conducted 30 baptisms, 16 weddings and 45 funerals. This has been a period of continuing education for the called staff at St. Paul. DCE Pera has completed the KINDLE Classic program and is in the process of the KINDLE: Finishing Well program. Pastor Tessaro completed the DOXOLOGY program. Pastor Tessaro serves as the circuit visitor, as chaplain for both the Clay County Sheriff's Office and Clay Center Fire Department, and an EMT (PRN) with Clay County EMS.

#### **Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenleaf**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church continues to celebrate the gifts that God has bestowed upon us in Christ Jesus here in Greenleaf, KS! Throughout the year the congregation has been involved in the community by hosting two blood drives each year, serving the community with our annual soup supper, as well as our Mother's Day brunch which has been a great success! In 2016 the congregation said good-bye to Pastor Timothy Lorenz who accepted a call to Huntington, Indiana, and Pastor Jacob Sherry of St. John's, Palmer served as the vacancy pastor.

The pinnacle event which the congregation celebrated was their centennial celebration on July 16, 2017. The congregation celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year here in Greenleaf by hosting a special Divine Service with former pastor Delbert F. Meyer giving the homily, and a hymn was sung which was written by Bethlehem member Leo Voelker, "The Church on the Highway"; Rev. Jacob Sherry, vacancy pastor, led the liturgy portion of the service. The members hosted a lunch at 11:30 and past, present, and former members came together to share stories of the congregation, the history it has here in this community, and looking to the future of Bethlehem Lutheran; a special cookbook with recipes by members and a special centennial church directory were published for the event as well.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Matthew Durance was installed as the pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Pastor Durance, a former ELCA pastor serving in Axtell, Kansas, was approved for pastoral ministry in the LCMS by pastoral colloquy and was extended the call to serve as Bethlehem's pastor in September. On October 29<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, using Divine Service Setting #5 in *Lutheran Service Book*, which follows the pattern of Martin Luther's German Mass, substituting portions of the liturgy with hymns Luther wrote as a means to instruct church members the foundational parts of the Christian faith. On February 11 the congregation hosted their annual soup supper, serving almost 200 people over the course of several hours. Founded upon Christ in Word and Sacrament, Bethlehem Lutheran Church continues to be a beacon of hope in this area, and we give thanks for the ministry we have been granted to serve through the Holy Spirit.

### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover**

Rev. Rodney Fritz writes that only a few things have changed over the last triennium, most within the last six months. After serving for 10 ½ years at St. Peter Lutheran, Barnes, he concluded that portion of his ministry. On January 1, 2018 Rev. Matthew Durance, the new pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran, Greenleaf began his ministry among the members of St. Peter.

With the conclusion of his service at St. Peter's he restarted the Sunday morning Bible Class at Trinity. They are doing a review of Luther's Small Catechism. As of the time of the report there was a new adult membership class with three adults in the class. Along with this he continues to teach the midweek and confirmation classes each week plus trying to fulfill all of the other demands of the pastoral office at Trinity.

One new adventure started in 2016 when Trinity adopted missionaries Steward and Deb Freese, missionaries to Africa. They support them with their Thanksgiving Day Offerings. This is not something the pastor began; the idea came from members who heard Steward and Deb give a presentation at Good Shepherd Lutheran School. We continue to pray God's blessings on their mission work.

Beyond the parish Rev. Fritz continues to serve on the Kansas District Constitution and Bylaw Committee as well as serving on the Kansas District Handbook and DOM (District Operations Manual) Review Committee. He enjoys the work of both.

In July of this year, Lord willing, Rev. Fritz will begin his 38<sup>th</sup> year of ministry at Trinity. He notes, "It has been a good ministry at Trinity with all the normal ups and downs of ministry. God blessed me with the ability to purchase my own home in Hanover. I guess I am now officially a 'city person.' This now provides me a place to live when I do retire from full-time ministry."

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn**

Rev. Richard Rikli writes that he has been the pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn since June 27, 2009. When he first arrived, Immanuel had 125 communicants, 39 children, and 164 baptized members. Since then they have grown to 158 communicants, 49 children, and 207 baptized.

Church activities are as follows:

- (1) The summer VBS program is still going quite strong.
- (2) In 2009 Immanuel brought back Midweek. Since then Immanuel has reconstructed the format. We now have two groups: grades 3–5 & 6–8 (Confirmation group).
- (3) Immanuel's LWML has grown from 5 members to 20 members.
- (4) Immanuel is still using the Lutheran Service Book. We alternate Divine Services quarterly.
- (5) In 2010, the topic of the Communion individual cup was discussed as well as having Communion more than once a month. That same year Immanuel started offering Communion twice a month with both individual cup and common cup.
- (5) During the Advent season, Immanuel still holds a Lessons and Carols service.
- (6) Immanuel continues to use the Children's Worship Service Bulletin.
- (7) During the Lenten season, Immanuel joins up with the area LCMS churches in a joint Lenten Service on Wednesday. Immanuel still hosts their own Ash Wednesday service.

Events that have taken place at Immanuel or in conjunction with the area LCMS churches are as follows:

1. Every August, Immanuel's Men's Club hosts an annual barbecue.
2. Every September, St. John Palmer, Zion Linn, and Immanuel Linn participate in a joint Mission Festival.
3. Every January, Immanuel's LLL hosts the annual soup dinner.
4. In February St. John Palmer, Zion Linn, and Immanuel Linn participate in a joint LWML Day of Prayer.

I have been involved in the following: (1) Kansas District Pastors Conference; (2) LYF Gathering – Topeka; (3) Pastoral advisor for LLL and LWML Circuit 7 Kansas District; (4) Pre-Lent Conference – Wichita; (5) Worship service (speaker/liturgist) at the Kansas State Fair 2010; (6) Organized a Convocation Service for Circuit 7 Kansas District in 2010 & 2014 & 2017. This service involved Lutheran Hour guest speakers Ken Klaus and Gregory Seltz, as well as President Matthew Harrison; (7) Quarterly article for the Linn/Palmer newspaper; (8) Linn Lutheran School as a substitute teacher (9) and Chapel service at Linn Lutheran School and Linn Nursing Home.

One of the main challenges for Immanuel was a need for a parish hall. By January 2012 the building was finished. The first church group to use the Parish Hall was our LYF group. Immanuel's next building project was a new playground, which was completed in 2015. Since then Immanuel has replaced their 8-foot outside cross on the hill with a 30-foot cross. This was completed in 2016. This cross is lit during the Advent and Lent season. More recently, Immanuel has been involved with helping Zion, Downs establish a satellite church in Concordia KS.



### **Zion Lutheran, Linn Kansas**

Rev. David Gruoner is in his 32<sup>nd</sup> year of service to the flock of God's people at Zion in Linn. Together with St. John, Palmer the congregation continues its support of Linn Lutheran School, which celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association this year. With a prayer for the Spirit's blessing, Zion continues ministry to the Hispanic population in our area. Along with Our Redeemer Lutheran in Kansas City, Missouri, Zion facilitates a monthly Hispanic worship service and Bible study led by Rev. Vincente Sanchez. A faithful group gathers each month, with Pastor Sanchez leading them in worship and beginning a catechetical course for the interested. We look forward as the people of God in this place of being able to both continue nourishing the faith of our children and fellow members and assisting the Spirit in reaching out to those from another country whom He brings to our community.

### **Mt. Calvary, Marysville**

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville, Kansas, has had several major changes in the past three years. In March 2015, Pastor Philip T. Miller and his family moved to Marysville from Louisiana to accept the Divine Call as minister at Mt. Calvary. This was after Pastor Donnie A. Hofman had retired over a year earlier. At the end of May 2017, Mt. Calvary conducted dedication of a new Fellowship Hall addition to the existing church building, after groundbreaking in 2016. This is indeed a blessing to the members of the congregation, as it is easily all accessible to members and has opened up additional space for educational activities. Mt. Calvary also continues to be involved in the Good Shepherd Lutheran School Association along with Immanuel, Bremen, and Bethlehem, Bremen, in support of the Good Shepherd Lutheran School, a preschool through 8th grade school in Marysville. GSLS celebrated its 20th year in Marysville in 2015.

### **St. John's, Palmer**

Pastor Jacob Sherry has been serving St. John since 2013. St. John remains part of the Linn Lutheran School Association with Zion Lutheran Church, Linn, and the school association celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 3 of this year. St. John Lutheran Church and Linn Lutheran School have almost finished their repairs after the devastation of hail storms in 2013 and 2014. St. John remains a family of faith united to grow, serve, and share the love of God's Son Jesus Christ.

### **Circuit 8 - Rev. Larry Boye, Circuit Visitor**

#### **St. John, Alma**

Alma is a small community that is in transition. Home life is not centered as much around the farm; work often is done by commuting out of town. Yet opportunities for ministry to Jesus Christ abound. Well over half of Wabaunsee County is unchurched. Yet, the Lutheran presence within the county is quite strong, with three congregations and one mission site. St. John Lutheran Church is in the county seat and serves the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sees its mission as reaching out in Christ-borne love and Christ-like concern.

In the past three years, Christ came directly to 20 souls through baptism, 3 of them adults. The church conducted adult confirmation classes, many Bible classes, Stephen Ministry training, and Crossways! Bible classes, so that the people of God "might be equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17) We have continued to grow in service through music and praise, with handbell choirs, children's choirs, and an adult choir, although long-time organist Evelyn Schmidt has retired from the bench and has moved away.

St. John Lutheran School currently has three Lutheran trained teachers, with another part-time teacher. It operates to prepare a foundation in Jesus Christ for life-long learning. Trinity, McFarland helps to support this school. Students come from a mix of member and non-member homes and are expertly prepared to serve Christ throughout life, and to continue learning after the 8th grade. Current principal Mervin Dehning has received and accepted a call to another school in Missouri. The school is moving forward in the call process, that they may serve the community with excellent education of the young.

#### **St. Paul's, Alta Vista**

Alta Vista is a small community located well off of the "beaten path" but maintains a very strong and dedicated Lutheran presence in this area. Alta Vista's population is 422, and St. Paul's confirmed membership is 155 with an average weekly attendance of 40. In 2017, with the help of several volunteers and by the grace of God, we got a children's Sunday School program started, and it has an average weekly attendance of six young souls being raised up in Christian faith.

St. Paul's enjoys outdoor extra-curricular activities as well. Annually we hold a "Holy Hog Hoedown" the second Saturday of September with a whole smoked hog, all the fixins, a bluegrass band, pie auction and a variety of fun things to do. Attendance is usually around 200, and we welcome the outreach opportunities this event provides.

We also have an annual fishing tournament in the early summer at Redeemer Lutheran Mission on Lake Wabaunsee. Pastor and the children enjoy a day of fishing, walking along the bank of the lake, parents and friends gather, we fry fish and of course everyone brings a side dish to share in an unforgettable lunch.

Our LWML group meets monthly for Bible Study, business and fellowship. Their mission work is exceptional, and the Lord has blessed them with a strong desire to serve. In 2017 the LWML made gift packets consisting of basic necessities wrapped in a towel and delivered them to El Paso to be given to children who were brought over the border with literally nothing but the clothes on their backs. In addition, some of their work includes raising non-perishable items for our local food pantry, volunteer work at the Senior Center, prayerful and financial support for our missions in Guinea, and providing food and comfort to families when a loved one is called home to glory.

All praise and glory be to God.

### **St Paul, Duluth**

St Paul Lutheran Church at Duluth serves the greater Onaga, Kansas area. We are a congregation that is growing and getting younger. Our emphasis in ministry is to the young men and women of our community who range from no faith in Jesus Christ, to asking questions about Christ; who have had very little contact with Jesus since childhood to those wanting to grow in their faith relationship with their Savior. We have an active group of men and women who continually reach out to their family and friends described above, lift them up in prayer, and encourage with the Good News those who struggle with life apart from Christ. We have also expanded our ministry with weekly sermon podcasts on Facebook. This medium affords our congregation an opportunity to reach friends and family near and far with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We continue to support a bus ministry and are willing to make our motor coach available to other congregations. Again this summer, we will send kids and adults to LCMS Camp Perkins in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho.

### **Immanuel, Junction City**

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Junction City is starting an exciting time for new growth in our congregation and new activities for the members. The whole membership is looking forward to calling a new pastor for our church following the retirement of Pastor Alan Estby in 2017. We are dedicated to the mission of the church: to provide a welcome and caring environment, sharing our love of Jesus with others through our support of many community programs. In addition to providing an Early Childhood center, the members also support the local Food Bank, the Open Door, and other outreach needs as they arise. We will be continuing our well-attended Adult Bible Class program this year and look forward to adding more Sunday School programs, music programs, and special services for the community around us. We are particularly interested in providing for the spiritual life of the servicemen and servicewomen stationed at Ft. Riley.

### **St Paul's Lutheran Church, Junction City**

The Lord has provided St Paul's some challenging/ awesome years. We continued all our church services (including Lenten and Advent services) in 2015 by using some awesome dedicated vacancy pastors. In January 2015 with help of the LCEF VisionPath program we worked to establish goals and a way ahead for the church. (We still have a VisionPath group today helping with growth and outreach.)

God provided us some awesome events in 2016 -2017. We started with five children and three adult baptisms and four adult confirmations. (God is Great.) Following this awesome event we were fortunate to install Pastor David Meier as our interim minister. What a blessing the Lord provided for St. Paul's as he quickly settled in to assist the congregation into potential next steps to continue St. Paul's. We welcomed two more adult baptisms and 3 adult confirmations.

St. Paul's continues and has expanded our outreach, as we have provided infant/toddler care packages to the local juvenile intake officer; provided food to local food banks; provided Shoe Box Project Samaritan Purse for the last couple years; provided Easter baskets for children at Ft. Riley; and provided bookbags with school supplies for children at Ft. Riley. Our VisionPath group is working with Ft. Riley to assist our military community.

### **Christ Lutheran, Manhattan, KS**

Christ Lutheran Church is still at an exciting time for growth and new activities for its members.

I think it is important that Christ Lutheran Church is growing and willing to make positive things happen in the community we worship in. The congregation has come to the support of their pastor who was dealing with health issues and is now back in the pulpit to serve.

Christ Lutheran Church has increased from 22 to 38 for an average service attendance in 2016, and looking to increase even more in 2018.

New members continue to step up to fill positions like Sunday School teachers for our youth.

- We still have Sunday School during the school year for those who are able to attend.
- Christ Lutheran now has increased the number of youth acolytes for the services each week.
- In 2017 Christ Lutheran confirmed three youth, and we have more to begin in Confirmation classes. In 2018 Christ Lutheran will have another student being confirmed.

- Since our last report Christ has had three summer VBS programs that were very successful.
- Christ has built a new utility building to keep its lawn mower and other equipment in for maintenance around the church.
- Christ Lutheran Church has purchased a riding lawn mower for the maintenance of the church lawn.
- Christ Lutheran has put lighting in on the parking lot and front sign for more visibility.
- Christ Lutheran has repaired our basement wall to allow our fellowship hall completion.

These are the opportunities through which Christ Lutheran is making a difference and changing in the coming years for growth and service to the community around us.

### **St. Luke's, Manhattan**

St. Luke's is making plans to move! We are currently located on 3½ acres in the middle of town, but we are making plans to move to a spacious 27 acres west of town, just outside the city limits. We own the land. We are hopeful to see dirt move in August of 2018. The total project will include three phases. The first phase, the phase on which we are currently working, includes the multipurpose room where we will worship, six meeting rooms, and a kitchen. We have hired a capital stewardship consultant, Betty Johnson and Associates, to guide us through the capital stewardship campaign, which will take place in the winter and spring of 2018. We have also contracted with an architect, Clint Hibbs of BG Consultants, and a builder, BHS Construction.

In the last triennium, our Early Learning Center (ELC) expanded, increasing the number of classrooms to four. We have also been intentional about putting an emphasis on education and our Lutheran identity. Laurie Powell became our interim director in 2016 and our director in 2017. Bible Time is a daily activity in the ELC. The church staff rotates teaching this Bible Time once a week in the classrooms and leading a weekly chapel service in the sanctuary.

Outreach events to the preschool and our community include Trunk-or-Treat, our "Happy Birthday Jesus" service, having our preschool children sing in church twice a year with a meal following, and renting out the ice skating rink in the winter and the city pool in the summer. To this list we also added a Back-to-School Bash beginning in 2016.

Our DCE Charity Smith has built up the infrastructure of our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry and has enhanced our Connect Groups.

- Our Children's Ministry continues to include our Sunday School, our Wednesday night program called B.A.S.I.C. Training (with B.A.S.I.C. standing for "Brothers and Sisters in Christ"), and our Vacation Bible School.
- Youth activities include weekly meetings, servant events, fund raisers, and retreats (i.e., National Youth Gathering, District Youth Gatherings, Youth Quake, and Lutheran Valley Retreat in Colorado).
- Connect Groups include Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (and the other classes that he offers); Love & Logic, offered to young parents throughout the year; and Lighthouse, a support group to those suffering from infertility, miscarriage, and infant loss.

Our part-time music director Gretchen Hartsook leads our choir, handbells, and music for our Children's Ministry, and chimes and chorus for our junior high youth.

St. Luke's has been active in a few other areas as well. A few of our folks reach out to the retirement communities and nursing homes in Manhattan by showing videos from Lutheran Hour Ministries and "Worship Anew" (formerly known as "Worship for Shut-Ins"). Another group of folks head up Cancer Companions, a ministry to those impacted by cancer. Mission of Love is a quilters group that meets once a month and donates quilts to needy causes. St. Luke's started Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls (both are Troop KS-0057) in the winter of 2018. A Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training occurred at St. Luke's on February 10, 2018. We also participate in city parades and events such as Purple Power Play, letting the community know that we are here.

St. Luke's has an active Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) and Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Popular LLL events include Christmas caroling and a pancake supper. LWML projects include a nut sale, a card ministry, funeral luncheons, and a Christmas Tea. The ladies of the LWML also participate in the Pumpkin Patch (raising funds for a local mission).

Under the leadership of Pastor King Crawford, Campus Ministry (or "LCMS U") to KSU students continues to thrive, with Sunday lunches (called "Table Talk") and weekly Bible Studies. Students also participate in the Campus Ministry Region 5 retreat.

Liz Beikmann heads up our ministry to international students. We are connected with both the International Student Ministries (ISM) in our Synod and Helping International Students (HIS) in Manhattan. Several couples at St. Luke's are host families to students from the Czech Republic. They will occasionally worship with us and attend various events.

St. Luke's continues "to share the love of Jesus Christ with those around us."

### **Mt. Calvary, Wamego**

Mt. Calvary continues to serve with Word and Sacrament in our community. God's grace and the demographics of Wamego and the surrounding communities have blessed Mt. Calvary with a period of growth. The congregation is about to embark on a study of our current worship practices with an expected goal of adding a traditional liturgical service.

### **St. Luke, Wheaton**

St. Luke, Wheaton in the last three years has celebrated its 120th anniversary. In those 120 years the congregation has grown and continues to grow, even in its rural setting. Changes have occurred during those years, such as going from everything done in German to doing all things in English, and going from a small wooden church building south of Wheaton to a larger building right in Wheaton. Today, St. Luke is the only remaining active congregation in town. All the other churches have closed and moved elsewhere. We thank God that He has permitted us to remain and allows us to continue preaching and teaching the true Word and administering the Sacraments as Christ has called us to do. We continue to improve our facilities to show the community we plan to stay in this place and proclaim Christ to all. We also have been centering on missions, not just locally but into other regions of the community, district, synod and the world.

### **Circuit 9 - Rev. Clark Davis, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 9 has enjoyed peace and calm since our last convention, with all congregations being filled or vacant and not calling. We have enjoyed this past year undertaking the study of Walther's *Pastoral Theology* and recently have been making plans for ongoing long-range planning in our circuit. We enjoy a strong bond between all members of the circuit which makes our meetings both entertaining and rewarding. Here is an update on our various ministries:

**Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene.** "“Together in Christ's love, we joyfully serve, actively witness, and dedicate ourselves to caring, teaching, and growing through the Word.’ God continues to pour down His blessings upon the saints of Faith, Abilene through His Word and Sacraments. We are seeking to not only grow in our personal Christian faith and life, but also intentionally sharing the message of Christ crucified and risen to those who are without a church home. We have recently completed the *re:Vitality* "Connect to Disciple" workshop and will be embarking upon *Everyone His Witness* soon. A Strategic Planning Committee has been formed to help guide our church in the direction we need to be both presently and in the future as we serve many families and communities in the northern part of Dickinson County and even to Ft. Riley.”

Following the redistricting effort at the last convention our circuit added **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church UAC – Newton, Kansas.** “We praise Almighty God for His ongoing blessings upon us. He has blessed us greatly the past few years. On September 18, 2016 the people of Zion celebrated “130 years by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone.” We praise Jesus Christ for His presence among us with His Holy Word and Sacraments. Pastor Aaron M. Filipek has been our pastor for 8 years. Zion Preschool continues to be a blessing for the community of Newton and has had an increase in students over the last couple years. As we look to the future, we pray that Christ would continue to strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to His salvation.”

**Zion Lutheran Church, Latimer** is at an exciting time for growth and new activities for its members. I think it is important that Zion Lutheran Church is growing and willing to make positive things happen in the community in which we worship. The congregation has come to the support of their pastor who was dealing with health issues and is now back in the pulpit to serve.

Zion Lutheran Church has increased from 4 to 10 people at a service to 26 for an average service attendance in 2017, and looking to increase even more in 2018. Members support the pastor teaching Confirmation class with food for our youth.

- Zion Lutheran now has increased the number of youth acolytes for the services each week.
- In 2017 Zion Lutheran had 5 confirmation youth and we have more to begin in Confirmation classes later.
- Zion has painted the basement of the church to make it more appealing to the members for service downstairs when it is so cold to heat the upstairs. The basement also looks a lot better for our guests that come to our annual Turkey Feed in October. We have had 66 years of Turkey Feed and 2018 will be 67.
- Zion has created a new Constitution that will allow the women of the congregation to vote and hold board positions as well.

These are the opportunities through which Zion Lutheran is making a difference and changing in the coming years for growth and service to the community around us.

**Our Redeemer, Herington** is served by Rev. Mark Lovett. Pastor Lovett and his family came to Our Redeemer from Concordia, Hoisington. Pastor Lovett has brought with him a passion for orthodox Lutheran theology and teaching as well as a renewed emphasis on liturgical worship to Our Redeemer. The congregation's outreach to the community of

Herington includes their pre-school which continues to operate at capacity as well as a weekly Communion service at the local nursing which is attended by 15 to 20 LCMS members who reside there from most of our congregations in the circuit. We look forward to his continued leadership of Our Redeemer as it moves forward in serving the Herington community. In addition to his parish duties Rev. Lovett and his wife Kristi have taken on the management of the District's Retreat Center located at Herington Lake. So, if you or your family would like to use the facility you now know who to contact. Information can be found on the District website.

The dual parish of **Immanuel, Shady Brook and St. John's, Lyons Creek** is served by Rev. Walter Gilkey. Rev. Gilkey continues to grow in the ministry and is a welcome addition to our circuit. He, like many of us, faces the challenge of declining membership in predominantly rural congregations. He has continued the Orphan Grain Train ministry started by his predecessor Rev. John Riebhoff and his wife Jennie. He has also instituted weekly Bible study, and they have started a men's group.

God has continued to bless the flock at **St. John's, Lincolnvillle** with the faithful delivery of His Word and Sacraments, now for over 140 years in this place. The congregation observed this milestone anniversary in 2017, with President Lange serving as guest preacher. A delightful meal was followed by a historical program arranged by one of our college students and with an ice cream social. During the early part of the triennium, St. John's became a TIM congregation for the first time, partnering with Rev. Jonathan Clausing, who serves in Kenya, and whose wife, Anita, is the granddaughter of long-time members of St. John's. We look forward to their visit to the congregation on the day after the conclusion of this year's Kansas District Convention.

Rev. Stahlecker also serves as the vacancy pastor for **Grace Lutheran Church, Strong City**. Grace, which is currently vacant but not calling, has a unique ministry that has allowed the congregation to grow and thrive. With strong lay leadership and the resources and assistance of retired pastors conducting Sunday morning worship, they have developed strong programs in Bible study, music, catechesis and community involvement. It is a joy to see the transformation of this congregation and what thinking "outside the box" can do in terms of ministry.

**Calvary Lutheran Church, Council Grove** is served by Rev. Adam Reichert. Rev. Reichert came to Council Grove from Hoxie and Hill City. He is a welcome addition to our circuit since the last convention. The lay leadership of the congregation has undergone a transition under his leadership, and like many of our small town/rural congregations they face the issues of finances and numbers. We are confident that under Pastor Reichert's care and guidance they will continue to be strong and mission minded.

**Our Savior's, Marion and Zion, Hillsboro** are served by the Rev. John Werner, who served them as a delayed vicar and then was ordained two years ago. He has brought new life and vitality to the congregations with his dedicated wife, Sarah, and their five children as well as his dedication and commitment to ministry. Bible study, outreach, youth activities, mission emphasis, music, and sound preaching and teaching have strengthened both these congregations. In addition, Zion dedicated its new Parish Hall on Palm Sunday, which means that restroom and kitchen facilities will be at ground level for the first time in the history of the congregation. This is a project that has been more than 20 years in the making.

**St. John's, Tampa and Trinity, Ramona** both continue to be strong and steady with slight growth at St. John's this past year. It has been my privilege to serve St. John's, Tampa since December of 1994 and Trinity, Ramona since 2001 as their pastor. Truly, it has been a blessing to serve these people that long. Parish education, community involvement, and mission activity continue to be the strong points of both congregations. On July 15 of this year, St. John's will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special festivities with President Lange as our guest preacher. Former pastors who have served the congregation since 1958 have been invited. It has also been my privilege to serve as the circuit visitor for all of the congregations in our circuit, and I look forward to my final three-year term.

### **Circuit 10 - Rev. Tom Harmon, Circuit Visitor**

#### **Peace Lutheran Church, Andover**

In the past three years, Peace Lutheran Church continues to be committed to the mission of sharing the love of Jesus to help people discover God's love. Highlights for the last three years include the following:

- Celebrated the ministry of Rev. Dean Von Stroh and his retirement
- Installed Pastor Jeff Geske in November 2016
- Continued to staff a fireworks tent to support the congregation's mission
- Installed a new sound system with TV screens to support our congregation's young and old in the participation of worship
- Purchased the Lutheran Service Book for the congregation's worship
- Completed a new pictorial directory

- Began new ministries and outreach opportunities in our community, such as a teacher luncheon for one of our local elementary schools

### **Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita**

Since the last district convention, Ascension, Wichita planted a new congregation in Pratt, KS, Ascension Lutheran Church, Pratt. We are now shifting our resources to strengthen the educational ministry of our Maple campus by adding classrooms and office space. Ascension's Open Arms Childcare Development Center remains at or near capacity, serving over 170 children. The Tyler campus preschool, which has served the community for over 50 years, is a strong and ably led ministry that is also functioning at near capacity, serving 70+ children. We continue to support Passageways!, a homeless veterans' ministry run by members of Ascension. We also maintain a close connection with the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania, having completed another mission trip in May of 2017. We have helped purchase land, complete church buildings, lay cornerstones and provide funding for students in evangelism school and pastor training.

### **Holy Cross, Wichita**

The Lord has continued to work powerfully through His Word and Sacraments here at Holy Cross throughout the last three years, and we are truly thankful for ALL His gracious blessings! (We thank God for the faithful preaching and teaching of His Word every week, the thousands who have communed at His altar, and the 91 children/infants and 13 adults [104 total] who have been received by Him through the waters of Baptism!) By the work of the Holy Spirit in and through His people at Holy Cross, it is our desire to "Strengthen the Saved and Reach the Lost," while "Cultivating Joyful and Generous Christian Stewards!"

The Elders are encouraging congregational members in their faith and growth in spiritual life. The Elders are carefully and faithfully contacting and encouraging, especially, our "less active" members, with very positive results!

Holy Cross Lutheran School has seen growth under the leadership of our principal, Mrs. Karen Boettcher, who was called within this last triennium. Current enrollment (Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) stands at a 10-year high of 240 students. Our school has received renewed accreditations from AdvancED, NLSA and the State of Kansas—the only school (public or private) in Kansas with all three accreditations!

Holy Cross congregation and members are "Blessed to be a Blessing!" We are thankful for having had the opportunity to host about 300 people for the 2015 Professional Church Workers Conference meal, worship service and opening sessions.

Two additional Holy Cross International Short-term Medical Mission trips (2016 and 2017), including 30 youth and adults, have traveled to our sister church, Divine Savior Lutheran Church and School, in Zacapa, Guatemala.

2017 marked an especially exciting year for the Holy Cross family as we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation! A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Core Committee spent an entire year (2016) making plans, setting dates and securing venues to implement a year-long calendar of celebratory activities under the theme of being "Rooted in the Word and Growing in Christ." Throughout the year, festivities included seven guest preachers (Revs. Jeff Crane, Pete Woodward, Ed Trost, Dr. Dale Meyer, Mark Kiessling, Dr. Cliff Winter and Dr. Paul Maier), who were invited to share God's word with us; five organ, handbell and choir cantatas were performed; a concert by Bread of Stone; several performances by the Wichita Grand Opera, including the opera "Noah's Flood"; a Germany Lutherland tour of Reformation sites; a church picnic and car show; and a huge "Blessings of Liberty" meal, concert, and fireworks which brought about 2000 guest and visitors to our campus on July 2.

The congregation is seriously considering the addition of a fourth worship service and the possibility of planting a daughter congregation. Further strategic planning continues while we are seeking God's guidance and blessings as we faithfully serve the Savior throughout the coming triennium and beyond.

To God Alone be the Glory!

### **Risen Savior, Wichita**

The past triennium has been an exciting time in the life of our Risen Savior congregation! Pastor Nick Cordt has been installed as Assistant Pastor, and the congregation has broken ground for a 4.2 million dollar building program to include a dedicated sanctuary and office space expansion, freeing current space for ministry usage and development. Our preschool, opened in 2015, is currently in reorganization during the construction. A preaching station has been opened in Valley Center under the direction of Pastor Terry Wiechman. These are the most visible changes in our ministries. Our congregation has an ever-expanding community outreach and developed relationships with several community partners: Gammon Elementary (recently reclassified as a Title I school), Sedgwick County Fire Station #37,

The Wichita Children's Home, The "Bridges" Program and the clients and staff at CrossOver Recovery Center, an addiction recovery program, in downtown Wichita. Currently, we sponsor the ministry efforts of three missionaries in Guinea, Africa. In addition, we continue to send service and ministry teams to support and expand the work of our sister congregations at Mt. Calvary in Grants, NM and at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in the Navajo nation with Rev. Tim Norton. Over the triennium, we have been blessed to sponsor two "Numana" food packing events, raising over \$55,000 to pack over 183,000 meals, which were sent to support the work of Mission of Hope in Haiti, to feed and educate children in need.

The ministries of the **Lutheran Student Center** have expanded dramatically. With the remodel and opening of Fairmount Coffee Company, the ministries have exploded. Under the direction of Rev. Dr. John Tape and DCE Paige Edgington, who were officially installed this triennium, God continues to work His wonderment. As a circuit, we bid farewell to Rev. Jeff Duncan from St. Andrew, who has moved to Nebraska. **St. Andrew, Wichita** is currently seeking the next shepherd God has prepared for them. **Grace, El Dorado** and **Christ, Augusta** are working toward a dual parish agreement.

### **Circuit 11 - Rev. Tom Johnson, Circuit Visitor**

#### **St. John Lutheran Church, Nashville**

St. John membership remains stable and has several younger families with children who have revitalized the Sunday School, both youth and adult. The congregation continues to promote the use of its fellowship hall to the community and surrounding area as a means of outreach to bring people to St. John and our Lutheran faith and practices. The most recent addition was the refurbishment and installation of the 12-rank pipe organ that was received as a gift from Trinity Lutheran Church of Glencoe, IL. This has greatly enhanced our worship. We periodically hold recitals with various organists, musicians, and choirs to provide additional outreach to the community. Internet access is now available, and St. John hopes to become a host for video conferences and webinars.

#### **Trinity Lutheran, Medicine Lodge**

Trinity membership also remains stable, but the congregation has very few families with children, which is an ongoing concern as the community itself continues to decline. The facility improvements have helped with access for the older members and for visitors. The next facility improvement is for improved parking and easier ingress into the facility as the congregation reaches out into the community through evangelism and outreach programs.

#### **St. Paul's, Cheney**

St. Paul's Cheney is a very vibrant and active congregation. Our ministry is centered on Christ and His Word and Sacraments. We also have many active ministries taking place. We continue to run a pre-school ministry called In His Hands with an enrollment of 27, a Lutheran Day School ministry with an enrollment of 32 K-8 students, and a Before & After childcare ministry called R.E.A.L. Kids with an enrollment of 60 K-5 students. We have taken some time in the last several years to reflect on our ministry and do some visioning for the future. Through this process our congregation adopted a new mission statement: Faithfully Worshipping Christ, Growing Disciples, Sharing the Gospel, Serving Others; All by God's Grace. We have also made changes to our confirmation program, seeking to implement a more rigorous holistic approach with more involvement from parents. Part of this revised approach includes early communion as well. With the help of Lutherans for Life we have formed our own Life Team at St. Paul's. We have also become a partner in mission with Missionary Daniel Conrad as he serves the people of Mexico.

**Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Winfield** continues in its commitment to share the Gospel in all of its varied activities. From the Word and Sacrament ministry and active Sunday School and Bible classes to daily staff and classroom devotions, chapel worship, and mid-week Bible study opportunities we encourage one another to be in the Word so that we are equipped to live by the Word. Our new sound system and video screens have been a blessing in sharing the liturgy and hymns of our heritage. The school has used them to keep their annual musical, Christmas program, and other presentations for the parents and community on campus.

We are blessed with an active lay leadership. From the Board of Elders to the Administrative Council our boards and committees are working in tandem and supporting one another in our ongoing efforts to use the gifts and talents that God has provided for the work He has given us in this place and time. We look to the challenges that an aging congregation faces as opportunities to engage our younger members to step into leadership roles. Future plans include the enhancement of building security, a project to upgrade the heating and cooling system of our sanctuary, and facility improvements that will serve the needs of generations to come.

The congregation at **St. Paul, Preston** continues to acknowledge with thanksgiving the bountiful blessings the Lord has given through His Word and Sacraments over 118 years. The Savior calls and gathers our members from three counties in south central Kansas each week to our rural church building to serve us with His grace. We have also been given the privilege and opportunity to broadcast our Sunday morning worship over a local radio station, and we are pleased to learn that this provides the opportunity to many in our area to hear regular Gospel proclamation. Our congregation is blessed

with active Ladies' (LWML) and men's (LLL) groups which continue to serve our congregation in many ways, as well as supporting the mission of the church at large. There is annual anticipation on the part of youth members of St. Paul—also adults—who look forward to attending Higher Things Youth Conferences at various locations across the country. Our congregation was one of several in the Kansas District that was affected by changing boundaries of various circuits throughout the state as of our 2015 District Convention. Our former Circuit 14 is no longer in existence, but we have been welcomed into Circuit 11. We prayerfully look forward to the many and various ways through which the gracious God will sustain and uphold His church in this place for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ.

### **Faith Lutheran Church & School in Derby**

Our congregation remains faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to His sacraments. Sunday morning attendance has remained stable over the past three years. We still maintain a pre-school with 100 plus children and an elementary school with 32 children. The congregation will be coming up on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Our expansive facilities are well maintained by a dedicated group of willing volunteers. In a few years we hope to retire the mortgage on our education/school building, which was a debt of about \$800,000 back in 2005. We are involved with mission and ministry in many traditional ways, such as Vacation Bible School, bell choir and vocal choirs, social ministry with the Lord's Diner in Wichita, as well as Lutheran World Relief, LWML, LHM, youth group activities, weekly Bible studies, and of course adult and youth catechesis. By the grace of God through His Son Jesus Christ, we will continue with this faithful ministry. May God continue to bless our efforts in mysterious ways!

### **Calvary Lutheran Church, Wellington**

Calvary Lutheran has a core community of faithful worshipers who live in Wichita, Harper, Belle Plaine, Mulvane, as well as in the hometown of Wellington. Attendance in worship has decreased slightly in the past year. The LMWL group is active in community projects as well as helping with church activities. There are several volunteer Sunday school teachers, but few school age children anymore. Giving has increased slightly from year to year in the past three years, and expenses have decreased, alleviating financial worries. The congregation plans to study the Synod's evangelism program, *Every One His Witness*, after Easter. Word and Sacrament ministry is the center of the church's life.

### **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City**

Redeemer Lutheran Church's long-time (28+ years) pastor, Rev. Mark Boxman, accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina in November. Rev. William Wingfield, pastor to Calvary Lutheran Church in Wellington, is serving as vacancy pastor. Redeemer is blessed with an active and faithful elder's board which is also the core of the call committee. The congregation is proceeding patiently with the call process, with the guidance and encouragement of Circuit Visitor Thomas Johnson and District President Peter Lange. Redeemer has an active youth group which is going to attend the Higher Things conference in Lawrence in July. The congregation has outreach programs to the disabled community, a food donation ministry, and Hispanic outreach in the form of ELL classes, which were put on hold in December. The congregation is supportive of the ministry and seeks to grow in knowledge of Christ and the life of the faithful.

### **Grace, Wichita**

The saints at Grace regularly gather around our Lord's gifts. They receive His Word of sins forgiven both in the Divine Service as well as in regularly offered Private Absolution. They hear the preaching of the Gospel and they revive the Word made Flesh in Holy Communion every Lord's Day, as well as other feasts and festivals. Divine Services are Sundays at 8 a.m. as well as at 2 p.m. *en Español*, and every Wednesday at 11 a.m., with Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Matins is prayed at 9 a.m. every Monday to Friday. Sunday Bible Study is at 9:30 a.m. and alternates between Grace (even months) and Trinity (odd months). Catechism classes for all ages are held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Wednesday evenings, and are followed by Wednesday Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Our congregation weekly serves the local community with a food pantry, regularly providing meals to the poor. We also serve at the local soup kitchen (*The Lord's Diner*). We have a large clothing drive annually in August, where hundreds receive free clothing. Food baskets are distributed to the poor during Thanksgiving, while Christmas gifts and clothes are passed out during Christmas. We have an active Ladies Guild that helps coordinate our big meals. We support our missionaries Daniel and Katherine Conrad in Mexico City, as well as Roy and Eliza Askins in Hong Kong. We continue to host the annual Lutheran Lecture Series, which offers lectures from a seminary professor and is attended by clergy and laity alike (4/21/18). Grace is excited about the possibility of hosting the new *Concordia Academy – Wichita: A Lutheran Liberal Arts 6-12 School*, which hopes to open in the fall of 2019. Our Pastor, Rev. Geoffrey Boyle, has been with us since August 2010, along with his wife, Nicole, and their five children.

### **Trinity, Wichita**

The saints at Trinity regularly gather around our Lord's gifts in a quaint neighborhood setting. They receive His Word of sins forgiven both in the Divine Service as well as in regularly offered Private Absolution. They hear the preaching of the Gospel and they receive the Word made Flesh in Holy Communion every Lord's Day, as well as other feasts and festivals. Divine Service is at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Sunday Bible Study is at 9:30 a.m. and alternates between Grace (even months) and Trinity (odd months). Catechism classes for all ages are held at Trinity with Grace on Wednesday evenings, and are followed by Wednesday Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Our congregation actively serves the local community by providing light sack lunches to day laborers. We also regularly serve at the local soup kitchen (*The Lord's Diner*). We hold an annual Fall



Festival for the neighborhood, including Trunk-or-Treat, games for the kids, and snacks for all. We have an active Ladies Guild and a monthly Bunco gathering for women. We support our missionaries Daniel and Katherine Conrad in Mexico City, as well as Roy and Eliza Askins in Hong Kong. Our Pastor, Rev. Geoffrey Boyle, has been with us since August 2010, along with his wife, Nicole, and their five children.

### **Circuit 12 - Rev. Dale Dumperth, Circuit Visitor**

The Lord has blessed the congregations and pastors of Circuit 12 abundantly since the last district convention. God's word is purely preached and His sacraments rightly administered, saving and sustaining souls in the heart of Kansas during times of change. Of the nine congregations comprising Circuit 12, six have seen changes in the pastoral office in the last triennium.

In Salina, the two LCMS churches continue to do well through the many blessings God has granted them through His means of grace.

Senior Pastor Shawn Deterding of **Trinity, Salina** accepted a call to Texas in June of 2016. Pastor Dennis Kootz, who was installed at Trinity in May of 2015, continued to serve faithfully during the vacancy, rejoicing—with the saints of Trinity!—when Pastor Mark Boxman was installed as senior pastor in December of 2017. Trinity is excited at the opportunities to proclaim the Gospel that the Lord has provided them.

At **Christ the King, Salina**, Pastor Calvin Reinke continues to serve the saints placed under his care. Christ the King flourishes under the stability provided by the steady hand of Pastor Reinke. Christ the King is known as a gracious and loving congregation as they support their pastors during time of need.

Members at **Grace, McPherson**, continue to be fed in Word and Sacrament ministry through the pastoral leadership of Pastor Dale Dumperth. Pastor Dumperth has completed one term as circuit visitor and has consented to serve a second term following the 2018 district convention.

**St. John, Ellinwood**, grieved at the death of Pastor Jeff Frakes as he departed this vale of tears in June of 2015. They give thanks to God for the certainty of Jesus' return and the resurrection of all flesh. During the vacancy caused by the death of Pastor Frakes, Kenton Abbott began the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program in 2016 with a desire to serve both St. John and Grace, Lyons. Pastor Thomas Thierfelder was installed at St. John, Ellinwood, in January 2016 and serves both St. John and Grace, Lyons.

**Grace, Lyons**, joined their sister congregation, St. John, Ellinwood, in grief when Pastor Jeff Frakes departed from this vale of tears. While St. John, Ellinwood, and Grace, Lyons, are not officially a "dual parish," they function as one. Pastor Thierfelder and Vicar Abbott both serve Grace, continuing the relationship begun by Pastor Frakes. During the vacancy created at **Immanuel, Canton**, by the call of Pastor Seth Meyer to Nebraska in 2014, Vicar Brent Horne was placed at Immanuel in 2015 to serve a one-year vicarage. At the conclusion of his vicarage Pastor Horne was ordained into the office of the Holy Ministry and installed as pastor of Immanuel in June of 2016. He was warmly welcomed into the brotherhood of our circuit ministerium. The Saints of Immanuel seek to evangelize the lost and erring around them and welcome them into the community of the baptized.

**St. John, Moundridge**, has been served by Pastor Ron Rather since September of 2015, following the Rev. Richard Andrus who retired from the ministry. St. John is a source of stability in the Moundridge community and a house of God where the Word is truly preached and the sacraments administered, to the glory of God. May the Lord open many ears to hear!

**Our Redeemer, Hutchinson:** DCE Henry Blickhahn became Pastor Henry Blickhahn when he was ordained and installed in the office of the ministry as a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) in June 2015 after completing two years of studies and service as a vicar. Sr. Pastor Chad Trunkhill and his wife Brenda, who served as director of the Early Learning Center (ELC), accepted calls to California in August of 2017. The ELC is well received within the Hutchinson community. Our Redeemer is eagerly seeking to discover through the call process the senior pastor whom God has chosen in His mercy to serve them.

**St. Paul, Haven** continues to be served by Pastor Russell Bonine. St. Paul's and Pastor Bonine seek to revitalize the faith of current members and to proclaim the truth to those around them. Pastor Bonine was ordained and installed at St. Paul in August of 2009, making him the second longest serving pastor in Circuit 12. He will have served nine years this summer.

