



WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly Newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District | kslcms.org

February 2021

Metanoia

Change of mind, repentance

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”

LUKE 24:53

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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. Luke Brown – Immanuel, Ellsworth to Immanuel, Haxtun, CO – pending
- Rev. Sam Grayl – First, Bozeman, MT to Lord of Life, Leawood – pending
- Rev. Sean Kilgo – Northeast Kansas Partnership to Redeemer, Lawrence – accepted

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Sean Kilgo at Redeemer, Lawrence, TBD

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

- Erie, Good Shepherd and Hepler, Immanuel (sole)
- Herington, Our Redeemer (sole)
- Herington, Immanuel (Shady Brook) and Herington, St. John's (Lyon's Creek; sole)
- Leawood, Lord of Life (sole)
- Mission and Shawnee, Trinity (associate)
- Northeast Kansas Partnership (associate)
- Olathe, Redeemer (sole)
- Ottawa, Faith (sole)
- Paola, First (sole)
- Scott City, Holy Cross (sole)
- Shawnee, Hope (senior)

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 A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- Cheney, St. Paul – Teacher
- Emporia, Messiah – DCE
- Leavenworth, St. Paul – Teacher
- Marysville, Good Shepherd – Principal/Teacher
- Overland Park, Christ – DCE
- Winfield, Trinity – Principal/Teacher

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

- None at this time

2021 Take Heart Retreats in Kansas

DOXOLOGY has partnered with the LCMS Office of National Mission to provide at least 15 FREE Take Heart respite retreats in 2021. Two of these retreats will be offered at the Spiritual Life Center in Bel Aire, Kansas. **The February 8-10 retreat is full, but there will be another retreat May 24-26.**



The retreat will **provide encouragement, enhance skills, provide Biblical wisdom, and strengthen pastors for ministry** during the depleting days of COVID. The event will feature worship, didactic presentations, conversations with the brothers and personal reflection as well as engagement with new strategies and resources. Check out this [four-minute video](#) for a quick overview.

Pastors can access more information and register here: www.doxology.us.



"If my people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

We're kicking off another round of *Together We Pray* on Ash Wednesday, February 17, in conjunction with the Kansas District Day of Repentance. On Ash Wednesday, we encourage everyone to pray the Litany, reflect, repent, and fast. We also encourage giving to those in need—another traditional Lenten discipline—whether to the annual District Ash Wednesday Offering or another worthy cause.

[Together We Pray](#) materials are now available on the Kansas District website. Like last fall, prayers and verses will be posted daily on our [Facebook page](#).

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Statistical Reporting Reminder

It's time again to submit your congregation's end-of-year statistics and update your current list of lay leaders at the following website: <https://lc.lcms.org/>.

The deadline for reporting is March 31, 2021. You may review your congregation's profile and update lay leader information throughout the year to make sure your contact information, service times, and other important data are current. If you do not have your congregation's login information, contact rosters.stats@lcms.org, or the LCMS Church Information Center at **888-843-5267**.



Up-to-date statistical information is essential for the Synod as it plans current and future ministry efforts. Such information is also critical for determining proper voting representation at conventions (see LCMS Bylaw 1.3.4.3). Your timely completion of the report is appreciated.

ABOUT THE IMPACT OF COVID

The COVID pandemic has raised questions about how to report certain statistics for 2020, especially related to worship attendance, Sunday school and Bible classes, vacation Bible school, and reporting of PPP loans and other similar sources of income. Please review the short instructions in the following links that have been updated to assist with these questions.

[How congregations should track attendance in this time](#)

[LCMS congregation statistics field definitions](#)

Do not include online engagements or views in average worship attendance. A separate survey tracking the impact of the pandemic on LCMS congregations will be sent in the coming weeks that will provide an opportunity to submit online engagement information.

