



AUGUST 2020

Encourage one another ...

COVID-19? Campus ministries have a workaround for that. Pictured above: DCE Paige Edgington and Pastor Aaron Hannemann (2nd and 3rd from left) gather with students in Wichita for “Chill and Chat,” a weekly discussion group organized by Fairmount Ministries. The group listens to podcasts, then discusses them through the lens of Christianity. As colleges prepare to reopen in the fall, please keep all our campus ministries and students in your prayers.

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OUR MISSION is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

President's Office

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Jacob Heine – Christ The Rock, Rockford, IL to Faith, Topeka – pending
- Rev. Tyrel Bramwell – St. Mark's, Ferndale, CA to Faith, Abilene – pending
- Rev. Michael Hofmann – Trinity, Houston, TX to St. Paul, Clay Center – pending
- Rev. David Jacob – Military Chaplaincy to Immanuel, Hepler and Good Shepherd, Erie – pending
- Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer – The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills, AL to Faith, Ottawa – declined
- Rev. Richard Heinz – Concordia University, IL to Hope, Shawnee – declined
- Rev. Daniel Grimmer – Zion, Mitchell, SD to Faith, Abilene – declined
- Rev. Noah Fremer – Bethel, Lander, WY to Immanuel, Hepler and Good Shepherd, Erie – declined

Vicarage Assignments 2020-2021

- Brennick Christiansen (CTSFW) to Risen Savior, Basehor
- Jaron Melin (CSL) to Trinity, Girard
- Luke Elowsky (CSL) to Beautiful Savior, Olathe
- Nathan Speerbrecker (CSL) to Bethany, Overland Park

For weekly call updates, visit the [Calls and Vacancies](#) page of the Kansas District website. The list is updated every Tuesday (typically by 10 a.m.).

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

- Abilene, Faith (sole)
- Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)
- Erie, Good Shepherd and Hepler, Immanuel (sole)
- Herington, Our Redeemer (sole)
- Herington, Immanuel (Shady Brook) and Herington, St. John's (Lyon's Creek; sole)
- Ottawa, Faith (sole)
- Shawnee, Hope (senior)
- Topeka, Faith (senior and associate)
- T.I.G. Partnership (Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin and Grace, Ulysses; associate)
- Wathena, Christ (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- None at this time

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

- DCE Charity Smith – St. Luke's, Manhattan to St. Matthew, Lee's Summit, MO – pending
- DCE Tyler Tollefson – Lord of Life, Leawood to Salem, Tomball, TX – accepted
- Teacher Robyn Meyer – Green Bay Trinity School, Green Bay, WI to Linn Lutheran – accepted; installation Aug. 9
- Candidate Paige Borcharding – CUNE to Bethany, Overland Park – accepted; commissioning and installation August 9
- Teacher Robyn Gray – Trinity, Davenport, IA to St. John, Alma – accepted; installation August 9
- Teacher Karen Maxson – Grace, Sandy, UT to Holy Cross, Wichita – accepted; installation August 16
- Principal Steven Hobus – Lutheran Church of Messiah, Grand Junction, CO to Trinity, Atchison – accepted, installation August 16

District Welcomes New Workers



The District welcomed 19 new workers—including pastors, vicars, and educators—along with several spouses at New Worker Orientation July 24, which was held entirely online via Zoom. In the morning, staff provided an overview of the various service areas of the District, and in the afternoon, participants returned for ministry-specific sessions. One big difference with the virtual context: We weren't able to snap our customary group photo, which would usually appear in this issue. So we'll give you the next best option: A "Brady Bunch" Zoom screen. We look forward to future in-person meetings with all of our workers!

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COVID-19 UPDATE: Living with Hope

The following article, written by the Rev. Neil Buono, is the first in a series of pandemic-related wellness pieces offered by members of the Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee. Although church workers are the immediate audience, the advice offered can benefit all readers.

Once upon a time, in the land of Oz, a faithful young pastor awoke in the middle of the night in a cold sweat. In his dream he had imagined that like Dorothy in the story, he was being taken aloft in a swirling maelstrom of a storm. He watched his life pass by him and then, when he came crashing to the ground in his dream, he awoke startled and disoriented. After several minutes he collected himself and then thought, "Well, at least I survived the tornado. I wonder if I'll survive this pandemic!"

He is not alone in wondering what will become of us. We know, by faith, ultimately what will become of us. But that's not really what's troubling today. It's the uncertainty of living. We know how to manage a tornado here in Kansas. How much experience do we have managing a virus? And not just any virus. This virus is an unknown. On a worldwide scale. Occurring in the context of a post-modern world where a standard against which to measure what is true about this is elusive. No wonder a tornado seems manageable.

Many of us church workers are experiencing the symptoms of traumatic stress, absent the trauma. Indifference. Apathy. Fatigue. Acting out. Hypervigilance. Anger. Anxiety. Impatience. Fear. One of the most helpful things to combat traumatic stress is community support, and we are living in the world of virtual community now. No wonder so many with responsibility for others are shutting down. It's too much uncertainty, too little trustworthy information, and too much stress. No wonder we're a mess! The pastor in the land of Oz longed for a tornado he could understand and contend with.