Circuit 12 gives thanks to our Lord of grace and mercy who won salvation for lost and condemned sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ. We lift our hearts as one in thanks for the many blessings He has given to the congregations,

leaders, and members. Unified, we embrace the opportunity to proclaim Christ crucified and risen to our communities. May the Lord continue to bless us in years to come through Jesus Christ, our Lord!

### **Circuit 13 - Rev. Luke Brown, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 13 has changed greatly since the last Kansas District convention. Because of the realignment of circuits that involved the elimination of one circuit, many of the present churches were not part of Circuit 13 then, and Pastor Matt Schneider is the only holdover from 2015 still serving in the circuit who was in Circuit 13 then.

The circuit is blessed with many young and enthusiastic pastors, several of whom still came to the circuit with experience and ideas from other places. When Circuit Visitor Pastor Mark Lovett accepted the call to serve Our Redeemer, Herington, Pastor Luke Brown, a refugee from Circuit 4, was appointed to finish the term and was later elected.

As a circuit project in cooperation with Circuit 7, a **church is being planted in Concordia**. North Central Kansas has long been seen as part of a large church desert. Demographic studies showed a high percentage that identified as LCMS Lutherans, even though there was no LCMS church closer than 40 miles away. Worship services started in late 2017 following several months of Bible studies. The church has been served by a team of four pastors with assistance from others. Worship has been held at 2 p.m. Sundays with a Bible class following at a storefront church building in downtown Concordia. The church is a satellite of Zion, Downs, with Pastor Jason Toombs providing oversight and pastoral care. After only a few months, attendance has been averaging 8 to 10 and the first adult education class had 12 members. The church members are enthusiastic and taking leadership and ownership of their church and are looking at ways to grow and reach out into the community. Those involved in leading worship and starting the church are learning about the opportunities and challenges of planting a church in a rural and small town context as they go along and are willing to offer advice to others who are interested in starting new churches. It is an exciting and scary venture.

**Zion, Downs**, served by Pastor Toombs, is enjoying its new fellowship hall, built by church members. The spacious and attractive addition is used not only for church activities but for community events and organizations. Zion celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and held a Vacation Bible School on Monday evenings in July. They had a float in the parade.

**St. Paul's, Ellsworth** welcomed Jim Judson as its new pastor in 2015 soon after the last convention. The parsonage underwent extensive renovation before he came. Pastor Judson is offering a support group for parents of special needs children. St. Paul's observed LWML Sunday to help support its active LWML and had a successful VBS.

**Concordia, Hoisington** celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in that location in 2017. Before Pastor Gary Wolf accepted the call to serve Concordia, the parsonage was renovated. Concordia has had successful VBS programs and is working on community outreach.

Pastor Dan Harders has served in the new Circuit 13 longer than anyone else, serving **Zion, Claflin** and **St. Peter, Holyrood** for nearly seven years. Both churches have offered Blessing Boxes in their communities, boxes where people can get necessities without charge. St. Peter handed out water at parades and had successful VBS programs. St. Peter hosted the summer lunch program for youth in the community and plans to do it again this year.

**Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove** hosted a display from the Creation Instruction Association during the Lincoln County Fair. The museum-quality display was hosted in a renovated semi-truck trailer and was visited by at least 400 during several days. Brian Young had several presentations with more than 200 people attending on hot July evenings. Bethlehem also served ice cream and peach cobbler during the county fair.

Pastor Chris Craig has had three adult education classes as of early 2018. Bethlehem has started a Wednesday evening worship service. Bethlehem continues with a successful midweek program and an active youth group, both also attended by many people from the community who are not Lutherans. As a witnessing project, the youth refurbished a large cross on a hillside outside of town. It is very visible to those driving. Bethlehem continues many other activities that have served the community in many ways, including Christmas benevolence.

Bethlehem hosted the Circuit 13 Reformation service as part of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Several circuit pastors participated in the service and there are plans for a circuit-wide Reformation service every year.

**Grace, Larned** and **Our Saviour, Great Bend** formed a dual parish and were pleased when Nicholas Martinez was assigned to them. With the arrival of Pastor Martinez, Pastor Garry Dassow retired (again—and this time he means it!) from Our Saviour after more than 20 years of faithful and dedicated service. Grace was served by vicar Adam Barkley in 2016. Grace is active in the community, especially as a collection site for Orphan Grain Train. Grace is also active in the food pantry and other community ministries. Grace members serve at the community movie theater once a month. Our Saviour has started community outreach efforts including a worship service at a nearby nursing home. Pastor Martinez

also leads worship at a Larned nursing home. Our Saviour and Grace have a joint LWML that has been active. Both churches are actively and aggressively looking at more community service and outreach projects. Attendance has started to increase, and both churches are hopeful they can continue to grow. They hosted an “Engaging Your Community” workshop from Rural and Small Town Ministry.

**St. John, Lincoln**, served by Pastor Dan Siebert, continues its successful midweek program that buses young people from town to the church. The program includes youth who are not members of the church. St. John continues an active youth group that has gone on summer mission trips. The church celebrated its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Pastor Siebert offers Bible classes in Lincoln several times during the month.

**St. Paul, Lincoln** (Westfall), was served by Pastor Scot Kerns until March when he accepted the call to serve as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. This country church has a history of pastors who have gone on to impressive service. St. Paul had a successful VBS and continues to look at ways to serve their families and the area.

**Immanuel, Ellsworth** has been active in many ways. Pastor Luke Brown had a weekly worship service at the Hoeger Chapel on the Good Samaritan retirement village campus, which has been an Immanuel ministry since 2014. He is helping facilitate a monthly Alzheimer’s Support Group and is leading a monthly Rejoicing Spirits worship service for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities and those impacted by that. Immanuel is busy raising funds to obtain a Comfort Dog through Lutheran Church Charities. Immanuel is concentrating on growing and developing its successful midweek program and continues its very successful annual soup supper, which raises money for missions. Immanuel’s LWML continues to be active. The church has a strong history of mission and outreach and is hoping to continue some of those while looking for new ways to impact the community with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Matt Schneider had previously served **Trinity, Hunter** and **St. John, Lincoln** but “retired” and was later called to serve Trinity. Serving Trinity, Hunter part time has been a good fit for him and for the church, and it has not only stabilized but is growing in this model of ministry. It also serves the community in many ways, including an annual spaghetti dinner.

Earlier, it was reported that Pastor Garry Dassow, Hoisington, has largely retired from leading worship. Pastor Lloyd Sprick, Holyrood, also has mostly retired from leading worship. However, both godly servants continue to be constant voices of encouragement and support and models of dedicated and faithful ministry. We are grateful for their decades of ministry, continuing to reap harvest from seeds they nurtured, and are always thankful to see them. May God continue to bless these good and faithful servants.

This circuit has experienced quite a bit of change in the past three years and is hoping for more stability in the future even as we continue to look for ways to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, who never changes, in the midst of our changing rural and small town mission fields. Change can bring discomfort, and many of the circuit churches have undergone some tough times. But the circuit has a good attitude as we face the opportunities and challenges of the future.

### **Circuit 15 - Rev. Michael Schmidt, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 15 welcomed First, Plainville, Peace, Natoma, and Messiah, Hays to its ranks as part of circuit realignment completed at the last district convention. After Rev. Tim Lewlynn took a call to Nebraska, Rev. Michael Schmidt was appointed circuit visitor. During the triennium, the circuit said good-bye to Rev. Tim Lewlynn and Rev. Adam Riechart and welcomed Rev. Rocco Mallardi and Rev. Michael Brockman. During 2017, the circuit celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by hosting a showing of *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World* at the Hays AMC Theater on February 23; also on October 21, the circuit hosted Dr. Gerhard Bode of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis for a Circuit Convocation attended by about 70 people at First Lutheran, Phillipsburg.

### **Messiah Lutheran, Hays**

In the last three years in the life in the Body of Christ at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, we have welcomed 18 souls into the kingdom of God through the water of Baptism, confirmed 32 souls, welcomed 25 souls as transfers into the congregation and transferred out 10 souls. We have also walked four souls home to see Jesus. During this time we have called our new pastor, and we have opened a new position here in the congregation as we welcomed our first Director of Christian Education.

### **First Lutheran, Plainville**

At First Lutheran, the Word of God continues to be proclaimed and the Sacraments rightly administered. The congregation remains active despite being relatively small compared to other churches in the community. The LWML continues to raise awareness of various mission projects, helping both those local and those beyond the county lines. An annual soup supper is held, with participation from the entire congregation. The congregation celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation through various Bible studies and bulletin inserts. Pastor Michael Schmidt has been serving Plainville as part of a dual parish with Peace, Natoma for 4 years now.

### **Peace Lutheran, Natoma**

At Peace Lutheran, the Word of God continues to be proclaimed and the Sacraments rightly administered. The congregation continues to be a strong voice for life in all stages from conception to natural death, even in the midst of a steady decline in attendance as the community experiences the pains of being a small town in western Kansas. Peace Youth Group holds an annual soup supper, a primary fundraiser in preparation for attending the National Youth Gathering. A revitalized *Lutherans For Life* group once again hosted Brian Young of Creation Instruction Association. The Guild continues to meet regularly, tying quilts for mission, and always willing to serve when needed. The congregation celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation through various Bible studies and bulletin inserts. Pastor Michael Schmidt has been serving Natoma for 10 years now.

### **Immanuel Lutheran, Norton**

Over the past three years, the members of Immanuel have done a good job of inviting others to hear the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. These efforts have combined with a strong children's ministry and excellent facilities to increase baptized membership by 37 people over the past three years. Communicant membership is up 19, and average weekly attendance has increased from 75 to 92. The Lord of the Church has indeed blessed the proclamation of the Gospel in Norton.

The number of children in the congregation has resulted in vibrant Sunday School and Wednesday after-school programs. Immanuel is grateful to the many teachers who volunteer their time to nurture the faith of the young people in the congregation. In 2017, Immanuel completed a parking lot project, turning a worn-out mess of millings into a nice, concrete parking lot and driveways. Twice during the last three years, Immanuel had the opportunity to provide consolation to students and teachers of local school districts at the untimely death of two different teachers. Immanuel arranged to have a district comfort dog available to the schools as they mourned the loss of these teachers.

Immanuel continues to be served by Rev. Rick Rostek, who is in his 17<sup>th</sup> year of service to the congregation.

### **Redeemer Lutheran, Atwood**

Redeemer Lutheran continues to be served by Rev. Tim McCall. The congregation worships every Saturday evening and Sunday morning and has weekly Bible study. The congregation is making a very conscious effort to make these services and studies available to a wider audience through streaming on social media. The congregation also puts on an annual Christmas concert, highlighting the many musical gifts of the members. Local tragedies in summer 2017 allowed for a wonderful witness of God's love, grace and mercy to the members of the community. The Little Saints preschool continues to thrive and provide a witness to the community.

### **St. John Lutheran, Oberlin**

St. John's Lutheran Church in Oberlin has been greatly blessed in the last three years. We have installed an elevator, put on a new roof on our education building, allowed our parsonage to be used for a county day care center, participated in a community VBS in the summer, offered a six-week mid-week elementary Christian education program called Kids In Christ Kingdom in the spring and fall, offered a community-wide Thanksgiving dinner with a free-will offering, with all proceeds going to the county food pantry, had our senior high LYF participate in volunteering at the concession stand in the community theater, participated at the food booth in the county fair, sponsored Thrivent fundraisers for the community movie theater and county food pantry. We established a "Shepherding Program" for remaining connected to our members. For the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we participated in the Circuit Convention in Philipsburg and hosted Dr. Gerhard Bode from the St. Louis Seminary.

### **Trinity Lutheran, Colby**

During the past triennium, the congregation rejoiced in a son of the congregation, Reed Shoaff, graduating from seminary. The congregation also rejoices in their ongoing support of Dr. Geir as an African missionary. Also, after several years of supporting Amos Bolay, the congregation encouraged and now supports his son, J. Bolay, who is studying at Concordia University in Seward. As ministry opportunities abound in Colby, the congregation is also looking at calling a DCE intern. Rev. Bob Alexander continues to serve the congregation.

### **Grace Lutheran, Hill City**

The congregation at Grace-Hill City continues to serve Hill City community through a small but dedicated group of people. The congregation is involved in social ministry efforts through the local food pantry, Dawson Place nursing care, and the ministerial alliance.

Grace had been served by Immanuel-Hoxie pastor Rev. Adam Reichart until he took a call late in 2015. The congregation was then served by retired pastor Rev. Larry McDermott for a year. In November of 2016, Grace asked Immanuel-Norton pastor Rev. Rick Rostek to serve them with Word and Sacrament, and he has served the congregation since that time.

### **First Lutheran, Phillipsburg**

We at First Lutheran in Phillipsburg have been thankful for the Lord's blessings these past three years. New babies to baptize into the kingdom of God. Weddings celebrated and anniversaries celebrated and rejoiced. In 2017, two events come to mind. On October 21, we were able to host the Circuit 15 500th Anniversary Reformation Celebration. We were able to host and facilitate Dr. Gerhard Bode from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. We had a worship service in the afternoon, then he shared "*Martin Luther's Reformation: Bringing God's Word to God's People*," which was very informative and well received. An evening meal was shared before our guests left for their homes. Truly a great afternoon with God's people. On November 12th, we celebrated 10 years in our new sanctuary and 30 years in our fellowship hall. Rev. Keith Kohlmeier preached for the occasion, and we gave thanks for all of God's gracious blessing through the years. God is good and we are thankful for his love and blessings. (Pastor Joel Hiesterman)

### **First St. John Lutheran, Kensington**

First Saint John Lutheran Church, Kensington, Kansas stands on Highway #36, the main artery across north central Kansas. The church serves a rural/small town area of declining population. Twenty-five years ago, the Kensington population was over 700 but now is just under 400 residents. The church serves a largely agriculture-related and aging population. Still, the congregation does not reflect the area decline but continues to thrive in rural/small town ministry. In the last three years we completed a feasibility study regarding a project of sanctuary expansion or construction. The project remains in discussion and investigation of alternatives in construction. We also updated all of our electronic equipment, church technology, sound system, video capabilities, and service recording opportunities throughout both the sanctuary and the parish hall for a profound improvement in our worship possibilities.

The First Saint John Preschool continues to draw children from the area communities and has a full roster of students, many of whom are not members at First Saint John. The church has also operated an after-school program for K - 5th grade students called "Christian Faith and Fun." Every Wednesday afternoon, we have around 30 children attending and eight adult leaders who carry the program. CFF provides Christian Education to our area children, with only 1/3 of them being of member families. In some ways CFF has replaced the traditional Sunday School program on Sunday mornings. Regular Sunday School attendance has declined, but the number of children attending CFF remains constant and growing. We do semi-annual church planning events through which new ideas for outreach, mission, and service possibilities are lifted up and set as goals for the next 2 - 5 years. This dreaming and planning has brought very helpful results for First Saint John. Overall, we enjoy continuing to serve in obscurity: rural/small town - remote, Kansas.

### **Immanuel Lutheran, Hoxie**

After Rev. Adam Reichart served Immanuel for 12 years, he took a call to Council Grove. After a year of vacancy, Immanuel formed a dual parish with Immanuel Lutheran, Oakley, and on Saturday, April 8, 2017, Immanuel, Hoxie hosted the installation of Rev. Michael Brockman as the pastor of the two Immanuels, Hoxie and Oakley. It was the day before Palm Sunday. Hoxie has worship at 9 a.m. each Sunday. Pastor Brockman spends Tuesdays and Thursdays at Hoxie, with a Thursday evening Bible Study begun in May. As Pastor Brockman lives in Oakley, the parsonage in Hoxie was sold in 2017.

### **Immanuel Lutheran, Oakley**

After Rev. Tim Lwellyn served Immanuel for 14 years, he took a call to a dual parish outside of Seward, Nebraska. After a year of vacancy, Immanuel formed a dual parish with Immanuel Lutheran, Hoxie, and on Saturday, April 8, 2017, Rev. Michael Brockman was installed a pastor of the two Immanuels – Hoxie and Oakley. It was the day before Palm Sunday. Oakley has worship at 11AM each Sunday. Pastor Brockman spends Wednesday and Friday in Oakley, with a Bible Study on Friday morning. Oakley has seven catechumens. Those seven meet for lunch (a different mother providing a light meal) and then study after the Sunday Divine Service. In October, Oakley hosted a Reformation meal and panel discussion at the Buffalo Bill Cultural Center.

### **Circuit 16 - Rev. Andy Wehling, Circuit Visitor**

Spread across nearly 15,000 square miles of southwest Kansas, the 12 congregations of Circuit 16 minister to 2,252 baptized members, gathered around and by the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament.

Rev. Kurt Hering resigned as pastor of Christ, Elkhart and Faith, Hugoton on December 10, 2016. The vacancy was served by Rev. Dennis Mason (retired) and Rev. Patrick Gumz, both of Ulysses.

Rev. Ervin Daugherty was installed as pastor of **Christ, Elkhart** on July 1, 2017. The congregation is small but doing well and reaching out to their community. In addition to the Sunday service, a Bible class and ladies' Bible class are being offered.

Due to declining attendance, **Faith Lutheran, Hugoton** closed on December 17, 2017 after nearly sixty years of Word and Sacrament ministry. The property has been sold. Members are being transferred to neighboring congregations.

**Grace, Ulysses and Immanuel, Lakin** are served by Rev. Patrick Gumz. Sunday worship services, Bible classes, and service/outreach opportunities are offered at each congregation.

**Holy Cross, Scott City** is served by Rev. Warren Prochnow. A Sunday worship service, adult Bible class, and Sunday School are offered. The congregation has constructed a new parish hall to better facilitate the gatherings of the church and offer a place for members of the community to gather for personal events.

Due to declining attendance, **St. Luke, Bazine** closed on June 25, 2017 after 111 years of Word and Sacrament ministry. After careful review of finances and attendance, **Trinity, Garden City** made the difficult decision to reduce staff by eliminating the position of DCE for Youth Ministry held by Leland Jackson for the past twenty years. On January 7, 2018, Rev. Michael Hageman was installed as pastor. Cynthia Lavrenz continues to serve as DCE for Family Ministry. Ministry opportunities have included mission trips for all ages, Stephen Ministry, youth camps, preschool, and a quilting group. An average of 175 children attend their annual Vacation Bible School.

In October of 2016, **La Santa Cruz Hispanic congregation in Garden City** closed due to lack of membership. **Grace, Liberal** is served by Rev. Andrew Wehling. Sunday morning Bible class and worship services are offered each week. During the school year, a midweek meal, worship service, and Bible classes are made available to the congregation and community. A women's Bible study and quilting group are also available. Outreach to the community includes a Trunk-or-Treat event that reaches around 400 children and their families each year, as well as a Vacation Bible School each summer.

On July 16, 2017 Rev. Lynn Spencer retired after 36 years of service (his entire career) as pastor of **St. John, Meade**. The congregation is now served by Intentional Interim Pastor Rocky Mease. The call process for a new pastor has begun. The congregation enjoys an active youth group ministry, including many non-member youth. Rev. Mease also leads Sunday evening worship services at Peace in Beaver, Oklahoma.

**Holy Cross, Dodge City** and **St. Paul, Jetmore** are served by Rev. Randy Jahnke. In the summer of 2016, Holy Cross welcomed DCE intern Erika Troester. Upon completion of the internship, Erika accepted a call from Holy Cross and was installed as DCE on August 20, 2017.

**Our Redeemer, Kinsley** and **Zion, Offerle** are served by Rev. Stan Palmer. Zion's Ladies Aid continues to make quilts each month; many of these quilts are donated to Orphan Grain Train. Zion also had a new steel roof installed on the church building in February. Our Redeemer has a long-standing annual pancake and sausage feed which draws large crowds each year. The Mary-Martha Guild hosts an annual soup supper and silent auction to raise financial support for local charities.

**Peace, Greensburg** meets weekly for worship and Bible study. The congregation was served for several years by Rev. Merlyn Lohrke of Cunningham. The congregation is currently served by Rev. Marvin Barz of Cheney. Peace is in the process of completing a self-study as they review options for the future.

Our Circuit Forum meets twice a year. Our pastors meet monthly during the school year. On November 12, 2017, a Circuit Reformation Festival was held at Holy Cross in Dodge City. The Sunday afternoon/evening event included a worship service with communion, plenary presentation, workshops, CPH display, and dinner. President Peter Lange of the Kansas District served as preacher. Cantor Paul Soulek of St. John, Seward, Nebraska served as organist. Dr. Erik Herrmann of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis was our speaker.

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## Missions and Stewardship

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### Board of Missions

Dave Bruns, Chair, Dave Meisinger, Rich Schotte, Rev. Scott Snow, Rev. Dan Galchutt (advisory)

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the Board of Missions!

The convention theme of "Life Together in Mission" is very appropriate in light of our activity over the last triennium. The Board of Missions and the Board of Directors have worked on establishing partnerships with the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) and Mission Central/LCMS Advancement for French-speaking West Africa. The purpose of these collaborative agreements is to build upon and expand the Guinea Partnership established at the 1997 Kansas District Convention, with the goals of increasing communication, cooperation, awareness, and support for this important mission work. These partnerships will also enable the Kansas District to continue supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ in Guinea and the surrounding region.

The wonderful support that the members of the Kansas District have given to the Pentecost offering demonstrates the importance of our life together in mission. With your gifts, we have raised support for students from Guinea to pursue seminary education at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo. This effort is vital for mission work in the region and for the long-term health of the Guinean Lutheran Church! Thank you to all who have participated in this effort. If you'd like to know more about opportunities to support our mission work in West Africa, Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, our Mission Development Counselor through Mission Central, would be happy to speak with you.

Of course, our primary mission field is right here in Kansas. As such, our new Kansas District Mission Executive, Rev. Dan Galchutt, is available and would be happy to visit with you or your congregation about opportunities to serve the mission of Christ Jesus in Kansas. Rev. Galchutt was called to be the Assistant to the District President for Missions and Stewardship in August of 2016. Since that time, he has traveled throughout the District, visiting congregations to discuss various mission projects that the District can support. If you would like to talk to him about any of these opportunities or are interested in learning more about resources that are available to assist in the mission of your congregation, please contact Rev. Galchutt.

Two promising resources for evangelism and revitalization are the Synod's *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* programs. *Every One His Witness* is a video-based program and Bible study available through Concordia Publishing House. The material takes about six hours to cover and can be used for a one-day workshop or six weekly Bible studies. The program encourages and equips individuals to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.

The *re:Vitality* program focuses on a congregation's shared work of outreach and engagement in the community. The first workshop, "Connect to Disciple," helps congregations consider and plan their approach to outreach. This two-day video-based workshop is led by a trained facilitator, who then follows up with coaching support. Additional workshops for the *re:Vitality* program focus on reaching inactive members and strategic planning, with many more workshops in development.

*Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* are very affordable. To encourage congregations to use these resources, the Board of Missions has designated funds to help congregations pay for either or both of these programs. The money comes from dollars that the Board of Directors allocates for mission grants in the District. In 2018, 10% of congregational receipts have been earmarked for mission grants in the District. In addition to the programs mentioned above, mission grants support campus ministry, Hispanic ministry, special mission projects of congregations, mission trips, and much more. Grant requests are received in the fall and are finalized at the winter meeting of the Board of Directors each year.

These grants also support church planting efforts. We rejoice that a sister congregation was officially planted during this triennium! Ascension Lutheran Church in Pratt was chartered as a congregation in the summer of 2017. Ascension, Pratt is a daughter congregation of Ascension, Wichita, which did most of the work to establish the newest congregation in the Kansas District. In addition, several congregations, pastors, and lay members have started efforts to plant an LCMS congregation in Concordia, where there is no LCMS congregation for 30-plus miles. The Board of Missions rejoices over these church planting efforts, and we offer our support as well as our prayers.

To increase our ability to support mission work in Kansas, a fund has been created with a generous gift from the estate of Rev. Dr. Eugene Schmidt, former Kansas District President. The Board of Missions is thankful to all who are graciously contributing to this year's convention offering, which is designated for this important purpose. In the coming years, we hope to grow this fund with continuing gifts from LCMS members and friends across Kansas. An appeal will be coming this fall asking congregations and their members to consider giving to this fund so we can increase our impact and support of mission work here at home for many years into the future.

These are just a few of the ways that our board, congregations, and people in Kansas are working together in mission. There have been challenges along the way, and we know that there will be more challenges in the future. Unfortunately, this is the reality of living in a sinful world. However, by working together as one body living in the peace that God has given us in our Savior Jesus, the members of the Kansas District help fulfill the Great Commission that we have been given both at home and abroad. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will bless our work across the Kansas District and that we will all work together for the sake of the mission of God in the years to come.

### **Board of Stewardship**

Ruth Holste, Chair, Rev. Justin Panzer, Rev. Rick Rostek, Rev. Dan Galchutt (advisory), Jeff Maltz (advisory)

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the Kansas District Board of Stewardship!

The Board of Stewardship sees the convention theme, "Life Together in Mission," as the key to our work. We know that without your contributions and gifts to the Kansas District, our ability to support the mission would be impossible. Thank you for your support and gifts this past triennium!

Halfway through the past triennium, Rev. Dan Galchutt was called to serve as the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship. We are thankful that the Lord led Rev. Galchutt to accept the call to the District and pray that the Lord bless his work so that he can serve as a partner to you as you serve the Lord throughout Kansas.

As we partner together, please know that we strive to use the gifts you give to the District wisely and faithfully. To that end, the Board of Stewardship has worked hard to present a balanced budget for each fiscal year and is thankful that this goal has been reached during the triennium. It hasn't always been easy, but through this work we are in a good and healthy place to be able to faithfully use the resources that God has entrusted to our care. We have been able to accomplish this by not only thinking of the current year or even the next year, but by forecasting our budget out a few years. This has been very helpful in the budgeting and planning process. We would encourage congregations to do this as well.

In addition to our focus on planning, we've also prioritized clear communication regarding the District budget. To advance that goal, we produced a single-sheet snapshot of the mission and ministry of the Kansas District. The document, which was mailed to all congregations in 2017 and posted on the District website, tells the story of what happens with the contributions that are given to the District. Your gifts to the District support scholarships for students pursuing church work, student loan repayments for new workers, mission grants, support for congregations and schools in the call process, production and delivery of resources in the areas of missions, education, youth work, and stewardship, and more.

We're now working on a similar communication resource that congregations can use to tell their members what their dollars are accomplishing. A sample "narrative budget" template will be available soon on the District website.

Of course, stewardship isn't all about money. Another resource that will soon be available on the District website is a Bible study called, "Placed for a Purpose," which encourages the teaching of stewardship from the proper starting point. This four-week stewardship series includes sermons and Bible studies that teach stewardship from the perspective of the places where God has put us and the purposes to which He has called us. The premise is that stewardship is best understood beginning with our vocations or callings from the Lord.

One final item we would like to report is that the Kansas District has been blessed with visits from Rev. Heath Curtis and Rev. Nathan Meador from our Synod's Stewardship Ministry, who have given multiple presentations and workshops in Kansas. These workshops aim to increase healthy discussion of stewardship topics and congregational planning. In partnership with the Synod, we hope that there will be more of these free workshops to encourage discussion and growth in the area of stewardship.

If you would like to know more about the Board of Stewardship, we encourage you to check out the District website ([kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org)), where you can find pages on stewardship as well as minutes and summaries of the quarterly board meetings. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless our District staff and newly elected board of directors to provide support, deliver helpful resources, and provide encouragement throughout Kansas so that our life together in mission may be truly blessed by the Lord.

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## Education

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In local Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, **Education and Youth** are two ministry areas that have traditionally been very prominent. The need for involvement with these ministries at higher levels has not always been obvious. This report tells the story of these ministries and how resources from local congregations in Kansas have been used this past triennium. The education department of the Kansas District, which assists congregations, laity, and professional church workers in several ministry areas, includes elementary school and early education ministries, youth ministry, children's and family life education, and adult education. In sum, the education department serves congregations, schools, and its workers.

### Board of Education

Since 2015, the work of the **District Board of Education** has been done by District Fourth Vice-President Rev. Dan Galchutt, Topeka (replaced by Rev. Dave Schemm, Faith, Emporia, in late 2016, following Galchutt's acceptance of the call to serve the LCMS Kansas District as the Missions and Stewardship Executive); Educator Jeremy Pera (Clay Center), Chair, Lay Leader Bruce Schultz (St. John, Alma), and James Bradshaw, Assistant to the District President for Educational Services.

The Board of Education's purpose is to provide direction and oversight to the Assistant to the District President for Educational Services, Mr. James Bradshaw. The Board meets quarterly prior to the District Board of Directors meeting to receive reports from the various committees under the supervision of the Board. The Kansas District covers a lot of miles; all ages; urban, rural, and suburban; large and small congregations totaling 160 congregations, 14 day schools and 45 preschools located across the state. The goal is to work with Jim to assist District congregations and workers in meeting their educational goals. The Board encourages church workers and laypeople to take advantage of circuit or regional events to make the best use of time and resources and to strengthen the fellowship bonds with Lutheran neighbors within an area. As the Board meets quarterly and receives the reports, it is apparent that a lot of exciting things are happening



across the District. The Board is thankful for the blessings of education and the people who assist in the advancement of the Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ!

### **Ministers of Religion – Commissioned**

Mr. Bradshaw assists the District President in the area of ecclesiastical supervision for all commissioned workers in the Kansas District. He also assists congregations and schools as they administer the call process of commissioned workers. A call rubric is available from the educational services department for calling congregations and schools.

In 2017-18, there are:

Teachers: Active – 46; Candidate Status – 42; Emeritus 47.  
Principals: 11  
Early Childhood Educators - 4  
Teacher Director: 1  
Parish Worker: 1  
Lay Minister: 1  
Director of Parish Music: 1  
Director of Christian Outreach: 2  
Deaconesses: 2

In addition, there are 22 Synodically-rostered Directors of Christian Education (DCE) actively serving in the Kansas District (Candidate Status – 14; Emeritus 5). They are divided into three clusters for growth and mutual support. The three clusters collectively gather annually for a retreat experience. Some of our DCEs have completed or are currently engaged in **KINDLE** (Karpenko Institute for Nurture and Development of Leadership Excellence) training. KINDLE is an organization within the LCMS whose mission is to “equip DCEs to nurture and develop leadership excellence.” Many hold membership in the **National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE)**.

### **Lutheran Schools**

The **Lutheran Schools Committee** is comprised of District principals who assist in the support of our Lutheran day schools and early childhood centers. Elected members of the 2017-18 Lutheran Schools Committee are Principal Chris Francik (Topeka Lutheran School), chair; the chair-elect, Principal Eric Pralle (Zion, Independence); and Secretary Principal Steve Vandemark (Christ, Overland Park). Ms. Jane Limback serves as Kansas' National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) Commissioner. Others on the committee are Mrs. Lottie Lee, Professional Development Committee (PDC) Coordinator; Mrs. Amy Schultz (Beautiful Savior/Olathe), District Early Childhood Consultant; and Principal Nancy Jankowski (Hope/Shawnee), who serves as the Lutheran schools liaison to the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS).

There were 14 elementary schools operating within the Kansas District at the opening of school in 2017-18. The 2017-18 school year reflected 1212 students enrolled K-8 (compared with 1069 in 2016-17). Mr. Bradshaw conducts annual school visits with the focus on leading chapels and visiting one-on-one with each teacher, school administrator, and pastor(s).

The District sponsors an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) for all District school educators. There is a Professional Development Committee (PDC) to answer or find answers to questions in this area related to State of Kansas teacher recertification. This committee has the responsibility of awarding in-service points to teachers in our Lutheran schools. In-service points are awarded as a result of a teacher working toward a plan that they have developed for continuing education. Conferences, workshops, and some volunteer activities are different ways for teachers to gain points. These points are then used by the State of Kansas for teacher recertification. Current members on the PDC are Lottie Lee (Atchison) - Coordinator, Marjorie Krzesinski (Hope, Shawnee), Andrea Kosmicki (Topeka Lutheran School), Shawna Spiehs (Linn Lutheran School), Angela Achong (Zion, Independence), Diane Eichholz (Hope, Shawnee), and Gwen Thomas (Holy Cross/Wichita).

Jim Bradshaw interfaces with the Kansas State Department of Education on behalf of Kansas Lutheran schools, as he monitors compliance with the new state accreditation system (KESA). In addition to state accreditation, the Kansas District advances the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) process for all interested early childhood and Lutheran day school ministries. Six of 14 elementary schools currently hold accreditation through NLSA.

In 2016, a Wichita-based steering committee led by the Rev. Geoff Boyle (Grace and Trinity, Wichita) engaged the **LCMS Genesis Project** and the work of two consultants to assess the feasibility of a classical Lutheran school for grades 6-12. A target date to begin operations is Fall, 2019. The final *Genesis* report with consultant recommendations was pending as of the date of this report (February 2018).

The **Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS)** is the state's largest organization of non-public schools. Now in its 47th year, KAIRS is committed to excellence in education and to maintaining unity within its membership and productive relationships with public school leadership. As it represents more than 35,000 Kansas school children, almost 2,400 teachers and more than 22,000 families, KAIRS strives to ensure that children attending religious and independent schools are treated equitably in educational law, policy and programs. The organization offers a two-day annual conference for its administrators, an annual conference for early educators and a summer conference for teachers.

Each year, KAIRS conducts its Hall of Fame banquet. A Lutheran educator is recognized annually as the "KAIRS Lutheran Distinguished Teacher of the Year." For the past three years, the following Kansas District educators were recognized: 2018 – Deb Snow (Holy Cross, Wichita); 2017 – Becky Denney (St. Paul, Leavenworth); 2016 – Sandy Nelson (Hope, Shawnee).

### **Early Childhood Education**

There are currently 13 early childhood ministries associated with our 14 elementary schools and an additional 32 stand-alone early childhood centers. Our Redeemer, Hutchinson is the newest center to open (July 2017). In 2017-18, our 45 centers report a total enrollment of 2661 students. In 2015, the Kansas District named Amy Schultz (Beautiful Savior, Olathe) as the early childhood consultant for the District. This volunteer works alongside Jim Bradshaw in assisting directors, principals, and pastors in facilitating ministry within early childhood centers across the District.

The National Lutheran Schools Accreditation process is also available for all LCMS stand-alone preschools. Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, Olathe, was the first stand-alone preschool in the Kansas District to complete the NLSA accreditation process in October 2005. There are currently twelve centers that have completed this process.

A committee of early childhood educators plan an annual late summer early childhood workshop for directors and workers in the centers. This is one of two opportunities (also the Fall Church Workers Conference) when workers can earn clock hours towards early education re-licensure with the Kansas State Department of Health and Environment.

### **Church Workers Conferences**

The 2018 Church Worker Conferences will be held in Salina, KS. Members of the 2018 Pastors Conference Committee are Rev. Ben Ockree (Calvary, Topeka) - Chair, Rev. Stan Palmer (Kinsley and Offerle), Rev. Paul Tessaro (Clay Center), and Rev. Jay Hobson (Erie and Hepler). The 2018 Educators Conference Committee members are EC Angela Thrasher, Chair (Gardner), Tchr Terry Harries (Marysville); Tchr Kathy McIntosh (Shawnee); Tchr Jana Grimm (Bethany, Overland Park); DCE Leland Jackson (Garden City), and DCE Heather McCormick (Faith, Topeka).

Joint conferences are held in odd-numbered years, according to District By-Laws, which affords pastors and educators to gather for mutual fellowship, education, worship, and conversation. The past three conferences were held, as follows: 2017 – Topeka (Joint); 2016 – Manhattan (separate educators and pastors events); 2015 - Wichita (joint).

### **Kansas District Adult Singles Ministry (KDASM)**

The 2016 KDASM Spring Retreat was held at Holy Cross, Wichita on April 23. This event brought to a close the ministry of KDASM as a District-sponsored ministry. We are truly thankful for the decades of faithful service in the Kansas District!

### **2016 District Church Worker Core Needs Survey**

As LCMS Synod leaders, district presidents, district staffs, and church worker care partners (e.g., Concordia Plan Services (CPS), the Concordia University Center for the Family at Ann Arbor (CCF), Grace Place, Doxology, District Commissions on Church Worker Health) work with congregations and church workers, we are consistently witnessing spiritual, emotional, relational, mental, and physical fatigue that are overwhelming our church workers and their spouses. In partnership with CPS, the LCMS Office of National Mission, and CCF, the Kansas District was one of three LCMS districts to participate as 'pilot' districts in an extensive survey with church workers and spouses to gather reliable data on these issues.

In early 2016, the District staff conducted a series of ten 'Meet the District Staff' events in circuits, in part, to conduct the online survey. The survey was an **anonymous, objective, comprehensive process** in order to provide focused solutions and resources that are effective, solid and needed as a pathway to prevention or recuperative family church worker health. Over three hundred workers and spouses participated in the survey. Two primary areas of ministry focus emerged as a result of the survey: church worker marriage enrichment and the establishment of congregational church worker care teams (through the work of the Church Worker Care Team).

### **Children's and Family Life Committee (CFLC)**

DCE Jeremy Pera (St. Paul, Clay Center) - Chair, Lay Ldr Jan Borst (Christ, Overland Park), Lay Ldrs. C.J. & Sharon Cross (Trinity, Salina), Rev. Charlie Adams (Faith, Ottawa), Tchr (Retired) Keith Jopp (Cheney); DCE Cynthia Lavrenz (Trinity, Garden City), and, Lay Ldr Katy Pauley (Trinity, Garden City).

The Kansas District Children's and Family Life Committee is committed to intentional congregational leadership development for the family. Following the release of the Core Needs Survey results in early 2017, the CFLC has identified resources for church workers and their spouses in the area of marriage enrichment.

### **Adult Education Committee**

Rev. Mike Penikis (Hope, Shawnee) – Chair, Rev. Rocco Mallardi (Hays), DCE Denise Sprengeler (Trinity, Leavenworth); and Lay Ldr Jim and Tchr (Retired) Joyce Duitsman (Trinity, Atchison). This committee wishes to express its thanks for the service of past committee members Rev. Bryan Drebes, Rev. Rick Rostek, Lay Ldr Beth Ortstadt (Ascension, Wichita), and Lay Leaders Mike and Lois Farrell (Trinity, Atchison).

The mission of the Kansas District **Adult Education Committee** is to identify needs and suggest resources and strategies for the growing of Jesus' disciples through God's Word. The team will strive to identify attitudes/practices of congregational adult Christian education and offer training to equip adults for ministry as they explore the Scriptures.

The primary activity of the Adult Education Committee this past triennium has been the offering of an annual Fall 'Webinar.' In 2015, the Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie (CTSFW) shared the topic, "From Luther to Lutheranism: Confessing the Faith with the Reformer Today." In 2016, Dr. Alvin Schmidt, a speaker with Lutherans for Life, addressed the topic, "Islam and Lutheranism." In June, 2017, the Rev. Dr. Paul Maier's presentation entitled, "**The Reformation's Impact on World History**" was captured on DVD and subsequently distributed in early fall 2017 to all 160 District congregations as a part of the **Reformation 500** celebration activities in the District. Congregations were encouraged to use the DVD as a lesson in Bible classes and with other small group studies. This video production begins a new method to address resourcing adult education in the District. In 2018, the focus is on home-based catechesis, with an emphasis on daily devotions, Bible instruction in the home, and equipping parents to be "teachers of the faith."

### **Reformation 500**

In the fall of 2016, a series of 12 essays, written by Kansas District pastors, were commissioned by the District Board of Education to commemorate the anniversary of the Reformation. The articles first appeared in our e-newsletter, *Workers Together* and are offered today on the District website in the same spirit. We invite you to use the essays as a review of key teachings of the Lutheran faith as well as a springboard for further study of the Lutheran Confessions. We are appreciative of the efforts of these writers and primary editor, Rev. Jon Bruss (St. John's, Topeka).

### **District Youth Ministry Committee (DYMC)**

DCE Brian Amey (Holy Cross, Wichita) – Chair, Rev. Mike Ada (Beautiful Savior, Olathe) – Chair-Elect, DCE Katie Morgan (Christ, Overland Park) – Chair-Emeritus, and Rev. Warren Prochnow (Holy Cross, Scott City) – Secretary serve on the DYMC leadership team. Other DYMC members include DCE Paul White (Wamego) – LVR Summer Camp, Lay Ldr Jesse and DCE Charity Smith (St. Luke's, Manhattan) – LYF Coordinators, DCE Kate Soeken (Hutchinson) and DCE Amanda Adams (Christ, Topeka) – 2019 NYG District Coordinators, DCE Leland Jackson (Garden City) and Rev. Dan Ramsey (Chanute) – Jr. High Rallies, and current Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) representatives Hannah Weers (Risen Savior, Wichita), Sydney Moore (Christ, Overland Park), Annalise Fischer (Ascension, Wichita), Jeremy Hinrichs (St. Luke's, Manhattan), Hannah Fritz (Prince of Peace, Topeka), and Clara Jackson (Trinity, Garden City). Connor Works (Prince of Peace, Topeka) was elected in 2016 for a three-year term of service on the LCMS LYF Executive Team. Connor represents the Southern/Midwest Region.

**Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF)** in Kansas is committed to equipping youth to use their leadership gifts to serve His people as they share their faith in Jesus Christ. Adult sponsors, Jesse and Charity Smith and our newest LYF representatives Hannah Weers and Sydney Moore represented the District at the annual Teen Leadership Initiative training in March 2018 in St. Louis. These participants are now trained to provide leadership training events for their peers. The District LYF also leads the TLI materials at the annual Kansas District **Teen Fellowship Retreat**, generally held in the spring. Additionally, LYF team members are now visiting congregations to share LYF Bible study materials and what is happening in the District. LYF students also volunteer to assist with Jr. High Rallies and are promoting LYF at the District Youth Gathering.

**Lutheran Valley Retreat** is an LCMS camp in the Rocky Mountain District located near Woodland Park, Colorado. This annual high school youth ministry offering registers nearly 120 high school students each summer. The 2018 District-sponsored camp date is July 15-20.

The 2018 annual **District Youth Gathering** for high school students is November 16-18 at the Atrium (formerly the Ramada) in Hutchinson. During this past triennium, DYG events were held and attended, as follows: November 2015 – 409 attendees (Hutchinson); November, 2016 – 456 attendees (Wichita), and November, 2017 – 341 attendees (Topeka). The 2019 DYG is scheduled for the Hyatt in Wichita. Gathering co-chairpersons are DCE Brian Amey and DCE Katie Morgan.

**The 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG)** was held July 16-20, in New Orleans, LA, with the theme, “In Christ Alone.” Kansas District coordinators for the 2016 Gathering were Parish Worker Arleata Harmon and DCE Kate (Luckemeyer) Soeken. They assisted in providing bus transportation, a Pre-Gathering Servant Event, pre-Gathering activities and the Kansas District Event. More than 22,000 youth and adults attended the 13th triennial NYG. There were 826 participants from Kansas at the 2016 LCMS Youth Gathering (this does not include many Community Life Leaders or Young Adult Volunteers). 54 Kansas congregations registered in 2016 (57 congregations registered in 2013 – 704 Kansas participants). The Kansas District Event at the Bayou Barn had 536 participants. The Kansas District Servant Event involved participants who were divided up into groups to do various jobs throughout the Convention Center in preparation for the Gathering. Jobs included setting up screens, sorting, setting up various booths, etc. **The 2019 National Youth Gathering** will be held in Minneapolis, MN, July 11-15. The theme for the NYG is “**Real. Present. God.**” (Psalm 46)

**Higher Things 2018** is coming to Lawrence, Kansas, July 24-27. *Higher Things* is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS whose mission is to assist parents, pastors, and congregations in cultivating a distinctly Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults.

