



# DISTRICT NEWS

## KANSAS

### The treasured gift of life

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10



**Rev. Peter K. Lange**  
District President

So says Jesus, the Good Shepherd, whom we hear each year on the fourth Sunday of Easter.

Through the hearing of that word in Scripture, we have walked once again with our Lord as He passed through death and emerged victorious in life as the Lord of Life. And now, during this Easter season, we sing again of death and life in Luther’s great Easter hymn:

Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands for our offenses given;

But now at God’s right hand He stands and brings us life from heaven ...

It was a strange and dreadful strife when life and death contended;

The victory remained with life, the reign of death was ended.

(LSB #458, stanzas 1 and 4)

Life is who God is. And life is our inheritance and treasured gift as we live with Christ in God.

As we have received, so our Lord commands us to give, and to help and serve our neighbor. And what greater gift could there be than to help our neighbor by supporting his body and life — both spiritual and physical — and to advocate for life, especially on behalf of those who



are most vulnerable. That, too, is our *life together* in mission.

Toward this end, LCMS Life Ministry — a part of the Office of National Mission — has been encouraging each of the Synod’s 35 districts to identify a district life coordinator. The Kansas District joined this effort in 2015 and is now welcoming a new district life coordinator, the Rev. Matthew Durance (pastor of Bethlehem, Greenleaf), who recently succeeded the district’s initial appointee, the Rev. Jeff Duncan (pastor of St. Andrew’s, Wichita), in this volunteer office.

In his work as district life coordinator, Durance will work to build the network of LCMS members in the Kansas District who would like to learn more about life issues and how God’s Word speaks to many of the most-discussed issues in our society today. And he, together with our district leadership, will strive increasingly to assist the members of our district in their desire to speak up, in God’s name, for life.

During this joyful Eastertide, as we hear and sing of Him who has given us life, and given it abundantly, may we also increasingly appreciate how inseparably God’s gift of life is woven into the daily fabric of our lives. And living and working together as the body of Christ in mission, may we see this, too, as part of the mission: to confess life as God gives it in all its fullness and richness, both here in time and in eternity.



*The proclamation that our lives come from God is front and center in our confession that God who created us, sustains us, and who has numbered our days, took on our very flesh to redeem us because He loves us.”*

**Rev. Matthew Durance**, from his sermon for the Rally for Life, held in Topeka Jan. 22. In photo, Durance (center, black coat and stocking cap) is shown with a Kansas District group at the rally.

# DISTRICT CONVENTION



## 2018 Ballot Announced

The following individuals have been nominated for office in the Kansas District for the 2018-21 triennium. The Convention Nominating Committee continues to work (see positions marked with an asterisk). For updates, visit the convention webpage at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) (President's Office > 2018 District Convention).

### PRESIDENT

- ▶ Rev. Peter K. Lange

### VICE-PRESIDENT, Region 1

- ▶ Rev. J.S. Bruss – St. John's, Topeka
- ▶ Rev. Robert Leiste – Redeemer, Lawrence
- ▶ Rev. Mark Schulz – Trinity, Mission

### VICE-PRESIDENT, Region 2

- ▶ Rev. Justin Panzer – Faith, Abilene

### VICE-PRESIDENT, Region 3

- ▶ Rev. Geoffrey Boyle – Grace and Trinity, Wichita
- ▶ Rev. Scott Snow – Holy Cross, Wichita

### VICE-PRESIDENT, Region 4

- ▶ Rev. Rick Rostek – Immanuel, Norton

### SECRETARY

- ▶ Rev. David Meier – St. Paul's, Junction City
- ▶ Rev. Robert Weinkauff – Risen Savior, Basehor

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Lay Member, Region 1

- ▶ David Bruns, Christ, Overland Park
- ▶ Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence

#### Lay Member, Region 2

- ▶ David Meisinger – Grace, McPherson
- ▶ Richard Schotte – Immanuel, Bremen
- ▶ Dan Thalmann – St. John, Palmer

#### Lay Member, Region 3

- ▶ Chris Anderson – Holy Cross, Wichita
- ▶ Curtis Engelbrecht – Trinity, Wichita

#### Lay Member, Region 4

- ▶ Mark Wolters – Redeemer, Atwood

#### Lay Member at Large (3)

- ▶ Michael Bachelor – First, Sabetha
- ▶ Phillip Friedrichs – Bethlehem, Bremen



- ▶ Bruce Schultz – St. John, Alma
- ▶ Stephen Weller – Grace, McPherson

#### Commissioned Minister (3)

- ▶ Rick Hanebutt – Hope, Shawnee
- ▶ Sue Kleber – Holy Cross, Wichita
- ▶ Jeremy Pera – St. Paul, Clay Center

### DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Clergy (3; no two from same region)\*

- ▶ Rev. Stan Palmer (Reg. 4) – Zion, Offerle and Our Redeemer, Kinsley
- ▶ Rev. Jacob Sherry (Reg. 2) – St. John, Palmer
- ▶ Rev. Alan Stahlecker (Reg. 2) – St. John's, Lincolnville

#### Commissioned Minister (1)

- ▶ Kelly Dressler – Trinity, Atchison
- ▶ Sue Kleber – Holy Cross, Wichita
- ▶ Jeremy Pera – St. Paul, Clay Center

#### Lay Member, Region 1

- ▶ Keith Gloe – Beautiful Savior, Olathe
- ▶ Marvin Schulteis – Redeemer, Lawrence

#### Lay Member, Region 2

- ▶ C.J. Cross – Trinity, Salina
- ▶ Richard Schotte – Immanuel, Bremen
- ▶ Stephen Weller – Grace, McPherson