On top of it all, our people look to us for guidance and encouragement. Really, it's not so much answers they are looking for as examples for how to live with this situation. So here goes: My top 5 for managing our faithful selves in the midst of the pandemic.

1. **Embrace the uncertainty.** Honestly, it's the existential reality of life on this side of eternity. We've lost sight of that because we are 21st-century Americans who can control almost anything and who have most of everything. But the reality is that we control nothing, and we know that, but it's so easy when life is going well to forget that. We live by faith. Always. Remind yourself of that. Every day. Many times throughout the day.
2. **Stick to routines that work and when a new routine is needed, develop one.** It's easy to forget about self-care when stressed and traumatized. But it's self-care that enables us to regain our resilience. So do



those things that work for you and do those things consistently and regularly. The basics done well will carry the day. Here are some examples of self-care basics:

- a. Take medication daily as prescribed.
 - b. Drink lots of water throughout the day.
 - c. Exercise more days than not during the week.
 - d. Eat healthy more days than not during the week.
 - e. Set aside quiet time daily for prayer and meditation.
 - f. Do something for yourself that recharges your emotional and spiritual battery.
3. **Give yourself permission to be imperfect and to be without answers.** Church workers are the leaders with answers. We don't have answers to a lot of this, but we do have the answer to what matters. So be comfortable letting others know more than you and be even more comfortable with others knowing a lot less than you. We are in uncertain times. Choose a course of action and let go of the need for it to be right. Make the best decision you can with the information you have. In Shawnee County, my reality check has been comparing the COVID-19 death count with the homicide count in the capital city. Believe it or not, they are running neck-and-neck. That helps me remember that while this pandemic is no laughing matter and deadly serious, there are other ongoing serious issues as well. What did our Lord say? Remember that there will be wars and rumors of wars until the end. And the apostle Paul said, these are but the birth pangs of the new creation.
4. **Stop and laugh from time to time at the beauty and humor of this fallen world.** It's still God's world. And it will be broken until He comes again, so find the beauty in it even though it's really a big mess right now. And remember it could be worse. What if we have no football this fall?!
5. **Cherish and nourish the relationships you have and guard against the inevitable pull of isolation,** which seems safe but is horribly perilous. We can endure anything if we can find purpose in it and if we can go through it with others.

Circling back to the pastor in the land of Oz, he recalled later that the heart of the Dorothy narrative was seeing old things in a new way. It's not so much the thing itself that's the problem. It's what we tell ourselves about it. Finding a new and creative way to see our world now is one way to remain healthy, hopeful and faithful. The One who called us is faithful. He will do it.

Rev. Dr. Neil Buono
Pastoral Counselor, LCMFT
LCMS Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee



COMING IN SEPTEMBER: "90 Days of Prayer"

On September 1, we'll be kicking off "90 Days of Prayer," a collective response to God's invitation: "Call upon me in the day of trouble" (Ps. 50:15). The prayers, developed by our District's circuit visitors and regional vice-presidents, will be posted on our Kansas District Facebook page and on our website (kslcms.org). We encourage you to pray them, share them, and take comfort in them. *(Photo courtesy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)*

Save the Date: 2021 Life Ministry Conference

The 2021 Kansas District Life Conference will be held Friday, January 22 at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Topeka from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer, professor and chair of the Exegetical Department at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), will be the keynote speaker, and we will also be participating in the March for Life at the state capitol building. For more information on the conference and other local issues, check the [Life Ministry page](#) of the Kansas District website.



Free Virtual Reconciliation Conference

Momentum is building for the [Best Practices in Reconciliation Ministry Virtual Conference!](#) Please join us for the first ever online reconciliation conference! Let's come together online as a global community of reconcilers to rejoice, reconnect and refresh!

We'll have dozens of [great speakers](#) and even more workshops from which to choose – all for FREE! Check out these terrific workshop tracks:



- **Introduction** to reconciliation and peacemaking
- **Foundational** for those trained in coaching and/or mediation to improve their skills
- **Advanced** for experienced reconcilers serving the most difficult cases
- **Specialized** workshops covering specific areas of reconciliation services such as family, marriage and church conflicts
- **International** to see how the ministry of reconciliation is reaching across the globe
- **Race Relations** for workshops applying peacemaking and reconciliation principles to this important topic
- **My Personal Track** - this is NEW and FOR YOU! Customize your own track of workshops to include those that interest you most!

All workshops will be presented as webinars throughout the month of August and into September! Attend for FREE or purchase recording packages if you can't attend the live presentations. [Sign up today!](#)

We look forward to serving you. Thank you in advance for being an Ambassador of Reconciliation!

In Christ's service,

Dwight Schettler
President

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August Staff Travel Schedule

President Justin Panzer

- Aug. 9** Groundbreaking, Beautiful Savior, Olathe
Aug. 16 Preaching at Immanuel and Bethlehem Mission Festival, Bremen
Aug. 18 Circuit 15 Winkel, Plainville

Rev. Dan Galchutt

- Aug. 9** Worship at St. John, Moundridge

Jim Bradshaw

- Aug. 2** Rachel Weinhold Installation (TLS), St. John's, Topeka
Aug. 9 Paige Borcharding Commissioning and Installation, Bethany, Overland Park
Aug. 9 Robyn Meyer Installation, Linn Lutheran School
Aug. 16 Steve Hobus Installation, Trinity, Atchison
Aug. 23 Teachers Dedication, Hope, Shawnee
Aug. 26 School Board Training, Trinity, Winfield
Aug. 30 Terry Vanwey Retirement, Holy Cross, Wichita

ON THE ROAD IN JULY



St. Luke's in Manhattan held opening worship in its new building July 19. The building is Phase 1 of a three-phase plan, which includes a sanctuary in Phase 3.