**Junior High Ministry:** The Kansas District hosts Junior High Youth Rallies every fall, with music, mixers, and Bible study available for grades 5-9. The 2017 event was based on the movie *Moana*, with a focus on the question, “Who are you?” Participants looked at how our identity in Christ and our redemption through His saving work on the cross shapes His calling for us. Two fall junior high youth rallies are annually held in Rexford (Western Kansas) and in Williamsburg (Eastern Kansas) on the same weekend.

### **District Youth Protection Policies**

Too often we read of how the children entrusted to the care of adults have been let down and harmed by those who were meant to protect them. Such a thing grieves us all, and in hindsight, we wish things were done to protect those children. The Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee is committed to being proactive in keeping the children with whom we come in contact as safe as we possibly can. To that end, the Kansas District Board of Directors has reviewed and updated our Youth Protection Policies. **The policies took effect on January 1, 2015 and apply to all District-sponsored youth events.**

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining the appropriate background checks and documentation of all of the people in your ministry who are involved or come in contact with the children in your sphere of ministry. We strongly encourage each of you not only to cooperate with the policies but also to consider applying these same policies in your congregations in order to protect your adult volunteers who work with minors. Because of the need for integrity, please understand that we’re following these policies as a best practice. We want to make sure that details are tended to properly so that none of our young people are excluded from our events. All policies are available on the District website: [www.kslcms.org](http://www.kslcms.org)

**2016 Kansas District Youth Ministry Needs Survey:** In an effort to strengthen youth ministry throughout the Kansas District, the District Board of Education encouraged the District Youth Ministry Committee to conduct an assessment of current youth ministry practices in the District. In May, 2016, 222 District pastors and youth ministry leaders had the opportunity to respond to a brief online survey. 102 District pastors and youth workers participated (46%). A summative report was collated by pre-seminary student Christian Schultz (St. John, Alma), who graduated from Concordia University Nebraska. The survey results suggest the following areas of need: 1) Increase adult training for youth ministry; 2) Connect congregations with LCMS servant events and other Kansas District congregational service projects and events (through circuit efforts); 3) DYMC make an effort to connect the purpose of youth ministry with the District adult education and Children’s/Family Life Committees; 4) Add training opportunities for church workers for youth ministry; and, 5) Raise LYF to a greater understanding at the district and congregational level.

### **Assistant to the District President for Education and Youth:** James P. Bradshaw

Jim Bradshaw has served as the Assistant to the District President for Education and Youth since March 2005. In addition to providing oversight for the ministries cited above, Jim supports and encourages the lay and professional workers in our schools and parishes to develop and employ Christ-like servant-leader practices.

Jim is a 1982 Concordia-Nebraska graduate with a bachelor’s in elementary education and a DCE certificate. Jim earned his master’s also at Concordia-Nebraska in family life science in 2001. Jim was named Master DCE by Lutheran Education Association’s DCE Network in 2003. Jim served parishes in Texas, Minnesota and Kansas. Jim and Joanna were married in 1981. They are blessed with three married children and three grandchildren.

### **Closing Comment**

God calls each of us, and we are anchored in Jesus Christ. We aspire to serve Him and His church in all that we do. May we be encouragers of the workers entrusted to our care. May we seek to coach and inspire leadership excellence in others just as Paul once did for Timothy when he said, “*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is*

within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:6-7).

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## LCEF

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### **Kansas District Vice President, Jeff Maltz**

LCEF has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the Church. When you invest with LCEF, you're providing for the creation and growth of congregations and ministries across the country. More than a lender, LCEF also provides an array of services to assist congregations and schools with their facilities development plans. Many of these same services also help ministries develop plans in support of their mission to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

### **Investing in a Strong LCMS Community**

LCEF empowers LCMS ministries with every dollar invested. And with nearly 60,000 investors, we've been able to make a difference for thousands of ministries. We provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

### **Securing Your Financial Future**

Our generous investors and dedicated loan customers have made it possible for us to maintain a strong capital position. We offer competitive rates and ensure your invested funds remain accessible and in your control. With the LCEF, you experience the benefits of working with an established financial institution while growing the LCMS.

### **Supporting You Around the Clock**

LCEF offers secure, 24/7, online access to investments and loans through *MyAccount*. You can view balances and statements, complete transactions, and even receive alerts when payments are due. Communicate directly with dedicated LCEF staff members who share your faith and values to ensure your stewardship efforts are always well-informed and free of stress.

### **KANSAS DISTRICT LCEF INVESTMENTS**

The Kansas District has approximately 2,026 investors with a total of \$48,595,648 invested. The Kansas District LCEF is always looking for more Lutheran investors. LCEF investment products have been designed with investors in mind – to help individuals, congregations, and organizations meet their savings and investment goals while knowing that their dollars are helping to build churches and schools. Here are some of the featured investment products and services:

**Young Investor Steward Account (Club)®** is an investment savings account for infant through 18 years old and requires a minimum of \$25 to open an account. Premium interest rate on balances up to \$1,000 (currently 3.5% APR). Balances above \$1,000 earn a second-tier fixed rate (currently 1.00% APR). Savings grow with the child, but are accessible. Checks and a debit card is available to the custodian. Debit card is available at age 16. Interest is compounded and paid monthly. Make additional investments with checks or Y.I. Stamps account. \$1 can be earned for each “A” received on a report card (up to \$25.00 per year) and \$1 for every hour of community service (up to \$25.00 per year). Plus, scholarship available post high school.

**The Family Emergency StewardAccount®** is an investment that builds over time with your systematic \$25 deposits through electronic funds transfer (EFT) and interest earned. Investors can access the funds easily in the case of an urgent need through limited check-writing ability and VISA debit card.

**ConnectPLUS®** is a 2-year Term Note that can be opened with a minimum of \$500. Earn a 3% APR fixed rate on the first \$5,000 (principal & interest) during the two-year term. Balances above \$5,000 earn a second-tier fixed rate of 1% APR. Additional investments of \$25 or more allowed during the term. Available to new LCEF investors only; one account per investor. At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem. Interest is compounded and paid quarterly (March, June, September, December).

**PartnerPLUS®** is a 2- or 4-year Term Note for existing LCEF Investors. Low minimum of \$500 to start. No transfers from other LCEF investments. Competitive fixed rate of 2% on two-year notes or 2.5% on four-year notes. Balances over \$25,000 earn a second-tier fixed rate of 1% APR. Additional funds can be added at any time (\$25 minimum). IRA investments allowed. At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem. Interest compounded and paid quarterly (March, June, September, December). Offer available for a limited time only. One account per investor.

## **KANSAS DISTRICT LCEF LOANS**

LCEF loans have helped congregations provide the resources needed to keep their ministries moving forward and missions to serve their communities. Currently, 38 congregations have loans with the Kansas District LCEF totaling \$15,597,146 committed dollars towards ministry.

**Loan Delinquencies:** Congregations periodically face financial challenges. In Kansas, we have been blessed in that we have no congregation delinquencies as of February 2018.

## **LCEF MINISTRY SERVICES**

LCEF provides many ministry services such as architectural, construction, capital funding, demographics and more – all to help LCMS churches and organizations grow their capacity for mission and ministry.

**VisionPath** - Clarity, Alignment, Action. LCEF's VisionPath helps you discover your ministry's unique place in God's mission. The VisionPath experience provides clarity in ministry passion, alignment in ministry purpose, and action in ministry processes that make known the love of Christ within church and community. Clarity, alignment, and action are the three modules by which we measure the effectiveness of VisionPath.

**Capital Funding Services** - LCEF's Capital Campaign helps your ministry to coordinate a fundraising effort designed to raise a specific dollar amount within a three-year giving period. Your Capital Funding Services (CFS) consultant will design a customized program for your LCMS ministry's unique circumstances.

**Laborers for Christ** - LCEF's Laborers For Christ program provides the hands and hearts you need to accomplish God's plan for your ministry. Members of Laborers For Christ assist with ministry projects—remodeling existing facilities, building new ones or updating older structures for optimal efficiency. Since 1980, Laborers For Christ has helped complete more than 860 of these projects. Members are dedicated Christians who enjoy witnessing their faith, serving others, traveling and meeting new people.

Laborers For Christ members bring experience and expert knowledge in construction, typically cutting building costs by 10% to 30%. Laborers For Christ can also update existing facilities, helping you acquire tax credits, money savings and energy efficiency. The financial benefits, though, are secondary to the uplifting presence Laborers For Christ brings to your ministry. Members become part of your ministry, attending worship services and Bible studies. They will help you multiply your volunteer base—not only for the construction project but for your overall ministry.

**Architectural Advisory Committee** - Members of the Architectural Advisory Committee are professional Lutheran architects and liturgical artists who advise on architectural design, planning, construction, and preservation of facilities. The Architectural Advisory Committee works together with Laborers For Christ to complete building and renovation projects and to assist your LCMS ministry in creating a more energy efficient facility.

**Demographics** - You and your ministry have a vision and are ready to move forward. LCEF offers critical demographic support that can help complete necessary groundwork before you move into action. Understanding and meeting the spiritual and educational needs of your community so you can reach them directly with your message is critical to your ministry plan. LCEF's online demographics tool is designed to help you achieve this understanding. As you consider new mission opportunities, demographic data is an essential part of planning for growth, developing effective missions and ministry, planting new churches, and reaching more people. This data can also help established ministries monitor changes in their communities and share their stories with those around them.

**Signature Sponsorship Program** - Cooperative Funding for Essential Communication Tools

LCEF embraces the ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), empowering them in their work to expand God's kingdom and helping to ensure that everyone knows Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Through the LCEF Signature Sponsorship Series, we offer a way to share the expense of reaching your community with news and information of your ministry and how others can get involved.

*Mutual Benefits* - We are a partner who understands that proper stewardship is at the top of your ministry priorities, and we are here to help. In return, as a sponsorship recipient, we ask that you commit to communicating the mission and ministry of LCEF either through consistent messages (provided to you by LCEF), display of the LCEF logo and/or acknowledgement of the sponsorship. These acknowledgements will be customized to each partner.

## **THE LCEF KANSAS DISTRICT PROGRAM**

**District LCEF Board of Managers** provides direction, promotion, and loan approval to the District activities of the LCEF, within activity boundaries set by the Board of Directors of the District, while providing necessary funds that are needed by congregations and the District consistent with purposes allowed by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod. The District's Church Extension activities shall operate within the policies and guidelines established by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.

LCEF Kansas District Board of Managers:  
Jeff Maltz, VP of LCEF  
Chris Anderson  
Don Lumpe  
Dennis Meyer  
Mark Zillinger

As the 2018 convention gets underway, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund marvels at the privilege we have as an organization to help Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries make known the love of Christ. This opportunity would be impossible without our many investors and ministry partners. We are grateful for you and pray God would continue to bless you.

***“So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” — Romans 12:5-6***

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## **Administration**

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### **Board of Administration**

Rick Hanebutt, Chairman  
Timothy Ohlde  
Rev. David Meier, Secretary  
Lee Thaete, Treasurer - Advisory  
Debbie Crites, Business Manager - Advisory

### **District Personnel**

The last triennium brought changes to the District staff. In September 2016, Rev. Daniel Galchutt accepted the call as Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship. In early 2017, District Chaplain Rev. Rocky Mease was granted a leave of absence for the opportunity to pursue Intentional Interim Training. Chaplain Mease left the staff in October 2017 and accepted a call to serve a Kansas congregation. Two additional part-time staff were added in summer of 2017. Kristine Bruss accepted the position of Communications Specialist and Janet Powell began as Administrative Assistant for Missions and Stewardship.

LCEF's reorganization of their west region took place in fall of 2017. The reorganization consolidated the marketing, communications and promotions from the district level to a regional office structure. As a result, we no longer have a district-level LCEF Promotions Director. We thank Curt Loupe, who served in that position for four years, for his service.

Dean Landman has served as District Archivist since 2006 and recently asked to step down from this responsibility. Michael Grau has agreed to serve as the new Archivist.

Chris Anderson of Wichita was appointed as Treasurer by the Board of Directors in fall of 2015. Chris was then nominated and elected to the LCEF Board of Directors at the 2016 Synod convention. Citing conflicts with scheduling, he resigned from the District Board to serve the church at the national level. Lee Thaete was appointed as Treasurer in the fall of 2016.

### **Financial Position**

The Board of Administration serves as the audit review committee overseeing the financial affairs of the District. The financial statements are audited annually by the LCMS Internal Audit Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Along with the financial statements, an audit management letter to the Board of Directors communicates requirements and recommendations that management should consider for implementation.

The management letters during the past triennium stated that no deficiencies or material weaknesses were identified in the financial statements. Three recommendations were included to strengthen internal controls in the payroll and bank reconciliation accounting processes. One new item required in non-profit accounting standards is for management to perform a financial self-assessment at least annually. This assessment requires management to evaluate whether factors or conditions exist that would prevent the ongoing viability of the organization. The District's current Statement of Financial Position reflects sufficient assets, in excess of liabilities, that ongoing viability is not a concern. All four recommendations referenced in the management letters have been addressed and implemented by management in the business operations.

## **District Bylaw and Operations Manual**

The committee has made significant updates to the District Operations Manual. The Bylaws have been revised with operational changes and those items required by the 2016 Synod convention; an overture addressing these changes will be considered by convention. The Personnel Manual for District staff was revised to include current policies and bring the manual into compliance with employment laws and regulations. The manual was recently adopted by the Board of Directors along with updates to position descriptions and operational procedures.

## **District Property**

The District office in Topeka provides office space for the staff as well as meeting rooms for the Board of Directors, circuit visitors, District committees, and continuing education events, with space also dedicated to District archives. Improvements over the last three years included installation of awnings on the entry doors and basement stairwell; an IT network upgrade with enhanced backup system and new anti-virus/malware agents; replacement of an air conditioning compressor and new concrete on the sidewalks and driveway approach to the parking lot.

The District continues to operate the Retreat Center located in Herington, Kansas. The center has been used by individuals, families and congregational groups who have taken advantage of the centrally located facility. The District staff and District program committees also use the facility to hold planning retreats and events.

In 2017 the Board appointed a task force to study the continued viability and use of the facility. The center has experienced declining occupancy over the past triennium, and in its tenth year of use, wear and tear of the structure and furnishings was evident. The charge given to the task force was to assess the importance of the center to the District, identify maintenance issues that need to be addressed and evaluate options for ongoing management.

Rev. Mark Lovett presented a proposal to the task force that would provide local property management on a pro-bono basis. He included options for future marketing and promotion ideas, changes in the rental and fee structure, and improvements for the security, scheduling and use of the facility. A contract was completed with Rev. Lovett in Sept 2017, and many of the proposed changes have been implemented.

A wind storm in June 2017 caused significant damage to the roof, guttering and flashing. With insurance proceeds, the roof and guttering were replaced on the house and garage, and all wind damage was repaired. Additional improvements made during the triennium included exterior painting and repairs to the mason work, replacement of damaged bed frames and sofas, addition of some new bedding and linens and minor maintenance issues addressed.

## **Business Manager**

Debbie Crites continues to serve as Business Manager and was reappointed in 2016 for a three-year term. Responsibilities of the Business Manager include serving as the District Controller; supervising of the financial, accounting and investment activities; providing budget assistance to the Board and staff; providing support for planning conventions, conferences and meetings; administering human resources; management of District property; and supervision of the staff support services of the office. The Business Manager also provides advisory assistance to congregations and workers in matters relating to business management, budgeting, finances, property, human resources and tax issues. Crites serves on the Congregational Treasurer's Manual Committee of the LCMS Business Administrators Association and on an Advisory Council for Concordia Plan Services. She has announced her plans to retire from her position in June 2018 after 27 years of service on staff.

Staff support for the Board of Administration was provided by Business Manager Debbie Crites and Business Office Administrative Assistant Shannon Oldham.

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## **Caring Ministry**

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### **Board of Caring Ministry Caring Ministry**

Human care is a key area of emphasis for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In keeping with that emphasis, our Kansas District Board of Caring Ministry offers the following services to all of the congregations and workers of the District:

- Provides care to church workers and their families.
- Works to coordinate human care ministries (such as disaster response).
- Supports and promotes Christ-centered health and wellness of body, mind and spirit through the congregational health ministry of the LCMS.



- Offers a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington, where professional church workers can rest and reconnect with God and their family.

### **Church Worker Wellness**

The Kansas District takes the health and wellness of church workers seriously. We've seen the physical, emotional, relational, financial, intellectual, vocational and spiritual fatigue that can overwhelm church workers and their families. We'd like to help. To that end, we've begun identifying specific needs of our church workers and families and are developing strategies and resources for maintaining health and wellness. Our church workers and families matter to us!

### **Disaster Response**

The mission of the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) is to provide teams of trained volunteers, serving our churches and communities as part of a disaster outreach ministry, assisting in a collaborated and coordinated response in cooperating and communication with the District Disaster Response Coordinators and teams. Donna Williams (Zion, Newton) has served as the District Disaster Response Coordinator since June 2017.

In addition to offering congregational LERT trainings, a gathering of trained LERT leaders took place January 19-20, 2018, at the Retreat Center in Herington. Topics included addressing a regional approach to disasters in the District, identifying contact persons in defined areas, establishing policy and procedures, reviewing LERT training materials, scheduling continuing education for existing teams, and establishing an initial training schedule for 2018.

### **Disaster Response and Ministry with Comfort Dogs**

The goal of the Kansas District Ministry with Comfort Dogs is to bring the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ to those in need. A comfort dog team can open the ears of those in distress to hear the Gospel. Following a disaster within the LCMS Kansas District, comfort dogs and their handlers may be deployed at the request of the District Disaster Response Coordinator. LCMS Kansas District disaster response funds will assist with travel expenses incurred by the handler(s) when deployed in these situations.

Other requests for comfort dogs might arise in response to a critical incident within a congregation. **A critical incident is any incident or sequence of events which overwhelms or significantly strains the normal coping mechanisms of the congregation or school.** We only respond if invited and work with local churches to meet specific ministry needs for their congregation and community. The local congregation is responsible for travel expenses incurred by the handler(s) in response to all other critical incidents outside of disaster response. These visits may be initiated directly with Carolyn Buono at buonocw@cox.net.

### **Parish Nurse Ministry**

The principle function of parish nurse ministry is to support and promote Christ-centered health and wellness of body, mind and spirit through congregational health ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The parish nurse ministry will provide resources and consultation to pastors, congregations and nurses who desire a health ministry program and interface with District officials. Mary Hume, RN (Prince of Peace, Topeka) serves as the District Parish Nurse Coordinator.

### **Kansas District Retreat Center**

The District Retreat Center is a beautiful facility in central Kansas near Lake Herington. The primary purpose of the Retreat Center is to provide a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere where professional church workers can rest and reconnect with God and their family.

### **Saints Alive After 55**

Saints Alive After 55 is a ministry for older adults in the Kansas District. The group holds a three-day gathering each year that features keynote speakers, topical sessions, entertainment, and fellowship opportunities. The 2017 gathering, held at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita July 16-18, featured the theme, "Saved by Grace," based on Ephesians 2:8. The event featured keynote speaker Rich Bimler, former President/CEO of Wheat Ridge Ministries and current part-time Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging! (AH-HA!) for Lutheran Life Communities in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer, Senior Pastor, Ascension, Wichita led the Bible study. Small group sessions included Dr. Roland Mueller, "Luther's Family," and the film documentary "The First Rosa." Rev. Rick Hathaway, Trinity, Winfield, conducted the closing worship service.

### **Note of Appreciation**

*The LCMS Kansas District expresses its appreciation to the Rev. Rocky W. Mease, whose faithful service concluded in October, 2017, after 17 ½ years as the Executive Chaplain to the District.*

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## District Archives

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### Kansas District Archivist/Historian Dean Landman

It seems that time has passed so quickly since the last convention, and so many things that I planned to do are still to be done. One of the most important things is to find someone to help and to back me up. The other thing is to provide a location for the data that are stored on the internet on my personal website.

The paragraph above has not changed from the last district convention, but there is progress to report. For one thing, I have notified the District Office that I plan to step down as archivist as soon as a replacement is found. I have been informed that a replacement retired from his full-time job at the end of March.

The Kansas District has three sets of records to transmit to St. Louis as soon as we have gleaned what information we need.

The Synod's archive staff was investigating software packages that the states could use to archive their data. However, no information has been received to indicate that they have found anything.

During the past two years, an archives display table has been provided at the last District Convention, two Professional Church Workers Conferences, an LWML District Convention and two Saints Alive After 55 meetings.

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## Mission Central

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In August of 2017, the Kansas District Board of Directors approved a partnership with Mission Central to raise awareness of and support for mission work, especially in French-speaking West Africa. Rev. Dr. Brent Smith is the Mission Development Counselor who primarily works with us in Kansas. Rev. Smith is available for Mission Festival Sundays and to visit with you and your congregation at other times about opportunities to support mission work in West Africa and around the world. You can learn more at [missioncentral.us](http://missioncentral.us). In addition to this, Rev. Smith and the folks at Mission Central can connect you with missionaries who are on furlough and would appreciate an opportunity to visit your congregation. See the report below for more information.

### Mission Central Report

Dear co-workers for the Lord Jesus:

What a blessing to have this privilege of reporting to you on the Lord's MISSION CENTRAL and thanking you for what God has done through you for the mission of the Lord Jesus!

#### TRIENNIUM QUICK FACTS (July 2015 – Dec. 2017):

- 626 appointments with individuals
- 342 group mission events on the road
- 250 mission events at Mission Central
- 115 meals for groups
- 87 missionary families housed overnight
- 98 volunteers
- 12,500 visitors for mission events
- 5 stops per week to pray in Wayside Chapel



This triennium a **Creation Theater** was dedicated for service in the Lord's mission to tell the story of Creation, especially to the school children who visit Mission Central. A wonderful family donated over 25 lifelike animals from Africa, North America, and Canada. Mission events start in the Creation Theater with stadium seating and then move into the barn with artifacts from missionaries all over the world that remind us why it is so urgent and important to send missionaries to tell all people everywhere about Jesus!

On August 28, 2017, Gary Thies turned 75 years old, but he has no plans to retire. He hopes to continue as long as he can.

On November 1, 2016 the Lord provided another helper. After 16 years of international missionary service and three years of mission work on the East Coast near Washington D.C., Brent Smith returned to work with Mission Central. Like Gary, Brent hosts mission events at Mission Central and spends most of his time on the road raising mission awareness at the invitation of the many people and congregations who are “not normal.”

We praise God for the thousands of individuals and congregations that provide the majority of support for over 100 missionaries. 100% of every gift continues to go 100% to the missionary's account. Through people like you we received the largest amount of donations in December 2017 ever in the history of Mission Central. This is God at work and comes at the perfect time because the number of called missionaries has almost doubled over this triennium to 137 plus spouses and children and, as you know, we are called to help them raise ALL of their support. Thank you for your faithful partnership with Mission Central!



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

## SECTION 4

### CONGREGATIONS' STATISTICAL REPORTING 2014-2016

#### Synod Handbook 2016

#### 1.3 Synod Relationships: Congregation, National, District, Circuit

1.3.4.3 Congregations of the Synod, to enable the Synod to plan current and future ministry efforts and to lend accuracy and integrity to the Synod's delegate representation and voting processes, agree to provide annual membership and statistical information to the Synod.

Circuit #	Church	City	2014	2015	2016
101	Trinity Lutheran Church	Atchison	X	X	X
102	St. John Lutheran Church	Easton	X	X	X
103	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X
104	Zion Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X
105	Trinity Lutheran Church	Holton	X	X	X
106	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Netawaka	X	X	X
107	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	Nortonville	X	X	X
108	Zion Lutheran Church	Powhattan			
109	First Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X
110	Christ Lutheran Church	Wathena	X	X	X
111	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X		X
201	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Basehor		X	X
203	Bethel Lutheran Church	Kansas City			
204	Faith Lutheran Church	Kansas City			
205	Grace Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	
206	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	
207	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X
208	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Kansas City		X	X
209	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Leavenworth	X	X	X
210	Trinity Lutheran Church	Leavenworth	X	X	X
211	Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church	Basehor	X	X	X
301	King of Kings Lutheran Church	Gardner	X	X	X
302	Christ Lutheran Church	Overland Park	X	X	X
303	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Leawood	X	X	X

304	Trinity Lutheran Church	Mission	X	X	X
305	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Olathe	X	X	X
306	Bethany Lutheran Church	Overland Park	X	X	X
307	First Lutheran Church	Paola		X	X
308	Trinity Lutheran Church	Paola			
309	Hope Lutheran Church	Shawnee	X	X	X
310	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church	Olathe	X	X	X
311	Augsburg Lutheran Church	Shawnee			X
312	Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Louisburg	X	X	X
401	St. John Lutheran Church	Aliceville	X	X	X
403	Trinity Lutheran Church	Burlington	X		X
404	Faith Lutheran Church	Emporia	X	X	X
405	Messiah Lutheran Church	Emporia	X	X	X
406	Trinity Lutheran Church	Garnett	X	X	
407	Faith Lutheran Church	Ottawa	X	X	X
408	Zion Lutheran Church	Vassar	X		X
502	Trinity Lutheran Church	Caney		X	
503	Zion Lutheran Church	Chanute	X	X	X
504	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Coffeyville	X	X	X
505	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Erie	X	X	
506	Trinity Lutheran Church	Fort Scott	X	X	X
507	Trinity Lutheran Church	Girard	X	X	X
508	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hepler		X	
509	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Humboldt	X	X	X
510	Zion Lutheran Church	Independence	X	X	X
511	Grace Lutheran Church	Iola	X	X	X
512	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Oswego	X	X	X
513	Trinity Lutheran Church	Parsons	X	X	X
515	Zion Lutheran Church	Pittsburg	X	X	
601	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lawrence	X	X	X
602	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Lawrence	X	X	X
603	Calvary Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X
604	Christ Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X
605	Faith Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X
607	St. Johns Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X
609	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X
701	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Barnes	X	X	X
702	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Bremen	X	X	
703	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Bremen		X	X
704	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Clay Center	X	X	X
705	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Greenleaf	X	X	X
706	Trinity Lutheran Church	Hanover	X	X	X
708	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Linn	X	X	X
709	Zion Lutheran Church	Linn	X	X	X
710	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Marysville	X	X	X
711	St. John Lutheran Church	Palmer		X	X

712	Trinity Lutheran Church	Linn	X	X	X
801	St. John Lutheran Church	Alma	X	X	X
802	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Alta Vista	X	X	X
803	St. Pauls Lutheran Church	Duluth	X		X
804	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Junction City	X	X	X
805	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Junction City	X	X	X
806	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Manhattan	X	X	X
807	Trinity Lutheran Church	McFarland		X	X
808	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Wamego	X	X	X
809	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Wheaton	X	X	X
810	Christ Lutheran Church	Manhattan	X	X	X
901	Faith Lutheran Church	Abilene	X	X	X
902	Calvary Lutheran Church	Council Grove	X	X	X
904	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X
905	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	
906	St. John Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X
907	Zion Lutheran Church	Hillsboro	X	X	X
908	Zion Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X
909	St. John Lutheran Church	Lincolnville	X	X	X
910	Our Savior Lutheran Church	Marion	X	X	X
911	Trinity Lutheran Church	Ramona	X	X	X
912	Grace Lutheran Church	Strong City	X	X	X
913	St. John Lutheran Church	Tampa	X	X	X
914	Zion Lutheran Church	Newton	X	X	X
1001	Peace Lutheran Church	Andover	X	X	X
1002	Christ Lutheran Church	Augusta	X	X	X
1003	Grace Lutheran Church	El Dorado	X	X	X
1005	Ascension Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1006	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1008	St. Andrews Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1009	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1010	Ascension Lutheran Church	Pratt	N/A	N/A	N/A
1101	Zion Lutheran Church	Argonia	X	X	X
1102	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Arkansas City	X	X	X
1103	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Cheney	X	X	
1104	Faith Lutheran Church	Derby	X	X	X
1105	Calvary Lutheran Church	Wellington	X	X	X
1106	Bethany Lutheran Church	Wichita		X	X
1107	Grace Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1108	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1109	Trinity Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X
1110	Trinity Lutheran Church	Winfield	X	X	X
1111	Trinity Lutheran Church	Medicine Lodge	X	X	X
1112	St. John Lutheran Church	Nashville	X	X	X
1113	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Preston	X	X	X
1201	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Canton			X

1202	St. Pauls Lutheran Church	Haven	X		
1204	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Hutchinson	X	X	X
1205	Grace Lutheran Church	Lyons	X	X	X
1206	Grace Lutheran Church	McPherson	X	X	X
1207	St. John Lutheran Church	Moundridge	X	X	X
1208	Christ the King Lutheran Church	Salina	X	X	X
1209	Trinity Lutheran Church	Salina	X	X	X
1210	St. John Lutheran Church	Ellinwood	X	X	X
1301	Zion Lutheran Church	Downs		X	X
1302	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Ellsworth	X	X	X
1303	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Ellsworth	X		X
1306	Trinity Lutheran Church	Hunter	X		
1307	St. John Lutheran Church	Lincoln	X		
1308	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Lincoln			
1311	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Sylvan Grove	X	X	X
1312	Zion Lutheran Church	Clafin	X	X	X
1313	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Great Bend	X	X	
1314	Concordia Lutheran Church	Hoisington	X	X	
1315	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Holyrood	X	X	X
1316	Grace Lutheran Church	Larned	X	X	
1501	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Atwood	X	X	X
1502	Trinity Lutheran Church	Colby	X	X	X
1503	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hoxie	X	X	X
1504	First St. John Lutheran Church	Kensington	X	X	X
1506	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Norton	X	X	X
1507	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Oakley	X	X	
1508	St. John Lutheran Church	Oberlin	X	X	X
1509	First Lutheran Church	Phillipsburg	X	X	X
1510	Grace Lutheran Church	Hill City	X	X	X
1511	Messiah Lutheran Church	Hays	X	X	X
1512	Peace Lutheran Church	Natoma	X	X	X
1513	First Lutheran Church	Plainville	X	X	X
1603	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lakin		X	X
1605	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Dodge City	X		
1606	Christ Lutheran Church	Elkhart			X
1607	Trinity Lutheran Church	Garden City	X	X	X
1609	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Jetmore		X	
1610	Grace Lutheran Church	Liberal	X	X	X
1611	St. John Lutheran Church	Meade	X		X
1612	Zion Lutheran Church	Offerle	X	X	X
1613	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Scott City	X	X	X
1615	Grace Lutheran Church	Ulysses		X	X
1617	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Kinsley	X	X	X
1618	Peace Lutheran Church	Greensburg			X

## APPROVAL OF REVISED CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS

Constitution Committee members: Rev. David Meier (Chair), Rev. Rodney Fritz, Rev. Robert Grimm

The following is from the 2016 Handbook of Synod:

### 2.4 Continued Eligibility of Congregations

- 2.4.1 A congregation desiring to retain membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall continue to have a constitution and bylaws approved by the Synod.
- (a) A member congregation which desires to revise its constitution and/or bylaws shall, as a condition of continued eligibility as a member of the Synod, submit a proposed revised constitution and/or revised bylaws to the district president.
  - (b) The district president shall refer such to the district constitution committee for review to ascertain that the provisions are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod.
  - (c) Upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation by the district president, the district board of directors shall determine if the changes are acceptable to the Synod.
  - (d) Upon favorable action by the district board of directors, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are acceptable to the Synod, and the congregation may proceed with formal adoption of the revised constitution and/or bylaws and remain a member in good standing of the Synod.
  - (e) Upon formal adoption of the proposed revised constitution and/or bylaws, the congregation shall provide to the district a dated copy of the action taken, accompanied by a copy of the dated revised constitution and bylaws.
  - (f) Until a congregation formally adopts a revised constitution and/or bylaws using this process, the Synod shall consider the existing constitution and bylaws to be in effect for all purposes.
- 2.4.2 A copy of the signed constitution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the district board of directors shall be reported to the next regularly scheduled convention of the district.

To fulfill the last statement, the following is a list of the congregational constitution and bylaw revisions that have been approved by the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors in the last triennium.

#### 2015

Trinity, Holton  
Grace, Iola  
Trinity, Leavenworth  
Trinity, Mission  
Bethany, Wichita

#### 2016

Our Saviour, Kansas City  
Trinity, Paola  
Trinity, Garden City  
Christ the King, Salina  
Faith, Abilene  
Trinity, Medicine Lodge  
Zion, Linn

#### 2017

Immanuel, Norton  
Trinity, Parsons  
Grace, Hill City  
Bethlehem, Greenleaf  
Ascension, Pratt (new congregation)  
Holy Cross, Dodge City  
Immanuel, Junction City  
Zion, Chanute  
Redeemer, Olathe

#### 2018

St. Andrew's, Wichita  
Zion, Vassar  
St. Peter's, Barnes  
Bethlehem, Bremen  
Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor





# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

## SECTION 5 Nominations and Profiles

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Rev. Peter Lange .....	73
<b>Region 1 Vice-President</b>	
Rev. Jon Bruss .....	74
Rev. Robert Leiste .....	75
Rev. Mark Schulz .....	76
<b>Region 2 Vice-President</b>	
Rev. Justin Panzer .....	76
<b>Region 3 Vice-President</b>	
Rev. Geoffrey Boyle .....	77
Rev. Scott Snow .....	78
<b>Region 4 Vice-President</b>	
Rev. Rick Rostek .....	79
<b>Secretary</b>	
Rev. David Meier .....	101
Rev. Robert Weinkauff .....	102
<b>Region 1 Lay Member, Board of Directors</b>	
David Bruns .....	82
Marvin Schulteis .....	83
<b>Region 2 Lay Member, Board of Directors</b>	
David Meisinger .....	84
Richard Schotte .....	85
Dan Thalmann .....	85
<b>Region 3 Lay Member, Board of Directors</b>	
Chris Anderson .....	86
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<b>Region 4 Lay Member, Board of Directors</b>	
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Rev. Stan Palmer Reg. 4 .....	91
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<b>Region 1</b>	
Keith Gloe .....	95
Marvin Schulteis .....	95

**Region 2**

C.J. Cross ..... 96  
Richard Schotte..... 97  
Stephen Weller..... 97

**Region 3**

**Region 4**

Dave Bergmeier ..... 98

**Synod Nominating Committee**

Curtis Engelbrecht..... 99  
Victor Martin Schimming ..... 99  
Marvin Schulteis..... 100

**NOMINATIONS REPORT**  
**District Secretary, Rev. David E. Meier**

The following nominations were submitted to the District Secretary by the congregations of the Kansas District and are verified by the Chairman of the Elections Committee. The Nominations Committee is not part of the process for the offices of President, Vice-President and Circuit Visitor. The term of office for District President is three years, and he may serve four terms. The Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors are elected for three year terms; an incumbent may succeed himself twice (for a total of nine years). The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates. The amendment procedure shall include a motion, second and a vote on the amendment. There shall be no discussion of the amendment except for the chair to determine that requirements for filing of the Biography and Consent form and eligibility have been met. Any delegate making a nominating amendment from the floor shall have secured the Biography and Consent form from the nominee prior to making the nomination and shall submit this document to the Secretary immediately upon making the nominating amendment.

**PRESIDENT**

Candidates for District President are nominated by ballot by the congregations of the District. The nominee must be on the clergy roster of the Synod. Only five individuals receiving five or more nominating ballots may be listed on the Convention ballot. The following is a listing of those who received nominations, along with the number of nominations that each individual received. Those names preceded by an asterisk (\*) have declined the nomination. **Names underlined are those that will appear on the Convention ballot. Incumbents are in bold type.**

**Rev. Peter K. Lange - 44**

Rev. Scott Snow – 1

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Candidates for District Vice-President are nominated by the congregations of the region that they represent. They must be on the clergy roster of the Synod. Those candidates who received the largest number of nominations and whose nominations collectively total a majority (one-half plus one) of the total nominations cast from that region shall constitute the Vice-President ballot from that region. There will be at least two candidates in each region. The Convention as a whole elects the four Vice-Presidents. After all four Vice-Presidents are elected, a ranking ballot will be provided to designate the First, Second, Third and Fourth Vice-President, in order of succession. The following is a list of those receiving nominations and the number of nominations each received. Names underlined will appear on the Convention ballot. Those names preceded by an asterisk (\*) have declined the nomination. **Names underlined are those that will appear on the Convention ballot. Incumbents are in bold type.**

**Region 1**

Rev. Jon Bruss – 3

Rev. Robert Leiste – 1

Rev. Mark Schulz- 2

\*Rev. Damian Snyder - 2

**Region 2**

\*Rev. Robert W. Grimm - 1

**Rev. Justin A. Panzer – 15**

**Region 3**

Rev. Geoffrey R. Boyle – 3

**Rev. Scott Snow – 4**

**Region 4**

**Rev. Rick Rostek - 13**

## **CIRCUIT VISITORS**

The following is a listing of those elected by circuit forums for the office of Circuit Visitor. These names will appear on the ballot for ratification by the Convention.

### **Circuit Elected**

Circuit # 1 Rev. Michael Dunaway  
Circuit # 2 Rev. Jason Boetcher  
Circuit # 3N Rev. Joel Schultz  
Circuit # 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner  
Circuit # 4 Rev. Don Haselhuhn  
Circuit # 5 Rev. Dan Ramsey  
Circuit # 6 Rev. Jon Bruss  
Circuit # 7 Rev. Paul Tessaro  
Circuit # 8 Rev. Larry Boye  
Circuit # 9 Rev. Clark Davis  
Circuit # 10 Rev. Tom Harmon  
Circuit # 11 Rev. Thomas Johnson  
Circuit # 12 Rev. Dale Dumperth  
Circuit # 13 Rev. Luke Brown  
Circuit # 15 Rev. Michael Schmidt  
Circuit # 16 Rev. Warren Prochnow

### **Church, Town**

Northeast Kansas Partnership, Hiawatha  
Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor  
Beautiful Savior, Olathe  
Christ Our Savior, Louisburg  
Trinity, Burlington  
Zion, Chanute  
St. John's, Topeka  
St. Paul, Clay Center  
retired  
St. John, Tampa  
Risen Savior, Wichita  
Faith, Derby  
Grace, McPherson  
Immanuel, Ellsworth  
Peace, Natoma/First, Plainville  
Holy Cross, Scott City

## **REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate two lay members who are presently members of a congregation in the respective region as candidate for regional lay member of the Board of Directors. Candidates shall be at least the two lay members in the region who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve if elected. All candidates not elected shall be on the ballot for the at large lay positions on the Board of Directors.

### **Region 1 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

#### **David Bruns - 1**

Marvin Schulteis - 1

### **Region 2 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

#### **David Meisinger - 7**

#### **Richard Schotte - 3**

Dan Thalmann - 1

### **Region 3 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

Chris Anderson - 1

Curt Engelbrecht – 2

\*Larry Junker - 1

### **Region 4 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

\*Ruth Holste – 7

\*Ryan Peschka – 1

Mark Wolters – 1

## **REPORT OF THE NOMINIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR DISTRICT CONVENTION**

The Nominating Committee (Committee) met initially via conference call in April, 2017. We were all contacted initially by the District Secretary, Rev. David Meier. During our initial conference call, Mr. Curt Engelbrecht was elected as Committee Chair. The Committee reviewed the positions to be filled on the slate of candidates. A call for nominations was submitted to District pastors and congregations on May 1, 2017 with a deadline for receipt of nominations by the Committee of November 30, 2017. As nominations were received, we verified names and positions to ensure that all positions would have representatives from their appropriate areas, including clergy, commissioned ministers, and laity, as well as regional representations. The initial request for biographies and consent forms from the list of nominees was sent December 18, 2017, with a number of follow-up requests being sent electronically and through the USPS until all forms had been received. Our second and final committee meeting was held on January 23, 2018 at the Retreat Center in Herington, with all committee members present, along with District Secretary, Rev. David Meier. The purpose of the meeting was to review the list of nominees, verify them to congregation, region, and positions, and ensure that we had sufficient names per position to complete a full slate. Several calls were made to finalize these details. Committee members are Rev. Robert Leiste, Region 1; Rev Russell Bonne, Region 2; Rev. Scott Goltl, Region 3; Mrs. Joyce Duitsman, Commissioned Minister, Region 1; Mr. Stan Hatesohl, Laity, Region 1; Mr. Clifford Ascher, Laity, Region 2; Mr. Curt Engelbrecht, Laity, Region 3; and Mr. Larry Gawith, Laity, Region 4.

### **Nominations Committee Report**

The breakdown of nominations received from congregations/workers and acceptances:

**District Secretary** 9 nominations (3 nominees), 2 accepted

#### **Board of Directors**

Commissioned Ministers: 3 nominations, 3 accepted

Laity: 15 nominations (8 nominees), 7 accepted

#### **2021 District Nominations Committee**

Clergy: 5 nominations, 3 accepted

Commissioned Ministers: 4 nominations, 3 accepted

Laity: 9 nominations (7 nominees), 6 accepted

#### **2019 Synod Nominations Committee**

Laity: 8 nominations (3 nominees), 3 accepted

#### **Secretary**

**Rev. David Meier**

Rev. Robert Weinkauf

#### **Commissioned Ministers Board of Directors (3)**

**Rick Hanebutt**

**Sue Kleber**

**Jeremy Pera**

#### **Lay Member At Large Board of Directors (3)**

Michael Bachelor

Phillip Friedrichs

**Bruce Schultz**

Stephen Weller

#### **District Nominations Committee**

##### **Clergy (3)**

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Reg. 2

Rev. Jacob Sherry, Reg. 2

Rev. Stan Palmer, Reg. 4

**Commissioned Minister (1)**

Kelly Dressler  
Sue Kleber  
Jeremy Pera

**Lay Members (one per region)**

**Region 1**

Keith Gloe  
Marvin Schulteis

**Region 2**

C.J. Cross  
Richard Schotte  
Stephen Weller

**Region 3**

**Region 4**

Dave Bergmeier

**Synod Nominating Committee (member and alternate)**

Curtis Engelbrecht  
Victor Martin Schimming  
Marvin Schulteis

## NOMINATION BALLOT

### **President**

Rev. Peter Lange

### **Region 1 Vice-President**

Rev. Jon Bruss  
Rev. Robert Leiste  
Rev. Mark Schulz

### **Region 2 Vice-President**

Rev. Justin Panzer

### **Region 3 Vice-President**

Rev. Geoffrey Boyle  
Rev. Scott Snow

### **Region 4 Vice-President**

Rev. Rick Rostek

### **Secretary**

Rev. David Meier  
Rev. Robert Weinkauff

### **Region 1 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

David Bruns  
Marvin Schulteis

### **Region 2 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

David Meisinger  
Richard Schotte  
Dan Thalmann

### **Region 3 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

Chris Anderson  
Curtis Engelbrecht

### **Region 4 Lay Member, Board of Directors**

Mark Wolters

### **Lay Member At Large, Board of Directors**

Michael Bachelor  
Phillip Friedrichs  
Bruce Schultz  
Stephen Weller

### **Commissioned Ministers, Board of Directors**

Rick Hanebutt  
Sue Kleber  
Jeremy Pera

### **District Nominating Committee Clergy (3)**

Rev. Alan Stahlecker Reg. 2  
Rev. Jacob Sherry Reg. 2  
Rev. Stan Palmer Reg. 4

### **District Nominating Committee Commissioned Minister**

Kelly Dressler  
Sue Kleber  
Jeremy Pera

### **District Nominating Committee Lay Members (one per region)**

**Region 1**  
Keith Gloe  
Marvin Schulteis

**Region 2**  
C.J. Cross  
Richard Schotte  
Stephen Weller

### **Region 3**

**Region 4**  
Dave Bergmeier

### **Synod Nominating Committee**

Curtis Engelbrecht  
Victor Martin Schimming  
Marvin Schulteis

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

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### PRESIDENT

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Name: Rev. Peter K. Lange	Position: District President
Address: 221 SW Greenwood Avenue Topeka, KS 66606	LCMS Kansas District 1000 SW 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka, KS 66606
Work Phone: 785-357-4441	Age: 56
Business Phone: 785.354.7132	Years in the Kansas District: 19
Year Ordained: 1990	

**Education:** DOXOLOGY – completed 2013; One or two elective theological conferences per year during most years in the ministry; Master of Sacred Theology (New Testament Studies) – CTS, Ft. Wayne, IN, 1998; Master of Divinity – CTS, Ft. Wayne, IN, 1988; Bachelor of Arts (SCL) – Concordia, River Forest, IL 1984

**Congregations Served:** St. John's – Topeka, KS 1999-2015 (Senior Pastor); St. Paul's – Concordia, MO 1990-1999 (Associate Pastor)

**List Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** President of the LCMS Kansas District – 2015-present; Chairman of Floor Committee 15 (Reformation), Synod Convention – 2016; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the LCMS Kansas District – 2012-2015; KS District Board of Caring Ministry – 2012-2015; Synod Think Tank to expand the *Koinonia Project* – January 2015; Recording Secretary, Circuit 6 – 2012-2015; KS District Representative to the LCEF Fall Leadership Conference – 2007, 2014; Member of Floor Committee 7 (Structure & Ecclesial Matters), Synod Convention – 2013; Pastoral Delegate to the Synod Convention – 2013; Pastoral Advisor at Topeka Lutheran School – numerous years; Member of Professional Church Workers Planning Committee – 2007-2010; LCMS Doctrinal Reviewer – 1998-2009; Conference Presenter at St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO – 2008; Presenter at the CTS-FW Good Shepherd Institute – 2007; Presenter at the Kansas District's Timothy Gathering – 2007; Pastoral Delegate to Synod Convention – 2007; Presenter at the Higher Things youth gathering – 2007; Author of sermon studies for Concordia Preaching Resources – 2007; Vicarage Supervisor – 2002-2007; Presenter at Lutheran Service Book introductory workshops – 2006; Kansas District Planning Committee for Theological Convocation – 2005-2006; Task Force for National Youth Gatherings – 2005; Author of CPH Sunday School Materials – 2004; Teacher for Lutheran Musician Enrichment with the LCMS Comm. on Worship – 2000-2002; Missouri District Board for Parish Education – 1992-1999; Missouri District Church Worker Recruitment Committee – 1992-1999; Missouri District Pastors' Conference Planning Committee – one term; Lutheran Layman's League Zone Advisor, Missouri District (4 years); Secretary/Treasurer, Concordia Circuits, Missouri District (3 years)

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Host Pastor at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany – July 2017 (one week); Partner with Safe Streets (Topeka) for the National Night Out Against Crime – 2007-2015; Partner with the Old Town (Topeka) neighborhood improvement association – 2006-2015; Mission Trip to the Czech Republic with the LCMS Office of International Mission – Dec. 2014; Organized concert in collaboration with the Great Spaces concert series – 2013-2014; *Together in Mission* trip to Russia (two weeks) – 2008; Play trumpet in various community bands – 2005-2012; Wiebe Award for Biblical Studies – CTS, Ft. Wayne, IN, 1988; Teaching Assistant for Biblical Languages – CTS, Ft. Wayne, IN, 1988-1990

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am not "sufficient in myself" for this office (2 Cor. 3:4-6). However, the Lord has seen fit to give me three years of experience as district president which, I believe, would allow me to begin a second triennium in a much better place and to lead the Kansas District more ably for another three years.