#### Lay Member, Region 3\*

#### Lay Member, Region 4

- ▶ Dave Bergmeier – Holy Cross, Dodge City

### SYNOD NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- ▶ Curtis Engelbrecht – Trinity, Wichita
- ▶ Victor Martin Schimming – Immanuel, Wichita
- ▶ Marvin Schulteis – Redeemer, Lawrence

### CIRCUIT VISITORS

*Slate to be ratified by the convention*

#### Region 1

- ▶ Rev. Michael Dunaway, Circuit 1
- ▶ Rev. Jason Boetcher, Circuit 2
- ▶ Rev. Joel Schultz, Circuit 3N
- ▶ Rev. James (Andy) Keltner, Circuit 3S
- ▶ Rev. Don Haselhuhn, Circuit 4
- ▶ Rev. J.S. Bruss, Circuit 6

#### Region 2

- ▶ Rev. Paul Tessaro, Circuit 7
- ▶ Rev. Larry Boye, Circuit 8
- ▶ Rev. Clark Davis, Circuit 9
- ▶ Rev. Dale Dumperth, Circuit 12

#### Region 3

- ▶ Rev. Dan Ramsey, Circuit 5
- ▶ Rev. Thomas Harmon, Circuit 10
- ▶ Rev. Tom Johnson, Circuit 11

#### Region 4

- ▶ Rev. Luke Brown, Circuit 13
- ▶ Rev. Michael Schmidt, Circuit 15
- ▶ Rev. Warren Prochnow, Circuit 16

## Snow is distinguished teacher

**Debra Snow**, kindergarten teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, received the 2018 KAIRS (Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools) Distinguished Teacher Award for Lutheran schools during the KAIRS Hall of Fame Banquet, held Feb. 12 at the Maner Conference Center in Topeka. The award, given annually, honors educators for exemplary service in the classroom or as administrators.

Holy Cross Principal Karen Boettcher nominated Snow, stating: "Deb continually tries to improve her instruction and wants to learn new ways of teaching. She recently presented a session on classroom management for the purpose of helping other teachers."

In her acceptance speech, Snow spoke about the joys of teaching at a Christian school. "As teachers we've been given talents and gifts by God to do what we do, but God also places us in schools and communities where we are blessed," Snow said. "I love teaching kindergart-



Holy Cross kindergarten teacher Deb Snow, left, accepts her KAIRS teaching award as Principal Karen Boettcher looks on.

eners at Holy Cross. I enjoy witnessing their sweet spirits, their innocent faith in their Savior, their excitement in learning and their boundless energy."

KAIRS is now in its 48th year, representing more than 140 Lutheran, Catholic and other non-public schools. In the past 14 years, Holy Cross has been blessed to have seven teachers recognized by KAIRS for outstanding teaching.



*Well done, good and faithful servant*

Following service on the third Sunday after Epiphany, organist **Lois Stohs** received love, thanks and appreciation from the congregation of St. John, Westphalia, for more than 50 years of faithful service. She was presented with a picture memorial, flowers, a card shower and many heartfelt words of thanksgiving to our Lord for providing St. John with such a talented and faithful servant. Stohs served from December 1966 until her final service on Christmas morning (2017). She is pictured with the Rev. Timothy Heath, St. John pastor, and Lyle Fischer, elder.

## Christ welcomes new youth director



Director of Christian Education **Korey Danley** was installed at Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park, on Jan. 28. Danley will serve as the senior high youth ministry director and join DCEs Brent Howard and Katie Morgan on the children's and youth ministry staff. From left, Howard, Morgan, Danley and Kansas District Education Executive Jim Bradshaw, who participated in the installation.

## Kerns installed as chaplain



**The Rev. Douglas Scot Kerns II** recently accepted a call to serve as an active duty chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. Kerns was installed Feb. 24 at St. Paul's, Lincoln, where he has served as pastor since August 2013. From left, (front row) the Revs. Chris Craig, Jim Judson, Kerns, Peter Lange (district president); (back row) Ben Siebert, Gary Wolf, Michael Schmidt and Luke Brown.

## Rally to highlight student ministries

One 8 LLL/LHM will host a program on the Kansas State University student ministries of St. Luke's, Manhattan, at its Spring Rally, to be held from 3 to 6:30 p.m. on April 29 at St. Luke's

Liz Beikmann, facilitator for Helping International Students (HIS) and International Student Ministry, Inc. (ISM, Inc.) at St. Luke's, will speak on the congregation's ministry to international students. According to Beikmann, most of the international students identify as atheists, yet they've heard of St. Luke's Host Family Ministry and are anxious to participate.

Student leaders of Kansas State's LCMS U campus ministry will discuss their ministry at



KSU under the leadership of the Rev. King Crawford.

Kansas State students hit the ice at a recent Helping International Students (HIS) event.



Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the KSU student ministry at St. Luke's and join them for an evening meal afterward, provided by a Trivent Action Team grant.



### SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Send stories and photos to:

- > [kbruss@kslcms.org](mailto:kbruss@kslcms.org)
- > 785-357-5071 (fax)
- > Lutheran Witness Editor  
LCMS Kansas District,  
1000 S.W. 10th Ave.,  
Topeka, KS 66604

The deadline for the June-July issue is April 13.

Photos should be in high-resolution with a minimum 300 dpi.



Laborers rest on a ridge beam in Macungie, Penn., during the construction of an 11,000 square foot addition at Concordia Lutheran Church.

## Looking for a Satisfying Next Chapter of Your Life?

When you join Laborers For Christ, you'll travel the country working on projects that help LCMS ministries save on construction costs. You'll also forge life-long friendships as you become part of the host congregation.

You don't need a particular skill. Just a desire to work with fellow Christians for the glory of God.

To view future projects and learn more about Laborers For Christ, visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) or call 314-885-6444.

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
> where investments build ministry