This month, we ask that you keep in your prayers:

- ❖ **Those grieving the loss of loved ones**, including
 - The family of Rev. Thomas Van der Bloemen, pastor emeritus, who was called to his heavenly home August 3
 - Debbie Crites (former District Business Manager) and family at the death of her mother, Linda Friedrichs, July 29
 - The family of Rev. Glenn Bitter, pastor emeritus, who was called to glory July 22
 - Business Manager Heather Williams and family at the death of her grandmother, LaDonna Pflieger, July 11
 - Rev. Bob and Gayle Grimm and family at the death of Gayle's father, Fred Bartley, June 5
- ❖ **Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues**, including Rev. Larry Boye, Richard Schotte, Rev. Scott Snow, Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke, Diane Harries, Rev. Richard Andrus, Rev. Dave Meier, Marilyn Zimmerman, Judy May, and Sarah Reichert
- ❖ **Those affected by the coronavirus**, including our Synod, districts, congregations, schools, and organizations; government leaders, health care workers, and other essential workers; and those dealing with isolation, illness, loss, or unemployment
- ❖ **Churches and schools on our [Facebook](#) prayer list in August:**
 - Christ, Wathena, this week
 - St. Paul, Leavenworth (church and school), August 10
 - Trinity, Paola, August 17
 - Zion, Independence (church and school), August 24
 - Zion, Linn (church and school association), August 31

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District Calendar (Find the full District calendar on the website [HERE](#).)

AUGUST

- 3** Educators Conference Planning Meeting, 1–3 p.m.
- 8** Adult Education Committee, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- 10** CV/VP Meeting, 10–11 a.m.
- 16** Children and Family Life Committee, 4–5:30 p.m.
- 17** Convention Planning Meeting, District Office, noon–3 p.m.
- 18** Topeka DCE Meeting, District Office
- 25** Older Adult Committee, 1–3 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 7** Labor Day: District Office closed
- 10** Pastors Conference Planning Meeting
- 12** District Youth Ministry Committee, District Office, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- 14–15** LCMS Council of Presidents
- 16** Lutheran Schools Committee, District Office, 5 p.m.
- 17–18** Principals Conference, District Office (10 a.m.–4 p.m. Thursday; 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Friday)



Convention Reminder

Circuit visitor nomination forms need to be returned to your circuit visitor in preparation for upcoming circuit forums, typically held in the fall. Check with your CV about the date of your forum.

Missions and Stewardship

Special Focus: Campus Ministry

Our August Lutheran Witness insert (pictured to the right) includes a profile of college student Trey Duffey, who found a new church home away from home in Salina. The companion piece below comes from Duffey's pastor in Salina, Rev. Mark Boxman.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One year ago, two 87-year-old members volunteered to represent our congregation at Kansas Wesleyan University's community fair. As pastor, I explained, "If you can find two Lutheran students, I'll start a college fellowship/Bible study group."

God works in wonderful ways! Dean and Betty not only found enough students for us to begin a college ministry, they have received new Christian friends into their lives. Betty's fresh-baked cookies are the springboard for a weekly feast of food, fellowship and Bible study, serving lifelong Lutherans and anyone else who wants to attend.

The Lord has enabled our congregation, with great joy, to walk side-by-side with college students through these critical, faith-challenging years.

When our students return to worship in August, our congregation will be filled with smiles, hugs and handshakes, as our friends in Christ, separated from us for five months, grace us with their energetic and joyful presence. Then, on Wednesday evenings, our home will be alive with the Spirit of Christ as His grace brings together a community of college-aged saints.

A few additional thoughts:

- **Pastors**, speak to your departing college students about attending an LCMS church in their college town. Ask for permission to share a cell-phone number with that church's pastor. (*See note below.*)
- **Parents**, pray for your son or daughter. Talk to them about how to walk into a church full of strangers. If possible, on the first Sunday your son or daughter is at college, attend church with them. Don't plan to spend the whole day with them. They have things to do and many new people to meet. Just meet them at church for one hour.
- **Students**, take the initiative. Go to church the first week you're away at college. Don't be shy. Introduce yourself to the pastor and others. Give the pastor your cell number. You will be blessed by being there, but through you God will bless that congregation.
- **Receiving congregation**, pray that God will open the door for you to meet and serve college students. Be prepared for college students to arrive in your town and to walk in the door on Sunday morning. Greet them. Get to know them. Invite them to join you for lunch after worship. Offer a college fellowship and Bible study with plenty of food. Most of all, enjoy!



NEW ON THE WEB!

We've just added a **student contact form** on the [Campus Ministry page](https://kslcms.org) of kslcms.org. Please encourage students and parents to take a minute to fill out the form, and we'll get the information to the right place.