**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):**

JOYS:

- We are striving to keep God's Word and our Lutheran identity central to all we do so that we can clearly and boldly proclaim Jesus Christ.
- We are joyfully functioning as the Synod in this place.
- We are working toward ever greater unity, concord, and harmony so that we can work together in the mission of God.
- We are serving based on a clear mission statement and articulated strategic plan so that we might faithfully do what our Lord calls us to do.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):**

- *Support* the congregations and workers of the District via increased visitation, an efficient call process, enhanced networking of congregations and workers, improved worker care, and disaster relief so that the members of the District might better be enabled to work in the Lord's harvest field.
- *Encourage* congregations and workers while giving attention to our unity, concord, and harmony as "partners in the Gospel."
- *Advance the mission* of God while being Joy:fully Lutheran.

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## VICE PRESIDENTS

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Name: Rev. Dr. J.S. Bruss  
Address: 2425 SW Sunset Ct.  
Topeka, KS 66604

Home Phone: 785.783.7169  
Business Phone: 785.354.7132  
Year Ordained: 1997

Position: Senior Pastor  
Congregation: St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
Congregation Address: 901 SW Fillmore  
Topeka, KS 66606

Age: 50  
Years in the Kansas District: 4.5 (7.5 including earlier time)

**Education:** B.A. Classics (Greek and Latin), *magna cum laude*, St. Olaf College (1989); M.Div., Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary (1994); M.A. Classics, University of Minnesota (1996); Ph.D. Classics (major) and Philosophy (minor), *with distinction*, University of Minnesota (2000)

**Congregations Served:** Chapel staff and faculty member (German, Greek, theology), Bethany Lutheran College (ELS), Mankato, MN (1995-2002); Calvary Lutheran Church, Topeka (vacancies 2008-09; 2016-17); St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka (ass't pastor 2013-2015; senior pastor 2015-present)

**List Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Presenter at District Pastors Conferences, 2008, 2009, and 2013; keynote speaker at Pastors Pre-Lent Retreat, 2010; circuit visitor, 2015-2018; re-elected for 2018-2021 term; organizer of CTSFW conference, Lutheranism and the Classics (2009-2010); keynote speaker, Lutheranism and the Classics (2009); member of [Synod] President's Think Tank on Higher Education, 2014; vicarage supervisor 2008-2009

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** youth soccer coach, Sewanee, TN (2004-2005); member of NCA accreditation self-study committee, Bethany Lutheran College; faculty chair, Bethany Lutheran College; APA self-study report author, St. Olaf College; relevant languages: high proficiency: Greek, Latin, German; moderate proficiency: French, Hebrew

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** Committed above all to the proclamation of the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ, I seek to foster thriving ministries that bring Christ to His people, and through His people to the world in our own back yards and on other continents. I firmly believe that a strong, united LCMS and Kansas District is the best way to do this.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):**

Joys:

- the proclamation of Christ in widely divergent Kansas locales, from large suburban to small rural and inner-city congregations
- strengthened relations with Guinea via CLET
- implementation of Koinonia in a few circuits of the district
- greatly increased efficiency and transparency in the D.O. complemented by theological clarity, and commitment to our Confession
- reinvigoration of the Missions and Stewardship office
- serving together under the Cross

Disappointments:

- struggling parishes and pastors and their anguish
- doctrinal and practical disagreement within the District
- tepid mission support
- lack of *unified* support of the work of the District and Synod

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Joyfully remain faithful to the Lord, His Word, Baptism, and Communion, and to the pure Confession the Faith. By these gifts the Lord prepares His pastors and laity alike to bring the pure, life-saving Gospel to those whom we encounter in our vocations. Vigorous teaching of God's Word and will remains of paramount importance. In brief, strengthen mission through strengthening congregations through Word and Sacrament.

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Name: Rev. Robert A. Leiste  
Address: 3721 W 24<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
Home Phone: 785-766-8447  
Business Phone: 785-843-8781  
Year Ordained: 1984

Position: Pastor  
Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church  
2700 Lawrence Ave.  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
Age: 62  
Years in KS District: 13

**Education:** College of St. Scholastic 1976-77; Concordia, St. Paul 1977-79; Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne 1979-84; Pastoral Counseling Institute, Bloomington 1992-93

**Congregations Served:** Immanuel/Menno and Martinus/Utica, SD 1984-1987; Good Shepherd, State College, PA 1987-88; Christ Our Savior, Dixon, IL 1988-95; Concordia, Jamestown, ND 1995-2004; Redeemer, Lawrence, KS 2004-present

**List Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Secretary; District Pastoral Conference Vice Chairman – Illinois; Circuit Youth Counselor – ND 1989-95; Circuit Counselor, Circuit 6 (KS) 6 yrs.; LWML Counselor 1 yr.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Hospice County Board, SD 1985-87; Hospital Chaplaincy Board, IL, 1990-94; Lions Club

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I have had the great fortune to serve in several Districts, learning in each as to the work of the church. This along with my learning in Kansas (such as the Koinonia project), my experience as a pastor, I feel will enable me to faithfully serve in the Kansas District in a positive way.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):** Perhaps the most disappointing is the “camps” we as a District have divided ourselves into, always ready to find the speck in our brother's eye than deal with log in our own (Mt 7:3-4). To overcome this, I would continue to support and encourage any process that encourages a brotherly walking together.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** My greatest joy during my time in the Kansas District is the many and various ways the District does support the Great Commission. From the work of the LWML, Lutheran Hour, support of overseas missions in Africa and Europe as well as at home such as Haskell Light in Lawrence. The District needs to support what is being done as well as continuing to look for new opportunities to continue this work with the congregation.

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Name: Rev. Mark Schulz	Position: Senior Pastor
Address: 8405 W 98 <sup>th</sup> Circle Overland Park, Kansas 66212	Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church 5601 W 62 <sup>nd</sup> Street Mission, Kansas 66202
Home Phone: 913-231-9726	Age: 58
Business Phone: 913-432-5441	Years in KS District: 13
Year Ordained: 1986	

**Education:** Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, BA 1982; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, MDiv 1986; Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, DMin 1997

**Congregations Served:** St. Mark, Omaha, NE 1986-1992; St. Luke, Itasca, IL 1992-1999; Faith, Lake Forest, IL 1999-2005; Bethany, Overland Park and Stilwell, KS 2005-2013; Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, KS 2013-present

**List Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Visitor (NID, KS); District Evangelism Committee (NEB, NID); District Conference Registrar (NID); District Conference Planning Committee (KS)

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Rotary (IL), HOA board (KS), Volunteer tutor (KS)

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I feel that my 32 years of experience as a pastor (including 13 years in Kansas) help me to consider the viewpoints of others. I am a good listener and communicator. I grew up in a small town in a rural area of Minnesota but have pastoral experience in metropolitan areas.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):** I am delighted with the efforts of the district staff to get around the district. Ministry partnerships are developed through relationships, and knowing district staff (and being known) is key to these efforts to partner in ministry.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The District's emphasis on revitalization of existing congregations coupled with exploring and encouraging starting new congregations is the right course. We have plenty of opportunities here in Kansas, but need to recognize them and act. God is always faithful!

## Region 2

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Name: Rev. Justin A. Panzer	Position: Pastor (Sole)
Address: 1663 Hwy 15 Abilene, KS 67410	Congregation: Faith Lutheran Church Congregation Address: 1600 N Buckeye Ave Abilene, KS 67410
Home Phone: (785) 479-1956	Age: 44
Business Phone: (785) 263-1842	Years in the Kansas District: 14
Year Ordained: 2003	

**Education:** Lewis High School (May 1992) – Lewis, KS; Hutchinson Community College – Hutchinson, KS (May 1994); Associate of Arts; University of Kansas – Lawrence, KS (Dec. 1996); Bachelor of Science in Education; Westfield House – Cambridge, England (1999-2000), seminary exchange program;

Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, MO (May 2003); Master of Divinity; DOXOLOGY - *The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel* (2013-2014); Mental Health First Aid USA Certified – (2016-Present)

**Congregations Served:** Pastor – Faith Lutheran, Abilene (July 2003 – present); Vacancy Pastor – St. John’s Lutheran, Herington (October 2013 – June 2014)

**List Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** KS District Church Worker Committee (2003-2004, Emporia); (2013-2015, Lawrence/Wichita); Circuit 9 Pastoral Delegate 2007 Synodical Convention – Houston, TX; KS District Educational Loan Repayment Committee (2007-Present); 2009 KS District Convention Caring Ministry Committee Chair; Circuit 9 Pastoral Delegate 2010 Synodical Convention – Houston, TX; Circuit 9 Pastoral Delegate 2013 Synodical Convention – St. Louis, MO; Vacancy Pastor – St. John’s Lutheran, Herington (October 2013 – June 2014); KS District Region 2 Vice-President (June 2014-Present)

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Abilene Kiwanis Club (2003-2004); Dickinson County *Quality of Life Coalition* Committee Member (2004-2007); City of Abilene Recreation Commission Committee Member (2007-Present); Dickinson County *Relay for Life* Volunteer (2010); Salina Rescue Mission Pastoral Volunteer (2010-Present); City of Abilene Recreation Commission Vice-Chairman (2011-Present); City of Abilene rec youth coach (2011-2016); Dave Ramsey *Financial Peace University* Class Coordinator (3 times)

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** It has been my privilege to serve the KS District as the Region 2 Vice-President for the past three years. Visitation and communication are two keys that I would continue to strive to work for if elected to this position once again. I feel that I would bring great organizational skills to this position and a willingness and desire to work with others.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):** I would answer this statement by saying “to continue to be faithful.” Be faithful to the Holy Scriptures. Be faithful to the Lutheran Confessions. As a member of the Stewardship Board, we are taking great care in faithfully using the dollars that the congregations are entrusting to the KS District. As a member of the Board of Directors, open and honest communication remains among the members and the District Staff. I would desire that the Board and Staff continue to remain working closely together as we pursue the goals that have been set.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The Mission of the LCMS KS District “is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.” The District should encourage her pastors to visit their people, engage in continuing education, and find a fellow brother confessor. The District should encourage her congregations to support their Pastors through prayer and financial stewardship; regularly receive the Lord’s gifts through Word and Sacrament; attend Bible study, supported by home devotions. We must continue to be a baptized people who are fed and taught. Filled with the gifts of Christ, together, we will carry out the mission He has given His Church!

### Region 3

Name: Rev. Geoffrey R. Boyle  
Address: 637 S Erie St.  
Wichita, KS 67211  
Cell Phone: 316-650-1583  
Age: 34  
Year Ordained: 2010  
Years in the KS District: 7

Position: Pastor  
Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church  
3310 E Pawnee  
Wichita, Kansas 67218  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
611 S Erie,  
Wichita, Kansas 67211

**Education:** BA – University of Michigan (2005); MDiv – Concordia Theological Seminary—FW (2009); PhD Candidate – University of Toronto (*hopefully 2018*); Doxology Grad (2015) and many CEU credits through the seminaries.

**Congregations Served:** Grace Lutheran, Wichita – 2010-present; Trinity Lutheran, Wichita – 2010-present

**Life Service to Circuit, District, and Synod:** Professional Church Workers Conference Planning Committee (2011-2013); Chairman of Circuits 10-11 Reformation Festival Planning Committee (2011-present); Chairman of Steering Committee for Concordia Academy – A Lutheran Liberal Arts School (2016-present); Adjunct Professor for Concordia Theological Seminary—FW (2012-present); Adjunct Professor for Seminario Concordia—Buenos Aires, Argentina (2014-2015); Circuit Delegate to Synod Convention (2013); Doctrinal Reviewer for Synod (2017)

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Board Member of Safe Streets Coalition of Wichita (2011-2012); Board Member of Eighth Day Institute, Wichita (2013-present); Vice President of Eighth Day Institute, Wichita (2016-present)

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** Still a young pastor, I have the energy, organization, and desire to serve our Kansas congregations through theological and pastoral care. Serving a dual congregation with an active Hispanic ministry, I have experience with both the district's missionary emphasis as well as the struggles of the average small congregation.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):** I'm thrilled by the District's support of continuing education for both pastor and laity, as well as the emphasis on visitation. With increasing fiscal transparency, our congregations can be confident where their offerings go. It's always a joy seeing recent seminary graduates placed in our district, I hope that continues.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** In our secular age providing for a congregation—even being Christian—has become incredibly difficult. I hope that our District will seriously and strategically consider how we might best strengthen our congregations, pastors, and all Christians in Kansas so that we might offer light and stability to a crumbling world.

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Name: Rev. Scott Snow	Position: Senior Pastor
Address: 15320 E Windham Ct Wichita, KS 67230-6907	Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School 600 N Greenwich Rd. Wichita, Kansas 67206
Home Phone: 316-927-3046	
Business Phone: 316-684-5201	Age: 60
Year Ordained: 1983	Years in the KS District: 11 (8 most recently, 3 previously)

**Education:** Pre-Seminary – Concordia, St. Paul, MN - BS 1979; Seminary – St. Louis, MO - MDiv 1983; Post-Grad – Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne – DMin - course work completed

**Congregations Served:** St. Paul (Associate) Rockford, IL 1983-1989; St. Paul (Senior) Rockford, IL 1989-1998; Northern IL District Staff – Mission/Stewardship Executive 1998-2005; Board for Mission Services, St. Louis, MO – Evangelism Exec. 2005-2010; Holy Cross (Senior Pastor) Wichita, KS 2010 – present

**Life Service to Circuit, District, and Synod:** Circuit and District: Great Commission Convocations; Pastoral Conference Program Committee; Chairman of various Convention Floor Committees; Circuit Counselor (3 terms); Chr. of Circuit Counselor Planning Committee; District Polity Commission; Northern Illinois District Vice President and two (2) terms as Kansas District Vice President.

**Synod:** Convention delegate; “Alive In Christ” Associate Director; Synodical Reconciler (19 yrs. in NID and KS); Fundraising Committee for St. Louis Seminary Chapel; Synodical Circuit Counselor Planning Committee; Dean of the Synodical Mission Planters’ Institute; Mission Multiplication Task Force; Board of Directors for the Center for US Missions; International Student Ministry (ISM) National Board of Directors; Apple of His Eye National Board of Directors.

**Auxiliaries:** Northern Illinois District LLL Pastoral Advisor (4 years); Kansas District LLL Pastoral Advisor (6 years); LWML Wichita Zone Pastoral Advisor (4 years).

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Hospital Night Chaplain; Blood Donor; Kiwanis Club member/President

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I have served as a Vice President in 2 LCMS Districts – both in Northern Illinois and here in the Kansas District. I believe that it is important for congregations and church workers, out of their thanks to the Lord, to “give talents and time back to Him” through “wider service” to the district and Synod. Many years of service to the Lord through the Circuit, District and Synod provide me with a local, district and national view of mission and ministry which I would like to share with my KS District brothers and sisters. I look forward to continued service in our wonderful district.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):** I am supportive of the district emphasis on Strategic Planning. I believe that care for Kansas District church workers (their wellness in body, mind and spirit) and Kansas District Congregations is critical. I pray that empowered by God’s precious Word and Sacraments we, together, would continue to lovingly strengthen all believers in Christ; to encourage the growth of Christian Stewards; and by the work of the Holy Spirit to reach out to “the Lost” who need to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I believe that the District exists to support the gospel outreach of each congregation. Every professional church worker should receive encouragement, support and training to equip them in personally sharing Christ and helping them to “equip the saints” for this important work of ministry. Under the direction, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we should live out the Great Commission by praying, planning and working each year with every Kansas congregation and school to develop at least one new effort in strengthening its outreach to their community, across Kansas and to the world.

## Region 4

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Name: Rev. Rick Rostek	Position: Pastor
Address: 1110 Nixon Norton, Kansas 67654	Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church 14715 Washington Rd Norton, Kansas 67654
Home Phone: 785-877-3493	Age: 58
Business Phone: 785-877-2430	Years in KS District: 16
Year Ordained: 2001	

**Education:** B.S. Mechanical Engineering, University of Missouri—Rolla, 1983; M.S. Atmospheric Sciences, Purdue University, 1985; M.Div. Concordia Seminary—St. Louis, 2001

**Congregations Served:** Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, KS, 2001-present

**List Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** KS District Region 4 Vice President, 2012-present; KS District Board of Stewardship, 2012-present; Zone Counselor LWML 2014; Pastoral Counselor, KS District LWML, 2006-2010; Guest Leader, Consecrated Stewards, 2010-present; Host for Concordia Seminary Workshop, 2011

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** President, Norton CARES, 2006-present; Recording Secretary, Norton County Ministerial Alliance, 2002-present; Financial Director, Smoky Hill Chapter of Thrivent, 2011-present; Hospice and Hospital Chaplain; USD 211 Jr. High School Site Council, 2010-2012; Walking School Bus, 2014-present

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** As Region 4 VP, I've come to know especially the pastors of Circuits 13, 15, &16, and I am aware of the opportunities and challenges we have in this part of the state.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving (50 words or less):** A great joy has been the mission work taking place in the KS District, particularly those funded in part through KS District Mission dollars. I have also been pleased with the improved finances of the District.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I would like to see the District increase its funding for mission projects within the District. Congregations have good ideas for outreach in their communities, but often lack the funding to implement these ideas. Increased financial support through Mission grants would help bring these ideas to fruition.

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## Board of Directors - Commissioned

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Name: Rick Hanebutt  
5207 Woodsonia Drive  
Shawnee, KS 66226  
Home Phone: 913-660-8898  
Year Comm: 1979  
Years in KS District: 9

Home Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church  
6308 Quivira Road  
Shawnee, KS 66216  
Occupation: Self-employed  
Email: hanebutthi@gmail.com

**Education:** BA – Concordia River Forest IL.; MS-UWO; Ed. Spec. - CMSU

**Congregations Served:** Teacher/Principal, 40 years

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Served as representative at various district and synodical conference/conventions. Served on district boards. Kansas District Board of Directors

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Served on a number of community boards. Held Leadership positions in many school/church/community groups.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position:** I have been professionally involved with church work for forty years. I have a passion for God's Word to be shared to all, especially through our Lutheran Churches and Schools.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving:** In my nine years in the Kansas District, I have seen leaders work very hard to support our churches and schools. Despite their work, our churches and schools are declining in numbers and attendance and it appears this trend will continue.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord:** I believe the district should develop programs to support our churches and schools to better share God's Word with the communities around them. With stronger local churches and schools, there will be greater support and opportunities to share God's Word to His mission fields locally, nationally and throughout the world.

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Name: Susan (Sue) Kleber  
Address: 8711 E. 44<sup>th</sup> St. N.  
Wichita, KS 67226  
Home Phone: 316-682-1894

Home Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church,  
Address: 600 N Greenwich Rd. Wichita, Kansas 67206  
Yrs. in Kansas District: 23  
Occupation: Educator

**Education:** M.S. in Education, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; B.S. in Education and Lutheran Teachers Diploma, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; K-12 Certification in Spanish, Friends University, Wichita, Kansas; PS-8 Administrative (Building) Certification, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; K-12 Certification in English as a Second Language, State of Kansas.

**Service in Congregations:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, Kansas; Faith Lutheran Church and School, Derby, Kansas; Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Columbus, Nebraska; Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, Kansas; St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Chaska, Minnesota; St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Battle Creek, Nebraska; Central Lutheran School, member at St. John's Lutheran Church, Newhall, Iowa.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Served as educator on PLC for Kansas District. Have served on planning committees for conferences in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa East Districts, LCMS, and national NLSA conferences, including pastor/teacher conferences, singles events/retreats, and LWML. Also, have helped count votes and proctor at the Kansas District Convention. Recently served on Board of Directors and on appointed committees, Board of Caring Ministry and Standard Operating Procedures Committee (SOPM), and special task force for District's Retreat Center.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Have worked voting polls, participated in Bi-Centennial activities, sold buttons at the Wichita River Festival and walked in its Walk-a-thon, and held various offices in Thrivent and local activities. Co-founded ILS Extravaganza for school funding. Special gifts include that of coordinating and administrating events, dates, and resources including the talent of helping people work together for a common goal. Teaching is a true talent and gift.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** Leadership in Scripture states that God's qualification for leadership as people who are capable, God-fearing, and haters of dishonest gain (Exodus 18:21). Basing my leadership style on this biblical premise, I strive to serve the various roles God has placed before me in a Servant Leadership model. I have been honored with a 40 Years of Service recognition to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** The recent survey gave direction for the Kansas District and its ministry, yet Servant Leadership plays an important role in shepherding the various congregations and called ministers, both ordained and commissioned. The main focus should be the biblical direction of spreading the Gospel, and assessing the best form of supporting the churches and schools and their workers in their callings. It has been a great joy to work with our District personnel and experience that blessing.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Focus on the Gospel, buoyed by Christ and His love in prayer. Strategize and learn how to plant new churches and ministries; re-energizing and/or letting go of what is waning. Teach budgets, fiscally, and in faith. Help various congregations learn to work toward goals in sharing resources, recognizing and celebrating the various strengths and needs of both large and small congregations.

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Name: Jeremy Pera  
616 Franklin  
Clay Center, KS 67432  
Home Phone: 785-632-6456  
Other Phone: 785-632-4431  
Years in Kansas District: 39

Home Congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church  
816 9<sup>th</sup> St, Clay Center, KS 67432  
Occupation: DCE  
E-mail Address: [j.pera@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.pera@sbcglobal.net)  
Age: 67



**Education:** AA St. John's College; BS Concordia-Nebraska; MS Kansas State University; KINDLE Classic and Finishing Well Associate.

**Service in Congregations:** St. Thomas-Rocky River, OH; First Lutheran-Glencoe, MN; St. Paul-Clay Center, KS.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit - Sunday School Advisor; Youth Advisor; Choral Director. District – Board of Directors; Youth Committee, Children & Family Life Committee Chair, Convention Floor Committees, Renewal In Wellness Task Force, District Reconciler, Educator delegate to Synodical Convention. Synod – District Reconciler & Dispute Resolution Panel member, Hotel Family Life leader National Youth Gatherings.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Clay County Ministerial Alliance, Nursing Home services and Hospital Chaplaincy, County Library Board.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** My chief qualification is that as a baptized Christian, I have been called to a life of service. I also have had the privilege of serving as a District Board of Directors member for a number of years in the past, and on this current Board for the last two terms. This has given me a longer-term perspective helpful in decision making. I have had experience at many different levels of District ministries which has been rewarding and enriching.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** The greatest joy I have in our District is that we continue to be a Church firmly grounded in Word and Sacrament. Among other joys are the significant improvements in the District Website and communications from the District due to increasing support staff; Mission Grant requests out-pace funds, meaning congregations are mission minded; the hope for ReVitality to breathe new life into congregations; continued support for West Africa missions; the partnership with Mission Central; the quality and dedication of our District Staff – there are many more and all reasons for a loud *Te Deum*.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Firmly grounding ourselves in Word and Sacrament, the Kansas District also has a challenge of maintaining and increasing our joint mission efforts both near and far. Visitation and communication that will build stronger relationships between District and congregations, District and Workers, Congregations and Congregations and among Workers to more effectively enhance the mission of the Church is needed. The main goal of the District continues to be supporting and encouraging congregations in *their* mission of proclaiming the Gospel while increasing *our collective* mission efforts. Care and support of our Church Workers is also vital for the sake of the Church's Mission.

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## Board of Directors – Lay Region 1

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Name: Hon. David E. Bruns ("Dave")  
Address: 10313 S. North Lake Ave.  
Olathe, Kansas 66061  
Home Phone: 913-747-9366  
Other Phone: 785-633-9141  
Age: 58

Home Congregation: Christ Lutheran Church  
Address: 11720 Nieman Rd.  
Overland Park, Kansas 66007  
Yrs. in Kansas District: 58  
Occupation: Judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals  
E-mail Address: brunsteam@aol.com

**Education:** National Judicial College, University of Nevada—Reno (2000); Washburn University School of Law, Juris Doctorate (1984); University of Kansas, Bachelor of Science in Education (1981); Kansas City, Kansas Community College, Associate of Arts in Pre-Law (1979); F.L. Schlagle High School, Kansas City, Kansas (1977).

**Service in Congregations:** Small Group Leader/Bible Class Teacher (Present); Former Chair of Board of Elders; Former Chairman of Congregation; Former High School Bible Class Teacher and Youth

Leader; Former Sunday School Superintendent; Served on various other Boards and Committees. Over the years, I have been an active member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church-Kansas City (1959-83); Christ Lutheran Church-Topeka (1983-2016); and, Christ Lutheran Church-Overland Park (Present).

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Member of Kansas District Board of Directors (Present); Chair of Kansas District Board of Missions (Present); Member of Kansas District Salary Review Committee (Present); Former member of LCMS Board of International Mission; Former Chair of LCMS Board of District and Congregational Services (Board was responsible for Pre-K to 12 Lutheran Education, Stewardship, Youth Ministry, and Family Life Ministry); Former Member of Kansas District Family Life Committee; Former Member of Kansas District Adjudication Committee; Former Member of Topeka Lutheran School Board of Education; Former Basketball Coach at Topeka Lutheran School; various other Boards and Committees.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Past President and Chairman of the Board of Optimist International (worldwide service organization with 85,000 Youth and Adult Members in 2,500 clubs); Member of Olathe Noon and Topeka Optimist Clubs; Adjunct Professor at Washburn University School of Law; Member of *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association* Board of Editors; Founder of Topeka-Shawnee County Youth Court; Presenter on various legal and civic subjects throughout North America; Former Director of United Way of Greater Topeka; Graduate of Leadership Greater Topeka; Former Member of YMCA Safe Visits Program; various other Boards and Committees.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** As a lifetime member of the Kansas District, I am very familiar with both our strengths and our challenges. I believe my service on the Kansas District Board of Directors over the past three years will be beneficial as we press on together toward the greater achievements of the future.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** My greatest joy is that LCMS congregations and schools are still sharing the Gospel of Christ Jesus across Kansas. However, I am disappointed that the Kansas District—like the other districts throughout the LCMS—has declined significantly in membership over the years. We must work together to reverse this trend.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** While we must always stay true to the Word, we must also be willing to find new ways to revitalize our existing congregations and schools. Moreover, we must renew our efforts to start new or satellite congregations. Using technology and other resources wisely are steps in the right direction.

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Name: Marvin H. Schulteis  
Address: 5619 Plymouth Dr.  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Work Phone: 785-231-7953  
Home Phone: 785-749-2919  
Cell Phone: 785-231-7953

Home Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran  
Address: 2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047  
Years in KS District: Lifetime,  
except for 4 or 5 Years in Missouri  
Occupation: Attorney and College Adjunct  
email: marv@inlandnet.net  
Age: 78

**Education:** Topeka High School, Topeka, Kansas, 1957; Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, BA degree (major in History, Political Science), 1961; Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, JD degree, 1964

**Service in Congregations:** President of Walther League, Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1950s Vice-President of Congregation, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1970s Chair of Church Council, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1970s Board of Elders (twice), St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1980s and again 1990s Member & Chair, Board of Elders, St. John's Lutheran, Ellisville, Missouri; 1980s, Vice President, Redeemer Lutheran, Lawrence.

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Member Kansas District Nominating Committee, 2005 – 2006 (for 2006 Dist. Convention); Elected Lay delegate from my congregation to Ks. Dist. Convention, 2015

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Washburn University Board of Regents: Board member and Board President; University of Missouri—St. Louis Chancellor’s Council: Council member; Topeka Community Foundation Board Member; Kansas Telecommunications Board Member (I worked for AT&T); Junior Achievement of St. Louis Board Member; Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, Board Member; Missouri Chamber of Commerce Board Member

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am a life-long committed Christian and LCMS Lutheran, I have learned a great deal about the LCMS mission as delegate to District Convention (2015) and Synod Convention (2016). I have served on various academic and civic Boards which provide insight about “how” Board members can positively contribute to LCMS efforts in Kansas.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I am joyful that the District is doing God’s work in a “balanced” and organized manner. By “balanced,” I mean not dominated by faction or politics. I am always disappointed when LCMS Lutherans play the “us” vs. “them” game. This is disruptive of the ministry and purpose of the Church.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** We should be more aggressive in our out-reach to our fellow Kansans of all backgrounds, races, and ages. LCMS Lutherans are inventive enough to make our outreach even more meaningful and relevant for teens, millennials & non-traditional Lutherans. We needn’t abandon liturgy and confession to open the church doors a little wider.

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## Board of Directors – Lay Region 2

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Name: David Meisinger  
Address: 444 Lyons Lane  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Home Phone: 620-755-2302  
Home Phone: 620-755-2700  
Age: 49

Home Congregation: Grace Ev. Lutheran  
Address: 800 E. 1<sup>st</sup>, McPherson, KS 67460  
Years in KS District: 49  
Occupation: Propane/Fuel Delivery Driver  
email: meisinger\_david@yahoo.com

**Education:** K-12, Marion High School, Marion, KS 1987; Truck Driving School, Wichita, KS 1999

**Service in Congregations:** St. Johns, Lincolnville – Head Usher and served on Finance Committee; Grace, McPherson – Planning Steward, Ed. Steward, Evangelism Steward and Head Usher

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** 2010 Circuit 12 Delegate, Synod Convention; 2009-2012 District Nominating Committee; 2012 – 2015 District Board of Directors – Board of Education; 2015 to present District Board of Directors – Board of Missions

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Became a member of the McPherson Sons of American Legion, Feb. 2017; Elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander April 2017; Appointed to McPherson American Legion Marketing Committee.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** As I have served since 2012 on the Board of Directors, I believe my knowledge with what has been taking place, I’m very knowledgeable for the position.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** My greatest joy is being able to serve the people of the Kansas District. First on the Board of Education 2012-2015 and being able to serve on the Board of Missions from 2015 to the present. Trying to do what’s best

for our District according to our Scripture and Confessions. I really have no disappointments. I enjoy where our District is heading.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I believe our District should keep striving to continue to be as transparent as possible. We should strive to continue to plant congregations where there's a desire for a church to be planted. We should use resources available to reach people with the Gospel that still haven't heard the Gospel.

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Name: Richard L. Schotte  
Address: 470 Elk Rd.  
Bremen, KS 66412  
Home Phone: 785-744-3386  
Other Phone: 785-562-6492  
Age: 75

Home Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran  
Address: 570 3<sup>rd</sup> Road, Bremen, KS 66412  
Years in KS District: 75  
Occupation: Farmer  
email: richs@bluevalley.net

**Education:** High School

**Service in Congregations:** Walther League; Sunday School teacher 8 years; Bible Class teacher 4 years; School Board 6 years; Church Elder 6 years; Trustee 3 years; Congregation chairman 6 years; Choir 50 years; LLL 25 years

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Chairman of LLL Circuit 7; LCMS Kansas District Board; Kansas District delegate and LCMS delegate to Synod conventions

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Supervisor Soil Conservation Service; Herkimer Township board; Chairman of Horseshoe Creek Watershed

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am a good listener, fair-minded, willing to compromise and experienced. All the gifts God has given me will serve the district well.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** As a member of the Kansas District for many years, I am privileged to see the services the district provides for congregations to extend Christ's kingdom. It has been a pleasure to serve on several different committees to resolve issues or open mission fields in our own state.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Still of greatest importance is the mission of our church. That mission is to tell others of Christ's redeeming love. We are doing that by encouraging congregations to reach out as well as each of us as individuals to share with our neighbors and friends. To that end it has been exciting to see the new mission "start-ups" in our district, planting churches where there are none and aiding state college students by providing spiritual leaders (pastors) on campus. Giving ready access to God's Word and a listening ear as well as providing guidance to the young adults is a great service.

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Name: Daniel J. Thalmann  
Address: 206 W 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Palmer, KS 66962  
Home Phone: 785-692-4252  
Other Phone: 785-747-6980  
Age: 44

Home Congregation: St. John Lutheran  
Address: 312 National Rd. Palmer, KS 66962  
Years in KS District: 30  
Occupation: Newspaper publisher  
email: editor@bluevalley.net

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in history from the University of Kansas

**Service in Congregations:** I have served as elder, council vice president, Linn Lutheran school board, evangelism committee, men's club secretary, Sunday School teacher

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Lay delegate to the LCMS Kansas District convention in 2015

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served as officer and member of numerous civic, community and local government organizations. I am past president of the Kansas Press Association and on the board of the KS Newspaper Foundation. I am an accurate note-taker.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I don't know that I am any more qualified than the next person. I love my church and I am willing to serve in this capacity if it is God's will. My father was an LCMS pastor before he died so I grew up with a behind-the-scenes experience.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** Praise God that the LCMS promotes the infallible Word of God to anyone wanting to hear it. My greatest joy is that we are committed to the Bible as truth and we have not succumbed to modern day pressure to change the Word of God to fit society.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I would love to see more church-planting efforts like the North Central LCMS Outreach. There are areas in Kansas that are not big cities that need an LCMS presence. Any effort to find our lost sheep and minister in new areas would be a blessing.

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## Board of Directors – Lay Region 3

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Name: Chris A. Anderson  
Address: 8028 E. Windwood St.  
Wichita, KS 67206  
Work Phone: 316-634-4159  
Home Phone: 316-641-6360  
Age: 61

Home Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran  
Address: 600 N. Greenwich Rd., Wichita, KS 67206  
Years in KS District: 37  
Occupation: Central Bank & Trust, President, Wichita  
email: canderson@centralbank-kansas.com

**Education:** WSU 1974-1978; AIB Consumer Lending School 1982; ABA Commercial Lending School 1982; Graduate School of Banking, Univ of Colorado 1987-1989

**Service in Congregations:** Ascension Lutheran Church: Past congregation president, vice president, elder board member, building committee director, Logos teacher, choir member, building maintenance team member Holy Cross Lutheran Church: Current choir member, past school advisory board member, current endowment investment board member

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Current LCEF Kansas Board of Managers since 2005, currently board chairman. Past Lay voting member for Kansas District Conventions, Past Kansas District Treasurer, Past LCEF National Board of Directors member.

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Current member, past board member Wichita Area Builders Association since 1990; Wichita East Rotary Club member since 2010; Wichita Independent Business Association member since 2008; Wichita/Sedgwick County Metropolitan Planning Commission past member 2002-2003; Maize, KS School District 266 -Past Treasurer Maize District Foundation 2006-2010, Past Bond Issue Committee Chair 2006-2007, Past Co-Chair Facilities Strategic Team 2006, Past Strategic Planning Team 1999-2001, and Past High School Building Development Committee 2000.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I believe that I have a wealth of knowledge in both the business and church arenas since I have been a Kansas Commercial banker for over 39 years and have been involved in LCEF for over 12 years. I think my experience would be a great asset to the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I think the greatest joy I have had, has been the ability to help my own congregations grow and build more facilities. I have worked with and through LCEF to help many Kansas congregations grow, build and expand as well. All this has helped to grow His Kingdom with more and larger facilities in the Kansas District.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I think we need to continue working to build His Kingdom and work especially with our youth and young members to make sure LCMS has a bright future.

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Name: Curtis L. Engelbrecht  
Address: 5713 E 39<sup>th</sup> St N,  
Bel Aire 67220  
Other Phone: 316-208-7452  
Home Phone: 316-744-1155  
Age: 58

Home Congregation: Trinity Lutheran  
Address: 611 S Erie, Wichita, KS 67218  
Years in KS District: 37  
Occupation: retired  
email: curtengelbrecht@cox.net

**Education:** BS Mechanical Engineering; MS Systems Engineering

**Service in Congregations:** Elder, Congregation President, Congregation Treasurer

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Forum Delegate, Kansas District Convention Delegate

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served in governance boards and in elected positions in work, political, and church bodies for many years. My experience includes city capital projects planning board, national level political party national committee member, political party Kansas and National Executive Committee membership, political national committee secretary, national political party resolutions committee chairman. Currently serving as Kansas Lutherans for Life State Board Member and Treasurer.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I have been a member of and served in servant leadership roles in large and small congregations in the Kansas District all of my adult life.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** As I have no direct experience of district activities, I have no particular great joy or disappointment in the direction of the District. If elected to serve on the Board of Directors, then I'll have opportunity to learn more about the Kansas District and providing input for guidance for the District's direction.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Always moving in the direction of best using limited and precious resources for equipping and supporting the congregations of the Kansas District in their role of fulfilling the Great Commission through congregations' called workers, staff, and members, and only in those common tasks the congregations entrust to the District.

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## Board of Directors – Lay Region 4

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Name: Mark Wolters  
Address: 406 Railroad Ave.  
Atwood, KS 67730  
Home Phone: 785-626-3693  
Cell Phone: 785-626-0672360  
Age: 63

Home Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran  
Address: 808 S 1<sup>st</sup> St., Atwood, KS 67730  
Years in KS District: 63  
Occupation: Technical Writer, Tech Support Spec.  
email: mark.wolters@surefireag.com

**Education:** MS - Educ. Admin – Fort Hays; BS – Secondary Math Educ. – KSU

**Service in Congregations:** Redeemer Lutheran – Atwood. Served various times as teacher, elder, chairman, Bd. of Ed, organist and choir

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** District Lay Delegate to Synod Convention 2001

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Atwood Rotary Club. Worked in K-12 Ed for 30 years as teacher, coach and administrator.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** Actively involved in several capacities for many years. Served in various leadership positions during 30 years in K-12 education, including as Principal and Superintendent.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I think the District has been working diligently to address issues facing congregations and workers today, and to position the District moving forward.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The District should move ahead in the future remaining faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as it takes the Gospel to the nations.

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## Board of Directors – Lay Member at Large (3)

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Name: Michael Bachelor  
1305 Dakota St.  
Sabetha, KS 66534  
Home Phone: 785-284-2284  
Other Phone: 785-285-0341  
Years in Kansas District: 16

Home Congregation: Sabetha First Lutheran  
311 Cedar St., Sabetha, KS 66534  
Occupation: Smart Manufacturing  
E-mail Address: michaelb@bachelorcontrols.com  
Age: 42

**Education:** Bachelor of Science CIS – Strayer University; Air Force Communications/Computer Programming vocation training

**Service in Congregations:** Preschool Building Committee; Elder 2011-2014, 2017-present, current head elder

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Voting delegate at Kansas District Convention three times; Voting delegate from Circuit to Synodical Convention once

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** My vocations with the Church, family, and profession require that I know better than to get involved in many other things. However, I have been engaged with local school board matters, as well as community benefit events. I have also served in the military, in large and small organizations, as well as the intelligence community—honorably.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I have had the benefit of great mentors and teachers in business as well as the LCMS. I'm a repeat offender as an elder. I run a 38-person engineering company with a C-Corp structure to manage. I am a competent and willing servant for this role if chosen.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** I am pleased that the Lord has continued to bless this district with faithful leaders and pastors.



**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Continue sending out faithful pastors that will bring the Lord's Word to all people where they're at. Bring people to the waters of baptism. Encourage all the people of our church to proclaim the love of God in Christ to their neighbor in their vocation.

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Name: Phillip Friedrichs	Home Congregation: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Address: 449 Arrowhead Rd. Bremen, KS 66412	421 Arrowhead Rd, Bremen, KS 66412
Home Phone: 785-767-4157	Occupation: Farming
Cell Phone: 785-629-0018	E-mail Address: 012012philfriedrichs@gmail.com
Yrs. in Kansas District: All my life	Age: 65

**Education:** Grade 1-8, Bethlehem Lutheran School; 9-12, Marysville High School; B.S. in Agriculture from KSU

**Service in Congregations:** Board of Elders, Board of Education, secretary, cemetery and grounds, Sunday School superintendent, numerous offices in LLL

Service to Circuit, District and Synod: None

**List Civic Service, special gifts, and related experience:** Served on township board as treasurer 2001 till present

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** For twenty years before I returned to farming, I worked for National Ag Statistics USDA collecting statistical information from farmers – a fancy way of saying that I went farm to farm asking farmers to fill our surveys, many of which were very personal. The last eight years I was a supervisor over a 22-county area with six to eight employees under me. To put it mildly, this job took a great deal of tact and understanding. More to the point is this, I always viewed this job as a Christian vocation, a way of service to my neighbors. I would view service on the board of directors in the same way, a Christian vocation to serve all the Lutheran churches in the district.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):**

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I think one of the things we need to guard against is lack of trust in God's Word. Too often we try methods or plans that depend on us, not the Holy Spirit working through the Word. So basically I have two ideas about this job: 1) Use and trust in God's Word 2) Viewing this job as a Christian vocation to serve fellow Lutherans.

