



# DISTRICT NEWS

## KANSAS

### *Life Together* in the new triennium

Dear Friends in Christ,

A new triennium is now underway in the Kansas District. We've installed new officers. We've oriented our new Board of Directors. And we've started incorporating convention resolutions into a strategic plan, which will serve as a guiding document for our "Life Together in Mission" for the next few years.



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

So what will that *life together* look like? Ideally, it looks a lot like the church at Philippi.

If you were at the district convention in June, you heard all about that. If you weren't (and that's most of you), I offer here a recap that highlights our three overarching aims for *life together* in the Kansas District, all of which echo Paul's own vision for the community of believers at Philippi.

#### 1. Support one another

Paul writes in Phil. 4:13:

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

He then adds:

"Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the Gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into



partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit."

(14-17)

Paul's work — like the work of all our members in the Kansas District — is to share the Good News of the crucified and risen Christ. It's a blessing to be able to share that news. But it's also a challenge.

Our delegates passed 29 resolutions at the convention, many of which are directly aimed at providing support and resources to congregations and workers.

Those resolutions include:

- ▶ Prioritizing new models and re-

sources for small, struggling and/or isolated congregations;

- ▶ Encouraging congregations to use Synod outreach materials, including *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality*;
- ▶ Supporting mission and mercy work in Guinea and West Africa;
- ▶ Supporting the well-being of professional church workers and their families.

Our mission, as a district, is to support and encourage our members — our workers, congregations and schools. That's why we're here. In this new triennium, we're going to retain what's worked well while looking for new opportunities to help.

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## KANSAS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM RESULTS



Sixth graders at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Wichita work with kindergarten students on coding. Holy Cross is one of 14 K-8 Lutheran schools in the Kansas District that participated in the 2017-18 Kansas Assessment Program.

# Kansas District schools **exceed** state averages

The results are in from the 2017-18 Kansas Assessment Program (KAP), and they're encouraging. Median scores for LCMS Kansas District schools in virtually all subjects and grade levels exceeded those of the state as a whole.

The KAP, developed by the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) at the University of Kansas, is a set of computerized tests in various subject areas that align with the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards and Kansas' content standards. The assessments are intended to provide a useful indicator of student learning while meeting state and federal accountability requirements.

Students in grades 3-8 were tested in mathematics

and English language arts; students in grades 5 and 8 were also tested in science. The assessments revealed not only higher median scores than the state average, but also several

areas in which Lutheran school students typically performed better than students who scored a minimum Level 3 (on a scale of 1-4). Those areas include revising, editing, and vocabulary and language usage, all of which are included in the English language arts assessment.

"The students and faculty members of our 14 Lutheran schools deserve words of praise as we celebrate the combined test scores posted recently from the 2017-18 Kansas state assessments," said Jim Bradshaw, district education executive. "They've made us proud. Well done!"



**"They've made us proud. Well done!"**

— *Jim Bradshaw, on the 14 district schools that participated in the state assessment program.*

## Offering will support **LeadaChild**

The worship offering at the 2018 Kansas District Educators Conference, scheduled for Oct. 14-16 in Salina, has been designated for LeadaChild (formerly Children's Christian Concern Society) in honor of its 50th anniversary.

LeadaChild, which shares the Good News of Jesus' love through Lutheran education sites all over the world, is one of three Kansas-based LCMS Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) in the Kansas District.

To learn more about LeadaChild and other RSOs and auxiliaries in the Kansas District, go to [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) and choose the "RSOs/Auxiliaries" page from the "About Us" menu.



Kansas District Education Executive Jim Bradshaw (left) with Dr. Phil Frusti, executive director of LeadaChild, at the organization's 50th anniversary gala earlier this spring.

## The Kansas District is now on Facebook!

Like our page to keep up with the latest news, events, photos and weekly prayers for congregations and schools.