Apply for a Mission Grant



Each year, the Kansas District aims to use 10% of congregational receipts to support mission grants, which support a wide variety of outreach activities. One example: Hispanic ministry efforts at Grace, Wichita (pictured to the left). On July 26, seven individuals, including two adults, were baptized at Grace, and 10 were confirmed in the faith. Thanks be to God!

The application period for 2021 grants is now open. If you have an idea for a mission project and could use some help making it a reality, we invite you to submit an [application](#). **Applications are due September 28.** If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dan Galchutt, dangalchutt@kslcms.org or Janet Powell, janet@kslcms.org.

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Webinar: Surviving Student Debt

From Concordia Plan Services: “Back-to-school” will look very different this year for everyone. And while you may not be a student anymore, back to school may create feelings of anxiety, especially if you have outstanding student loans.



A better understanding of your student loans is essential to managing your overall finances, and we can help! Join us for a [webinar](#), **Surviving Student Debt**, on Thurs., Aug. 13, at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. CST. Our Financial Educators will talk about ways to understand your student loans, how they fit into your financial picture, repayment options and Vault (our student debt repayment advisor).

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Education & Youth

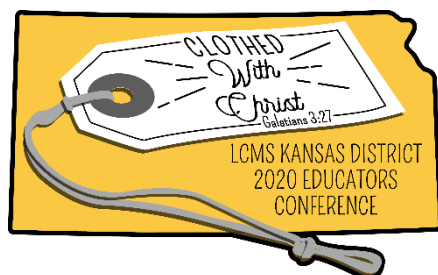
2020 Church Worker Conferences: Registration Now Open



Pastors Conference

October 4-6, 2020 | Junction City (Marriott)

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, president of the LCMS Minnesota South District, will be delivering six keynote sessions at the [Pastors Conference](#). The first three keynotes are grouped under the theme, “Worker Care: The Care of Souls—Yours and Theirs. The second series is titled: “Body Matters: Considerations on the Theology of the Body.”



Educators Conference

October 12-13, 2020 | VIRTUAL

The [Educators Conference](#), for all active and retired educators, will be conducted virtually. The keynote speaker is Ted Kober, Senior Ambassador for Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR). Kober will present three sessions, and a variety of sectionals will be offered.

Registration for both conferences is now open. You can find a link to conference registration and an event packet with a schedule, presenter information, and sectional descriptions on the conference event pages on kslcms.org. Click the links highlighted above or visit the homepage and look for the conference logos.

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Conference Offering to Support Worker Care

The 2020 Pastors and Educators Conference offerings have been designated for the District Church Worker Care Fund. All congregations and/or schools are highly encouraged to designate September's Sunday School/chapel offerings for this fund, which has historically assisted both pastors and educators, spouses and their families in addressing a variety of unforeseen emergency worker needs. The goal for this special appeal is to invite each District school/congregation to raise a minimum of \$50. Please set aside the month of September for this challenge!

Designated offerings should be made payable to the LCMS Kansas District with "District Church Worker Care Fund" in the memo line and mailed to the District Office at 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604. You can also donate your offerings online on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/business-office/donate/>.

Reopening Plans: Lutheran Schools

Last spring, our Kansas District Lutheran schools had to change course quickly after school buildings were closed and learning moved online. School leaders have used that experience, along with available guidelines, to make adjustments for the 2020-21 school year.

One of those adjustments has been determining a reopening date. Here's what the schedule looks like for our Kansas Lutheran schools:



St. Paul's, Cheney: Aug. 13
Zion, Independence: Aug. 14
St. Paul, Leavenworth: Aug. 17
St. John, Alma: Aug. 18
Bethany, Overland Park: Aug. 18
Faith, Derby: Aug. 19
Linn Lutheran School: Aug. 19

Christ, Overland Park: Aug. 19
Hope, Shawnee: Aug. 20
Trinity, Winfield: Aug. 24
Good Shepherd, Marysville: Aug. 26
Holy Cross, Wichita: Sept. 2
Trinity, Atchison: Sept. 2
Topeka Lutheran School: Sept. 3

School leaders have prepared for reopening by taking necessary steps to create a safe and comfortable learning environment for all students. Their plans, which incorporate guidelines adopted by the Kansas State Department of Education, reflect a combination of local health guidelines and an understanding of what is practical and achievable daily with grade school children.

Adaptations include the use of common spaces, management of classroom transitions, and set-up of classroom spaces. Student desks have been repositioned to provide additional space between students throughout the day. Students are being invited to bring their own reusable water bottle to avoid using communal drinking fountains. Facilities have enhanced sanitation protocols, including hand sanitizing stations in each classroom. There will likely be a marked reduction in the number of non-school groups using school facilities.

School families have been asked to make plans for students who are ill to stay home. Families are encouraged to avoid recreational travel to and from states that have outbreaks identified by the CDC. Parents who travel to designated 'hotspots' identified by local health authorities are asked to avoid in-person visits to our schools. Families are also asked to commit to self-screening practices.

Adults and staff of our Lutheran schools intend to operate in good faith adherence to mask guidance issued by the state and local health authorities. Managing the particulars of that guidance will be a learning process. Our schools are places of grace, and we invite understanding as this takes place.

As we continue to address additional details related to keeping our children and staff safe during in-person lessons throughout this school year, please know that our schools are prepared to move to remote-only models as a contingency plan, should there be a compelling immediate health crisis.