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Name: Dr. Bruce D. Schultz	Home Congregation: St John Lutheran
Address: 38324 Plymouth St Wamego, KS 66547	218 W 2nd St, Alma, KS 66401
Home Phone: 785-456-8548	Occupation: Research Scientist
Other Phone: 785-313-5174	E-mail Address: bdschultzphd@gmail.com
Years in Kansas District: 21	Age: 57

**Education:** Cornell University (Pharmacology), Ithaca, NY, Ph.D. 1991; University of Nebraska (Veterinary Science), M.S. 1985; University of Nebraska (Animal Science/Ag Economics), B.S. 1983

**Service in Congregations:** St. John, Alma (1997-present) Board of Elders (first year), School Board, 17 years (chair, 9 years); Board of Christian Education, 6 years; Church Council, 9 years; Parent-Teacher League V-President and President; Handbell choir, 16 years

Bethel Evangelical, Glenshaw, PA (1995-1997) Director of Education, 1 yr.; Board of Directors, 1 yr.; Grant Preparation, Santa Cruz Hispanic Mission; Bible study leader; Web Page; VBS



First Lutheran, Birmingham, AL (1991-1995) Board of Evangelism, chair, 3 years; Board of Deacons, 2 years; Call Committee Chair (Pastor); Bible study coordinator & leader; VBS

Trinity Lutheran, Ithaca, NY (1985-1991) Board of University & College Affairs, 4 years (Chair, 2 years); Church Council, 2 years; Bible study coordinator & leader

Zion-St. John, Wisner, NE (Birth -1985): Youth Group President

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Synod: Advisory Delegate, LCMS convention, 2016; National Youth Gathering volunteer, 2016, "Yellow Shirt," 2013; Concordia University-Chicago, Board of Regents (appointed; 2015-present)

Kansas District: Board of Directors, 2003-2006, 2015-2018; Board of Caring Ministry 2003-2006; Board of Education, 2015-2018; Speaker, District Theological Convocation, 2006; District Steering Committee – Fan into Flame, 2008-2009

Eastern District: Represent Bethel Lutheran Church at PALM [Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries], 1996

Southern District: Sunday school Teachers Convention, Jackson, MS, 1993

Eastern District: Coordinator, Eastern District Lutheran Student Fellowship Conference, 1989; Eastern District Convention delegate, 1988

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** My vocation is teaching/research and providing administrative support at the university level. Currently, I am a professor in Anatomy and Physiology at the veterinary college and have been the associate and interim department head. I have been selected for and have chaired committees and task forces at the department, college, and university levels including the president's committee on graduate education and the committee on research priorities. I have served the national and international research community as an officer in two physiology societies where I serve or have served on steering committees, editorial boards and as the research ethics subcommittee chair. I am often contacted to review research proposals for health ministries and foundations around the world. For nearly three years I have been on the Concordia-Chicago Board of Regents where I also serve on the academic affairs committee. Locally, I have been a 4-H leader and have coached a Christian home school high school football team. I continue to be a first responder in the local volunteer fire department. Perhaps it is noteworthy that I have delivered seminars to recruit graduates of Concordia, Seward, NE, and Selma, AL. Graduates of Concordia, Seward, and Concordia, Portland, have completed their doctoral programs under my direction at Kansas State.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** People that I respect asked me to serve. Their encouragement was based on personal relationships and shared activities in many public settings – most associated with Bible study, academics, and/or Christian music. I prayerfully considered their requests and sincerely believe that I can serve here effectively.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** The district is supporting both ministry and mission with obvious emphases on rural settings, youth, Lutheran education and West African missions. Additional areas are targeted for support. It is disappointing that many district members fail to make church activities and Bible study a regular priority for themselves and their families.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The focus should be on Word and Sacrament ministry. The district, through congregations and individuals, should identify and address outreach opportunities near or far and use available resources effectively. Christian education provides a solid foundation for this ministry. Social ministry is a natural extension of Word and Sacrament ministry.

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Name: Stephen Weller  
Address: 1010 E Euclid St, Apt A,  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Home Phone: 620-245-9880  
Other Phone: 816-896-6566 (cell)  
Years in Kansas District: 10

Home Congregation: Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
800 E First St, McPherson, KS 67460  
Occupation: Process Engineer  
E-mail Address: sfweller@yahoo.com  
Age: 40

**Education:** BS in Chemical Engineering (KU), MBA (KU), Professional Engineer

**Service in Congregations:** Treasurer on Board of Stewards (similar to a church council), Youth Group, previously Business Manager

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Delegate to the Circuit Forum (twice), member of Nominating Committee for 2015 KS District Convention, Delegate to 2015 KS District Convention, Delegate to 2013 Synodical Convention

**List Civic Service, special gifts, and related experience:** Serve as a "big brother" with Big Brothers, Big Sisters; service through now-closed local Kiwanis club (including both President & Treasurer roles); leadership and financial management experience, in large and small organizations (both business & civic)

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** My most important qualification is that I am forgiven sinner, redeemed by the blood of Christ for service in His Kingdom. I also work to be a good steward of God's material blessings in a large corporation, small businesses, and my family's personal finances.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** I am encouraged by the focus in the Kansas District of engaging youth to keep them in the one true faith. The church should continue to encourage married couples to seek the blessing of children and to properly catechize those children to preserve them in the faith unto everlasting life.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament – "baptize and teach") are ultimately where disciples are made and strengthened in their faith. But we are called to speak God's Word to unbelievers at every opportunity. The District should hold fast to these Means and encourage members in reaching out to unbelievers.

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## Nominating Committee - Clergy

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### Kansas District Nominations Committee Clergy (3 – no more than 1 per region)

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Name: Rev. Stan Palmer

Home Congregation: Zion/Our Redeemer  
Lutheran Church  
Offerle/Kinsley

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Name: Rev. Jacob Sherry  
312 National Rd  
Palmer, KS 66962  
Home Phone: 785-692-4228  
Other Phone: 785-630-0274  
Yrs. in Kansas District: 4

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Home Congregation: St. John Lutheran Church  
312 National Rd, Palmer, KS 66962  
Occupation: Pastor  
E-mail Address: [pastorsherry@bluevalley.net](mailto:pastorsherry@bluevalley.net)  
Age: 31  
Region 2

**Education:** B.A. – Pre-Seminary Studies; M. Div. – CTS, Fort Wayne, IN

**Service in Congregations:** Sole Pastor- St. John 2013- ; Vacancy Pastor – Bethlehem, Greenleaf 2016-17

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** LWML Advisor Circuit 7; Pastoral delegate Synod Convention 2015

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:**

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I feel I have enough experience within the District and Circuit 7 to serve if nominated. I am willing to work with others in a spirit of Christian fellowship.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less).** My greatest joy is the transparency the District has shown in how they are serving and making use of their time and resources.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less).** A continued emphasis on updating communication is key to outreach in our culture today. I would hope to see more efforts for digital resources for Bible Study and other such educational tools.

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Name: Rev. Alan Stahlecker  
PO Box 187  
Lincolville, KS 66858  
Home Phone: 620-924-5440  
Other Phone: 620-382-4248  
Work Phone: 620-924-5236  
Yrs. in Kansas District: 24

Home Congregation: St. John's Lutheran Church  
PO Box 187, Lincolville, KS 66858  
Occupation: Pastor  
E-mail Address: revalanstahlecker@hotmail.com  
Age: 58  
Region 2

**Education:** B.A. – Adams State College, Alamosa, CO 1982; M. Div. – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN 1993

**Service in Congregations:** Sole Pastor- St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church (1993 to present)

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Pastoral Delegate to 1995 and 2004 Synodical Conventions; Circuit Counselor (2003-2012); Zone LWML Pastoral Advisor (1998-2003); Kansas District LWML Pastoral Advisor (2000-2004); Kansas District Convention Nominating Committee (2003)

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Fire Department Chaplain; School Site Council

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** My qualification to serve in this position lies in my willingness to serve faithfully if elected.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** My greatest joy is found when the congregations of the District are faithfully served with the pure proclamation of the Gospel and the proper administration of the Sacraments.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** As the Lord has commanded us to make disciples by baptizing and teaching, the direction of the church and the District has been drawn. By faithful use of the means of grace, the District is headed in the proper direction.

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## Nominating Committee - Commissioned

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Name: Kelly Dressler

701 N 8<sup>th</sup> St

Atchison, KS 66002

Home Phone: 636-297-5028

Age: 31

Home Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church

603 N 8<sup>th</sup> St, Atchison, KS 66002

Yrs. in Kansas District: 8

Occupation: Teacher

E-mail address: [kdressler@trinityatchison.org](mailto:kdressler@trinityatchison.org)

**Education:** Concordia University, Seward, NE Bachelors degree

**Service in Congregations:** Choir, VBS

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** KS Educators Conference Committee

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:**

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am familiar with some people in the KS District.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** I am happy with the support given to teachers in our district.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less).**

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Name: Susan (Sue) Kleber

Address: 8711 E. 44<sup>th</sup> St. N.

Wichita, KS 67226

Home Phone: 316-682-1894

Home Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

Address: 600 N Greenwich Rd., Wichita, Kansas 67206

Yrs. in Kansas District: 23

Occupation: Educator

**Education:** M.S. in Education, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; B.S. in Education and Lutheran Teachers Diploma, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; K-12 Certification in Spanish, Friends University, Wichita, Kansas; PS-8 Administrative (Building) Certification, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; K-12 Certification in English as a Second Language, State of Kansas.

**Service in Congregations:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, Kansas; Faith Lutheran Church and School, Derby, Kansas; Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Columbus, Nebraska; Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, Kansas; St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Chaska, Minnesota; St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Battle Creek, Nebraska; Central Lutheran School, member at St. John's Lutheran Church, Newhall, Iowa.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Served as educator on PLC for Kansas District. Have served on planning committees for conferences in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa East Districts, LCMS, and national NLSA conferences, including pastor/teacher conferences, singles events/retreats, and LWML. Also, have helped count votes and proctor at the Kansas District Convention. Recently served on Board of Directors and on appointed committees, Board of Caring Ministry and Standard Operating Procedures Committee (SOPM), and special task force for District's Retreat Center.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Have worked voting polls, participated in Bi-Centennial activities, sold buttons at the Wichita River Festival and walked in its Walk-a-thon, and held various offices in Thrivent and local activities. Co-founded ILS Extravaganza for school funding. Special gifts include that of coordinating and administrating events, dates, and resources including the talent of helping people work together for a common goal. Teaching is a true talent and gift.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** Leadership in Scripture states that God's qualification for leadership as people who are capable, God-fearing, and haters of dishonest gain (Exodus 18:21). Basing my leadership style on this biblical premise, I strive to

serve the various roles God has placed before me in a Servant Leadership model. I have been honored with a 40 Years of Service recognition to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

***Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):*** The recent survey gave direction for the Kansas District and its ministry, yet Servant Leadership plays an important role in shepherding the various congregations and called ministers, both ordained and commissioned. The main focus should be the biblical direction of spreading the Gospel, and assessing the best form of supporting the churches and schools and their workers in their callings. It has been a great joy to work with our District personnel and experience that blessing.

***Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):*** Focus on the Gospel, buoyed by Christ and His love in prayer. Strategize and learn how to plant new churches and ministries; re-energizing and/or letting go of what is waning. Teach budgets, fiscally, and in faith. Help various congregations learn to work toward goals in sharing resources, recognizing and celebrating the various strengths and needs of both large and small congregations.

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Name: Jeremy Pera 616 Franklin Clay Center, KS 67432	Home Congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church 816 9 <sup>th</sup> St, Clay Center, KS 67432
Home Phone: 785-632-6456	Occupation: DCE
Other Phone: 785-632-4431	E-mail Address: j.pera@sbcglobal.net
Years in Kansas District: 39	Age: 67

***Education:*** AA St. John's College; BS Concordia-Nebraska; MS Kansas State University; KINDLE Classic and Finishing Well Associate.

***Service in Congregations:*** St. Thomas-Rocky River, OH; First Lutheran-Glencoe, MN; St. Paul-Clay Center, KS.

***Service to Circuit, District and Synod:*** Circuit - Sunday School Advisor; Youth Advisor; Choral Director. District – Board of Directors; Youth Committee, Children & Family Life Committee Chair, Convention Floor Committees, Renewal In Wellness Task Force, District Reconciler, Educator delegate to Synodical Convention. Synod – District Reconciler & Dispute Resolution Panel member, Hotel Family Life leader National Youth Gatherings.

***List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:*** Clay County Ministerial Alliance, Nursing Home services and Hospital Chaplaincy, County Library Board.

***State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):*** My chief qualification is that as a baptized Christian, I have been called to a life of service. I also have had the privilege of serving as a District Board of Directors member for a number of years in the past, and on this current Board for the last two terms. This has given me a longer-term perspective helpful in decision making. I have had experience at many different levels of District ministries which has been rewarding and enriching.

***Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):*** The greatest joy I have in our District is that we continue to be a Church firmly grounded in Word and Sacrament. Among other joys are the significant improvements in the District Website and communications from the District due to increasing support staff; Mission Grant requests out-pace funds, meaning congregations are mission minded; the hope for ReVitality to breathe new life into congregations; continued support for West Africa missions; the partnership with Mission Central; the quality and dedication of our District Staff – there are many more and all reasons for a loud *Te Deum*.

***Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):*** Firmly grounding ourselves in Word and Sacrament, the Kansas District also has a challenge of maintaining and increasing our joint mission efforts both near and far. Visitation and communication that will build stronger relationships between District and

congregations, District and Workers, Congregations and Congregations and among Workers to more effectively enhance the mission of the Church is needed. The main goal of the District continues to be supporting and encouraging congregations in *their* mission of proclaiming the Gospel while increasing *our collective* mission efforts. Care and support of our Church Workers is also vital for the sake of the Church's Mission.

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## Nominating Committee - Lay

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### Region 1

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Name: Keith Gloe  
Address: 7324 Richards Drive  
Shawnee, KS 66216  
Mobile Phone: 913-687-3998  
Age: 56

Home Congregation: Beautiful Savior Lutheran  
Address: 13145 S Blackbob Rd  
Years in KS District: 29  
Occupation: Investments  
email: keith.gloe@gmail.com

**Education:** BSBA Rockhurst College, 1985

**Service in Congregations:** Chair Bd of Stewardship BSLC, VP Hope Lutheran; Elder, Chairman Bd of Elders, Bethany Lutheran; Capital Campaigns, Bethany/Hope Lutheran/Beautiful Savior Lutheran

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Capital Campaign LHSKC; Bd of Property Mgmt, LHSKC; Lutheran Mission Association, Kansas City; President LMA; MLM Foundation Kansas City; President of MLM Foundation KC

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** To know me is to love...or not

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I have spent most of my adult life being active in the Lutheran Church here in Kansas City. I have come to know many of the Pastors and leaders in the church community.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I appreciate what the synod and district provide in support to the congregations. I am convinced that as churches we should lead by example in our giving to the district and synod if want to have our membership do likewise.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I believe that one of our greatest mission opportunities lies within one mile of our congregations, yet many times this opportunity is missed when they walk through the door.

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Name: Marvin H. Schulteis  
Address: 5619 Plymouth Dr.  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
Work Phone: 785-231-7953  
Home Phone: 785-749-2919  
Cell Phone: 785-231-7953  
Age: 78

Home Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran  
Address: 2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047  
Years in KS District: Lifetime,  
except for 4 or 5 Years in Missouri  
Occupation: Attorney and College Adjunct  
email: marv@inlandnet.net

**Education:** Topeka High School, Topeka, Kansas, 1957; Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, BA degree (major in History, Political Science), 1961; Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, JD degree, 1964

**Service in Congregations:** President of Walther League, Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1950s Vice-President of Congregation, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1970s Chair of Church Council, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1970s Board of Elders (twice), St. John's

Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1980s and again 1990s Member & Chair, Board of Elders, St. John's Lutheran, Ellisville, Missouri; 1980s, Vice President, Redeemer Lutheran, Lawrence.

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Member Kansas District Nominating Committee, 2005 – 2006 (for 2006 Dist. Convention); Elected Lay delegate from my congregation to Ks. Dist. Convention, 2015

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Washburn University Board of Regents: Board member and Board President; University of Missouri—St. Louis Chancellor's Council: Council member; Topeka Community Foundation Board Member; Kansas Telecommunications Board Member (I worked for AT&T); Junior Achievement of St. Louis Board Member; Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, Board Member; Missouri Chamber of Commerce Board Member

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am a life-long committed Christian and LCMS Lutheran, I have learned a great deal about the LCMS mission as delegate to District Convention (2015) and Synod Convention (2016). I have served on various academic and civic Boards which provide insight about "how" Board members can positively contribute to LCMS efforts in Kansas.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I am joyful that the District is doing God's work in a "balanced" and organized manner. By "balanced," I mean not dominated by faction or politics. I am always disappointed when LCMS Lutherans play the "us" vs. "them" game. This is disruptive of the ministry and purpose of the Church.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** We should be more aggressive in our out-reach to our fellow Kansans of all backgrounds, races, and ages. LCMS Lutherans are inventive enough to make our outreach even more meaningful and relevant for teens, millennials & non-traditional Lutherans. We needn't abandon liturgy and confession to open the church doors a little wider.

## Region 2

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Name: C.J. Cross 2357 Mayfair Dr. Salina, KS 67401	Home Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church South 9 <sup>th</sup> Street, Salina, KS 67401
Home Phone: 785-823-8949	Years in KS District: 51 Occupation: Retired (Grocery Manager of Ft. Riley Commissary)
Other Phone: 785-643-3876	E-mail: crosskancj@cox.net
Age: 73	

**Education:** Graduated from Salina High School, National Meat Cutting School and taken numerous college classes

**Service in Congregations:** At St. Johns, Herington, KS – served as Chairman of Congregation, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Counselor, Member of LLL. At Trinity, Salina – Co Chair of Health and Family Life Board, Vice President and President of LLL, Delegate for District Convention, Chairperson of call committee, serving on Board of LLL and as a Stephen Minister. Have been elder for the past 11 years and presently serve as Head Elder.

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Chairman of Circuit 8 and 12 LLL Kansas District; Youth Gathering Planning Committee, presently on District Child and Family Life Committee, Ministry Support Representative for Concordia Publishing House

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Volunteer fireman, served on City Council, Red Cross Volunteer for many years, Lutheran World Relief Volunteer for Hurricane Andrew

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** With much prayer and patience, I can listen and serve, giving a layman perspective.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** It's a joy to see the District moving forward firmly holding onto God's Word and planting new churches.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Keep moving forward with outreach by Serving, Sharing, Caring and Teaching with Christ as our leader.

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Name: Richard L. Schotte  
Address: 470 Elk Rd.  
Bremen, KS 66412  
Home Phone: 785-744-3386  
Other Phone: 785-562-6492  
Age: 75

Home Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran  
Address: 570 3<sup>rd</sup> Road, Bremen, KS 66412  
Years in KS District: 75  
Occupation: Farmer  
E-mail: richs@bluevalley.net

**Education:** High School

**Service in Congregations:** Walther League; Sunday School teacher 8 years; Bible Class teacher 4 years; School Board 6 years; Church Elder 6 years; Trustee 3 years; Congregation chairman 6 years; Choir 50 years; LLL 25 years

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Chairman of LLL Circuit 7; LCMS Kansas District Board; Kansas District delegate and LCMS delegate to Synod conventions

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Supervisor Soil Conservation Service; Herkimer Township board; Chairman of Horseshoe Creek Watershed

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am a good listener, fair-minded, willing to compromise and experienced. All the gifts God has given me will serve the district well.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** As a member of the Kansas District for many years, I am privileged to see the services the district provides for congregations to extend Christ's kingdom. It has been a pleasure to serve on several different committees to resolve issues or open mission fields in our own state.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Still of greatest importance is the mission of our church. That mission is to tell others of Christ's redeeming love. We are doing that by encouraging congregations to reach out as well as each of us as individuals to share with our neighbors and friends. To that end it has been exciting to see the new mission "start-ups" in our district, planting churches where there are none and aiding state college students by providing spiritual leaders (pastors) on campus. Giving ready access to God's Word and a listening ear as well as providing guidance to the young adults is a great service.

---

Name: Stephen Weller  
Address: 1010 E Euclid St, Apt A,  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Home Phone: 620-245-9880  
Other Phone: 816-896-6566 (cell)  
Years in Kansas District: 10

Home Congregation: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
800 E First St, McPherson, KS 67460  
Occupation: Process Engineer  
E-mail Address: sfweller@yahoo.com  
Age: 40

**Education:** BS in Chemical Engineering (KU), MBA (KU), Professional Engineer

**Service in Congregations:** Treasurer on Board of Stewards (similar to a church council), Youth Group, previously Business Manager



**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Delegate to the Circuit Forum (twice), member of Nominating Committee for 2015 KS District Convention, Delegate to 2015 KS District Convention, Delegate to 2013 Synodical Convention

**List Civic Service, special gifts, and related experience:** Serve as a “big brother” with Big Brothers, Big Sisters; service through now-closed local Kiwanis club (including both President & Treasurer roles); leadership and financial management experience, in large and small organizations (both business & civic)

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** My most important qualification is that I am forgiven sinner, redeemed by the blood of Christ for service in His Kingdom. I also work to be a good steward of God’s material blessings in a large corporation, small businesses, and my family’s personal finances.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** I am encouraged by the focus in the Kansas District of engaging youth to keep them in the one true faith. The church should continue to encourage married couples to seek the blessing of children and to properly catechize those children to preserve them in the faith unto everlasting life.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament – “baptize and teach”) are ultimately where disciples are made and strengthened in their faith. But we are called to speak God’s Word to unbelievers at every opportunity. The District should hold fast to these Means and encourage members in reaching out to unbelievers.

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### Region 3

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### Region 4

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Name: Dave Bergmeier	Home Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Address: 111 Cannery Row Apt. C Dodge City KS 67801	2200 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Dodge City, KS 67801
	Occupation: Journalist–Managing Editor at High Plains Journal, Dodge City.
Home Phone: 620-728-8548	Home E-mail Address: ddbergmeier@yahoo.com
Work Phone: 620-227-1822	Work E-mail Address: dbergmeier@hpj.com
Years in Kansas District: All but one year of my life	Age: 55

**Education:** Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Journalism with a double major in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University, May 1985. Graduated from Phillipsburg (Kan.) High School, May 1980.

**Service in Congregations:** Stewardship board chairman since July 2016; past president for 10 years at Faith Lutheran Church and former vice president of Faith Lutheran Church. Served on various council appointed committees.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Have not served in the past.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** President of Dodge City Rotary Club, President of Dodge City Area Arts Council, former Rotary Club president in Abilene, chaired Abilene’s economic development council and tourism advisory board and numerous public entities while in Abilene.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I try to offer a steady hand and willingness to work with others to build consensus and cohesiveness while understanding the mission and task at hand.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** I have seen a lot of positive direction coming from the district office in recent years and I appreciate the district's willingness to travel the state to meet people. I know it is a challenge but it is important to see and hear what is going on at the 'boot' level, particularly in expansive rural areas.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Greater outreach. That will include in some areas greater emphasis on Hispanic ministries yet we lack resources (human capital) to do so. In some cases we might need to consolidate some congregations so it does not overtax pastors. We need to continue to focus on youth.

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## Synod Nominating Committee – Lay (1 layperson and 1 alternate)

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Name: Curtis L. Engelbrecht  
Address: 5713 E 39<sup>th</sup> St N,  
Bel Aire 67220  
Other Phone: 316-208-7452  
Home Phone: 316-744-1155  
Age: 58

Home Congregation: Trinity Lutheran  
Address: 611 S Erie, Wichita, KS 67218  
Years in KS District: 37  
Occupation: retired  
email: curtengelbrecht@cox.net

**Education:** BS Mechanical Engineering; MS Systems Engineering

**Service in Congregations:** Elder, Congregation President, Congregation Treasurer

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Forum Delegate, Kansas District Convention Delegate

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served in governance boards and in elected positions in work, political, and church bodies for many years. My experience includes city capital projects planning board, national level political party national committee member, political party Kansas and National Executive Committee membership, political national committee secretary, national political party resolutions committee chairman. Currently serving as Kansas Lutherans for Life State Board Member and Treasurer.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I have been a member of and served in servant leadership roles in large and small congregations in the Kansas District all of my adult life.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** As I have no direct experience of district activities, I have no particular great joy or disappointment in the direction of the District. If elected to serve on the Board of Directors, then I'll have opportunity to learn more about the Kansas District and providing input for guidance for the District's direction.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** Always moving in the direction of best using limited and precious resources for equipping and supporting the congregations of the Kansas District in their role of fulfilling the Great Commission through congregations' called workers, staff, and members, and only in those common tasks the congregations entrust to the District.

---

Name: Victor Martin Schimming  
Address: 6211 Peach Tree Lane  
Wichita, KS 67218-1731  
Home Phone: 316-689-8625  
Office Phone: 316-652-0777  
Age: 79

Home Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church  
909 S. Market, Wichita, KS 67211  
Years in KS District: 65  
Occupation: CFP/Investment Advisor  
E-mail address: vschimming@cox.net

**Education:** Graduate of East High School in Wichita in 1955; Majored in Architecture at Kansas University 1956-1958; Majored in Business Management & Minor in Accounting at Wichita State University, 1955 & 1959; College of Financial Planning – CFP License 1994

**Service in Congregations:** President 7/01/2016 to present – Immanuel Lutheran Church; President – Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wichita – 2½ years; Treasurer – Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School, Wichita, 15 yrs.

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** I don't remember serving in the Circuit or Synod, but many years ago I was on a District committee, but I don't remember what it was about.

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** President – Financial Planning Association-Kansas Chapter 2004-05; President – Wichita Estate Planning Council 2003-04; Board of Directors – Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce 1982-83; Treasurer – Wichita Rotary Club (2 terms & member 44 years); President – Foundation of the Church of God in Kansas, Inc. 1999-2011

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** My business and civic responsibilities placed me in leadership positions as an employer/business owner, business consultant and an investment advisor. I was president of Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School for 2 ½ years and treasurer for 15 years. I currently serve as the president of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wichita.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I especially appreciate the inclusion of Kansas District news within the Lutheran Witness, as it provides information that I probably would not know otherwise. I have not been directly involved in district functions, however at my request I was recently appointed to be the LHM Ambassador to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wichita.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** The January 2018 edition of The Lutheran Witness describes how Digital Technology is becoming another avenue to reach people for Christ who communicate regularly through the various social means available by the internet. I do not know if or how the Kansas District is moving in this direction, so it may be an important outreach to be considered.

---

Name: Marvin H. Schulteis  
Address: 5619 Plymouth Dr.  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
Work Phone: 785-231-7953  
Home Phone: 785-749-2919  
Cell Phone: 785-231-7953  
Age: 78

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Home Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran  
Address: 2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047  
Years in KS District: Lifetime,  
except for 4 or 5 Years in Missouri  
Occupation: Attorney and College Adjunct  
email: marv@inlandnet.net

**Education:** Topeka High School, Topeka, Kansas, 1957; Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, BA degree (major in History, Political Science), 1961; Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, JD degree, 1964

**Service in Congregations:** President of Walther League, Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1950s Vice-President of Congregation, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1970s Chair of Church Council, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1970s Board of Elders (twice), St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas; 1980s and again 1990s Member & Chair, Board of Elders, St. John's Lutheran, Ellisville, Missouri; 1980s, Vice President, Redeemer Lutheran, Lawrence.

**List of Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Member Kansas District Nominating Committee, 2005 – 2006 (for 2006 Dist. Convention); Elected Lay delegate from my congregation to Ks. Dist. Convention, 2015

**List of Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Washburn University Board of Regents: Board member and Board President; University of Missouri—St. Louis Chancellor's Council: Council

member; Topeka Community Foundation Board Member; Kansas Telecommunications Board Member (I worked for AT&T); Junior Achievement of St. Louis Board Member; Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, Board Member; Missouri Chamber of Commerce Board Member

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** I am a life-long committed Christian and LCMS Lutheran, I have learned a great deal about the LCMS mission as delegate to District Convention (2015) and Synod Convention (2016). I have served on various academic and civic Boards which provide insight about “how” Board members can positively contribute to LCMS efforts in Kansas.

**Your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction District is moving (50 words or less):** I am joyful that the District is doing God’s work in a “balanced” and organized manner. By “balanced,” I mean not dominated by faction or politics. I am always disappointed when LCMS Lutherans play the “us” vs. “them” game. This is disruptive of the ministry and purpose of the Church.

**State the direction you would like to see the Kansas District take in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** We should be more aggressive in our out-reach to our fellow Kansans of all backgrounds, races, and ages. LCMS Lutherans are inventive enough to make our outreach even more meaningful and relevant for teens, millennials & non-traditional Lutherans. We needn’t abandon liturgy and confession to open the church doors a little wider.

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## District Secretary

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Name: Rev. David E. Meier  
Address: 31412 Keene Eskridge Rd,  
Maple Hill, KS 66507  
Home Phone: 620-473-0205  
Age: 65

Home Congregation: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,  
Address: 9719 Clarks Creek Rd, Junction City, KS 66441  
Yrs. in Kansas District: 40  
Occupation: Pastor  
E-mail Address: pastormeier8@gmail.com

**Education:** St. John’s College, Winfield, 1972; Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, 1974; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, 1978. Intentional Interim Ministry, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2016

**Service in Congregations:** Vicar - First, Missoula, MT; Pastor - St. Matthew’s, Nortonville, KS, 1978-1985; Mt. Calvary, Marysville, KS, 1985-1994; St. Peter’s, Humboldt, KS, 1994-2016, IIM at St. Paul’s, Junction City, KS 2016 to present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Pastoral Advisor, LLL, LYF; Pastoral Delegate to 1982 Synodical Convention; Circuit Counselor - Circuit #1, 1981-1985, Circuit #7, 1990-1993; Secretary, Circuit Counselors, 1990-1993; District Youth Ministry Committee, 1986-1992, Chairman, 1990-1992; District Gatherings Task Force, 1980-1984; Board of Directors, Camp Tomah Shinga, 1987-1996. Chairman, Nominations Committee, 1991 Kansas District Convention; Kansas District Secretary, 1994-2003. Kansas District 2nd Vice President, 2003-2012, Kansas District Team Leader, District/Synod Support, 2003-2006; Kansas District Parliamentarian, 2003-2015, Kansas District Transition Team 2009-2012, Kansas District Secretary, 2012-present, Kansas District Constitution Committee, 2012-present.

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Toys for Tots Committee of Rotary at Marysville; Named Outstanding Young Religious Leader by Marysville Jaycees, 1991-1992; Named Outstanding Young Religious Leader by Kansas Jaycees, 1991-1992; Seminar Director, Prepare/Enrich; Past President, Humboldt Rotary; Member of Allen County Youth Violence Prevention Coalition; Humboldt Middle School Site Council; Chairman of Humboldt Mayors Task Force on Budget Issues; President of the Humboldt Ministerial Alliance.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** Having served as Kansas District Secretary, I am continuing to grow in the knowledge and intricacies of the office and am willing to serve if the Convention feels that the Lord has blessed me with the gifts necessary for the position. I am very willing to serve the Lord and His church.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** It is a joy for me to observe the spiritual growth among the members of the Kansas District. I am also gratified to note the growing sense of unity among the professional church workers in the Kansas District. I am thankful for the growth of Intentional Interim Ministry in the District. One of my disappointments is the seeming irrelevance of Synod and District to the members of the local congregations.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** I believe that the Kansas District needs to continue to move in the direction of enabling spiritual growth among all its members and getting to know the people in our communities better. In doing so, we will be better able to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord, because we will be better able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, risen Lord and Savior. At the same time we need to continue to practice good stewardship of the resources that the Lord has given for our use.

---

Name: Rev. Robert Weinkauff  
Address: 15612 Iron Creek Drive  
Basehor, KS 66007  
Cell Phone: 913-369-5942  
Age: 49

Home Congregation: Risen Savior Lutheran Church,  
Address: 14700 Leavenworth Road, Basehor, KS 66007  
Yrs. in Kansas District: Lifetime  
Occupation: Pastor  
E-mail Address: pastor@risensaviorlcms.org

**Education:** BA, Washburn University of Topeka, 1992; MDiv, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN 2007

**Service in Congregations:** 2007 – current, Pastor, Risen Savior, Basehor, KS

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** 2014-current, Vicarage Supervisor

**List Civic Service, special gifts and related experience:** Prior to Seminary worked for 2 Fortune 500 companies, received national awards; Topeka Lutheran School Board member, Executive Council, 1991-2001; Reserve Sgt. Topeka Police Officer, 1991-2002; Higher Things Youth Conference Presenter, Synod; Lutherans For Life Pastoral Advisor; Post-Seminary 35 hours of CE, Doxology participant; Pastor of merger of two congregations; established a church cemetery; Pastor of two major building programs.

**State why you feel you are particularly qualified for this position (50 words or less):** In various professional vocations and now as a pastor, it is my desire to exceed expectations of those I am honored to serve. I am pleased to share new ideas and insight to enhance the lives of those I serve and help them in their task.

**Please state your greatest joy or disappointment in the direction the District is moving in ministry (50 words or less):** I have been pleased with the current efforts and look forward to any opportunity to help enrich the work of the district and bring value to the congregations.

**Please state what direction the District should move in the future in response to the Great Commission of the Lord (50 words or less):** To assist congregations, as we have been given these very days to proclaim this blessed truth, to share the treasures of Lutheranism to a world evermore growing hostile, changing before our eyes away from God's Truth, that other Christians and non-Christians sadly do not have.



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

## SECTION 6

### Floor Committee list and Overtures

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#### Explanation of Overtures

Congregations, official conferences (Circuit Forums, Pastors and Educators conferences) and the Board of Directors of the Kansas District may submit overtures to the Convention. Overtures are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of the Convention. These overtures are then assigned to the appointed Floor Committees. The Floor Committees will hold hearings before and sometimes during the Convention. Resolutions for consideration by the Convention shall be brought to the floor of the Convention by Floor Committees.

#### A Note on Overtures and Resolutions

The overtures in this workbook have been submitted for consideration at the 2018 LCMS Kansas District Convention. They have been printed here as submitted. In April 2018, the overtures will go to the convention floor committees for review; the committees will then identify a final pool of resolutions for the convention floor. During floor committee review, the overtures you see here may be adopted largely as is, modified, combined with other overtures, or included in an omnibus resolution. **Delegates will thus NOT be voting on the overtures below; rather, they will be voting on the resolutions that come from the floor committees.** The final resolutions will be printed in a single issue of *Today's Business* in late May, which will be emailed to all convention delegates and posted on the District's convention webpage.



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

## 2018 LCMS Kansas District Convention Floor Committee members

### Witness

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Andrew Wehling
Ordained	Rev. Joe Seifert
Commissioned	Shawna Spiehs
Commissioned	Ben Venteicher
Lay	Terry Gansebom
Lay	Adam Goodpasture
BOD	Sue Kleber
Staff	Rev. Dan Galchutt

### Life Together

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Alan Stahlecker
Ordained	Rev. William Wingfield
Commissioned	Joyce Duitsman
Commissioned	Ashley Brandmahl
Lay	Mark Wolters
Lay	Kevin Frederickson
BOD	Dave Bruns
Staff	Jeff Maltz

### Excuse

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Tom Harmon
Commissioned	Rachel Goodpasture
Lay	Stephen Fruechtenicht

### Elections

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Robert Grimm
Commissioned	Janine Mallardi
Lay	Bart Miller
Ordained(Advisory)	Rev. Sarge Fritz

### Credentials

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Andy Keltner
Commissioned	Brian Mann
Lay	Eric Niemann

### Mercy

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Clark Davis
Ordained	Rev. Scott Goltl
Commissioned	Linda Kinnett
Commissioned	David Beikmann
Lay	Dale Hiesterman
Lay	Jim Bauck
BOD	Rev. Rick Rostek
Staff	Debbie Crites

### Convention Resolutions

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Gene Holtorf
Ordained	Rev. Michael Schmidt
Commissioned	Amanda Adams
Commissioned	Mark Schotte
Lay	Bill Evans
Lay	Steve Hamann
BOD	Rev. Dave Meier
Staff	Jim Bradshaw

## OVERTURES

### Committee #1 – Witness

- 18-01-01 To Affirm the Partnership Between the Kansas District and the West Africa Area of OIM – BOD
- 18-01-02 To Affirm the Partnership with Mission Central and LCMS Mission Advancement – BOD
- 18-01-03 To Support the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo for the Training of Pastors for Guinea and West Africa – BOD
- 18-01-04 To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Use *Every One His Witness* – BOD
- 18-01-05 To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Participate in *re:Vitality* – BOD
- 18-01-06 To Encourage Congregations to Work Together to Plant Churches – BOD
- 18-01-07 To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Support Mission Work Through the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund – BOD
- 18-01-08 To Encourage Congregations to Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies – BOD
- 18-01-09 To Prioritize New Models and Resources for Small, Struggling and/or Isolated Congregations – BOD
- 18-01-10 To Affirm Local Word and Sacrament Ministry as a Priority in Mission Grant Funding – BOD

### Committee #2 - Mercy

- 18-02-01 To Affirm the Sanctity of Life – Bethlehem, Greenleaf
- 18-02-02 To Support the Well-Being of All the Church's Workers and Families in the Kansas District – BOD
- 18-02-03 To Encourage Greater Use of the District Retreat Center in Herington by Congregations, Schools and Workers – BOD
- 18-02-04 To Support Lutheran Mission Work in Guinea and West Africa by Affirming Mercy Medical Teams – BOD
- 18-02-05 To Encourage Congregations to Increase Support for Church Worker Scholarship Fund and Educational Loan Repayment – BOD
- 18-02-06 To Provide the Adequate Training of Our Pastors and Congregations in the Area of Mental Illnesses and Disorders – Augsburg, Shawnee

### Committee #3 – Life Together

- 18-03-01a To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project Through the LCMS Kansas District Among Pastors, Laity and Congregations – Calvary, Topeka
- 18-03-01b To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project Through the LCMS Kansas District Among Pastors, Laity and Congregations – St. John, Topeka
- 18-03-02 To Encourage Congregations to Welcome Visits from Their Visitor – BOD
- 18-03-03 To Recommend and Encourage the Use of Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Curriculum in Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers – BOD
- 18-03-04 To Support Catechesis in the Home and Through the Family – BOD
- 18-03-05 To Strengthen Church Worker Marriages and Households – BOD
- 18-03-06 To Encourage Congregations to Use the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and Their Stewardship Resources, Including Consecrated Stewards – BOD
- 18-03-07 To Encourage Congregations to Use Synod and District Stewardship Resources – BOD
- 18-03-08 To Encourage Congregations to Use Kansas District Salary Recommendations in Their Compensation Planning – BOD
- 18-03-09 Encourage Congregational Participation in the Church's Plan with Concordia Plan Services – BOD
- 18-03-10 To Allow Licensed Lay Deacons (LLDs) to Preach and do Sacramental Ministry on Emergency and/or Occasional Basis in Congregations Where a Called and Ordained Pastor is Present – Circuit 3 North Forum
- 18-03-11a To Rethink the Placing of Seminary Candidates – Peace, Natoma
- 18-03-11b To Rethink the Placing of Seminary Candidates – First, Plainville
- 18-03-12a To Move the Kansas District Convention to April – Peace, Natoma
- 18-03-12b To Move the Kansas District Convention to April – First, Plainville



#### **Committee #4 - Convention Resolution**

- 18-04-01 To Approve Standing Rules for the 2018 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District – BOD
- 18-04-02 Kansas District Bylaws Revisions – BOD
- 18-04-03 To Encourage Colloquy or Other Educational Tracks for Non-Rostered Teachers to be Inculcated into Lutheran Theology – BOD
- 18-04-04 To Encourage Congregational Training of Leaders for Ministry with Children, Youth and Adults – BOD
- 18-04-05 To Encourage Attention to Vocation and the Table of Duties in Stewardship Education – BOD
- 18-04-06 To Emphasize Cheerful and Generous Giving in Stewardship Education – BOD
- 18-04-07 To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska – BOD
- 18-04-08 To Embrace, Encourage and Equip the Older Adults of the Kansas District of the LCMS to Continue and Enhance Their Active Ministry as Children of God – Trinity, Mission and Shawnee
- 18-04-09 To Study and Recommend Strategies in the Advancement of Congregation-Based Older Adult Ministries in the LCMS Kansas District – BOD
- 18-04-10 To Encourage Support for the Proposed Startup of Concordia Academy: A Lutheran Liberal Arts Education in Wichita, Kansas – Wichita South Circuit 11 Forum
- 18-04-11 To Require Recipients of Kansas District Scholarships to Complete Financial Education Prior to Receiving Funds – BOD
- 18-04-12 To Encourage Healthy Food and Beverage Environments at District Sponsored Events – BOD
- 18-04-13 To Improve the Process for Calling Pastors – Circuit 2 Forum

**To Affirm the Partnership Between the Kansas District and the West Africa Area of OIM**

1           **WHEREAS**, Our Lord commands us to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28);  
2 and  
3  
4           **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District has been involved since 1997 in international mission  
5 work in Guinea, where God has blessed outreach efforts in myriad ways through the work of dedicated  
6 missionaries and indigenous workers; and  
7  
8           **WHEREAS**, the District recently expanded this work to French-speaking West Africa, which the  
9 LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) has identified as an emerging and exciting mission field; and  
10  
11          **WHEREAS**, We have many brothers and sisters in Christ working in West Africa, including  
12 missionaries, theological educators, medical personnel, and indigenous workers; and  
13  
14          **WHEREAS**, THE LCMS encourages collaboration and coordination between districts and OIM;  
15 and  
16  
17          **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Agreement with  
18 the LCMS OIM in February 2018 to promote such collaboration; therefore be it  
19  
20          **RESOLVED**, to thank God and ask for His continued support of mission work in French-speaking West  
21 Africa, including Guinea; and be it finally  
22  
23          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District affirm its partnership with the West Africa Area of the LCMS Office  
24 of International Mission.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Affirm the Partnership with Mission Central and LCMS Mission Advancement**

1           **WHEREAS**, Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa has played an important role in the mission  
2 outreach activities of the LCMS since it was established as a mission support agency in 2003; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, Mission Central, operating as part of LCMS Mission Advancement, has raised  
5 millions of dollars over the years in support of LCMS missions; and  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, Mission Central has partnered with other districts to enhance mission support efforts  
8 of those districts and the Synod; and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District Board of Directors in 2017 approved a Memorandum of  
11 Agreement between the Kansas District and Mission Central, with the aims of enhancing our efforts in  
12 West Africa through collaboration, coordination, and increased visibility; and  
13

14          **WHEREAS**, Mission Development Counselor Rev. Brent Smith has been deployed in the Kansas  
15 District to raise awareness of and support for Guinea, West Africa, the Lutheran Center for Theological  
16 Studies (CLET), and other mission projects of interest to LCMS Kansans; and  
17

18          **WHEREAS**, Scripture encourages such partnership in the Gospel (e.g., Acts 15; Phil. 1:1-11;  
19 Phil. 4:14-20; 2 Cor. 8:1-7; Acts 11); therefore be it  
20

21          **RESOLVED**, to thank God for the ongoing mission support activities of Mission Central; and be it  
22 finally  
23

24          **RESOLVED**, to affirm the collaboration between the Kansas District, Mission Central, and LCMS  
25 Mission Advancement to raise awareness and support for international mission work in Guinea and West  
26 Africa.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Support the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo for the Training of Pastors for Guinea and West Africa**

1           **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District has been involved in mission work in Guinea, West Africa, since  
2 1997; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, the Lord has blessed that work in many ways, bringing new believers to Christ  
5 through the work of faithful missionaries and indigenous workers; and  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, LCMS work in West Africa has expanded in recent years to include the Lutheran  
8 Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo, which provides seminary education to students  
9 in French-speaking West Africa, including Guinea; and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, three Guinean men were enrolled at the CLET in the 2017-2018 academic year; and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, the CLET is a key component of LCMS mission efforts in West Africa, given the  
14 urgent need for well-trained African pastors; and  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, the need for seminary training in West Africa has become even more pressing due to  
17 an increasingly hostile Muslim presence in the region, and  
18