[facebook.com/kslcms](https://facebook.com/kslcms)

# Election Results

for the 2018-21 triennium

**PRESIDENT**

› Rev. Peter K. Lange

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**

- › Rev. Justin Panzer (first)
- › Rev. Scott Snow (second)
- › Rev. Rick Rostek (third)
- › Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz (fourth)

**SECRETARY**

› Rev. David Meier

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- › David Bruns (Region 1)
- › Richard Schotte (Region 2)
- › Curtis Engelbrecht (Region 3)
- › Mark Wolters (Region 4)

**Lay at-large**

- › Bruce Schultz
- › David Meisinger
- › Marvin Schulteis



Newly elected members of the Kansas District Board of Directors, along with vice-presidents and circuit visitors, were installed at the close of the district convention in June.

**Commissioned**

- › Jeremy Pera
- › Rick Hanebutt
- › Sue Kleber

**DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Clergy**

- › Rev. Joshua Woelmer (Region 1)
- › Rev. Alan Stahlecker (Region 2)

› Rev. Stan Palmer (Region 4)

**Commissioned**

› Jeremy Pera

**Lay**

- › Marvin Schulteis (Region 1)
- › Richard Schotte (Region 2)
- › Brent Ostgren (Region 3)
- › Dave Bergmeier (Region 4)

**SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

› CJ Cross  
(alternate: Curt Engelbrecht)

**CIRCUIT VISITOR CHAIR**

› Rev. Paul Tessaro  
(Visit [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) for a full list of circuit visitors)

## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

**2. Foster unity**

We heard quite a bit about unity at our June convention. Scripture is filled with verses that encourage believers to walk together in Christ.

Philippians has its own share of those verses. In Phil. 1:27, for example, Paul writes:

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel.”

Our district is many parts, but one body. We don't have to do everything the same way. But we do need to be unified around a common center. That's what the Koinonia Project (Resolution 18-03-09) is designed to do.

The Koinonia Project, as you might know, involves group discussion of doctrine and practice, beginning with areas where we agree, but then also venturing into areas where we haven't always agreed. Participants share their views and look to Scripture and

the Lutheran Confessions for insight and guidance. In the last triennium, we tested the waters with a few small groups of pastors. Now we're ready to expand the project to include not only pastors, but other church workers and laypeople as well.

**3. Grow in Knowledge**

Our final aim is related to the first two, but it's worthy of being singled out on its own. As believers in Christ, we're charged not only with supporting one another and living in a spirit of unity, but also with being faithful witnesses.

To be a faithful witness, you need to know the faith.

Philippians has something to say about this too. In the first chapter, verse 9, Paul writes:

“It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and

blameless for the day of Christ.”

That's our prayer as well — that we would all grow in knowledge and discernment of the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

All of us have something to gain from reading — and reading again! — the basic texts that inform

our faith: Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

In the next triennium, we plan to encourage that kind of study to promote greater understanding, appreciation and confession of our Lutheran identity for the sake of a clear Gospel ministry to our 54,155 LCMS Kansans and for the sake of a clear Gospel-centered outreach to our communities.

As we pursue these goals in the Kansas District, we, like Paul, press on toward the ultimate end:

“for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:15)



# Worship at the State Fair!



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

SEPT. 9 | 10 A.M.  
BRETZ AND YOUNG LAW ARENA

The Kansas District LLL/LHM will host the 16th consecutive worship service at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

The worship service will be led by the Rev. Peter K. Lange, president of the Kansas District, and will also include the choir from Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, directed by Barbara Guey. There

will be a 20-minute hymn sing prior to the service.

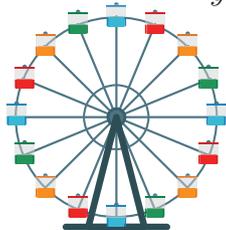
Start your Sept. 9 attendance at the fair in worship!

This is the also the 33rd consecutive year that the Kansas District LLL/LHM is hosting a booth located in the southwest corner of the Meadowlark Building. Contact Mike Tonn at 620-465-3435 or [tonn.mike@yahoo.com](mailto:tonn.mike@yahoo.com)

if you and/or your congregation can provide religious material or serve as a booth volunteer.

The 2018 Kansas State Fair is scheduled for Sept. 7-16.

Thank you and blessings to everyone who helps provide a LLL/LHM presence at the fair!



## 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 **October** issue is **Aug. 13**.

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

# 3.000%\*

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