Any decisions made by our Lutheran schools are always intended with the best interests of staff, students and families in mind. We all remain committed to equipping the next generation of Christ-like servant leaders!

New Preschool Director Installed

Amy Hoytal, pictured with Kansas District Education Executive Jim Bradshaw (left) and Intentional Interim Minister Rev. Rocky Mease, was installed as director of Prince Peace Lutheran Preschool in Topeka July 5, 2020.



Early Childhood Workshop

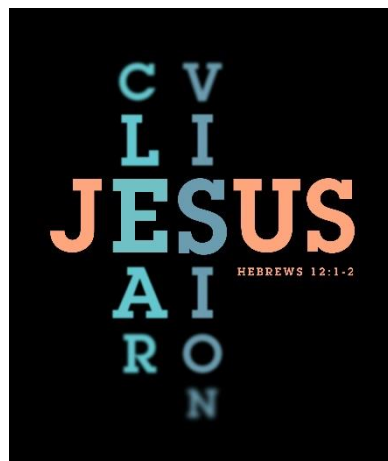
Sixty early childhood workers across the Kansas District participated in a virtual workshop with the theme, "God is the Strength of My Heart" (Psalm 73:26) on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Dr. Marianne Gibbs served as the keynote speaker. Many thanks to Jo Ann Emerson (preschool director) and the staff of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission and Shawnee, for hosting the event.

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Event Updates: Junior High Rallies; KDYG



For those of you who are used to talking about Junior High Rallies in the plural, take note: This year, due to ongoing pandemic concerns, **there will be one single Junior High Rally, which will be held in person October 2-3 at the West Rally location, Shepherd's Staff in Rexford.** The decision to cancel the East Rally wasn't easy, but event planners determined it was in the best interests of everyone involved. The safety of participants is a high priority! All LCMS Kansas youth in grades 5-9 are invited to attend the Junior High Rally in Rexford. A registration brochure with additional details will be available soon on the Youth Ministry page of ks/lcms.org.



KDYG is going digital for 2020! Join us online for a one-day event on Saturday, November 21 with our band, Bread of Stone, and speaker Pastor Scott Giger as we look at our theme, "Clearer Vision" from Hebrews 12:1-2. Join us as we walk through what it means to have our eyes truly fixed on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, and run with perseverance the race marked out before us!

More information will be available soon on the KDYG page on the Kansas District website. Registration opens Tuesday, September 15!

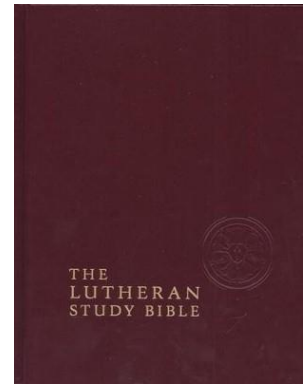
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CFLC Recommends: The Lutheran Study Bible

Rachel Goodpasture, Children's and Family Life Committee

The month of August brings a new school year, and with that, new routines. A great routine to start this month is being in God's Word both individually and as a family. One great resource to help you with being in God's Word daily is the Bible, specifically [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) (ESV), published by Concordia Publishing House. *The Lutheran Study Bible* is the first Bible in English with distinctly Lutheran notes.

The Lutheran Study Bible includes a helpful section entitled, "How to Read and Study the Bible." It also includes a two-year reading plan that has you reading a couple chapters of the Bible six days a week. This is a great way to kick-start getting yourself into the Word. For further study and devotion there are also notes and prayers throughout the Bible. Reading the lessons for the Sunday coming up is a great way to be prepared for church, and this Bible also includes the one-year and three-year lectionary plans. In the front of the Bible you will find colored maps from Bible times. Throughout the rest of the Bible there are other maps for your reference. The beginning of each book has an introduction that includes an overview, some background, challenges for readers, blessings for readers, and an outline. This Bible is full of commentary to help Christians at any point in their faith journey become more mature.



How can you use all of this with your family? Another bright spot in *The Lutheran Study Bible* is that the entire Small Catechism is included at the front. Luther wrote the Small Catechism in simple words so parents could teach it to their children. Focus on a little bit of the Catechism each day. You can also use a children's Bible to study alongside *The Lutheran Study Bible*. Arch Books are another great resource to teach the Bible to your children. As teachers of the faith, we will never be perfect in our biblical knowledge or presentation, but the Spirit will give us just what we need to instruct our children in the ways of the Lord. He is faithful and He will do it!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *How to Read the Bible with Understanding*, CPH, \$14.99
- Kids' Bibles
 - *My Very First Holy Bible*, Ages 5-12, CPH, \$29.99
 - *My First Bible Story Book*, Ages 2+, CPH, \$14.99
 - *The Growing in Faith Bible*, Ages 8-10, CPH, \$29.99
 - *The Story Bible*, Ages 3-8, CPH, \$29.99
- Arch Books, CPH, \$2.99 each (or can buy treasuries)
- *Lutheran Life*: Bible Reading Issue, CPH, FREE!

Caring Ministry

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator

While it seems like most folks and/or organizations are treading water waiting for COVID-19 to pass, your Disaster Response office in St. Louis has continued to work, develop and adapt. Some of their projects include:

- Writing and rewriting LERT curriculum, specifically chainsaw training material;
- Developing and sharing policies regarding youth as LERT volunteers; and
- Searching for reliable software to track volunteers.