19           **WHEREAS**, support for the CLET, which equips native pastors for faithful Word and Sacrament  
20 ministry in West Africa, will allow the Kansas District to build upon its work in Guinea while providing  
21 assistance more broadly to French-speaking West Africa; therefore be it  
22

23           **RESOLVED**, to thank God and ask His blessing on the staff and the students and their families at  
24 the CLET; and be it finally  
25

26           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District support the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET)  
27 in Togo through prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Use *Every One His Witness***

1           **WHEREAS**, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all  
2 nations” by witnesses for Christ (Luke 24:47-48); and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, “All nations” includes the U.S., where 38% of the population can now be classified as  
5 “post-Christian,” meaning their beliefs and practices are secular (Barna, 2014); and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, “All nations” also includes Kansas, where 20% of the population claims no religious  
8 affiliation (Pew Religious Landscape Study, 2014); and

9  
10           **WHEREAS**, Even among those who identify as Christian, engagement isn’t as high as it could  
11 be, with some surveys estimating church attendance at around just 18% of the population each week;  
12 and

13  
14           **WHEREAS**, Believers in Christ are called to reach out with the Gospel message, “proclaiming the  
15 excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9); and

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, This can be a challenging task, especially in the absence of guidance on how to  
18 share the good news effectively; and

19  
20           **WHEREAS**, Heightened attention to techniques for evangelism are especially warranted now, as  
21 the unchurched are becoming increasingly resistant to church. Recent survey results reveal that fewer  
22 individuals would be open to a friend’s invitation, a visit from a pastor or church representative, or  
23 information via phone or mail (Barna 2014); and

24  
25           **WHEREAS**, the Synod has recognized this challenge and in response developed *Every One His*  
26 *Witness*, an evangelism program rooted in the Lutheran understanding of vocation and commended for  
27 use by all LCMS districts, RSOs, and auxiliaries (Resolution 1-01, 2016); and

28  
29           **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District has earmarked funds to assist congregations interested in  
30 employing *Every One His Witness*, now available as a kit from CPH; therefore be it

31  
32           **RESOLVED**, That the convention encourage Kansas District congregations to use *Every One His*  
33 *Witness* as they work to reach the unchurched and those who have drifted away; and be it further

34  
35           **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District promote *Every One His Witness* and develop ways for  
36 congregations to network and share insights about the program; and be it finally

37  
38           **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District continue to provide funding assistance to LCMS Kansas  
39 congregations, schools, and organizations interested in using *Every One His Witness*.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Participate in *re:Vitality***

1           **WHEREAS**, congregational decline, marked by decreases in church membership and worship  
2 attendance, is a Synod-wide concern, with 78% of LCMS congregations peaking or declining at the time  
3 of the 2016 Synod Convention; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, Kansas congregations have experienced a similar pattern of decline, with 71%  
6 experiencing a decrease in baptized membership from 2006 to 2016. Of the 44 churches reporting  
7 increases in baptized membership, 14 showed increases in attendance (roughly 9% of LCMS Kansas  
8 congregations), while 30 showed a decrease; and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, the key to the vitality of any church is the faithful proclamation of God’s Word and  
11 administration of His Sacraments; and  
12

13          **WHEREAS**, the Synod, after consulting with 10 districts about their needs, has developed a  
14 church revitalization program called *re:Vitality*; and  
15

16          **WHEREAS**, the Synod has commended the use of *re:Vitality* resources to all LCMS  
17 congregations as a low-cost, doctrinally sound resource for revitalization (Res. 1-03, 2016); and  
18

19          **WHEREAS**, the District has earmarked funds to support congregations interested in using  
20 *re:Vitality* materials; and  
21

22          **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District has begun the process of training of Kansas *re:Vitality*  
23 facilitators and coaches, who will be equipped to conduct workshops and provide guidance; therefore be  
24 it  
25

26          **RESOLVED**, That the convention encourage Kansas District congregations to use *re:Vitality*  
27 resources to address the challenges that many churches are facing today; and be it further  
28

29          **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District promote *re:Vitality* and develop ways for congregations to  
30 network and share insights about the program; and be it further  
31

32          **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District continue to develop its core of trained *re:Vitality* facilitators;  
33 and be it finally  
34

35          **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District continue to provide funding assistance to LCMS Kansas  
36 congregations interested in participating in the *re:Vitality* program.  
37

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Congregations to Work Together to Plant Churches**

1           **WHEREAS**, Providing Word and Sacrament ministry throughout the state is a priority in the  
2 Kansas District; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, the field for that ministry is changing, demographically and culturally, with the  
5 population in Kansas shifting from rural to urban areas and becoming more diverse; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, Kansas is a significant mission field, with a growing number of residents among the  
8 unchurched, dechurched, and disengaged; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District is the product of church planting activity, with churches and  
11 schools springing up to serve particular populations and locales; and

12  
13          **WHEREAS**, 1 Cor. 3:6 points us to the importance of planting and watering while reminding us  
14 that God provides growth; and

15  
16          **WHEREAS**, Church planting, as articulated in the Synod's *Mission Field: USA* resource (Schave,  
17 2016) is "who we are as a church body, and it is what we have been called to do, as faithful stewards of  
18 God's Word and Sacraments, to reach the lost"; and

19  
20          **WHEREAS**, the Synod affirmed its commitment to church planting at its most recent convention  
21 (Res. 1-02, 2016); and

22  
23          **WHEREAS**, New models for church planting, including network-supported church plants, are  
24 emerging; therefore be it

25  
26          **RESOLVED**, That the convention affirm church planting as a mission priority of the Kansas  
27 District; and be it further

28  
29          **RESOLVED**, That the District identify and share resources for church planting with  
30 congregations, including new partnership models for church plants; and be it further

31  
32          **RESOLVED**, That the District and its congregations make use of Synod resources, including but  
33 not limited to *Mission Field: USA*, to support church planting efforts in Kansas; and be it finally

34  
35          **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District Board of Mission continue to prioritize church planting in  
36 the awarding of mission grants.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Support Mission Work Through the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District received a gift in May 2017 from the estate of Rev. Dr. Eugene E.  
2 Schmidt, former Executive Secretary for Missions and Stewardship and President of the LCMS Kansas  
3 District; and

4  
5           **WHEREAS**, the terms of the trust indicate that the gift is “to be used for charitable purposes in its  
6 [the Kansas District’s] area of greatest need, not to support the general budget”; and

7  
8           **WHEREAS**, mission work has been and continues to be one of the District’s highest priorities,  
9 and

10  
11           **WHEREAS**, this priority is consistent with the work of Rev. Schmidt, who had a heart for  
12 missions; and

13  
14           **WHEREAS**, Kansas is a critically important mission field, particularly in the face of demographic  
15 and cultural changes affecting many of our congregations and workers; and

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas Board of Directors recently established a quasi-endowment called “The  
18 Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund” for supporting mission outreach in the Kansas District, with  
19 priority given to the work of church planting, new outreach initiatives, and revitalization through the  
20 Kansas District; and

21  
22           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas Board of Directors, in conjunction with establishing the quasi-  
23 endowment, launched a new annual Reformation Offering to generate additional support for the fund;  
24 therefore be it

25  
26           **RESOLVED**, to give thanks for the generous gift from the Rev. Eugene Schmidt Trust, which has  
27 enabled the District to increase support for mission outreach; and be it further

28  
29           **RESOLVED**, that Kansas District congregations support mission work in Kansas through the  
30 Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund; and be it finally

31  
32           **RESOLVED**, that congregations be encouraged to participate in the annual Reformation Offering.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



**To Encourage Congregations to Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies**

1           **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, like all historic American denominations, has  
2 experienced a persistent decline in membership, with significant decreases in child baptisms and adult  
3 converts; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, The LCMS is expected to lose another 500,000 members before the downward trend  
6 changes; and  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, declines in membership can put a strain on congregational resources; and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, changing demographic and cultural conditions require heartfelt prayer, along with  
11 acknowledgement of the decisive role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church; and  
12

13          **WHEREAS**, congregations and their members are also called upon to use their God-given  
14 resources for the good of the Church, which, in these challenging times, requires creative thinking about  
15 ways to promote the Church's long-term well-being and financial viability; and  
16

17          **WHEREAS**, strategies have been and continue to be developed in the interests of maintaining  
18 faithful Word and Sacrament ministry for future generations; and  
19

20          **WHEREAS**, congregations and their members, while shrinking in number, continue to support the  
21 work of the Church through Sunday offerings as well as designated gifts and bequests; and  
22

23          **WHEREAS**, the next three decades will see the biggest wealth transfer in history, with trillions of  
24 dollars expected to pass from one generation to the next; therefore be it  
25

26          **RESOLVED**, that congregations develop long-term funding strategies in the interests of future  
27 generations of believers; and be it finally  
28

29          **RESOLVED**, *that such* strategies include consideration of estate planning (for all adult members),  
30 LCMS Foundation and LCMS Advancement resources, and congregational partnerships.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Prioritize New Models and Resources for Small, Struggling and/or Isolated Congregations**

1           **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has experienced a steady decline in baptisms, confirmations,  
2           communicant membership, and offerings since 1972, with the Kansas District (like all other LCMS  
3           districts) declining in membership over the past decade; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, Church attendance in the United States, estimated to be between 18% and 40%  
6           (dependent on how data is gathered), has declined in recent years, with the Kansas District showing a  
7           loss of about 30 people per week in average weekly attendance from 2000 to 2015; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District currently includes 160 congregations, 35% of which have an  
10          average weekly attendance of 50 or fewer; and  
11

12          **WHEREAS**, Population projections for Kansas include continued losses in rural areas, an  
13          increase in the aging population, and slower growth, overall, than the nation as a whole; and  
14

15          **WHEREAS**, an increasing number of people, including Kansans, are not identifying with any  
16          religion (“nones”), a change attributed to increasing secularization and changing demographic patterns;  
17          and  
18

19          **WHEREAS**, Rising health insurance costs are putting considerable strain on congregational  
20          budgets; and  
21

22          **WHEREAS**, Attempts have been made to repeal the housing allowance exemption for clergy,  
23          which, if successful, would create additional hardships for small and struggling congregations seeking to  
24          call and support a pastor; and  
25

26          **WHEREAS**, the number of expected seminary graduates in the years ahead will not match the  
27          demand created by retiring pastors, which will require rethinking the standard “1 pastor, 1 parish” ministry  
28          model; therefore be it  
29

30          **RESOLVED**, that we pray for the well-being of our workers and parishioners in congregations  
31          particularly hard hit by these challenges; and be it further  
32

33          **RESOLVED**, that the District give special attention in the next triennium to ministry and funding  
34          models aimed at assisting small, struggling, and/or isolated congregations and make the Assistant to the  
35          President for Missions and Stewardship available to visit circuits, pastors and laypeople to discuss  
36          options and resources for their congregations; and be it finally  
37

38          **RESOLVED**, that we recognize God’s hand in everything, trusting that where the Word is  
39          preached faithfully, it will accomplish God’s purpose (Is. 55:11, “My Word . . . shall not return to me  
40          empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose”).

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

Overture 18-01-10

**To Affirm Local Word and Sacrament Ministry as a Priority in Mission Grant Funding**

1           **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District is committed to helping members of the District “carry out the  
2 mission Christ has given His church,” as noted in our mission statement; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, Christ’s mission for His Church is carried out through God’s means of grace, Word  
5 and Sacrament; and  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, the Board of Missions has sought to encourage mission outreach by providing  
8 substantial support in the form of mission grants, awarding \$120,750 in 2017; and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, 10% of congregational receipts in 2018 has been designated for mission grants, with  
11 nearly \$150,000 being made available; and  
12

13          **WHEREAS**, These mission grants, made possible through the generous support of Kansas  
14 District congregations and other sources, have been used to support projects of congregations, mission  
15 agencies, and individuals; and  
16

17          **WHEREAS**, Our mission grant funding, although substantial, is nonetheless limited, requiring  
18 criteria for prioritizing requests; and  
19

20          **WHEREAS**, Kansas, like the rest of the United States, is a critical mission field, with many of our  
21 neighbors needing the gifts God provides through His Word and Sacraments; and  
22

23          **WHEREAS**, the Holy Spirit creates, sustains and grows faith through Word and Sacrament  
24 ministry; therefore be it  
25

26          **RESOLVED**, to thank God for his gifts to us in the Kansas District, including the financial gifts and  
27 commitment to missions demonstrated by our congregations, schools, and agencies; and be it finally  
28

29          **RESOLVED**, to use God’s gifts well, prioritizing Word and Sacrament ministry in Kansas in  
30 mission grant support.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Affirm the Sanctity of Life**

1           **WHEREAS**, Whereas God creates all human life (Gen. 1 and 2, Ps. 139:13-16) and has created  
2 man in his image (Gen. 9:5-6); and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, humans receive value and worth because God has made them and not from the  
5 quality of their life, socioeconomic status, race, or gender (Gen 9:6, James 2:1-10); and  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, because of man's fall into sin suffering, disease, famine, poverty, and death entered  
8 into the world (Gen. 3); and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, death is to be regarded not as part of the natural course of life but rather as a curse  
11 and judgment due to sin, for as God says, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his  
12 days shall be 120 years" (Gen. 6:3, Ps. 90:10); and  
13

14          **WHEREAS**, despite our sin the Lord is merciful and gracious (Ps. 103:6-8), sustaining and caring  
15 for the the people of His creation (Ex. 22:26-27 and Matt. 5:42-45), watching over them and holding them  
16 in His hands throughout their earthly life (Ps. 31:14-15 and Ps. 145:15-16); and  
17

18          **WHEREAS**, God so loved the world and mankind He sent His Son into our flesh to redeem all by  
19 His death and resurrection (Mark 10:45 and 1 Pet. 1:18-19); and  
20

21          **WHEREAS**, by Christ Jesus' vicarious atonement death has been conquered for those who  
22 believe and are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16,  
23 Romans 6:4-6); and  
24

25          **WHEREAS**, the body of the believer is not his or her own, having been "bought with a price" (1  
26 Cor. 6:19-20); and  
27

28          **WHEREAS**, God calls us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Prov. 31:8-9);  
29 and  
30

31          **WHEREAS**, God calls us to serve our neighbor for their good (Matt. 25:42-43, 1 John 4:19-21,  
32 Luke 10:33-35); therefore be it  
33

34          **RESOLVED**, to thank God for the precious gift of life and all that He does to sustain it; and be it  
35 further  
36

37          **RESOLVED**, to reject and advocate against any practice or behavior intended to harm the life of  
38 someone God has created, including racism and prejudice (Acts 17:26, James 2:1, 1 John 3:15, Rev.  
39 5:9); and be it further  
40

41          **RESOLVED**, to reject and advocate against any practice or behavior intended to shorten or end  
42 life, including abortion, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide; and be it further  
43

44          **RESOLVED**, that we proclaim the Lord's forgiveness of our Gracious God to all who are  
45 repentant and in need of our Lord's tender love; and be it  
46

47          **RESOLVED**, that we strive to carry out the responsibility that the Lord has given to all as seen in  
48 the Table of Duties to love and pray for all (Romans 13:9 and 1 Timothy 2:1); and be it further  
49

50          **RESOLVED** that the leadership of the LCMS Kansas District work with the Life Coordinator of the  
51 district to raise awareness of life issues and provide support and resources to congregations to assist us  
52 all in speaking the truth in love on Life Issues; and be it finally

53           **RESOLVED**, that Kansas District congregations be encouraged to celebrate Life Sunday on  
54 either the appointed day by the LCMS Life Ministry or Lutherans for Life, or another Sunday in January as  
55 decided by individual congregations.

*Submitted by Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greenleaf*

**To Support the Well-Being of All the Church's Workers and Families in the Kansas District**

1           **WHEREAS**, along with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the overall health and well being of  
2 our church workers is of prime importance in fulfilling the work God has called us to do; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS** those who are called to serve the church in various capacities are well advised to  
5 care for themselves so that they can carry out their ministries to the best of their ability; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, congregations, schools, and other agencies are vital to the well-being of their  
8 ministers as they support those ministers in pursuit of their well-being; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, the LCMS in Convention in 2016 adopted in Resolution 18-04, "That church workers  
11 be encouraged to develop an intentional self-care plan as part of their continuing education portfolio," and

12  
13          **WHEREAS**, major challenges to the well-being of the church's ministers are known and  
14 documented, along with effective strategies to deal with those challenges to enhance their wellbeing;  
15 therefore be it

16  
17          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in Convention express its support for all efforts of  
18 congregations, schools, and agencies to care for our workers and families and support them in their  
19 wellbeing, including the following components of wholistic well-being: spiritual, financial, vocational,  
20 intellectual, relational, emotional, and physical; and be it further

21  
22          **RESOLVED**, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to do all they can to  
23 support the wholistic well-being of their ministers and their families, and be it further

24  
25          **RESOLVED**, the Kansas District in Convention direct the Board of Directors, working through the  
26 Board of Caring Ministry and the Worker Care Team, to develop intentional, strategic, and practical  
27 means of addressing wholistic well-being issues, preventing problems before they develop, and resolving  
28 them before they become crises; and be it further

29  
30          **RESOLVED**, that our congregations, schools, and agencies be encouraged to support the  
31 wholistic well-being of all their other workers as well; and be it finally

32  
33          **RESOLVED**, that the church workers of the Kansas District be encouraged to care for  
34 themselves in every aspect of wholistic well-being by developing an intentional self-care plan, so that they  
35 can continue to serve to the best of their ability with the gifts and strength that God supplies.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Greater Use of the District Retreat Center in Herington by Congregations,  
Schools and Workers**

1           **WHEREAS**, God has graciously blessed the LCMS Kansas District with a Retreat Center in  
2 Herington, which is intended to provide “a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere where LCMS professional  
3 workers can relax and reconnect with God”; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, maintaining the Retreat Center involves a sustained commitment of financial and  
6 human resources; and  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, the Retreat Center has been underutilized in recent years, prompting the Board of  
9 Directors to reevaluate Retreat Center operations and establish a Retreat Center Committee; and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, the District, following recommendations from the Retreat Center Committee, made  
12 several changes to the Retreat Center in the fall of 2017 in an effort to increase occupancy, including new  
13 local management, increased attention to marketing, including a dedicated reservation email address  
14 ([retreathouseherington@gmail.com](mailto:retreathouseherington@gmail.com) ), website ( <https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/retreat-center/> ), and  
15 Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KSLCMSRetreatCenter/> ), and property improvements; and  
16

17           **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors will continue to evaluate Retreat Center operations to ensure  
18 that District resources are well-utilized; therefore be it  
19

20           **RESOLVED**, that congregations, schools, and workers of the Kansas District be encouraged to  
21 make greater use of the Retreat Center in Herington.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Support Lutheran Mission Work in Guinea and West Africa by Affirming Mercy Medical Teams**

1           **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District recently approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the LCMS  
2 Office of International Mission (OIM); and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, one of the objectives of the agreement is to support both mission and mercy work;  
5 and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, Medical Mercy Teams (MMTs) provide one important avenue for mercy work,  
8 through which medical and non-medical personnel can provide much-needed health care while sharing  
9 the Christ-centered message: “We’re here to serve our neighbor”; and

10  
11           **WHEREAS**, Several MMTs are in the planning stages for various countries in West Africa,  
12 including one in Togo in September 2018; and

13  
14           **WHEREAS**, MMTs provide valuable opportunities for volunteers to engage in short-term  
15 international mission work; and

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, members of Kansas District congregations have participated in mercy medical work  
18 in Africa in the past; therefore be it

19  
20           **RESOLVED**, to thank God for Mercy Medical Teams and ask His blessing on MMT workers and  
21 those whom they serve, and that MMTs may be an effective means of caring for both body and soul; and  
22 be it finally

23  
24           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District support Lutheran mission work in Guinea and West Africa  
25 by affirming Mercy Medical Teams.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



**To Encourage Congregations to Increase Support for Church Worker Scholarship Fund  
and Educational Loan Repayment**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Church depends on a well-educated workforce to carry out its mission of  
2 preaching and teaching; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, the cost of higher education is staggering and as a result, many church workers are  
5 graduating from our colleges, universities, and seminaries with debt that will take years to pay off; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District, to reduce this burden, has for the past 29 years provided  
8 Kansans pursuing full-time church work through the Concordia system and our two seminaries  
9 scholarships ranging from \$12,795 in the year 2000, to a high of \$44,045 in 2015, with \$26,625  
10 distributed among 24 applicants in the year 2017; and

11  
12           **WHEREAS**, since 1998, the LCMS KS District has provided Educational Loan Repayment Grants  
13 to District church workers who have graduated within the last 10 years. Grant awards, which are applied  
14 directly to the principal balance of the student loan, have ranged from \$4000 distributed to 20 applicants  
15 in 1998, to a high of \$51,700 distributed to 47 applicants in 2008, with \$42,321 distributed to 34  
16 applicants in 2017; and

17  
18           **WHEREAS**, the total indebtedness of all 2017 applicants for Educational Loan Repayment  
19 Grants was \$1,700,779.08, with the following breakdown:  
20 22 Pastors: \$1,305,798.00 (Range: \$921.00 to \$191,318.00)  
21 5 DCE/DCOs: \$102,071.00 (Range: \$1,211.00 to \$52,417.00)  
22 7 Teachers: \$292,909.00 (Range: \$6,901.00 to \$93,794.00); and

23  
24           **WHEREAS**, the LCMS Kansas District has encouraged congregations to support this fund  
25 through offerings taken at installations and ordinations of church workers as well as the Ash Wednesday  
26 offering; and

27  
28           **WHEREAS**, the LCMS Kansas District has encouraged workers to take advantage of the Rural  
29 Opportunity Zones program in Kansas, which provides education loan repayment assistance to qualified  
30 workers; therefore, be it

31  
32           **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District prayerfully consider supporting  
33 the Kansas District Scholarship and Educational Loan Repayment Fund by participating in the Ash  
34 Wednesday offering, by making the fund the beneficiary of Day School/chapel offerings/Sunday  
35 School/Bible Class or VBS offerings, and/or by making the fund the beneficiary of a free-will door offering;  
36 and be it further

37  
38           **RESOLVED**, that congregations be encouraged to consider adding a line item to their annual  
39 budget for support of the Scholarship and Educational Loan Repayment Fund; and be it finally,

40  
41           **RESOLVED**, that congregations consider other ways to help their workers reduce their debt  
42 burden, including, but not limited to, becoming sponsoring employers in the state's Rural Opportunity  
43 Zones program.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Provide the Adequate Training of Our Pastors and Congregations in the Area of Mental Illnesses and Disorders**

1           **WHEREAS**, Our Lord commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31); and  
2

3           **WHEREAS**, Paul, the Apostle, reminds us: "If one part [of the Body of Christ] suffers, every part  
4 with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (I Corinthians 12:26); and  
5

6           **WHEREAS**, the Psalmist declared: "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the man  
7 who takes refuge in Him! For those who fear Him have no lack" (Psalm 34:8,9b); and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, Jesus, in fulfilling the Scripture quoted Isaiah saying: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon  
10 me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim liberty to the  
11 captives and recovering the sight of the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the  
12 year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:14-21); and  
13

14           **WHEREAS**, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), an estimated 22.1% of  
15 Americans, ages 18 and older, about 1 out of 5 adults, suffer from an array of diagnosable mental  
16 disorders in a given year -that one of our churches with a membership of 100 has an estimated 20  
17 persons with a mental illness; That 10% of children aged 5-16 have a clinically diagnosable mental  
18 health problem and 70% have not had appropriate interventions to treat them (National Mental Health  
19 Foundation); That diagnosable mental disorders range from traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress,  
20 bi-polar disorder, depression, ADHD, and schizophrenia and, include addictions and eating disorders like  
21 bulimia and anorexia, with other disorders on the increase that include autism and Alzheimer's Disease.  
22

23           **WHEREAS**, mental illness and a mental disorder has a downward spiral effect in families and  
24 among people that may include behavioral malfunctions, addictions, marital problems leading to divorce,  
25 loss of job, incarceration, and suicide; that its estimated that 90% of people committing suicide suffer from  
26 a diagnosable mental illness [The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention].  
27

28           **WHEREAS**, there is a stigma among the mentally ill to understand their illness and a fear of  
29 being identified with a mental illness/disorder; That because mental illness carries with it an undesirable  
30 regard, there is indecision among the mentally ill to get help; That mental illness is different from a  
31 physical illness in the way it is treated and understood; That due to reasons like stigma and lack of  
32 access to the mental health system, the average delay between experiencing symptoms and seeking  
33 help is ten years (the executive director of NAMI); That mental illnesses and mental disorders present  
34 both challenges and problems for pastors and congregations because of the stigma connected with the  
35 illness and/or disorder from the one suffering from it to the ones ministering to them, attempting to provide  
36 care and compassion to their members.  
37

38           **WHEREAS**, in general, our pastors and congregations may be ill equipped to provide ministry  
39 and compassionate care to those suffering from a mental illness/disorder -to more fully understand the  
40 plight of human need regarding those suffering mental illness and draw from Scripture that which is  
41 needed to provide them with compassionate, caring, knowledgeable, effective ministry.  
42

43           **RESOLVED**, that we advocate for the mentally ill in our LCMS congregations to the end that they  
44 receive pastoral care and Christ-centered ministry that brings peace to the troubled mind.  
45

46           **RESOLVED**, that our pastors and churches actively advocate for Mental Health and Wellness  
47 today in their churches, among their people, and provide Christ-centered compassion and ministerial  
48 supportive care to those in need.  
49

50           **RESOLVED**, that our Seminaries and schools of higher learning more adequately provide  
51 sufficient training to those studying to be a pastor and church leader to the end result that pastoral care is  
52 provided to the mentally ill; That those in training come to understand the symptoms, nature of, and  
53 needs of the mentally ill and are able to advocate for professional assistance that leads to diagnosis and

54 treatment that follows to overcoming the illness/disorder or the ability to manage it successfully; to the  
55 end that the pastor and his congregation will effectively minister to the spiritual needs of those suffering  
56 from a mental illness and mental disorder, and especially proclaim that Jesus is our brother and defender  
57 even in the depths of life -to comfort them with the promise that God is love and He rescues and restores  
58 those who call upon Him.

*Submitted by Augsburg Lutheran Church, Shawnee*

**To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project through the LCMS Kansas District among Pastors, Laity, and Congregations**

1           **WHEREAS**, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church unites all believers in Christ in an  
2 invisible fellowship through holy Baptism and justifying faith in Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer from  
3 sin, death, and the devil’s power (Ephesians 4); and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, in spite of this oneness in the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, the outward  
6 church militant remains divided and is “by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed” (*LSB* 644.4) ;  
7 and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, even our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has in her history fallen prey to  
10 schism and false teaching; and  
11

12           **WHEREAS**, disunifying debate persists within our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod over many  
13 matters of doctrine and practice; and  
14

15           **WHEREAS**, disunity in the church is diametrically opposed to the explicit desire of the Lord Jesus  
16 for His believers, John 17:21 “that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in Me, and I in you;” and  
17

18           **WHEREAS**, our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has nevertheless been blessed with the very  
19 basis of God-pleasing unity in doctrine and practice, the verbally-inspired, inerrant Holy Scriptures of the  
20 Old and New Testaments, “the pure, clear fountain of Israel” (FC SD Rule and Norm 3); and the Book of  
21 Concord of 1580, “a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the  
22 Evangelical Lutheran Church” (*LSB Agenda*, p. 179), which all members of Synod “make their own” as a  
23 true exposition of the Scriptures; and  
24

25           **WHEREAS**, in addressing matters of doctrine and practice in the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
26 the Holy Scriptures are a “lamp for my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105) and “the only  
27 standard and rule of doctrine” (FC SD Rule and Norm 9); and  
28

29           **WHEREAS**, as a true exposition and exhibition of the doctrine of the Scriptures the Book of  
30 Concord is and remains “the common, unanimously accepted meaning of our churches” (FC SD Rule and  
31 Norm 11) to be “cheerfully accepted and tolerated as witness of the truth” (FC SD Rule and Norm 12) and  
32 “quoted...as a witness of the truth and as the unanimously received, correct understanding of our  
33 predecessors who have steadfastly held to the pure doctrine” (FC SD Rule and Norm 13); and  
34

35           **WHEREAS**, the unity of the church in doctrine and practice is the only external mark of the inner  
36 unity of the church (AC 7.2 and FC SD 10.31, “According to this teaching concerning adiaphora no church  
37 shall condemn another because of dissimilarity in the ceremonies that some, by reason of Christian  
38 liberty, observe fewer of, and others more of, *if only they be of one mind in doctrine and in all its parts and*  
39 *in the right use of the Sacraments*”); and  
40

41           **WHEREAS**, the Lord calls upon His church to live in love and harmony (1 Corinthians 13) and  
42 connects love with the church’s witness to the world (John 13:35); and  
43

44           **WHEREAS**, the Office of the President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to foster greater  
45 cohesiveness within our Synod, has advanced the *Koinonia Project* to gather pastors, laity, and  
46 congregations around the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and  
47

48           **WHEREAS**, the *Koinonia Project* has been formally, successfully, and gainfully employed by  
49 gatherings of circuit pastors within our District, with one project running for 5 years and another for 2; and  
50

51           **WHEREAS**, whether pastors, laity, and congregations are united or disunited in doctrine and  
52 practice, the *Koinonia Project* remains a useful tool both for preserving existing unity and seeking to  
53 repair disunity; and

54           **WHEREAS**, many pastors, laity, and congregations within our district have not yet adopted or  
55 employed the *Koinonia Project*; therefore be it

56  
57           **RESOLVED**, that the LCMS Kansas District, rejoicing in our unity in Christ through Baptism into  
58 His death and resurrection and faith in the Same, embrace the *Koinonia Project* as an outward  
59 manifestation of our invisible unity; and be it further

60  
61           **RESOLVED**, that the Office of the District President give priority to the implementation of the  
62 *Koinonia Project* throughout the LCMS Kansas District among pastors, laity, and congregations with an  
63 end-goal of not only studying Scripture and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but to  
64 fostering unity in doctrine and practice; and be it further

65  
66           **RESOLVED**, that each circuit be encouraged by the Office of the District President with  
67 implementing the *Koinonia Project* not only among pastors, but also among laity and congregations; and  
68 be it finally

69  
70           **RESOLVED**, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Education offer consultation and support to  
71 groups within our District who wish to implement the *Koinonia Project*.

*Submitted by Calvary Lutheran Church, Topeka*

**To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project through the LCMS Kansas District among Pastors, Laity, and Congregations**

1           **WHEREAS**, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church unites all believers in Christ in an  
2 invisible fellowship through holy Baptism and justifying faith in Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer from  
3 sin, death, and the devil’s power (Ephesians 4); and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, in spite of this oneness in the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, the outward  
6 church militant remains divided and is “by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed” (*LSB* 644.4) ;  
7 and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, even our own Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has in her history fallen prey to  
10 schism and false teaching; and  
11

12           **WHEREAS**, disunifying debate persists within our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod over many  
13 matters of doctrine and practice; and  
14

15           **WHEREAS**, disunity in the church is diametrically opposed to the explicit desire of the Lord Jesus  
16 for His believers, John 17:21 “that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in Me, and I in you;” and  
17

18           **WHEREAS**, our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has nevertheless been blessed with the very  
19 basis of God-pleasing unity in doctrine and practice, the verbally-inspired, inerrant Holy Scriptures of the  
20 Old and New Testaments, “the pure, clear fountain of Israel” (FC SD Rule and Norm 3); and the Book of  
21 Concord of 1580, “a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the  
22 Evangelical Lutheran Church” (*LSB Agenda*, p. 179), which all members of Synod “make their own” as a  
23 true exposition of the Scriptures; and  
24

25           **WHEREAS**, in addressing matters of doctrine and practice in the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
26 the Holy Scriptures are a “lamp for my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105) and “the only  
27 standard and rule of doctrine” (FC SD Rule and Norm 9); and  
28

29           **WHEREAS**, as a true exposition and exhibition of the doctrine of the Scriptures the Book of  
30 Concord is and remains “the common, unanimously accepted meaning of our churches” (FC SD Rule and  
31 Norm 11) to be “cheerfully accepted and tolerated as witness of the truth” (FC SD Rule and Norm 12) and  
32 “quoted...as a witness of the truth and as the unanimously received, correct understanding of our  
33 predecessors who have steadfastly held to the pure doctrine” (FC SD Rule and Norm 13); and  
34

35           **WHEREAS**, the unity of the church in doctrine and practice is the only external mark of the inner  
36 unity of the church (AC 7.2 and FC SD 10.31, “According to this teaching concerning adiaphora no church  
37 shall condemn another because of dissimilarity in the ceremonies that some, by reason of Christian  
38 liberty, observe fewer of, and others more of, *if only they be of one mind in doctrine and in all its parts and*  
39 *in the right use of the Sacraments*”); and  
40

41           **WHEREAS**, the Lord calls upon His church to live in love and harmony (1 Corinthians 13) and  
42 connects love with the church’s witness to the world (John 13:35); and  
43

44           **WHEREAS**, the Office of the President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to foster greater  
45 cohesiveness within our Synod, has advanced the *Koinonia Project* to gather pastors, laity, and  
46 congregations around the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and  
47

48           **WHEREAS**, the *Koinonia Project* has been formally, successfully, and gainfully employed by  
49 gatherings of circuit pastors within our District, with one project running for 5 years and another for 2; and  
50

51           **WHEREAS**, whether pastors, laity, and congregations are united or disunited in doctrine and  
52 practice, the *Koinonia Project* remains a useful tool both for preserving existing unity and seeking to  
53 repair disunity; and  
54

55           **WHEREAS**, many pastors, laity, and congregations within our district have not yet adopted or  
56 employed the *Koinonia Project*; therefore be it

57  
58           **RESOLVED**, that the LCMS Kansas District, rejoicing in our unity in Christ through Baptism into  
59 His death and resurrection and faith in the Same, embrace the *Koinonia Project* as an outward  
60 manifestation of our invisible unity; and be it further

61  
62           **RESOLVED**, that the Office of the District President give priority to the implementation of the  
63 *Koinonia Project* throughout the LCMS Kansas District among pastors, laity, and congregations with an  
64 end-goal of not only studying Scripture and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but to  
65 fostering unity in doctrine and practice; and be it further

66  
67           **RESOLVED**, that each circuit be encouraged by the Office of the District President with  
68 implementing the *Koinonia Project* not only among pastors, but also among laity and congregations; and  
69 be it finally

70  
71           **RESOLVED**, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Education offer consultation and support to  
72 groups within our District who wish to implement the *Koinonia Project*.

*Submitted by St. John Lutheran Church, Topeka*

**To Encourage Congregations to Welcome Visits from Their Visitor**

1           **WHEREAS**, visitation in the Church has its roots already in the Old Testament where the Lord  
2 frequently visited His people (e.g. Gen. 50:24-25; Ruth 1:6; 1 Sam. 2:21); and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, in the fullness of time our Lord Himself visited and redeemed His people in the  
5 person of His Son, Jesus Christ (Luke 1:67-68); and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, during His earthly ministry Jesus visited many such as Zacchaeus and the people of  
8 Jerusalem (Luke 19:1-10; Luke 19:44); and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, the apostle Paul and Barnabus, on their second missionary journey, visited the  
11 congregations that they had established on their first missionary journey (Acts 15:36); and

12  
13          **WHEREAS**, the visitation of congregations was prominent in the history and practice of the  
14 Church from the New Testament up to the time of Martin Luther; and

15  
16          **WHEREAS**, Luther himself advocated, planned, organized, and participated in the visitation of  
17 churches in Saxony beginning in 1528; and

18  
19          **WHEREAS**, after the time of Luther, visitation continued to be an important custom in the  
20 Lutheran Church which was advocated, more recently, by the likes of President C.F.W. Walther, Bishop  
21 Bo Giertz, Werner Elert, and others; and

22  
23          **WHEREAS**, the 2013 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopted by an 83%  
24 vote Resolution 7-01A, “To Set Forth Clear Mutual Expectations in Carrying Out the Office of Visitation”  
25 which is summarized in LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4.; and

26  
27          **WHEREAS**, LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4 describes visitation in the following way:

28 The district president shall, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of  
29 ecclesiastical supervision visit the congregations of the district.

30 (a) He shall arrange in advance for an official visit to each congregation of his district at least once every  
31 three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary. He may call upon the circuit visitors and vice-  
32 presidents to assist him with the triennial visitation of congregations.

33 (b) In his official visits he shall seek to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the  
34 Synod's objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution.

35 (c) He shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical manner.

36 (d) He shall come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of  
37 serving in the mission and ministry of the church.

38 (e) In his visits he shall include fraternal discussion in regard to worship and communion attendance;  
39 participation by the congregation in missions and the work of the church at large; the congregation's  
40 evangelism and education endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of  
41 compensation for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of doctrine; the  
42 strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and the provision of resources, opportunities, and  
43 assistance so God's people can grow in their faith, hope, and love; and

44  
45          **WHEREAS**, since the fall of 2014 the leadership of the Kansas District has been striving diligently  
46 to increase congregational visitation as defined in LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4.; and

47  
48          **WHEREAS**, the frequency of visitations by circuit visitors and the district president with  
49 assistance from the district vice presidents has been increasing with several dozen visits completed  
50 during the past triennium and many more currently being planned; and

51



52           **WHEREAS**, many congregations and individuals have expressed great appreciation for the many  
53 benefits to congregations, church workers, and the district as a whole that result from visitation; therefore  
54 be it  
55

56           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention express appreciation for the tremendous  
57 volunteer service of circuit visitors and others who conduct such visitations on behalf of the Office of  
58 District President; and be it further  
59

60           **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Kansas District encourage their circuit visitors in this  
61 work, invite them for regular (triennial) visits, and welcome them as partners in the Gospel when they do  
62 visit so that our life together may be mutually benefitted.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Recommend and Encourage the Use of Concordia Publishing House (CPH) Curriculum in Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has 3,873 students  
2 enrolled in 2017-18 in forty five Lutheran early childhood centers and fourteen elementary schools; and,  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, the church exists in a mission field with great opportunities to reach out to the  
5 unchurch students in our schools; and,  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, Lutheran schools are privileged with the opportunity to teach the Word of God in its  
8 truth and purity, acknowledge the Bible as God's infallible Word and the Confessions as the true  
9 exposition of the Word, emphasize Law and Gospel as the key teachings of Scripture, and equip students  
10 to proclaim the Good News to others; and,  
11

12           **WHEREAS**, the LCMS has a publishing arm in Concordia Publishing House (CPH) whose  
13 mission it is to produce doctrinally sound, educationally excellent resources for the church; and,  
14

15           **WHEREAS**, CPH's One in Christ religion curriculum provides a developmentally appropriate,  
16 Christ-centered resource that allows for flexibility in meeting the needs of individual classrooms and  
17 teachers, while focusing on each child's relationship with their Savior in daily Bible story lessons; and,  
18

19           **WHEREAS**, 66% of Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers are currently using  
20 CPH religion curriculum; therefore,  
21

22           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District recommend and encourage the use of Concordia  
23 Publishing House (CPH) Religion Curriculum in Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Support Catechesis in the Home and Through the Family**

1           **WHEREAS**, catechesis is the teaching and passing along of the Faith of Christ so that every  
2 believer may be formed and transformed in heart, mind, and life, and in thought, word, and deed  
3 (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-32; Colossians 3:16-17; 1 John 3:16-24); and,  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, God has called upon parents to catechize their children in the Faith (Deuteronomy  
6 4:9; Psalm 34:11; Psalm 440 78:1-7); and,  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, the church is called upon to assist parents in this responsibility of passing the faith  
9 from one generation to the next (Isaiah 54:13; Joel 2:15-16; Matthew 18:1-6; 19:13-15; Acts 2:37-38);  
10 and,  
11

12           **WHEREAS**, after Holy Scripture itself, the text of Luther's Small Catechism is a primary teaching  
13 tool of the Lutheran Church; and,  
14

15           **WHEREAS**, the text is intended to be used in the home and church, and spread abroad as freely  
16 as possible; and,  
17

18           **WHEREAS**, wherever the teachings of Luther's catechisms are read, studied, printed, sung,  
19 written, posted, repeated and learned, the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of faith and love; and,  
20

21           **WHEREAS**, a new edition of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (2017) has been  
22 published by Concordia Publishing House to aid parents and other catechists in addressing new and  
23 current issues faithfully in accordance with Scripture; therefore,  
24

25           **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Kansas District train, equip, and encourage individuals  
26 in the use of home-based catechesis methodologies utilizing God's Word and Luther's Small Catechism.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Strengthen Church Worker Marriages and Households**

1           **WHEREAS**, Christ's gifts to His Church include workers with various roles – “apostles, prophets,  
2 pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, to build up the body of Christ...”  
3 (Ephesians 4:11-12; and,  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, Scripture also lifts up the importance of the well-being of church worker households  
6 (1 Timothy 3); and,  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, Scripture in Ephesians 5:22-32 compares the mystery of the relationship of marriage  
9 to the mystery of the relationship of Christ and the church; and,  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, the 2016 LCMS Church Worker Family Needs Assessment (CW-FNA) and over 650  
12 interviews with worker wives at Doxology events indicate that Church worker households and marriages  
13 are often subjected to stress unique to their vocations which can erode marital equality and family life;  
14 and,  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, various Synod entities such as: the LCMS Council of Presidents, Concordia Plan  
17 Services, Concordia Center for the Family at Concordia University-Ann Arbor, and the LCMS Kansas  
18 District Strategic Ministry Plan, have noted the importance of strengthening worker marriages and  
19 households for the sake of healthier congregational ministry; and,  
20

21           **WHEREAS**, the CW-FNA revealed that although at least 1/3 of Kansas District church workers  
22 expressed a desire and need to attend workshops, retreats, couple Bible studies, workers are often  
23 reluctant to request either time and/or funds to attend events that would contribute to strengthening their  
24 marriages; therefore, be it  
25

26           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in Convention encourage every congregation of the District  
27 to provide at least one week-end per year, or the equivalent thereof, for the purpose of strengthening  
28 Church worker marriages and households; and, be it further  
29

30           **RESOLVED**, that for this time of renewal, congregations encourage their workers to choose from  
31 a variety of options such as, rest, marriage enrichment event, couples' retreat, District sponsored  
32 marriage events or others, and provide the financial support necessary for7 participation therein; and, be  
33 it finally  
34

35           **RESOLVED**, that every congregation of the Kansas District be encouraged to pray for their  
36 workers and families' well-being, that they may more effectively serve their Lord and His church.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Congregations to Use the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and Their Stewardship Resources, Including Consecrated Stewards**

1           **WHEREAS**, LCEF is an entity of the Synod and a valued partner in the ministry of the District,  
2 committed to supporting the Church by ensuring that funds are available now and in the future; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, LCEF has supported the District with an array of services, including loans, funding  
5 for capital improvements, Laborers for Christ architect services, VisionPath, the Church Improvement  
6 Program, demographic analyses, investment options, Outreach Ministry Grants, and Consecrated  
7 Stewards; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, a pressing need in the District, as in the Church at large, is sound stewardship  
10 education, which will be particularly critical in the years ahead as congregations deal with demographic  
11 and cultural challenges; and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, Synod has strongly emphasized the importance of encouraging cheerful, generous  
14 giving (Res. 10-03, 2015); and  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, LCEF's stewardship resources, notably Consecrated Stewards, provide an effective  
17 means through which to encourage such giving; and  
18

19           **WHEREAS**, Consecrated Stewards, a low-cost, ready-to-implement program, allows  
20 congregations to be good stewards of time and money; therefore be it  
21

22           **RESOLVED**, that congregations be encouraged to use LCEF financial services and their  
23 stewardship resources, including Consecrated Stewards.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Congregations to Use Synod and District Stewardship Resources**

1           **WHEREAS**, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John  
2 3:27); and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, Scripture repeatedly exhorts believers to give generously of their God-given  
5 resources (2 Cor. 9:6-15); and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, Scripture provides many vivid examples of generous giving, including the Philippians  
8 (Phil. 4:14-20), the widow and her mites (Luke 21:1-4), and the faithful servant (Matt. 14-30); and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, such stewardship is especially important now, as churches everywhere, including the  
11 LCMS and every one of its districts, face declining membership and engagement due to population shifts  
12 and cultural attitudes; and

13  
14          **WHEREAS**, despite clear guidance from Scripture, average church member giving has declined  
15 steadily over the past several decades to a rate of 2.16 percent of income in 2014; and

16  
17          **WHEREAS**, giving to Synod reflects this downward trend, with Synod now receiving 9/10 of a  
18 penny for every dollar that is given in offering plate compared to 6.1 cents per dollar given in the offering  
19 plate in 1976, and

20  
21          **WHEREAS**, the most powerful way to counteract this trend is through God’s Word, by providing  
22 “instruction in sound doctrine” (Titus 1:9; 2:1) with respect to stewardship; and

23  
24          **WHEREAS**, the Synod and District have developed resources to aid congregations in this task;  
25 therefore be it

26  
27          **RESOLVED**, that Kansas District congregations be encouraged to prioritize stewardship  
28 education in the next triennium; and be it finally

29  
30          **RESOLVED**, that congregations avail themselves of stewardship education resources provided  
31 by the Synod and District.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Congregations to Use Kansas District Salary Recommendations in Their Compensation Planning**

1           **WHEREAS**, Scripture establishes the importance of compensating church workers, noting that  
2 “the laborer deserves his wages” (Luke 10:7; see also 1 Cor. 9:11; 1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6); and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, the Table of Duties in the *Small Catechism* affirms the importance of compensating  
5 workers in “What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors” (1 Cor. 9:14; Gal. 6:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Thess. 5:12-  
6 13; Heb. 13:17); and  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, workers are not always compensated adequately, which can affect their well-being  
9 and morale;  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, Worker care is a high priority in the Kansas District; and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, market-based compensation planning tools are available from the District and Synod  
14 to help ensure that church workers are suitably compensated; and  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, the Board of Stewardship, President’s Council, Board of Administration, Salary  
17 Review Committee, and Board of Education all strongly advocate employing these tools in compensation  
18 planning to ensure that our workers are cared for properly; and  
19

20           **WHEREAS**, standardizing decision making from year to year through the use of such tools  
21 reduces guesswork and subjective judgments that may not serve the long-term interests of either workers  
22 or congregations well; therefore be it  
23

24           **RESOLVED**, that congregations ask the Lord’s guidance that His will be done and He may be  
25 glorified as they determine compensation for their workers; and be it further  
26

27           **RESOLVED**, that congregations employ available market-based compensation resources,  
28 including the Kansas District Salary Recommendations, to establish appropriate compensation for their  
29 church workers; and be it further  
30

31           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District solicit feedback from congregations on the use of these  
32 tools during official visitations, pre-call meetings, or annual surveys; and be it finally  
33

34           **RESOLVED**, that the District Business Manager, Executive for Missions and Stewardship, circuit  
35 visitors, or regional vice-presidents of the Kansas District provide support and assistance to  
36 congregations in using these tools to create fair and manageable compensation plans.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**Encourage Congregational Participation in the Church's Plan with Concordia Plan Services**

1           **WHEREAS**, Concordia Plan Services is the preeminent provider of health, retirement and  
2 disability benefits for church workers throughout the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, significant detrimental consequences may occur to both employer and employee  
5 upon withdrawal from Concordia Plan Services; and  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, Concordia Plan Services has continued to improve and update benefits to better  
8 serve the needs of the employees and employers of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, Concordia Plan Services offers in its “The Church’s Plan” the additional retirement benefits of  
11 a 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity; therefore be it  
12

13          **RESOLVED**, that the congregations, schools, associations and entities in the Kansas District of  
14 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod be encouraged to participate in the Church’s Plan for their  
15 employees.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



**To Allow Licensed Lay Deacons (LLDs) To Preach and do Sacramental Ministry on Emergency and/or Occasional Basis in Congregations Where a Called and Ordained Pastor is Present**

1           **WHEREAS**, the LCMS in convention adopted Resolution 13-02A, “To Regularize Status of  
2 Licensed Lay Deacons Involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry;” and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, the Council of Presidents, on September 17, 2017, has concluded that no LLDs  
5 may  
6 be re-credentialed for Word and Sacrament ministry, no matter what the circumstances, unless  
7 they are colloquized; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, LLDs serving as *de facto* pastors in congregations without a called and ordained  
10 pastor should be ordained through means and methods provided by the Synod such as a  
11 specific Ministry Pastor (AC XIV; Ap. XIV); and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, the circumstances that prevail where LLDs serve in congregations along with and  
14 directly under the supervision of a regularly called pastor would seem to be quite different from those  
15 serving where no pastor is present; and  
16

17           **WHEREAS**, there has always been something of a healthy “tension” between the priesthood of  
18 all believers and the office of the public ministry, recognizing, on the one hand, that all Christians are  
19 priests before God and, on the other hand, that the pastoral office is not a mere extension of the  
20 priesthood of all believers, but distinct from it as a divine institution in itself; and  
21

22           **WHEREAS**, LLDs serve as a part of the priesthood of all believers and in the long tradition of the  
23 diaconate in keeping with the apostolic example in Acts 7, with appropriate training in their respective  
24 districts and as assistants to the pastor in the performance of his duties; therefore be it  
25

26           **RESOLVED**, that LLDs may be re-credentialed in their respective districts in circumstances  
27 where they serve under the direct and consistent oversight of their called pastor; and be it further  
28

29           **RESOLVED**, that LLDs in those congregations where a called pastor is present be authorized for  
30 occasional and/or emergency preaching and administration of the sacraments; and be it finally  
31 Resolved, that the Kansas District memorialize the 2019 LCMS synodical convention to  
32 reconsider this issue.