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

- ❖ **Those grieving the loss of loved ones**, including
 - The family of Dale Anschutz, uncle of District staff member Janet Powell, at his death January 13
 - Rev. Joel and Michela Hiesterman and family at the death of Michela's father, Burnell Goll, January 6
 - Principal Steven Hobus and family at the death of his mother, Alice Hobus, December 21
 - The family of Tamara Elleman, kindergarten teaching assistant at Christ, Overland Park, at her death December 20
 - Rev. Daniel and Tiffany Harders at the death of Tiffany's father, Will Dickenson Jr., December 11
 - Rev. Keith and Marlene Kohlmeier at the death of Marlene's sister, Elaine Berger, December 8
 - Rev. Nick Cordt and family at the death of Pastor Cordt's grandfather, Walter Cordt, December 7
 - The family of Deacon Bill Kuehn (Trinity, Mission and Shawnee) at his death December 4
- ❖ **Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues**, including Rev. Mike Dunaway, Tom Kleber, Gary Hardwick, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Tim Lavrenz, Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke, Diane Harries, Rev. Richard Andrus, Rev. Dave Meier, and Judy May
- ❖ **Those affected by the coronavirus**, including our church workers, 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 February:**
 - Augsburg, Shawnee, this week
 - St. Paul, Oswego and Trinity, Parsons, February 8
 - St. John, Palmer, February 15
 - Zion, Newton (church and preschool), February 22

If you have a prayer request or see a request that can be removed (e.g., from the list of health concerns), please contact Tami Lierz at tami@kslcms.org or 785-357-4441, ext. 200.

**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

1 Thess. 5:16-18

District Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 1** Executive Council, Zoom, noon-1 p.m.
- 4** President's Council, District Office, 1-5 p.m.
- 5** District Board of Directors, St. John's, Topeka, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 7** Lutheran Schools Committee Meeting, Zoom, 3-4 p.m.
- 8** KAIRS Administrators Conference (virtual)
- 8-11** LCMS Council of Presidents Meeting
- 9** Children's and Family Life Committee, Zoom, 1-2:30 p.m.
- 11** West Africa Committee Meeting, Zoom, 3:30-5 p.m.
- 12** Constitution and Bylaws Committee, District Office, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 15** Professional Development Committee, noon-2 p.m.
- 16** Early Childhood Planning Meeting, Zoom, 1-2:30 p.m.
- 17** Ash Wednesday; Kansas District Day of Repentance
- 19** KSDE Meeting, 10-11:30 a.m.
- 27** LERT Retreat, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.

MARCH

- 2** District Youth Ministry Team Meeting, Zoom, 1-3
- 8** Convention Planning Meeting, District Office, noon-3 p.m.
- 23** Topeka DCE Meeting, District Office, 10 a.m.-noon
- 27** KAIRS Early Childhood Conference (virtual)
- 30** Older Adult Committee, Zoom, 10:00 a.m.-noon

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



Has Your Congregation Voted?

The vote on whether to delay the next Synod convention closes February 15, with results expected shortly thereafter. If your congregation has not yet cast a vote, we encourage you to do so!

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Staff Travel Schedule

President Justin Panzer

- Feb. 4** NEK Partnership Pre-call Meeting, St. Paul, Fairview
- Feb. 7** Preaching at Faith, Derby
- Feb. 8-11** LCMS Council of Presidents (Zoom)
- Feb. 13** Partnership Meeting, St. Peter's, Barnes
- Feb. 14** Recognition of Pastor Rather's retirement, Trinity, Salina; Pre-call meeting, Trinity, Colby

Rev. Dan Galchutt

- Feb. 9** Circuit 1 Winkel, Immanuel, Netawaka
- Feb. 15** Partnership Meeting, Trinity, Garden City
- Feb. 16** Circuit 16 Winkel, Grace, Liberal
- Feb. 20** Circuit 5 Partnership Meeting, Grace, Iola
- Feb. 21** Stewardship Sunday, Hope, Shawnee

Jim Bradshaw

- Feb. 10** School Visit, Linn Lutheran
- Feb. 17** School Visit, Zion, Independence
- Feb. 24** School Visit, St. John, Alma

ON THE ROAD IN JANUARY



District Education Executive Jim Bradshaw (left) was on hand at Christ, Overland Park to bid farewell to DCE Katie Morgan, who recently accepted a call to Colorado. Also pictured are DCE Corey Danley (back) and Senior Pastor Jeff Kunze (right).