In the midst of all of this work, there have been some changes with the staff, namely the addition of Rev. Robert Wurst as volunteer manager. I'd like to introduce the three individuals in the Disaster Response office in St. Louis so you know who they are and what they do.



The Rev. Ross E. Johnson was installed as director of LCMS Disaster Response in 2013. Rev. Johnson oversees the church's comprehensive Disaster Response program, including planning, training and implementing immediate and long-term responses to help people in the aftermath of disastrous events wherever they occur.



The Rev. Michael Meyer began serving as manager of LCMS Disaster Response in 2013; he now holds the position of director of Disaster Response training. Among Meyer's responsibilities are oversight of the LCMS District Disaster Response Program, in which he works with volunteer District Disaster Response Coordinators (DDRCs) to ensure ongoing disaster readiness training and preparation among LCMS districts, congregations, international staff and partner churches worldwide.



The Rev. Robert Wurst Jr. recently joined the Disaster Response team as volunteer manager. LERT volunteers are organized at the district level and trained in many aspects of disaster response so that they can be rapidly deployed when disasters strike. Describing LERT's organizational structure, Wurst noted: "The LERT program is focused in our congregations so that we can help each other and our neighbors in close conjunction with Word and Sacrament ministry. It is Disaster Response's task to come alongside, give guidance and encouragement, and offer training and resources so that this can be done efficiently" ([Reporter online](#), Feb. 5, 2020).

To learn more about the Synod's Disaster Response program and resources, visit the [Disaster Response webpage](#) at [lcms.org](#).

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Older Adult Ministry News

Tom Perry, Older Adult Ministry Committee Chair

The Kansas District has created a new committee to focus on the encouragement and support of ministry to our congregations' older adults. The committee was formed in response to findings of the Older Adult Task Force, which met and wrote an extensive report in 2019. Although we have not been able to meet in person, God has blessed us with technology which has enabled us to meet and plan via Zoom meetings. We have had several meetings already and are proceeding with steps to help with Older Adult Ministry in our congregations.



We are encouraging each congregation to select a contact person for Older Adult Ministry. Please send your contact name to Janet Powell at janet@kslcms.org as soon as possible. We are beginning to work with ALOA to find resources and ideas for congregations. We have also initiated an [Older Adult Ministry webpage](#) on the Kansas District website. This page incorporates the former Saints Alive page, as the committee will be working closely with this wonderful and ongoing organization. On the site you will see items we believe to be of value to our older adults as well as a link to the Senior Ministry page on the website of Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, which might serve as an example and a source for additional resources. Many thanks go out to Kris Bruss for her work on the Older Adult webpage.

As the committee moves forward, you will receive additional information and resources. God has blessed His church with people who are experienced in working in the church and faithful in study of the Word. There is no age limit on being a productive member of God's kingdom. Older adults are the fastest rising demographic group in our church today. Please consider how God is calling you to help spread the Gospel message.

If you have questions or comments, I would love to hear from you. My email address is Tom@tlcms.org.

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AROUND KANSAS

RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

"So many resolutions. Do they ever get done?"

That question appeared in an evaluation of the 2018 Kansas District Convention, where delegates passed 28 resolutions. On these pages, we offer a progress report, outlining resolutions that were completed at the convention. Yes, resolutions DO get done.



KOINONIA PROJECT (03-09)

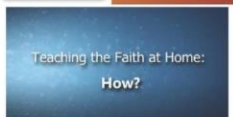
A nine-member Koinonia Task Force has established plans to continue and broaden the Koinonia Project, designed to foster theological unity. Koinonia is scheduled to be a topic at the 2020 Pastors Conference, 2021 Pre-Lent Conference, and at one additional event in 2021.

CHURCH WORKER CARE (02-02 and 03-01)

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY (04-09)

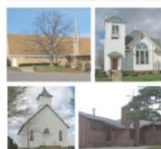
TEACHING THE FAITH AT HOME (03-04)

Pictured at right: The Church Worker Care Team Guide (being pilot tested), Older Adult Ministry Report (released late 2019), and a video from the "Thinking the Faith in the Home" series (recorded fall 2018). These resources were developed in response to the convention resolutions above.



SANCTITY OF LIFE (02-01)

The Kansas District increased attention to life issues in the last triennium through activities including the Kansas District Life Conference (pictured above) and support for the "Value Them Both" amendment, which came before the Kansas legislature in 2020.



CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (01-04)

Closing this summer, resources to help congregations interested in exploring a possible partnership with one or more other congregations like the churches of the Northeast Kansas Partnership, pictured above. We've developed a step-by-step process to help congregations consider their options.

SUPPORT FOR WEST AFRICA (01-03)

Quick fact: In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, gifts from Kansas for Togo and Central/West Africa, including contributions to the annual Poverty Offering, totaled over \$60,000. Thank you for your support!

AROUND KANSAS



Be it resolved: To encourage ...

Many of the 2018 convention resolutions "encourage" action. The district has responded to those priority topics by getting the word out in publications, on the website, during visits to schools and congregations, at circuit weeks and at district events.

01-01 Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Support Mission Work Through The Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund

✓ Annual Report on Offering established.