*Submitted by Circuit 3 North Forum*

Overture 18-03-11a

**To Rethink the Placing of Seminary Candidates**

1           **WHEREAS**, the number of calling congregations now exceeds the number of available seminary  
2 candidates; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, due to retirements and demographics, there is no immediate change to these  
5 numbers for the foreseeable future; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, the Word and sacraments are already being delivered by a called and ordained  
8 servant of the Word in those congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, (AC V & AC XIV) the Word and sacraments are not being delivered to the same  
11 degree in a strictly vacant congregation; and

12  
13          **WHEREAS**, the filling of vacancies (Romans 10) puts undue hardships on the families and  
14 congregations of those vacancy pastors filling said vacancies; and

15  
16          **WHEREAS**, serving in a congregation as a sole pastor will better prepare a man for future service  
17 to the Church as opposed to specialized ministry in a larger congregation; and

18  
19          **WHEREAS**, having vacancies in a Circuit causes stress and fear in other congregations, as  
20 Circuits continue to walk together for the mission of Christ; and

21  
22          **WHEREAS**, Winkels should be a place to help and support pastors handling new and different  
23 parts of ministry; therefore be it

24  
25          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage Winkels to be faithful, open, and supportive  
26 places for pastors to find help and encouragement in their various struggles; and be it further

27  
28          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage congregations who are in need of additional  
29 pastoral staff to consider the needs of congregations in need of a pastor; and be it finally

30  
31          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention, encourage The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
32 Synod in convention to instruct the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, to give  
33 preference to those congregations calling sole pastors from the Seminary as opposed to those  
34 congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor from the Seminary.

*Submitted by Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma*

Overture 18-03-11b

**To Rethink the Placing of Seminary Candidates**

1           **WHEREAS**, the number of calling congregations now exceeds the number of available seminary  
2 candidates; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, due to retirements and demographics, there is no immediate change to these  
5 numbers for the foreseeable future; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, the Word and sacraments are already being delivered by a called and ordained  
8 servant of the Word in those congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, (AC V & AC XIV) the Word and sacraments are not being delivered to the same  
11 degree in a strictly vacant congregation; and

12  
13          **WHEREAS**, the filling of vacancies (Romans 10) puts undue hardships on the families and  
14 congregations of those vacancy pastors filling said vacancies; and

15  
16          **WHEREAS**, serving in a congregation as a sole pastor will better prepare a man for future service  
17 to the Church as opposed to specialized ministry in a larger congregation; and

18  
19          **WHEREAS**, having vacancies in a Circuit causes stress and fear in other congregations, as  
20 Circuits continue to walk together for the mission of Christ; and

21  
22          **WHEREAS**, Winkels should be a place to help and support pastors handling new and different  
23 parts of ministry; therefore be it

24  
25          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage Winkels to be faithful, open, and supportive  
26 places for pastors to find help and encouragement in their various struggles; and be it further

27  
28          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage congregations who are in need of additional  
29 pastoral staff to consider the needs of congregations in need of a pastor; and be it finally

30  
31          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention, encourage The Lutheran Church-Missouri  
32 Synod in convention to instruct the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, to give  
33 preference to those congregations calling sole pastors from the Seminary as opposed to those  
34 congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor from the Seminary.

*Submitted by First Lutheran Church, Plainville*

Overture 18-03-12a

**To Move the Kansas District Convention to April**

1           **WHEREAS**, there is no requirement on when a District holds their convention aside from holding  
2 it the year prior to Synod convention; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, holding the District convention in June poses a hardship on rural congregations  
5 selecting a delegate due to farming schedules; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, several other Districts have their conventions in June posing a traveling hardship on  
8 Synod officials; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, now is the time to set the date and the place of the next District convention; therefore  
11 be it

12  
13          **RESOLVED**, that the 2021 Kansas District Convention be scheduled for April 2021, and be it  
14 finally

15  
16          **RESOLVED**, that future Kansas District Conventions be scheduled for April in so far as the  
17 convention does not fall during Lent, Holy Week, or the week immediately following Easter Sunday.

*Submitted by Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma*

Overture 18-03-12b

**To Move the Kansas District Convention to April**

1           **WHEREAS**, there is no requirement on when a District holds their convention aside from holding  
2 it the year prior to Synod convention; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, holding the District convention in June poses a hardship on rural congregations  
5 selecting a delegate due to farming schedules; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, several other Districts have their conventions in June posing a traveling hardship on  
8 Synod officials; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, now is the time to set the date and the place of the next District convention; therefore  
11 be it

12  
13          **RESOLVED**, that the 2021 Kansas District Convention be scheduled for April 2021, and be it  
14 finally

15  
16          **RESOLVED**, that future Kansas District Conventions be scheduled for April in so far as the  
17 convention does not fall during Lent, Holy Week, or the week immediately following Easter Sunday.

*Submitted by First Lutheran Church, Plainville*

**To Approve Standing Rules for the 2018 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District**

- 1 The Special Standing Rules for the Convention which follow are being presented to the 2018 Convention  
2 for approval. They are included at the front of the workbook for the information and convenience of  
3 delegates in the event they are adopted.
- 4 1. The chair will see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
  - 5 2. When recognized by the chair, members of the convention will state their name, whether they are a  
6 delegate or an advisory delegate, and the congregation or ministry they represent.
  - 7 3. Delegates may speak and vote, Advisory Delegates may speak, but not vote.
  - 8 4. A delegate who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of their remarks move the previous  
9 question.
  - 10 5. The two-minute rule will apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate.
  - 11 6. The chair can limit debate and also the number of times a person may speak. (The Pro-Con speakers  
12 on a question will be observed at the discretion of the chair.)
  - 13 7. Personal Privilege will not be abused by using the time to advance the speaker's opinion. It is only to  
14 ask a procedure or parliamentary question.
  - 15 8. All substitute motions and amendments must be presented in written form to the District Secretary.  
16 Material should be provided in digital format (and may be sent by e-mail to  
17 [KSDconvention@gmail.com](mailto:KSDconvention@gmail.com)) when possible.
  - 18 9. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter will be offered two minutes to provide  
19 the rationale for presenting it. The convention will then first decide by majority vote without debate  
20 whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion  
21 is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable  
22 action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-  
23 called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
  - 24 10. The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor  
25 nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief  
26 biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when possible.  
27 (These are to (may) be sent to the Nominations Committee at [KSDconvention@gmail.com](mailto:KSDconvention@gmail.com) for review  
28 of proper credentials.)
  - 29 11. During the Convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice Presidents and (3) All  
30 other elective positions.
  - 31 12. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board  
32 positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
  - 33 13. The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes  
34 cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one  
35 candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
  - 36 14. The election of the Vice Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the  
37 votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot  
38 until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
  - 39 15. Upon the election of the regional vice-presidents, a final election will take place ranking the vice-  
40 presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth  
41 vice-presidents in line of succession.
  - 42 16. Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply:  
43 Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or  
44 succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all  
45 candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer  
46 than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest  
47 candidates will constitute the ballot.

- 48 17. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure will be governed  
49 by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- 50 18. Use of portable telephones and other electronic communication devices will be permitted in the  
51 **delegate section. Not responsible for wifi connections.**
- 52 19. No distribution of literature will be allowed in the Manor Conference Center without pre-convention  
53 approval by the office of the District President.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**Kansas District Bylaws Revisions**

1           **WHEREAS**, the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters is required to “examine the articles  
2 of incorporation, bylaws and policy manuals of every agency of the Synod to ascertain whether they are  
3 in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, the bylaws as adopted in 2015 Convention of the Kansas District of The Lutheran  
6 Church-Missouri Synod have been reviewed, modified and presented to the Kansas District Board of  
7 Directors for consideration; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, changes have been made to the bylaws, (shown with strikeouts and italics) requiring  
10 convention approval; therefore be it  
11

12           **RESOLVED**, that the convention of the Kansas District adopt the Bylaws as modified.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



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29 **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

30  
31  
32 **Charter of The Kansas District of**  
33 **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

34  
35 The undersigned, citizens of the State of Kansas, do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves  
36 together for the purpose of forming a private corporation under the laws of the State of Kansas,  
37 and do hereby certify:

38  
39 First  
40 (Amended June 8, 1948)

41  
42 That the name of this corporation shall be The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—  
43 Missouri Synod.

44  
45 Second

46  
47 That the purposes for which this corporation is formed are to propagate the Evangelical  
48 Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and to aid congregations in securing  
49 and maintaining property for public worship, according to the confessions of the Book of  
50 Concord of the year 1580. *All provisions of the Kansas District Articles of Incorporation and*  
51 *Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the*  
52 *Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention.*

53 Third  
54 (Amended June 18, 1976)

55  
56 That the places where its business is to be transacted are at any and all places in Kansas.

57  
58 Fourth  
59 (Amended January 4, 1989)

60  
61 The term of existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual.  
62 *In the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the assets of*  
63 *the Kansas District, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable*  
64 *state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

65  
66 Fifth  
67 (Amended June 12, 1974)

68  
69 That the number of Directors of this Corporation shall be not less than three nor more than  
70 twenty.

71  
72 In testimony whereof, we hereunto subscribed our names, this 31st day of January, A.D. 1890.

73  
74 F. Pennekamp                      H. C. Senne                      Aug. Mangeldorf  
75 C. Vetter                              F. Droegemueller              C. Hafner

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## **MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

~~*The servant mission of The Kansas District is to equip, empower and encourage each congregation in its mission vision and Christ-care ministry.*~~

*Our **Mission** is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church (Mt 28)*

*Our **Vision** is to partner with and connect the workers, congregations and schools of the District with resources to advance God's mission.*

## **PREAMBLE TO THE BYLAWS**

We, the members of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as redeemed children of God, acknowledge our part in Christ's mission of proclaiming the freedom and forgiveness of God in Christ to all human beings and of providing aid for them in their spiritual and physical needs. We acknowledge that we have bound ourselves together in a common bond of faith based on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as the members of District and Synod because we recognize the need for helping each other carry out this mission. We need the ministry of fellow Christians so that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we may grow in faith and be better prepared to participate in Christ's mission both individually and corporately. In order that we may carry out this mission effectively, we, united in the common bond of faith and love, have established these procedures that shall help to strengthen and guide us. Within the framework of these procedures we pledge ourselves to study the Scriptures diligently, to use the Sacraments faithfully, and to solicit the help of the Holy Spirit boldly.

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# THE BYLAWS

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## Article I - Name

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The name of this corporation is: "The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," hereinafter referred to as "The Kansas District" or "The District".

136  
137

## Article II - Organization

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1. **Constitution:** The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of The Kansas District. The Bylaws of the Synod are also the primary Bylaws of the Kansas District.

2. **Legal Representation:** The President and Secretary of the District shall sign all official documents of the District in the name of the District.

3. **Membership:** Membership in The Kansas District shall be governed by the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Synod.

4. **Relationship of the District to the Synod:** The relationship of The Kansas District to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

5. **District Conventions:** District conventions shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and also by the specific articles governing convention procedure as may be defined in these Bylaws and the District Operations Manual.

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6. **District Board of Directors:** The business and financial affairs of The District shall be governed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees the implementation of the strategic mission of The District and is responsible to the District convention to equip, enable and encourage congregations to proclaim the Gospel. The Board of Directors is vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assures said management and supervision are effected. Between conventions the Board of Directors shall provide for implementation within the District of decisions of the *Synod national* and District conventions, approve and review progress of work program plans, adopt annual budgets to support work plans, procure and allocate necessary funds for support of *Synod national* and District budgets, review program performance, call or hire District Executive staff as deemed appropriate, provide review of Executive Staff positions, and administer the District endowment funds and other District ~~foundation endowments and~~ funds.

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7. **District Operations Manual:** In addition to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the Bylaws of the District, a District Operations Manual shall be established and maintained. This Operations Manual shall specify responsibilities of all officers, boards and committees as well as policy statements and operating procedures governing all District functions.

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8. **Geographical Regions:** The District shall be divided into geographical regions, each comprised of *two* (2) or more circuits, by the action of the District Convention. A vice president and a layperson shall be elected to the Board of Directors from each geographic region and a layperson from each geographic region shall be elected to the District Nominations Committee.

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## Article III - Administration

1. **Elective and appointive officers shall execute their responsibilities in accordance with Synodical By-Laws. These elective and appointive officers shall be:**

180  
181 (a) The District President: Elected from the clergy roster of Synod and who shall hold membership in a  
182 voting congregation. The District President is the *Chief Executive* of the District. He shall represent the Synod  
183 in the District. He is responsible for implementation of the resolutions of the Synod and the District  
184 Conventions. The District President serves the congregations of the District as liaison between the  
185 congregations, District and the Synod and provides leadership and vision for the common work of the  
186 congregations, District, and District staff. He is responsible as top staff administrator, for oversight of staff  
187 carrying out the directives of the Board of Directors. ~~for oversight of all functions of the Board of Directors.~~  
188 He shall serve as a voting member of the District Board of Directors and is not eligible to *be appointed* ~~serve~~  
189 as the presiding officer of the Board meetings. The District President also serves as an ecclesiastical  
190 supervisor to congregations and professional workers, makes official visits and investigations, and maintains  
191 the official roster of workers in the District.

192  
193 (b) Vice Presidents: A District Vice President shall be elected from each region as provided by  
194 Article II, Section 8 of the Bylaws. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected from the clergy roster of the District  
195 *and have residence within* the region from which elected. The Vice Presidents shall assist the President in  
196 administering the overall program of the District, especially in their regions. They shall succeed to the office  
197 of President, in the event the President is unable to serve, in the order designated by the Convention.

198  
199 (c) Secretary: The District Secretary shall be elected from the clergy roster of the District and  
200 ~~who~~ shall hold membership in a voting congregation of the District. The District Secretary is responsible for  
201 conducting the nominations process for the elections of ~~the~~ president and vice-presidents, ~~regional lay members~~  
202 ~~of the Board of Directors~~, facilitating the work of the Nominating Committee, organizing the work of the  
203 Elections Committee, and maintaining the District Operations Manual and related guidelines. The District  
204 Secretary is responsible for recording and preserving the official record of actions of the District Convention  
205 and the Board of Directors

206  
207 (d) Treasurer: The District Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and is the  
208 custodian of all money and legal documents of the District. The Treasurer is assisted by the District staff for  
209 accounting and preparation of records. The Treasurer shall be a layperson, a member of a voting congregation  
210 of the District and demonstrate skills in finance and accounting. The appointment shall *run concurrent with*  
211 ~~district convention~~ ~~be for three (3) years~~ after which reappointment ~~or release~~ may be granted.

212  
213 (e) Circuit Visitors: A visitor for each circuit of the District ~~may~~ *shall* be nominated and elected  
214 from the clergy roster of the District. *as prescribed by the Bylaws of the Synod.*  
215 The Conference of Circuit Visitors shall assist the District President ~~to equip, empower and encourage~~  
216 ~~congregations in their mission to make disciples~~ *according to the Bylaws of the LCMS* and shall serve as liaison  
217 to bringing the needs of congregations to the attention of the District President.

218  
219 (f) Presiding Officer of Board meetings: The Board of Directors shall appoint a member of the  
220 Board to be the presiding officer of the meetings of the Board in consultation with and with the concurrence  
221 of the District President. The District President will not normally serve as the presiding officer of the Board  
222 meetings. In the absence of the presiding officer, the District president shall assume the role of presiding  
223 officer, pro tem.

## 224 225 **2. Elective Boards and Appointive Boards, Committees and Commissions shall be:**

226  
227 (a) The Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of seventeen (17) voting  
228 members elected at the District Convention:

- 229 I. Seven (7) ordained ministers:  
230 a. The District President.  
231 b. The Regional Vice Presidents.  
232 c. The District Secretary.  
233 d. The Chairperson of the Conference of Circuit Visitors.

- 234  
235 II. Three (3) Commissioned Ministers.

236 III. Seven (7) Laypersons, at least one (1) elected from each region. *(Regional members shall*  
237 *have residence within their region.)*  
238

239 The advisory members of the Board of Directors shall be the District Treasurer and the District  
240 Executive Staff.  
241

242 The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four (4) times each year. Additional meetings may  
243 be called by the District President. Time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the District  
244 President. A majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.  
245

246 To meet the exigencies of District operations, the Board may meet by telephone conference call, or  
247 vote by written, mailed or electronic ballot pursuant to written notification. Actions taken at such meetings or  
248 by written ballot shall have the same effect as those taken at regular meetings of the Board.  
249

249 Electronic Meetings

- 250 • The board may conduct its meetings electronically using audio, video, or internet-based  
251 conferencing technologies.
- 252 • In such cases, the technology must allow for each board member to fully participate  
253 (hear, speak, have or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate),  
254 including the opportunity to vote.
- 255 • Members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. *If a*  
256 *board member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be*  
257 *made for the member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other*  
258 *mutually agreed upon location (prior arrangement necessary).*
- 259 • As with any board, regular or special meeting, minutes shall be kept that record a  
260 summary of the major points of discussion and any action(s) taken.
- 261 • Any board member listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the  
262 meeting. These names along with the attending board members shall be recorded in the  
263 minutes of the meeting.

264 Quorum

- 265 • A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly  
266 called or scheduled meeting.

267 Actions Using Electronic Ballot

268 In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board may  
269 take action by use of electronic ballot (i.e., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.) *provided all*  
270 *voting members of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.*  
271

272 Minutes of previous meetings, including conference calls and the responses to mailed ballots, shall be  
273 provided to the members of the Board at least ten (10) days prior to Board meetings.  
274

275 The agenda for each meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the District President in consultation  
276 with the Executive Council.  
277

278 The District Secretary shall serve as secretary of the Board.  
279

280 (b) Service Boards: The Board of Directors shall organize the following service boards as  
281 described in the District Operations Manual:  
282

283 I. Board of Missions: The Board of Missions is responsible for planning and  
284 implementing evangelism and mission efforts of the District and equipping, encouraging and  
285 empowering congregations in their mission and outreach efforts.

286 II. Board of Education: The Board of Education is to foster and promote Christian  
287 education in the congregations of the District, so that children, youth, and adults may grow  
288 in their faith, knowledge and understanding of God's Word, thereby equipping, encouraging  
289 and empowering them to proclaim the Gospel in their lives.

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III. Board of Caring Ministry: The Board of Caring Ministry equips, empowers and encourages congregations in caring ministry which responds to the special needs of people. It also offers care and support where needed for professional workers of the church.

IV. Board of Stewardship: The Board of Stewardship encourages the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes and fulfilling the responsibilities of Synod Bylaw section 4.6.

V. Board of Administration: The Board of Administration provides administrative and support services to the Board of Directors and congregations of the District including accounting, property management, communications, and related services.

VI. Executive Council: The Executive Council shall include the District President, Presiding officer of the Board meetings, the Regional Vice Presidents, the Chairman of the Circuit Visitors, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The District President shall serve as chairman of the Executive Council. The Executive staff are advisory members of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall recommend action to the Board on matters which do not fall within the scope of activities of the Boards listed above. The Executive Council is to serve as the coordinating agency of the Board of Directors for meeting ~~schedule~~ preparation, recommendations for appointments and as a forum for sharing program and budget information with service boards.

VII. Emergency meetings: The Executive Council may act for the Board of Directors in times of emergency between meetings and in all matters delegated to it by specific action or by policy of the Board, including response to legal action. The Executive Council may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All Executive Council actions shall be reported to the Board of Directors. Any member of the Executive Council may request full Board action on any matter. Minutes of the Executive Council shall be sent to the Board within two weeks of the Council action. These meetings may be called by the District President, the Presiding Officer of the Board meetings or three members of the Executive Council.

VIII. Salary Review Committee: The Salary Review Committee is responsible to the Board of Directors for recommending salaries for the staff positions of the District and recommending changes in the base figure used for the annual Guideline for Worker Compensation for use by congregations.

IX. The President's Council shall consist of the District President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Chairperson of the Circuit Visitors. The District President may consult with them on ecclesiastical matters as appropriate.

(c) The District Nominations Committee.

(d) One member of the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations when required.

(e) The following Service Boards are appointed by the District President in consultation with the Executive Council and approved by the Board of Directors: Board of Caring Ministry, Board of Stewardship, Board of Education, Board of Missions and the Board of Administration.

~~(f) The Standing Appointive Committees, recommended by the Executive Council and approved by the Board of Directors, shall be such committees as are necessary for carrying out the duties of the Service Boards. Members shall be appointed from voting congregations of the District.~~

~~(g) The Special Appointive Committees and Commissions appointed from the membership of voting congregations by the District President shall be: the Elections Committee, the Congregational Constitution Review Committee, the District Bylaws and Operations Manual Committee, the Commission on Ministerial Health and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Board of Managers.~~

*f. The Standing Committees and Commissions of the Kansas District shall be: the Elections Committee, the Congregational Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee, the District Bylaws and Operations Manual Committee and others described in the District Operations Manual.*

*Members of these Standing Committees are appointed by the District President and approved by the Board of Directors.*

347 *Members of these Standing Committees must be members in good standing of a voting congregation*  
348 *of the Kansas District.*

349  
350 *g. Special Committees shall be such committees as are from time to time necessary for carrying out*  
351 *the duties of the District Service Boards. Members of these committees are appointed by the District President*  
352 *in consultation with the Executive Council and are approved by the Board of Directors.*

353 *Members of these committees must be members of a voting congregation of the Kansas District.*

354  
355 **3. Term of Office:**

356  
357 (a) The term of office for the ~~elective~~ President, shall be three (3) years. The ~~elective~~ President shall  
358 not serve more than four (4) consecutive terms.

359  
360 (b) The term of office for the ~~elective~~ Vice Presidents, Secretary, Circuit Visitors, and the Board of  
361 Directors shall be three (3) years. None of these ~~elective~~ officers shall serve more than three consecutive terms.

362  
363 (c) The term of office of the District Nominations Committee shall be three (3) years. Members of  
364 the Committee may not succeed themselves.

365  
366 (d) ~~Executive staff officers shall be subject to review and reappointment or release every three (3)~~  
367 ~~years.~~ The term of office of appointive boards, committees and commissions shall ~~be for three (3) years.~~ *run*  
368 *concurrent with district convention. Due to their responsibilities, the District Youth Ministry Team and the*  
369 *Church Worker Conference Planning Committee are exempt from running concurrent with district convention.*

370 (e) Members of District boards and commissions shall be ineligible for reelection or reappointment  
371 to the same board or commission after serving three (3) consecutive terms unless otherwise provided in the  
372 Bylaws. They may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office, board or commission  
373 after an interval of three (3) or more years. ~~One half (1/2) or more of a~~ *More than one half (1/2) term shall be*  
374 *regarded as a full term.*

375  
376 (f) Any member of a board or commission who is ineligible for reelection or reappointment may be  
377 elected or appointed to another position.

378  
379 (g) Members of the District staff, while eligible for elective office, shall not serve concurrently as  
380 staff and elected officers ~~(cf. Synod Bylaws 1.5.1.1 and 1.5.1.2)~~

381  
382 ~~(h) The term of office of Appointive Officers shall be for three (3) years.~~

383  
384 ~~(i) The term of office of appointive boards, committees and commissions shall be for three (3) years.~~  
385 ~~Members shall be appointed following the District Convention.~~

386  
387 **4. Accountability of Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions:** All ~~Officers~~, Boards, Committees  
388 and Commissions shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the discharge of their responsibilities.  
389 Officers in general are responsible to the convention of the district (Const. XI A 1) and, as regards ecclesiastical  
390 supervision, to the President of the Synod. ~~However, ecclesiastical supervision will be in accordance with~~  
391 ~~Synodical Bylaws.~~

392  
393 **5. Holding More than One (1) Elective Office:** A Nominated Candidate, if elected, may  
394 not hold more than one (1) office to which he/she was elected. The individual may  
395 be considered for a second office provided it is by official appointment *as referenced*  
396 *in LCMS Bylaws 1.5.1.1-2.* ~~and does not interfere with responsibilities of the elected~~  
397 ~~office.~~ Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of Synod.

398  
399 **6. Succession to the Office of District President.** The Vice Presidents shall, in the order in which they have  
400 been designated by the District Convention, succeed to the presidency in the event the President becomes  
401 unable to carry out his duties. Whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve  
402 in the capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of the



403 President shall be assumed by the First Vice President. The First Vice President shall remain as the acting  
404 President until the Board of Directors determines that the conditions of illness or disability have been removed.  
405

#### 406 7. Vacancies in Elective or Appointive Office.

407  
408 (a) In the event of a vacancy in the office of a Vice President, a successor shall be appointed by the  
409 Board of Directors from the region not represented. A Vice President so appointed shall be last in the order of  
410 succession.

411  
412 (b) Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by  
413 appointment by the District President.

414  
415 (c) *Vacancies in standing committees shall be filled by the District President.*

416  
417 (d) Vacancies in the other elective or appointed offices, or any other board, *special* committee or  
418 commission shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. At least one nominee shall be submitted  
419 by the Executive Council. A vacancy in a position of a regionally elected layperson on the Board of Directors  
420 shall be filled with an appointee from that region.  
421

422 8. **Appointment of Board Chairpersons:** The President shall appoint the chairperson of each *service* board.  
423 ~~, commission or committee~~ in consultation with the Executive Council and with the approval of the Board of  
424 Directors.  
425

### 426 **Article IV – Convention Nominations and Elections**

427  
428 1. **Nominations Committee:** There shall be a District Nominations Committee consisting of three (3) ordained  
429 ministers (not more than one [1] from the same region of the District), one (1) commissioned minister, and four  
430 (4) laypersons, (one [1] elected from each region of the District). These shall be elected at a regular District  
431 Convention from the membership of voting congregations. This committee shall propose at least two (2)  
432 candidates for each office to be filled at the next District Convention except the offices of President, Vice  
433 President and Circuit Visitor. ~~and regional members of the Board of Directors.~~  
434

435 2. Nominations for District President, Vice Presidents, Regional Lay Members of the Board of Directors and  
436 Circuit Visitors:

437 (a) District President – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister as candidate  
438 for District President. Candidates for the office of District President shall be on the clergy roster of Synod.  
439 Only ~~five~~ *three* individuals receiving ~~five or more~~ nominations, and agreeing to serve if elected, may be listed  
440 on the Convention ballot.

441 (b) Regional Vice Presidents – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate from their region one  
442 ordained minister from the clergy roster of the District and ~~who shall have residence within of the region from~~  
443 ~~which nominated in which the congregation is located as candidate for regional Vice President.~~ Candidates ~~on~~  
444 ~~the ballot for regional Vice President from each region shall be at least two of those who received the largest~~  
445 ~~number of nominations and whose nominations collectively total a majority (one half plus one) of the~~  
446 ~~total nominations cast from that region, all those having more than a single nomination and who agree to serve~~  
447 ~~if elected, shall constitute the Vice President ballot from that region. In the event of death, declination, or~~  
448 ~~unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.~~  
449 ~~In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates.~~

450 (c) ~~Regional Lay Members of the Board of Directors – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate~~  
451 ~~two lay members who are presently members of a congregation in the respective region as candidate for regional~~  
452 ~~lay member of the Board of Directors. All nominees for lay members of the Board of Directors shall hold~~  
453 ~~residency within the respective region from which they are nominated.~~ Candidates shall be at least the two lay  
454 members in the region who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve if elected. All  
455 candidates not elected shall be on the ballot for the at large lay positions on the Board of Directors.

456 (d) Circuit Visitor – The selection of Circuit Visitor will follow the process detailed in the Synod ~~Bylaw~~  
457 ~~5.2.2 Handbook.~~  
458

- 459 2. **Elections:**  
 460 1. *The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor*  
 461 *nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief*  
 462 *biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when*  
 463 *possible.*  
 464 2. *During the Convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice Presidents and (3) All*  
 465 *other elective positions.*  
 466 3. *A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board*  
 467 *positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.*  
 468 4. *The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the*  
 469 *votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot*  
 470 *until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.*  
 471 5. *The election of the Vice Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of*  
 472 *the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot*  
 473 *until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.*  
 474 6. *Upon the election of the regional vice-presidents, a final election will take place ranking the vice-*  
 475 *presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth*  
 476 *vice-presidents in line of succession.*  
 477 7. *Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply:*  
 478 *Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or*  
 479 *succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all*  
 480 *candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer*  
 481 *than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest*  
 482 *candidates will constitute the ballot.*

483  
 484 ~~2. **Elections Committee:** There shall be an Elections Committee consisting of two (2) ordained ministers,~~  
 485 ~~two (2) laypersons and one (1) commissioned minister to serve at each District Convention recommended by~~  
 486 ~~the Executive Council and appointed from the convention delegates by the District President in consultation~~  
 487 ~~with the Board of Directors who shall conduct and supervise elections at the District Convention in accordance~~  
 488 ~~with the Handbook of the Synod and the Bylaws of the Kansas District. Tellers may be designated by the~~  
 489 ~~Elections Committee.~~

## 491 **Article V - Conventions and Conferences**

### 492 1. **District Conventions:**

493 (a) The regular Convention of the District is held in the year immediately preceding the general  
 494 convention of the Synod. Only the Synod has the right to make an exception to this rule. Each of the *parishes/*  
 495 *congregations of the District (a multi-congregation parish being considered as a congregational unit* ~~& a~~  
 496 ~~multiple parish being considered as a congregational unit)~~ shall be represented by one (1) pastor and one (1)  
 497 lay delegate duly elected by the congregation at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Convention.  
 498

499 (b) The vote at all District Conventions shall be restricted to the duly elected and certified voting  
 500 pastors and lay delegates of the congregations. ~~Multiple parish congregations~~ *Multi-congregation parishes*  
 501 shall determine the voting lay delegate who shall represent all congregations of that parish. *If a congregation*  
 502 *or parish has more than one called pastor who is eligible to vote, the congregation shall designate which pastor*  
 503 *will cast a vote on behalf of the congregation.*  
 504

505 (c) The District Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the Synodical Handbook. Matters  
 506 for consideration by the Convention shall be presented by Overture submitted by a member congregation of  
 507 the District, the District Board of Directors, an official District conference of ordained and/or commissioned  
 508 ministers, a committee established by a prior convention, or a forum of a circuit. Resolutions for consideration  
 509 by the Convention shall be brought to the floor of the Convention by appointed Floor Committees.  
 510

### 511 2. **District Pastors' and Educators' Ordained and Commissioned Minister Conferences:**

512  
 513  
 514

515 (a) Official Conferences:  
516 I. District-wide Ordained Ministers' Conferences shall be held at least once each year.  
517 II. District-wide Commissioned Ministers' Conferences shall be held at least once each year.  
518 III. In the odd numbered years the Ordained Ministers' Conference and Commissioned  
519 Ministers' Conference shall be held at the same time and in the same city so that both Conferences shall be  
520 enabled to meet together in joint session at least part of the time.  
521

522 (b) General Regulations:  
523 I. Travel, meals, housing and other expenses for professional workers attending official  
524 conferences shall be borne by the congregations of the Ordained ministers and Commissioned ministers  
525 involved.  
526 II. All Ordained Ministers' and Commissioned Ministers' Conferences shall be governed  
527 by the regulations stated in the Bylaws of the Synod.  
528 III. All Ordained and Commissioned ministers on the District rosters ~~and certified workers~~  
529 ~~of the Kansas District~~ are expected to attend *the* meeting of their official conference, or present a valid excuse.  
530

531 3. **Visitation Circuit Forums:** The congregations of a visitation circuit, represented by a pastor and one lay  
532 member of each congregation (Synod Bylaw 5.3.2), shall meet in circuit forums at least once triennially to  
533 select Circuit Visitors (Synod Bylaw 5.2.2), to participate in the triennial process of suggesting mission and  
534 ministry emphases to the District Convention (Synod Bylaws 5.3.4, 5.3.1[b], 4.2.1[b]), and to consider  
535 submitting other overtures to the District or ~~national~~ *Synod* Convention ~~of the Synod~~ (Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2).  
536 In addition, the forum is encouraged to meet at least two times a year to carry out other functions as described  
537 in Synod Bylaw 5.3.1 and to pursue other interests deemed important such as lay leadership development,  
538 teacher training, and participation under existing District policy in future local mission development.  
539

540 4. **Electoral Circuit Meetings:** The congregations of a visitation circuit or two adjacent visitation circuits  
541 (Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 [a]) shall meet once triennially to carry out the responsibility of electing delegates to the  
542 general convention of the Synod and to consider sending overtures to the Synod convention (Synod Bylaw  
543 3.1.6.2).  
544

545 5. **Circuit Convocations:** Circuits of The Kansas District may hold Circuit Convocations in the year following  
546 the Synodical convention. Joint convocations of Circuits may be held among Circuits. The purpose of the  
547 Circuit Convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members may review and discuss the work  
548 of the Circuit Forum, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through Districts and  
549 the Synod. Its emphasis will be on inspiration, education and motivation.  
550

## 551 **Article VI – Property**

552 This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise,  
553 property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with,  
554 or dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the  
555 objectives of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of in a  
556 manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Kansas or the laws of any state in which said property is  
557 located.  
558

## 559 **Article VII - Amendments and Changes**

560 Changes in these Bylaws and additions thereto may be made provided they are not contrary to the Constitution,  
561 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, have received prior approval of the Synod's Commission on  
562 Constitutional Matters, are presented to the congregations of the District at least thirty (30) days prior to the  
563 time they are presented for vote, are separately considered and acted upon, and are passed by a majority of the  
564 voting delegates at a District convention.  
565  
566

567 *The District in convention may vote to amend its bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval of*  
568 *the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended bylaws become effective immediately, and only upon,*  
569 *approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not*

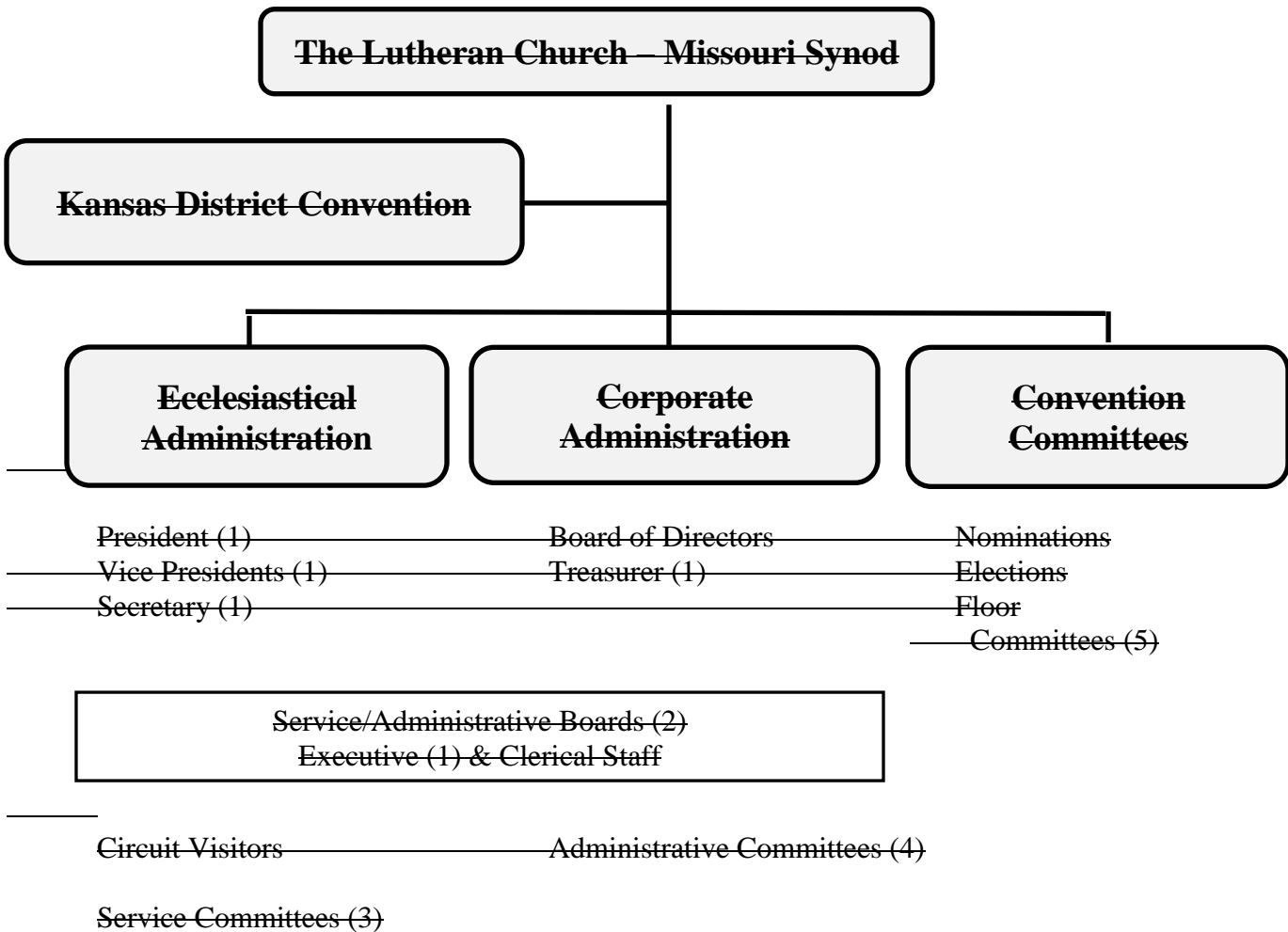
570 *approve the adopted changes, the district Board of Directors may modify amendments to comply with the*  
 571 *Commission on Constitutional Matters requirements upon their two-thirds vote.*

572  
 573 **Article VIII - District Operations Manual**

574  
 575 Changes to the District Operations Manual which do not affect the Bylaws of the District shall be reviewed and  
 576 approved by the Board of Directors. Changes to the District Operations Manual which require changes to the  
 577 Bylaws of the District shall require approval of the Board of Directors and adoption by the District Convention.  
 578

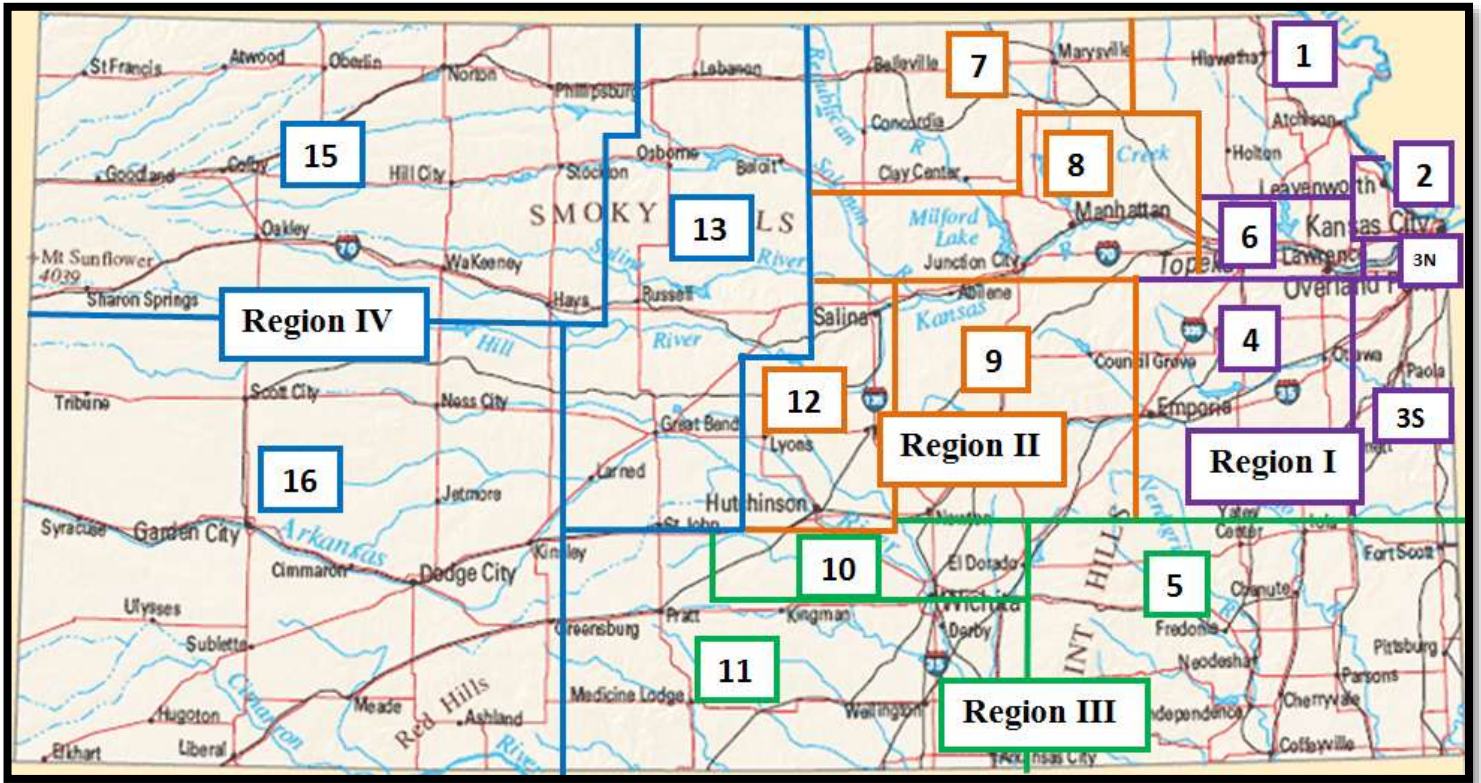
579  
 580  
 581 **The Organizational Chart and the Kansas District Regions Map will be moved to the**  
 582 **District Operations Manual.**

583  
 584 **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



- 1) Members of the Executive Council
- 2) Divisions of Board of Directors - Missions, Caring Ministry, Education, Stewardship, Administration
- 12 3) Examples: Evangelism Committee, Youth Committee, Family Life Committee, etc.
- 4) Examples: Church Extension Fund Board of Managers, Scholarship Committee, etc.