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Back in our June 2020 issue, we noted that our Coronavirus Resources page (link in the image to the right) would be available at least through "Phase Out." We're now 11 months into the pandemic, and our page is still public. The news isn't changing as quickly now, but you can still find helpful links, including a link to the Johns Hopkins statistical tracker for the state of Kansas.

Be strong, Church!



State News

On January 25, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly signed Senate Bill 14 into law, extending the State of Disaster Emergency Declaration to March 31, 2021. The State of Disaster Emergency in the state of Kansas began March 12, 2020. In other state news, Kansas now has a [vaccine dashboard](#), which is updated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by 12:30 p.m. As of February 1, 6.4% of Kansans had been vaccinated.

LCMS FAQ on COVID 19 Vaccines

The arrival of vaccines has raised questions among Christians. Should you take the vaccine? Are the vaccines related to abortion? Can you get a religious exemption if you don't want to be vaccinated? Synod President Matthew C. Harrison recently released a [pastoral letter](#) in which he addresses these concerns and points readers to a "[Facts and Considerations](#)" document prepared by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and LCMS Life Ministry.

President Harrison writes: "[The document] provides a summary of what we know about the COVID-19 vaccines, their relation to the issue of abortion, and what we can (and cannot) say about these matters from the Synod's perspective. I hope it proves useful to you as you wrestle with how to bear Christian witness in this world through your love of both God and neighbor."

District Office: Staying the Course

The latest Shawnee County health order, issued January 28, 2021, extends the order issued last July (Shawnee County Resolution 2020-44), with a few modifications, until February 26. We're proceeding as we have been, with the staff working on site but with the option of working from home; the majority of meetings are being conducted virtually.

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Missions and Stewardship

2021 Ash Wednesday Offering

Ash
Wednesday
Offering

February 17, 2021

The annual Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering supports scholarships for future church workers and education loan repayment grants for active church workers. **Last year, we were able to award \$88,000 in scholarships and repayment grants. Of that amount, \$24,000 was raised in the Ash Wednesday Offering.** On behalf of our grateful recipients, THANK YOU!

You can participate in this year's offering through your congregation or by sending a gift directly to the district. You can contribute online at [kslcms.org/donate](#) or send a check to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604, with the designation, "Ash Wednesday Offering."

[Ash Wednesday bulletin inserts](#) highlighting the District Ash Wednesday Offering along with the Day of Repentance and *Together We Pray* campaign are available at [kslcms.org](#) on the Kansas District Offerings page.

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District Hosts Planned Giving Advocates Training

Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship

On January 15-16, Rev. Philip Krupski and Philip Meinzen from the LCMS Foundation provided training for a handful of new planned giving advocates in the Kansas District. This is the beginning of a partnership between the Kansas District and the LCMS Foundation that will benefit congregations, schools, and ministries throughout Kansas.



The District is partnering with the LCMS Foundation in response to a 2018 district convention resolution that encouraged district leadership to explore the possibility of bringing planned giving services to Kansas. The timing couldn't be better. Meinzen told advocates during the training that we are at the beginning of the largest wealth transfer from one generation to the next in world history. Planned giving provides people the opportunity to practice good stewardship of their assets, not just their income.

The LCMS Foundation helps individuals consider how they'd like to bless their family and inheritors, limit their tax liability, and provide generously for the work of the Church. Individuals who have been faithfully giving to a congregation and would like to continue to support that congregation in the future have many options, including IRA charitable rollovers and Donor Advised Funds.