01-02 Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Use Synod Outreach Materials (see Website and Every One His Witness)

✓ Funding set aside for grants to congregations. Order of Kansas congregations have used the materials, with many reporting success in reaching new people.

01-05 Encourage Congregations to Work Together to Plant Churches

✓ Kansas City area congregations supporting a possible plant in Des Moines, Iowa. Supporting planting activity in the Synod area, Concordia and Wichita.

01-06 Encourage Congregations to Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies

✓ Working to pioneer new resources with the LCMS Foundation.

02-03 Encourage Greater Use of the Kansas District Retreat Center

✓ Article in the Kansas edition of The Lutheran Witness highlighting features and improvements.

02-04 Encourage Congregations to Increase Support for Church Worker Scholarship Fund and Educational Loan Repayment

✓ Annual Act of Worship day offering supports this cause.

02-05 Encourage Pastors and Congregations to Provide District-Contracted, Comprehensive Care to Those with Mental Illnesses and Disorders

✓ Programing offered at worker conferences.

03-02 Encourage Congregations to Welcome Visitors from Their Vicar

✓ Encouraged at worker conferences.

03-05 Encourage the Use of Concordia Publishing House Materials in Kansas District Preschools and Early Learning Centers

✓ Survey conducted of new long-term materials.

03-06 Encourage Congregations to Use Synod, District and LCMS Stewardship Resources

✓ Resources and resources promoted.

03-07 Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Use Kansas District's Salary Guidelines in Their Compensation Planning

✓ Addressed in visits, meetings and call process consultation.

03-08 Encourage Congregational Participation in the Church's Plan with Concordia Plan Services

✓ Addressed in visits, meetings and call process consultation.

04-05 Encourage Congregational Training of Leaders for Ministry with Children, Youth and Adults

✓ Youth Ministry Task Force established report presented in 2020.

04-07 Encourage Colloquy or Other Educational Tracks for Non-Rostered Teachers to be Incorporated into Lutheran Theology

✓ Board of Education and Youth discussing possible resources for training.

04-08 Encourage Support for the Proposed Startup of Concordia Academy, A Lutheran Liberal Arts Education in Wichita

✓ Included in a comprehensive "to do list" at district annual assembly.



Looking ahead

What should the Kansas District prioritize in 2021? Consider submitting ideas through your congregation for consideration at the 2021 convention. Watch for an overview template on the convention webpage at kclcms.org.

JUNE-JULY 2020 / 3

2020-2021 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets were sent to all congregations in early July. It's time to make additions, changes or deletions to your subscriptions! **Renewals must be back to our office no later than August 24.**

Every month, *The Lutheran Witness* brings you news, stories, and essays that aim to encourage you in your faith, clarify God's Word, keep you informed, and maybe spark a question or two. Subscribers who sign up through their congregations also receive the Kansas District edition, which includes news and features (like the Resolutions Update pictured above) about LCMS people and places right here in Kansas.

If you have questions about subscriptions, contact Shannon Fender at 785-357-4441, ext. 202, or shannon@kslcms.org.

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LAST CALL: Education Loan Repayment Grants

The LCMS Kansas District provides grants to rostered church workers to help them repay college and/or seminary education loans. All rostered graduates of Synod schools, as well as those who have completed the colloquy program, who are currently working in the Kansas District are eligible for the first 10 years after graduation or ordination to apply for this grant.

The 2020 grant application is now available on our website. You can access the form under the "Quick Links" on the [homepage](#) or on our [grants and scholarships page](#). **The application deadline is August 31, 2020.**

Applications should be sent to the attention of Heather Williams at the District Office, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604 or via email to heather@kslcms.org. Grants will be processed and awards announced by the end of September.

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Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Dear Kansas District Members,

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund is blessed by strong investors and faithful borrowers. This partnership is working, and through the continued blessings of our Lord, LCEF Kansas District LCMS was blessed once again to be able to offer **Outreach Ministry Grants** using fiscal year-end LCEF operating results provided to the Kansas District.

Grant applicants were encouraged to target individuals, families, or neighborhoods with inventive ministries. This year the LCEF Kansas District **awarded \$16,000 to 27 applicants** in support of various ministries across Kansas, which included *Portals of Prayer* placed in hotels and motels, a community cookout, an international friendship center, a live nativity and a “Fabrics of Faith” project, just to name a few.

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe” (Proverbs 18:10).

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org

785-230-4112

OUR MISSION

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and in the future.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LCEF’S INVESTMENTS AND LOANS PLEASE CALL YOUR DVP JEFFREY MALTZ AT 785-230-4112/jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org OR VISIT LCEF.ORG.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. LCEF StewardAccount® access features provided through UMB Bank n.a. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank serves as the custodian of the LCEF IRA/HAS programs.

Featured: Thank You!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry

THANK YOU

Lutheran Church Extension Fund thanks all of our investors who make it possible to serve the changing needs of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, schools, organizations and rostered church workers.

JEFFREY MALTZ

Kansas and Oklahoma | District Vice President
785-230-4112 | Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org

VISIT [LCEF.ORG/JOYFUL-RESPONSE](https://www.lcef.org/joyful-response)
OR CALL 800-843-5233 TO GET STARTED TODAY.