# KANSAS DISTRICT REGIONS



REGION I	REGION II	REGION III	REGION IV
Circuit 1	Circuit 7	Circuit 5	Circuit 13
Circuit 2	Circuit 8	Circuit 10	Circuit 15
Circuit 3 North	Circuit 9	Circuit 11	Circuit 16
Circuit 3 South	Circuit 12		
Circuit 4			
Circuit 6			

**To Encourage colloquy or Other Educational Tracks for Non-Rostered Teachers to be Inculcated into Lutheran Theology**

1           **WHEREAS**, members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seek to provide a sound learning  
2 environment that reflects both quality teaching and sound doctrine for adults and especially for  
3 adolescents and young children, and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, there are 45 early childhood development centers and 14 elementary schools in the  
6 Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, a consistent doctrinally sound learning environment is best provided by leadership,  
9 faculty and staff that have formal training in Lutheran doctrine, and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, an insufficient number of students pursuing professional church worker roster status  
12 are being graduated by the Concordia University System to satisfy current requests for placement, and  
13

14           **WHEREAS**, many leadership, instructional and support positions in Kansas early childhood  
15 development centers and Kansas Lutheran schools are filled by persons without Lutheran background or  
16 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod roster status, and  
17

18           **WHEREAS**, the District Scholarship Committee has approved the use of District funds as they  
19 are available for the purposes of continuing education of Lutheran day school teachers, including  
20 colloquy, to achieve rostered status, therefore  
21

22           **RESOLVED**, that all congregations in the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
23 and especially those participating in or supporting early childhood development centers and/or Lutheran  
24 day schools be encouraged to provide non-Lutheran workers with information about and training in the  
25 doctrines of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and  
26

27           **RESOLVED**, that all congregations in the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
28 and especially those participating in or supporting early childhood development centers and/or Lutheran  
29 day schools be encouraged to provide non-rostered Lutheran workers with support, including funding, to  
30 achieve rostered status of Lutheran early childhood development center directors, Lutheran school  
31 teachers and administrators via colloquy or other educational tracks, and  
32

33           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod provide guidance  
34 and/or financial resources to assist congregations in their efforts to promote rostered status for all  
35 Lutheran early childhood development center directors, Lutheran school teachers and administrators.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Congregational Training of Leaders for Ministry with Children, Youth and Adults**

1           **WHEREAS**, The LCMS seeks to sustain and revitalize Lutheran congregations through faithful  
2 preaching, administration of the sacraments, and the teaching of God’s Word through educational  
3 opportunities within congregations so the Body of Christ is built up in faith; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, in Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder  
6 them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven”; and  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, Rev. C.F.W. Walther said, “You cannot use your time to better advantage than by  
9 serving well the young people of the congregation”; and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, Only 47% of children baptized in 2000 did get confirmed as a youth according to  
12 LCMS statistics; and  
13

14           **WHEREAS**, Quality congregational Christian education promotes lifelong discipleship,  
15 faithfulness to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, love, humility, greater understanding of vocation  
16 and the sharing of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know Him as Lord and Savior; therefore be it  
17

18           **RESOLVED**, that pastors, commissioned ministers, parents and active laity be commended for  
19 their ongoing work in providing life-span congregational Christian education and encouraged to grow this  
20 significant work of the church; and be it further  
21

22           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District increase support for congregational Christian education for  
23 children, youth, and adults as vital for individual faith growth and for future growth of Christ’s church; and  
24 be it further  
25

26           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District support the training of pastors, commissioned ministers,  
27 and lay people in circuits and regions of the District through resources, ongoing educational opportunities,  
28 and conferences specific to the areas of children, youth, and family Christian education; and be it further  
29

30           **RESOLVED**, that Kansas District provide resources to meet the spiritual needs of children, youth,  
31 and adults in their congregations and communities; and be it finally  
32

33           **RESOLVED**, the congregations of the Kansas District pray for the children, teens, and parents of  
34 our congregations and communities that they may grow to greater depth of knowledge of the Gospel and  
35 through the gift of the Holy Spirit, receive faith and salvation.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Attention to Vocation and the Table of Duties in Stewardship Education**

1           **WHEREAS**, all Christians have a calling from God to serve as His hands on earth, accomplishing  
2 His purposes through their vocations in life (e.g., parent, employee, citizen, neighbor); and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, operating effectively in one’s vocation requires attention to vocational duties, which  
5 are addressed in Scripture and summarized the Table of Duties in the *Small Catechism*; and  
6

7           **WHEREAS**, a thorough understanding of vocational duties—of clergy, hearers, government,  
8 citizens, husbands, wives, parents, children, employees, employers—is an important element in faithful  
9 stewardship of God’s gifts; and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, every Christian shares the vocation of faithful steward; and  
12

13           **WHEREAS**, “Christian Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s  
14 family, the church, in managing life and all of life’s resources for God’s purposes” (2001 Res. 2-07A), and  
15

16           **WHEREAS**, the work of ministering to God’s people and spreading the Gospel depends on such  
17 stewardship, and  
18

19           **WHEREAS**, Synod has affirmed the important relationship between vocation and stewardship in  
20 Resolution 10-04 of the 2015 Synod Convention; therefore be it  
21

22           **RESOLVED**, that LCMS congregations emphasize vocation and the Table of Duties as part of  
23 their stewardship education in the next triennium; and be it finally  
24

25           **RESOLVED**, that the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship identify, develop,  
26 and make available suitable resources for achieving this purpose.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



**To Emphasize Cheerful and Generous Giving in Stewardship Education**

1           **WHEREAS**, everything in the world belongs to the Lord—the earth and those who dwell therein  
2 (Ps. 24:1); and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, God provides for us richly and daily, entrusting us to manage His resources for the  
5 good of our neighbor and the proclamation of the Gospel; (Matt. 6:9-11; Matt. 6:31-33; Matt. 25:14-30;  
6 Luke 16:1-13); and

7  
8           **WHEREAS**, our Lord, through the Apostle Paul, establishes a key principle for using those  
9 resources in 2 Cor. 9:7: “Each one must give as he has decided to give, not reluctantly or under  
10 compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”; and

11  
12           **WHEREAS**, Scripture encourages regular proportional first-fruits giving (Deut. 18:4; Prov. 3:9; 1  
13 Cor. 16:2); and

14  
15           **WHEREAS**, Average church member giving in 2014 amounted to just 2.16% (Empty Tomb,  
16 2016), a decline of 28% since 1968; and

17  
18           **WHEREAS**, our ability to carry out the mission Christ has given us depends on the generosity of  
19 individuals and congregations working together with the District and Synod; and

20  
21           **WHEREAS**, Synod has affirmed the importance of cheerful and voluntary giving in Resolution 10-  
22 03 of the 2015 Synod Convention; therefore be it

23  
24           **RESOLVED**, that LCMS congregations emphasize cheerful and generous giving as part of their  
25 stewardship education in the next triennium; and be it finally

26  
27           **RESOLVED**, that the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship identify, develop,  
28 and make available suitable resources for achieving this purpose.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125th Anniversary of Concordia University,  
Seward, Nebraska**

1           **WHEREAS**, Since its founding in 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University,  
2 Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as an educational institution  
3 equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and world; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, The Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and  
6 land to locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the local  
7 community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS**, The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the  
10 leading preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more graduates into  
11 the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries of the church than any other  
12 institution of the Concordia University System; and  
13

14           **WHEREAS**, The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men  
15 for the pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that, historically, each  
16 year between 40 and 50 are involved in academic and spiritual preparation to study at an LCMS seminary  
17 with the result that seven (7) percent of those serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of  
18 Concordia University, Nebraska; and  
19

20           **WHEREAS**, The God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with  
21 opportunities to equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in  
22 business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their home and the  
23 communities where they reside; and  
24

25           **WHEREAS**, The God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska  
26 by enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate academic  
27 programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school partners and online; and  
28

29           **WHEREAS**, The God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000  
30 alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have walked by faith and not by sight  
31 and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these men and women during their  
32 educational studies; and  
33

34           **WHEREAS**, The God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the  
35 tens of thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers, generous gifts  
36 and referral of students; and  
37

38           **WHEREAS**, The God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University with record  
39 numbers of undergraduate and graduate students—2,757 in 2016-17.  
40

41           **RESOLVED**, That the 2018 Convention of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
42 Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty God for His  
43 continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its students, faculty, staff and  
44 administration to His continued providential care.  
45

46           **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District memorialize the LCMS at its July 2019 Convention to  
47 declare Concordia's Founders Day, November 18, 2019, as a synod wide "Concordia University,  
48 Nebraska Sunday," encouraging and facilitating prayers, thanksgiving, offerings, gifts and student  
49 referrals to be given in celebration of the Lord's abundant blessings to the Church through one of its  
50 treasured universities.

**To Embrace, Encourage and Equip the Older Adults of the Kansas District of the LCMS to Continue and Enhance Their Active Ministry as Children of God.**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District of the LCMS recognizes the blessing that 25% of our active  
2 saints are age 65 and beyond; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, that percentage continues to grow daily; and

5  
6           **WHEREAS**, many of these saints have been lifelong members; and

7  
8           **WHEREAS**, older adults today are generally healthier and have an increasing amount of time and  
9 treasure; and

10  
11           **WHEREAS**, older adults are looking to make a significant impact upon the lives of others; and

12  
13           **WHEREAS**, significance of being a child of God is centered on Jesus Christ; and

14  
15           **WHEREAS**, older adults are and continue to be a primary source of mentoring for all ages; and

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, older adults are eager to be an active partner in the growth of God's church; and

18  
19           **WHEREAS**, older adults are to be looked upon as cherished God-given assets to be actively  
20 engaged in the mission of His church; and

21  
22           **WHEREAS**, the lives of older adults touch the lives of others in unlimited circumstances;  
23 therefore be it

24  
25           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District be charged to embrace, encourage, and equip older adults  
26 in our local congregations for work as children of God; and be it further

27  
28           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District offer support and resources needed to implement enhanced  
29 older adult ministry; and be it further

30  
31           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District research older adult ministry elsewhere so to improve our  
32 efforts; and be it further

33  
34           **RESOLVED**, that older adults are looked upon as valued evangelists; and be it further

35  
36           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District make use of electronic media as a resource to inform,  
37 educate, and stay current with the many changes in older adult ministry; and be it further

38  
39           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District actively pursue mentoring programs with older adults and  
40 the church's youth; and be it further

41  
42           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District begin and provide appropriate resources to advance  
43 enhanced Older Adult Ministry in the year 2018; and be it finally

44  
45           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District create a report chronicling its efforts, including successes  
46 and challenges, and submit said report to the 67<sup>th</sup> LCMS national convention.

*Submitted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission and Shawnee*

**To Study and Recommend Strategies in the Advancement of Congregation-based Older Adult Ministries in the Kansas District LCMS**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is blessed by  
2 congregational membership of active saints, age 65 and beyond, comprising 25% of its total membership,  
3 with that percentage increasing daily; and,  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, Older adults today are generally healthier and have an increasing amount of time  
6 and treasure; and,  
7

8           **WHEREAS**, older adults, as God's children, are seeking opportunities to make a significant  
9 impact upon the lives of others in the name of Jesus Christ; and,  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, older adults are to be looked upon as a special blessing God gives to the church to  
12 be actively used in the mission of the church; therefore be it  
13

14           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District be charged to appoint a task force to examine strategies in  
15 support of congregation-based ministries with older adults; and be it further  
16

17           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District task force recommends resources including, but not limited  
18 to, training seminars and retreats for laity and church workers at the congregation and/or circuit levels;  
19 and, the use of electronic media to further educate and advance information for the implementation of  
20 older adult ministry at the local level; and be it further  
21

22           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District appointed task force offer their initial report to District  
23 congregations, including resources needed to implement enhanced older adult ministry within six months,  
24 following the appointment of the task force; and finally be it  
25

26           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District report its efforts to the 67<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the  
27 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 2019.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

**To Encourage Support for the Proposed Startup of Concordia Academy:  
A Lutheran Liberal Arts Education in Wichita, Kansas**

**PREAMBLE**

In 1524 Martin Luther wrote to the councilmen of the German cities:

*“Since a city should and must have educated people, and since there is a universal dearth of them and complaint that they are nowhere to be found, we dare not wait until they grow up of themselves; neither can we carve them out of stone nor hew them out of wood. Nor will God perform miracles as long as men can solve their problems by means of the other gifts he has already granted them. Therefore, we must do our part and spare no labor or expense to produce and train such people ourselves. For whose fault is it that today our cities have so few capable people? Whose fault, if not that of authorities, who have left the young people to grow up like saplings in the forest, and have given no thought to their instruction and training? This is also why they have grown to maturity so misshapen that they cannot be used for building purposes, but are mere brushwood, fit only for kindling fires...Therefore, I beseech you, my dear sirs, to let this sincere effort of mine bear fruit among you.” (LW 45:356-57, 377)*

Though very different in many ways from Luther’s day, nevertheless, much remains the same. Our youth have so much working against them today. The secular world, the instant gratification of the fallen flesh, and the old, evil foe, who continues to prowl around like a roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8): these three enemies require the bulwark of faith and the fostering of wisdom and virtue not only in the home, but also in the church and the school. It is our job as parents, pastors, and teachers to provide the resources to help our children stave the attacks they will, undoubtedly, endure. In this way, our school desires to support parents, who have the primary responsibility for ongoing education in the home.

Our school seeks to be intentionally Christian, and particularly Lutheran. We believe that a Lutheran ethos of doctrine and practice, carried out in the school as well as the home and church, will aid our children in their fight against sin, death, and the devil, and form within them the wisdom and virtue that overflow in faith toward God and love toward the neighbor. We pray that such an environment—both catechetical in instruction and sacramental in its view of liturgy and worship—will support the numerous area churches in sharing in the task of locating the young around the Word and finding their identity in who they are as the baptized children of God.

Furthermore, the impact of our school will also be felt in the culture into which these students proceed in their various vocations. Our goal in educating the students is to teach them to think critically with delight and wonder. Our curriculum—sometimes termed “Classical,” though “Liberal Arts” is more common—intentionally centers on the classic works of the Western world and finds its grounding in her language, namely *Greek* and *Latin*. From these, the student will learn the grammar and logic of various topics, and, in the upper years of the school, the rhetoric of performing and doing what they’ve learned.

The term “classical education” is a relatively recent way to describe how education had always been done in Western culture for nearly two millennia, until recently when “progressive education” became common. Classical education emphasizes the seeking after of truth, goodness, and beauty through the study of the seven liberal arts and the great books. The liberal arts—grammar, logic, rhetoric (the verbal arts of the *Trivium*) and arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy (the mathematical arts of the *Quadrivium*)—offer much needed tools for learning.

Classical Lutheran education takes the philosophy of classical education and crowns it with the study of theology. While the *Trivium* gives knowledge of man, and the *Quadrivium* gives knowledge of the world, the study that brings these two together is the study of God, theology. This finds its place in catechesis, where the student is formed in his identity as a forgiven sinner and child of God. He learns how to live in the faith of his baptism in love and service to his neighbor.

The school will be established as a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) as an independent entity (501c3), with a policy-based governance, operated by a governing board, comprised of individuals from various area LCMS churches (including both clergy and

laity), who will ensure the commitments made to parents and faculty are honored over time, against the distractions of time and culture. The headmaster will bear these responsibilities on a daily basis; however, he will not be personally responsible for financial or legal repercussions. The headmaster, with board cooperation, will establish the curriculum and direct the hiring of staff and faculty. "Called" faculty will be placed in accordance with standard LCMS procedure. The governing board will ensure that the school will provide the children with a rich education that accords with the directives outlined in the Mission Statement. This governing board will also ensure career stability, professional development, and financial support for both faculty and staff. The school will base its funding model on three primary sources: 1) Tuition (accounting for 70% of expenses); 2) Private Scholarship Donors; and, 3) Gifts from area churches. By way of gifts and donors, we seek to operate in such a way that tuition-based scholarships will be provided to those in need. Additional support will be sought through granting agencies.

1           **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions command and commend education  
2 that shapes students morally as well as intellectually, preparing them to love God and serve their  
3 neighbors:

4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the  
5 Lord" (Ephesians 6:4); and, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
6 whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is  
7 anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and  
8 seen in me—practice these things, and the God peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9); and,  
9

10           **WHEREAS**, if we desire capable and qualified people for both the civil and spiritual realms we  
11 must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and the  
12 world (*Large Catechism* I 172-173); and,  
13

14           **WHEREAS**, the LCMS in Convention demonstrated its continued commitment toward Lutheran  
15 schools by resolving to encourage and strengthen the Lutheran ethos of our schools (Res 8-01A), to  
16 recruit and equip Lutheran administrators for our schools (8-02), to support the quality and sustainability  
17 of Lutheran schools (8-03A), and to preserve the religious freedom we enjoy in our Lutheran schools (8-  
18 04); and,  
19

20           **WHEREAS**, the need for pastors and church workers in our Church is great, along with the need  
21 for strong and courageous lay leaders in the congregations of our Kansas District; and,  
22

23           **WHEREAS**, a Lutheran liberal arts education has proven to be effective in this regard, and is a  
24 growing trend in our Synod and beyond; and,  
25

26           **WHEREAS**, the mission of Concordia Academy is:  
27 "To form students in faith, hope, and love, by cultivating wisdom and nourishing their souls in the pursuit  
28 of truth, goodness, and beauty, according to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions";  
29

30           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention give its blessing and endorsement to the  
31 proposed startup of Concordia Academy in the city of Wichita; and,  
32

33           **RESOLVED**, that pastors and members of our congregations in the Kansas District be  
34 encouraged to pray for this new endeavor; and, if so led by the Holy Spirit, to support it financially.

*Submitted by Wichita South Circuit 11 Forum*

**To Require Recipients of Kansas District Scholarships to Complete Financial Education Prior to Receiving Funds**

1           **WHEREAS**, the cost of higher education continues to rise, putting a strain on many future church  
2 workers and families; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, students are graduating with considerable educational debt, with Americans owing  
5 \$1.4 trillion dollars in 2017; students in Lutheran colleges and seminaries are similarly burdened,  
6 graduating with a typical loan balance in the mid-\$20,000 range, while the most recent round of 34  
7 applicants for Kansas District educational loan repayment grants together owe \$1,700,779 (an average of  
8 \$50,023 per applicant); and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, the Kansas District has provided financial assistance to undergraduates and  
11 seminary students since 1998 to help ease this burden, awarding \$26,625 to 25 students for scholarships  
12 in 2017; and

13  
14          **WHEREAS**, the District would like to assist future church workers further by encouraging sound financial  
15 stewardship and decision making; therefore be it

16  
17          **RESOLVED**, that degree-seeking recipients of Kansas District scholarships complete an  
18 approved form of financial education prior to receiving funds; and be it further

19  
20          **RESOLVED**, that the approved financial education be manageable in scope and include basic  
21 components of financial literacy as well as principles of sound Christian stewardship; and be it finally

22  
23          **RESOLVED**, that the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, in consultation  
24 with the District Business Manager and the Board of Stewardship, develop suitable options for fulfilling  
25 this requirement.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*

Overture 18-04-12

**To Encourage Healthy Food and Beverage Environments at District Sponsored Events**

1           **WHEREAS**, obesity-related conditions make up several of the leading causes of death in the  
2 U.S., and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, high rates of obesity are largely responsible for the United States' declining health  
5 outcomes and rapidly rising healthcare costs, and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, the cost of care for LCMS church workers is shared across Concordia Plans  
8 Services, be it

9  
10          **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage and support church workers who want to be  
11 healthy, and be it further

12  
13          **RESOLVED**, that gatherings such as church worker conferences, Circuit Visitor conferences,  
14 board and committee meetings, etcetera offer alternative nutritional food choices.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



**To Improve the Process for Calling Pastors**

1           **WHEREAS**, all congregations rely on the district offices for important information (Pastor  
2 Information Form [PIF] and Self-Evaluation Tool [SET] Forms) about pastoral candidates, and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, it is common for calling congregations to wait several weeks for requested  
5 information to arrive from the district office because other districts do not always respond in a timely  
6 manner to requests for information and because the information provided by the pastor is not always up  
7 to date, therefore be it  
8

9           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention states that it acknowledges the importance of  
10 filling pastoral vacancies in a timely manner, and be it further  
11

12           **RESOLVED**, that the convention direct our District President to take any necessary action so that  
13 calling congregations can receive requested call information within one week of their request where  
14 possible, and be it further  
15

16           **RESOLVED**, that the convention direct our District President to discuss this matter with the  
17 Council of Presidents so that the call process may be improved throughout our Synod, and be it finally  
18

19           **RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District request that the Synod in convention direct the Council of  
20 Presidents to develop a more effective and efficient system of providing information about pastoral  
21 candidates to calling congregations while still exercising ecclesiastical oversight.

*Submitted by Circuit 2 Forum*



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District June 7 - 9, 2018

## SECTION 7

### DISTRICT ROSTER CHANGES: WORKERS, CONGREGATIONS, SCHOOLS (April 2015 thru March 2018)

(Names in alphabetical order)

#### **ORDAINED ENTERING KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
COOK, Philip	Texas	Trinity, Mission and Shawnee	08/15
DURANCE, Matthew	Colloquy	Bethlehem, Greenleaf	10/17
ERSLAND, David	Oklahoma	Emeritus, Wichita	10/16
FENKER, Aaron	Southern	Bethlehem and Immanuel, Bremen	07/15
HAGEMAN, Michael	Florida-Georgia	Trinity, Garden City	01/18
HEATH, Timmothy	South Wisconsin	St. John, Aliceville	06/17
JONES, Joseph	Southern	Emeritus, Topeka	03/15
JUDSON, James	Wyoming	St. Paul, Ellsworth	08/15
KETTNER, Edward	Lutheran Church Canada	Emeritus, Lenexa	08/15
KOHLMEIER, Keith	Missouri	Lutheran Church Extension Fund	10/15
LALLY, Richard	Iowa West	St. Matthew, Nortonville	01/17
LOVICK, Richard	Southern	Emeritus, Manhattan	02/16
MACKIE, Roger	Michigan	Zion, Independence (IIM Pastor)	08/17
MILLER, Philip	Southern	Mt. Calvary, Marysville	03/15
PETERSON, Russell	Michigan	Christ, Overland Park	01/18
PRICE, James	Texas	Mount Calvary, Wamego	06/17
ROSBURG, Paul	Wyoming	St. Paul, Coffeyville	04/15
SIEBERT, Benjamin	Nebraska	St. John, Lincoln	07/16
THIERFELDER, Thomas	Rocky Mountain	St. John, Ellinwood	01/17
TOOMBS, Jason	Montana	Zion, Downs	11/16

#### **SEMINARY CANDIDATES CALLED TO KANSAS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
APFEL, Michael	St. Louis	Trinity, Fort Scott	01/18
ALBRECHT, Martin (SMP)	St. Louis	Faith, Topeka	01/16
BLICKHAHN, Henry (SMP)	St. Louis	Our Redeemer, Hutchinson	06/15
CHRISMER, Daniel	St. Louis	Ascension, Wichita	07/17
CORDT, Nicholas (SMP)	St. Louis	Risen Savior, Wichita	01/17
CRAIG, Christopher	Fort Wayne	Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove	07/16
FIELDS, Anthony	St. Louis	St. Paul, Coffeyville	07/17
HORNE, Brent	Fort Wayne	Immanuel, Canton	06/16
KERNS, Devin	Colloquy	St. Johns, Topeka	08/16
KILGO, Sean	Fort Wayne	Northeast Kansas Partnership	08/16
MARTINEZ, Nicholas	Fort Wayne	Grace, Larned & Our Saviour, Great Bend	06/17
NORTON, Cody	Fort Wayne	Christ, Wathena	07/16
ROTH, Timothy	St. Louis	St. Peter, Humboldt	07/16
SCHECK, Jonathan	Fort Wayne	St. Paul, Oswego and Trinity, Parsons	08/16
VINEYARD, Benjamin (SMP)	St. Louis	Trinity, Mission and Shawnee	07/17
WERNER, John	St. Louis	Zion, Hillsboro and Our Savior, Marion	07/16
WOELMER, Joshua	Fort Wayne	Zion, Vassar	06/16

**ORDAINED TRANSFERRING FROM KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
AUGUSTINE, John (Phil)	Minnesota South	05/15
BONINE, Jonathan	Montana	01/16
BEHRHORST, Wallace	Texas	05/17
BRUENGER, Alvin	Nebraska	12/15
CAUGHEY, William	Florida-Georgia	02/15
DETERDING, Shawn	Texas	06/16
DREBES, Bryan	Nebraska	01/16
DUFON, Dennis	Michigan	02/17
EBERHART, Frank	Missouri	06/17
EBERLEIN, Scott	Michigan	07/15
GRIFFIN, Timm	Northern Illinois	10/15
HOLMAN, Raymond	Southern Illinois	03/16
HOPPE, Philip	Minnesota North	03/15
JOBST, James	Mid-South	08/15
JONES, Bryan	Southern	04/16
JUNKIN, Mark	Missouri	03/16
KIRK, John (Jack)	Nebraska	02/17
KOHLMEIER, Keith	Missouri	10/15
LLEWELLYN, Timothy	Nebraska	03/16
LORENZ, Timothy	Indiana	07/16
LOVICK, Richard	Mid-South	05/15
SCROGGINS, Troy	Texas	10/17
SLATER, Troy	Missouri	06/16
SYPE, Kenneth	Nebraska	11/16
TRUNKHILL, Chad	California-Nevada-Hawaii	09/17
VEGA, Roland	Florida-Georgia	07/17

**ORDAINED POSITION CHANGES WITHIN KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BOETCHER, Jason	Candidate	Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor	01/16
BOXMAN, Mark	Redeemer, Arkansas City	Trinity, Salina	12/17
BROCKMAN, Michael	Grace, Wichita	Immanuel, Hoxie and Immanuel, Oakley	04/17
BROWN, Luther	St. John, Aliceville	Immanuel, Ellsworth	11/16
BRUSS, Jon	St. John's, Topeka (Asst)	St. John's, Topeka (Senior)	11/15
CHRISMER, Daniel	Ascension, Wichita	Ascension, Pratt	08/17
DAUGHERTY, Ervin	Emeritus	Christ, Elkhart	07/17
EBERLEIN, Scott	Ann Arbor, MI	Candidate	07/15
GALCHUTT, Daniel	Calvary, Topeka	LCMS Kansas District	10/16
GLOE, Ronald	Candidate	Immanuel, Wichita	01/16
HERING, Kurt	Milliken, CO	Candidate	12/16
KERNS, D. Scot	St. Paul, Lincoln	OIM, Military Chaplain	02/18
KOOTZ, Dennis	St. Paul, Leavenworth	Trinity, Salina	05/15
LANGE, Peter	St. John's, Topeka	LCMS Kansas District	07/15
LOVETT, Mark	Concordia, Hoisington	Our Redeemer, Herington	04/17
MALLARDI, Rocco	St. Paul, Oswego and Trinity, Parsons	Messiah, Hays	09/15
MEASE, Rocky	Kansas District	St. John, Meade (IIM)	08/17
MEIER, David	St. Peter, Humboldt	St. Paul, Junction City	07/16
METZGER, Daniel	Immanuel, Wichita	Grace & Trinity, Wichita	03/18
OCKREE, Benjamin	Trinity, Atchison	Calvary, Topeka	09/17
RATHER, Ronald	St. Paul, Haven	St. John, Moundridge	09/15
REICHART, Adam	Immanuel, Hoxie	Calvary, Council Grove	12/15
SCHEMM, David	Emeritus	Faith, Emporia	08/16
SCHNEIDER, Matthew	St. John, Lincoln	Trinity, Hunter	05/16
SCROGGINS, Troy	Topeka, KS	Candidate	04/17
SWEYKO, Stephen	Fort Scott, KS	Candidate	09/15
SWEYKO, Stephen	Candidate	Christ Our Savior, Louisburg	05/17

TAPE, John	Wichita, KS	Candidate	09/15
TAPE, John	Candidate	University Lutheran Ministry Association	02/17
TWENHAFEL, Rick	TCN	St. Paul, Duluth	03/17
VAN VELZER, Michael	Emeritus	Immanuel, Netawaka	12/17
VEGA, Roland	Zion, Independence	Candidate	07/17
WOLF, Gary	Candidate	Concordia, Hoisington	11/17

**ORDAINED RETIRED**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BITTER, Glenn	Topeka, KS	09/16
BREWER, Thomas	Shawnee, KS	09/17
BUROW, Gaylen	Kansas City, KS	07/16
CAUGHEY, William	Crestview, FL	02/15
DAUGHERTY, Ervin	Kincaid, KS	07/16
DUFON, Dennis	Holland, MI	04/15
DUNCAN, Jeffrey	Bellevue, NE	09/17
ESTBY, Alan	Junction City, KS	07/17
HARRIES, Thomas	Lenexa, KS	08/17
HOLTORF, Gene	Linn, KS	08/13
KIRK, John	Marysville, KS	11/14
LOHRKE, Merlyn	Cunningham, KS	09/17
MAYES, James	Wamego, KS	04/16
SCHEMM, David	Topeka, KS	07/16
SPENCER, Lynn	Bentonville, AR	07/17
VAN VELZER, Michael	Nortonville, KS	11/15
VON STROH, Dean	Wichita, KS	08/15
WENGER, Mark	Blue Springs, MO	07/17
WIECHMAN, Terry	Valley Center, KS	10/16

**ORDAINED CALLED HOME**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
DARKOW, Frederick	Winfield, KS	12/11/2015
DOERR, Dale	Burlington, KS	10/21/2017
FRAKES, Jeffrey	Ellinwood, KS	06/13/2015
FRIEDRICHS, Waldemar	Topeka, KS	01/07/2017
HICKS, Eugene	Herington, KS	08/25/2016
KACZOR, Richard	Lawrence, KS	01/18/2016
KERSTEN, Timothy	Hillsboro, KS	03/08/2018
KRAUSE, Paul	Winfield, KS	12/19/2015
LARSON, James	Chanute, KS	12/25/2015
MEIER, Harlan	Linn, KS	01/13/2017
OHLDE, Carroll	Topeka, KS	10/17/2017
SCHMIDT, Eugene	Topeka, KS	09/22/2016

**ORDAINED RESIGNED/REMOVED FROM ROSTER**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
HERING, Kurt	Milliken, CO	12/17
HERZBERG, Michael	Wichita, KS	02/17
MAIN, William	Lawrence, KS	07/17
ROSBURG, Paul	Middleton, WI	06/16

**COMMISSIONED ENTERING KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ABBOTT, Emily	Pacific Southwest	Candidate, Great Bend	08/15
ADAMS, Amanda	Montana	Christ, Topeka	05/16
BAYER, Roxanne	Nebraska	Good Shepherd, Marysville	08/15
BIRT, Jena	Nebraska	Hope, Shawnee	08/16
DANLEY, Korey	English	Christ, Overland Park	01/18
DEHNING, Melanie	Nebraska	Candidate, Alma	07/15

DEHNING, Mervin	Nebraska	St. John, Alma	07/15
DIERKS, Kevin	Texas	St. Luke, Kansas City	08/15
DRESSLER, Kelly	Central Illinois	Trinity, Atchison	08/16
EATON, Charles	Texas	Emeritus, Abilene	07/14
ERSLAND, Jac E Lu	Oklahoma	Emeritus, Wichita	10/16
FRUSTI, Philip	Mid-South	Lead a Child/CCCS	04/17
GIBSON, Daniel	Central Illinois	Hope, Shawnee	08/15
GLOWINSKI, Michael	Pacific Southwest	Good Shepherd, Marysville	08/17
HEINE, Mary	Nebraska	St. Paul, Leavenworth	08/15
HOFFMAN, Justin	Iowa West	Trinity, Atchison	08/17
HOLLE, Whitney	Indiana	St. John, Alma	08/16
HUDSON, Tracie	Nebraska	Candidate, Manhattan	11/16
JAEGER, Lisa	South Wisconsin	Hope, Shawnee	08/16
JANKOWSKI, Nancy	Eastern	Hope, Shawnee	08/15
JOHNSON, Sharon	Nebraska	Emeritus, Salina	07/17
MOENTMANN, Sherry	Missouri	Candidate, Liberal	01/18
MONDARY, Miranda	Rocky Mountain	Hope, Shawnee	08/17
PETRIK, Randi	Iowa East	Candidate, Overland Park	05/17
STICHLER, Calah	Missouri	Hope, Shawnee	08/17
TAYLOR, Emma	Northern Illinois	Topeka Lutheran School	08/17
TUBANDT, Nicole	Mid-South	Candidate, Olathe	07/17
VENTEICHER, Benjamin	Iowa East	Messiah, Hays	10/17
ZICKFIELD, James	Missouri	Emeritus, Wichita	09/16

#### **CONCORDIA GRADUATES CALLED TO KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
DAHLKE, Rachel	Seward	Faith, Derby	08/16
EATON, Nathanael	Seward	Bethany, Overland Park	08/16
HOWARD, Michelle	Seward	Christ, Overland Park	08/15
JOHNSON, Bethany	Wisconsin	St. John's, Topeka	06/17
KATHMAN, Rachel	Seward	Faith, Derby	08/16
KUDRAY, Andrew	Wisconsin	St. John, Alma	08/17
KUSKE, Sarah	Seward	Bethany, Overland Park	08/17
MAXWELL, Elizabeth	Seward	Topeka Lutheran School	08/16
ROTH, Hannah	Chicago	Bethany, Overland Park	07/15
SCHULTZ, Mary	Chicago	Bethany, Overland Park	08/17
TAYLOR, Isaac	Chicago	Topeka Lutheran School	08/17
TROESTER, Erika	Seward	Holy Cross, Dodge City	08/17

#### **COMMISSIONED TRANSFERRING FROM KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ANDERSON, Chris	Texas	05/17
BELLACH, Jeffrey	Pacific Southwest	06/15
BIRT, Jena	Nebraska	06/17
CROUCHER, Heather	Missouri	07/17
DIECKHOFF, Tashia	Nebraska	07/16
DOYLE, Christa	Wyoming	06/16
HEINE, Mary	Minnesota South	02/17
HOMAN, Megan	Missouri	06/16
HROMOWYK, Andrea	Indiana	07/15
JAEGER, Lisa	Florida-Georgia	06/17
KELLER, Jennifer	Northwest	02/16
LANG, Hannah	Ohio	06/16
LIMBACK, Jane	Northern Illinois	11/15
MARTEN, Dennis	Pacific Southwest	04/15
MAXWELL, Elizabeth	Texas	07/17
MEINZEN, Faith	Missouri	06/17
MEYER, Mark	Minnesota North	07/17
MIEGER, Paul	Texas	07/15

MOLL, Thomas	English	06/15
NELSON, Sandra	Missouri	01/18
OHMIE, Angela	Missouri	02/17
SCHULZ, Marlo	Northern Illinois	01/16
THOMAS, Katrina	Oklahoma	07/16
TIDWELL, Harvey	Pacific Southwest	06/16
TRUNKHILL, Brenda	California-Nevada-Hawaii	08/17
TWILLMAN, Cynthia	Missouri	07/17
WERNER, Rachel	Nebraska	06/18

**COMMISSIONED POSITION CHANGES WITHIN KANSAS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ABRAMOVITZ, Sarah	Topeka Lutheran School	Bethany, Overland Park	08/17
ANDERSON, Chris	Candidate	Faith, Derby	08/15
ANDERSON, Chris	Faith, Derby	Candidate	11/16
BEIKMANN, Diane	Non-Candidate	Linn Lutheran School	08/15
BEIKMANN, Diane	Active	Candidate	08/17
BIRT, Jena	Hope, Shawnee	Candidate	06/17
BOETTCHER, Karen	Faith, Derby	Holy Cross, Wichita	08/15
DENNEY, Rebecca	St. Paul, Leavenworth	Candidate	06/17
EDGINGTON, Paige	Candidate	University Lutheran Assoc.	02/17
FLORES, Jacqueline	Good Shepherd, Marysville	Non-Candidate	06/16
FOGELMAN, Amanda	Hope, Shawnee	Candidate	08/15
FOSS, Kayla	Faith, Derby	Trinity, Atchison	08/16
FOSS, Kayla	Trinity, Atchison	Candidate	11/16
GOODPASTURE, Rachel	Trinity, Atchison	Candidate	07/17
HARRIES, Diane	Non-Candidate	Hope, Shawnee	08/15
HARRIES, Terry	Inactive	Good Shepherd, Marysville	06/16
JACKSON, Leland	Trinity, Garden City	Candidate	07/17
KIRKENDOLL, Cheryl	St. Paul, Leavenworth	Candidate	08/16
KRENZ, Lisa	Zion, Independence	Non-Candidate	06/15
LINDEMAN, Christa	Hope, Shawnee	Candidate	07/16
MEINZEN, Fern	Hope, Shawnee	Candidate	07/16
MORGAN, Katie	Prince of Peace, Topeka	Christ, Overland Park	03/17
PETRIK, Randi	Candidate	Bethany, Overland Park	10/17
SCHULTZ, Forrest	Non-Candidate	Topeka Lutheran School	01/16
SOEKEN, Kate	St. John, Ellinwood	Candidate	03/17
STEPHENS, Kent	Holy Cross, Wichita	Candidate	02/17
THOMAS, Katrina	Broken Arrow, Oklahoma	Candidate	05/14
THOMLINSON, Rebecca	Independence	Candidate	08/17
TRUNKHILL, Brenda	CPH, St. Louis	Our Redeemer, Hutchinson	01/17

**COMMISSIONED RETIRED**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ALSIN, Kristine	Shawnee	06/17
ALTEVOGT, Orville	Alma	08/15
BOETTCHER, Teddy	Wichita	08/16
BROWN, Jody	Paola	06/12
DUITSMAN, Joyce	Atchison	07/16
FLOETKE, Jay	Leavenworth	07/14
FLOETKE, Pamela	Leavenworth	06/15
KRUSE, Sheryl	Hanover	07/17
MACY, John	Marysville	07/16
NELSON, Sandra	Columbia, MO	07/16
SAVING, David	Lenexa	02/17
SCHULZ, Nancy	Overland Park	06/17
THEATE, Lorraine	Shawnee	06/17
WENGER, Patricia	Derby	08/16
WILGERS, Karen	Wichita	07/17

**COMMISSIONED CALLED HOME**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
PETER, Marilyn	Shawnee	12/10/2014

**COMMISSIONED RESIGNED/REMOVED FROM ROSTER**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
CALDWELL, James	Olathe	07/17
DIECKHOFF, Bill	Colorado Springs, CO	02/18
EATON, Nathanael	Raytown, MO	06/17
GLASGOW, Diane	Winfield	07/17
HAIST, Amy	Wichita	07/15
HUTCHINS, Atlanta	Ruckersville, VA	11/17
PACEY, James	Robertsdale, AL	11/17
ROTH, Chelsea	Olathe	06/17

**CONGREGATIONS or SCHOOL DISBANDED/CLOSED**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
St. Luke Lutheran Church	Bazine	06/27/17
Faith Lutheran Church	Hugoton	02/17/18
Trinity Preschool	Leavenworth	06/30/15
Little Lambs Preschool	Salina	05/31/17
Faith Early Childhood	Topeka	11/20/15
Hope Lutheran Church	Topeka	04/03/17

**NEW MEMBER CONGREGATION or SCHOOL**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
St. Paul Preschool	Clay Center	11/16
Our Redeemer Early Learning Center	Hutchinson	01/17
Ascension Lutheran Church	Pratt	08/17