Trained advocates in the Kansas District will encourage planned giving and address its role in the practice of good whole life stewardship. Advocates can then connect interested individuals with a staff member of the LCMS Foundation, who can help them set up a Lifetime Plan for Giving.

Several members of the Kansas District staff attended the training and are ready to speak to your congregation or ministry about how planned giving can become an important part of stewardship for your people and a blessing to your ministry. If you'd like to have a member of the District staff give a presentation on planned giving, please contact Shannon Fender at shannon@kslcms.org, or call the District Office at 785-357-4441.

"We're excited to bring this wonderful resource to the members of the Kansas District. Through this partnership with the LCMS Foundation, Kansas District Lutherans can explore the abundant and enlightening ways they can support their families, congregations and favorite ministries now and after the Lord calls them home."

—Business Manager Heather Williams

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Esther Grants Available

The past year has highlighted many ways in which technology can help congregations carry out their mission. If you have ideas for your ministry that involve technology and could use financial assistance, we encourage you to consider applying for a grant through the Esther 4:14 National Grant Program.

The LCMS Office of National Mission has launched the program to encourage congregations to purchase equipment to meet the challenges of the day. Grants will be awarded based on need, innovative character, and willingness to share discoveries with other LCMS congregations and organizations.

Any congregation or recognized mission of the LCMS that has membership in an LCMS district (U.S. only) may apply for a single grant of up to \$1,500.

Grants can be used for technology (e.g., cameras, mixer boards), end-user equipment (e.g., tablets for shut-ins), software or software subscriptions (e.g., editing software, Microsoft Teams, Zoom pro accounts), training, or other equipment or technologies to meet timely needs.

The deadline for applications is April 5, 2021. For more information, visit the [Esther 4:14 grant page](#).

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The third annual District Life Conference was held January 22, 2021, at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church. Instead of joining the annual Rally for Life in downtown Topeka (which was canceled this year for safety and security reasons), attendees heard two presentations by invited speaker Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Dr. Scaer, an active participant in Life Ministry activities, surveyed troubling societal trends in his morning session, noting the contrast with the first three books of Genesis. "If we get Genesis 1-3 right," said Scaer, "we have a strong foundation." In his second session, Scaer shared historical developments leading to the *Roe vs. Wade* decision in 1973.



VALUE THEM BOTH

On January 28, the Kansas Senate passed House Concurrent Resolution 5003, the [Value Them Both Amendment](#), by a vote of 28-11. The amendment passed in the House the week prior by a vote of 86-33. It will now go before Kansas voters on the August 2022 primary ballot.

The amendment, if passed, would clarify that the Kansas Constitution does not include a right to abortion and would ensure that the right to regulate abortion remains with the people of Kansas, through their elected state representatives and senators. To keep up on developments, visit the [Kansas for Life](#) site.

"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore."

Psalm 125:2

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"Missions Unpacked": Africa Region

On Saturday, February 6, LCMS missionaries Rev. Gary and Steph Schulte will be doing a live presentation on the Africa region as part of the Synod's "Missions Unpacked" virtual learning experience. The Schultes have deep experience in the field and great information to share; we highly recommend tuning in if you have the opportunity.

You can access the presentation by registering for the FREE Missions Unpacked program on the [event page](#).

By registering for the program, you'll have access not only to the Schultes' live presentation but to digital resources covering all four of the international mission regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurasia, Africa, and Asia. This is a great chance to increase your "Missions IQ" without having to buy a plane ticket!



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Education & Youth

Distinguished Lutheran Teacher Award



Teacher Lori Canfield with James Bradshaw, Kansas District education executive (left), and Principal David Rindt (right).

Congratulations to Christ Lutheran School teacher Lori Canfield, recipient of the 2021 KAIRS (Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools) Distinguished Lutheran Teacher award. Mrs. Canfield teaches first grade at Christ.