Stained Glass Windows at Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas

Around the District

Installations



WICHITA

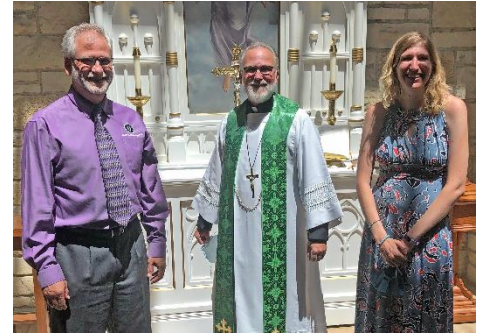
Rev. Matthew Bohlmann was installed as associate pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church July 26. From left, (front row) Rev. Justin Panzer, Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, Bohlmann, Vicar Zach Huffman, Rev. Jeff Crane, Rev. Terry Wiechman; (back row) Rev. Mike Bingenheimer, Rev. John Tape, Rev. Scott Snow, Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Rev. Aaron Hannemann, Rev. Dan Myers, Rev. John Einem, Rev. Dave Ersland, and Rev. Cliff Winter.



ELLSWORTH

Rev. Keith Emshoff was installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellsworth July 19. From left, (front row) the Revs. Chris Craig, Justin Panzer, Emshoff, Doug Barnett; (back row) Dan Harders, Jason Toombs, and Luke Brown.

TOPEKA



On July 12, **Rev. Ben Micheel** was installed as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka. From left, the Revs. Devin Kerns, Martin Lee, Rocky Mease, Richard Lally, Micheel, Ben Ockree, Timothy Roth, Justin Panzer, Dave Schemm, Martin Albrecht, and Jon Bruss.

On August 2, **Rachel Weinhold**, pictured with Education Executive Jim Bradshaw and Pastor Davin Kerns, was installed as a Topeka Lutheran School teacher at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church.

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Pastor Adams Celebrates Retirement



Pastor Charlie Adams, pictured with his wife, Laura, retired in July after 34 years in the public ministry. He was honored at a celebration at Faith Lutheran Church in Ottawa July 26; President Justin Panzer preached at the service.

While in the Kansas District, Adams served as pastor of two congregations—Faith, Ottawa and Trinity, Salina—and also served as a circuit visitor, pastoral counselor for the LLL and LWML, retreat leader, and member of the Children's and Family Life Committee.

Well done, good and faithful servant!

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This Month: Worship Conference at St. John's



2020 Worship Conference

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka
Saturday, August 22 | 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
\$20, lunch included

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka is hosting its fourth annual Worship Conference to provide continuing education and conversation for pastors and church musicians. Congregation members are also welcome to attend.

The keynote speaker for this conference is Dr. Paul Grime from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. Dr. Grime serves as dean of Spiritual Formation and dean of the Chapel, and he teaches in the Pastoral Ministry and Missions Department. He served 11 years as executive director of the LCMS Commission on Worship, during which time he served as project director for the development of Hymnal Supplement 98 and then the *Lutheran Service Book*.

For more details about the workshop, including a schedule, presentation descriptions, and registration information, visit the [Music page](#) of the St. John's website. If you have questions, contact Bethany Johnson at bjohnson@stjlcms.org.

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Save the Date: Fall Events

SEPTEMBER

Grace, McPherson: 75th Anniversary Sunday, September 20

Grace, McPherson will be celebrating its 75th anniversary September 20. Kansas District President Justin Panzer will be teaching adult Bible class at 9:15 a.m. and preaching at the Divine Service, which begins at 10:30 a.m. A catered meal will follow the Divine Service. The cost of the meal is \$16.00; if you plan to attend the meal, please RSVP to 785-227-5653 by Saturday, September 12, 2020.



OCTOBER

Save the date for now; watch for additional details in the September newsletter.

Circuit 8 Reformation Service and Presentation Sunday, October 25

Guest Preacher and Presenter: Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

Worship at 2 p.m.; presentation at 3:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan

Contact: Circuit Visitor Rev. Larry Boyle, larryboye@hotmail.com

Circuit Reformation Festival (Immanuel, Wichita) Sunday, October 25

Guest Preacher and Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenschier, Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Divine Service at 4 p.m.; banquet at 5:30 p.m.; lecture at 6:15 p.m.

Contact: Rev. Geoff Boyle, pastor.boyle@gmail.com. For more details, see the [event page](#) on the Grace Lutheran Church website.

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District Office Directory

President's Office

- Rev. Justin Panzer, President: kspres@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 200
- Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant: tami@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 200

Missions & Stewardship

- Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions & Stewardship: dangalchutt@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 222
- Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant (Missions): janet@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 223
- Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant (Stewardship): shannon@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 202

Education & Youth

- Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth: jbradshaw@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 200
- Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant (calls; rosters/stats; events): tami@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 200
- Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant (general school support): janet@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 223

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

- Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF Vice President, Kansas/Oklahoma: jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 118

Business Office

- Heather Williams, Business Manager: heather@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 204
- Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant: shannon@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 202

Communications

- Kris Bruss, Communications Specialist, kbruss@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 322

Mission Development Counselor

- Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Central, brent.smith@lcms.org, 703-713-2851

Retreat Center Reservations

- Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant: shannon@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 202

District Archives

- Mike Grau: archives@kslcms.org