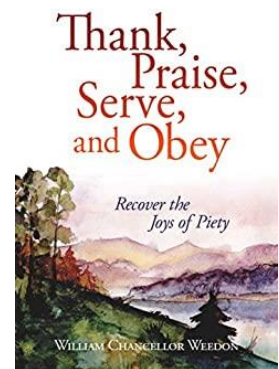
"Mrs. Canfield has been a tremendously positive influence on our school environment and is the consummate professional teacher," said Principal David Rindt in his nomination letter. "Her influence in our community has stretched well beyond the classroom, and her years of service here include time spent as a cheerleading coach, a supporting teacher, as well as a lead classroom teacher. ... Above all, Lori is a committed servant of Christ, modeling Christian love and humility in carrying out Christ's command 'Let the little children come to me' (Matthew 19:14)."

CFLC Recommends: *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey*

Rev. Timothy Roth, Children's and Family Life Committee

February's theme for our recommendations is *Worship and Prayer*. I have personally found this area of family life to be a struggle, and I know I'm not alone. Society has increasingly moved toward "entrusting to the experts," and the Church has seen the same. In matters of worship and prayer many parents hand this part of faith formation to pastors and other church workers.

Yet parents, especially fathers, are the head of the home and therefore are responsible for the faith formation of their children. That includes not only the habit of attending the Divine Service regularly but also forming within them the practice of daily worship and prayer. I have often found that it is not that parents don't have a desire to lead their children but they don't know how or believe they aren't capable. That is why I am recommending *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety* by Rev. William Weedon.



This easy-to-read book speaks to the importance of and gives meaning to the formation of godly habits in your daily lives. In Chapters 1 and 2, Pastor Weedon talks about developing the habits of sanctifying our homes with God's Word each day and praying daily in the rhythm of life. In these chapters he gives some simple suggestions about how to be intentional in setting time aside to be with your family in worship and prayer. The rest of the book continues to inspire a daily life of devotion, which is a life lived in worship, and nothing is more powerful for the faith formation of our children than to see their parents living a life devoted to Christ.

While forming these habits of piety may be awkward at first, as even Pastor Weedon confesses his own struggle to establish the habit of reading God's Word with his family, they are well worth it for the sake of nourishing and strengthening faith in your family life. In addition to *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey* I commend the following additional resources that can aid you in your family life of worship and prayer:

- [Home Is Where the \(Learning by\) Heart Is](#)
- [Infographic: The Family Altar](#)
- [Establishing the Family Altar](#)
- [LSB: Daily Prayer Cards](#) (CPH)
- [Treasury of Daily Prayer](#) (CPH)

Input Needed! Adult Education Survey

Dear Kansas District Pastors and Educators,

The District Adult Education Committee is looking to find out what resources you use and what seems to work well. We'd also like to know what special Adult Education opportunities your congregation offers beyond regular Sunday Bible studies and catechesis. We've created a very brief survey for this purpose and ask that you please share a description of the resources and how they're being used. **Please complete this survey by Friday, February 12.**

Please use the following link to complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/6CGyfqYVBquooS5P8>

Thank you!

Kansas District Adult Education Committee

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Caring Ministry

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator | ksddrc@gmail.com

COMING IN FEBRUARY

Established LERT team leaders will receive a spreadsheet listing their LERT team members. We are asking that you please review the list and edit it for any changes. Instructions will be included in the email. If you have any questions after receiving your team list, please let me know.



EVENT CALENDAR

LERT Leadership Team Retreat

NOW VIRTUAL

Saturday, February 27, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.

Watch your email for an agenda and details.

(If you are currently on the Leadership Team list and wish to either be removed or suggest someone else to serve in your place, please let me know.)

Please watch the Kansas District website and our Facebook pages for news of potential LERT Basic and Chainsaw Training opportunities. If your congregation is willing to host a regional event, please let me know. Also being considered is a Train-the-Trainer event. If you would be interested in becoming part of the Kansas District LERT Training Teams, please give me a call.

Grace and Peace,
Donna Williams
Isaiah 6:8

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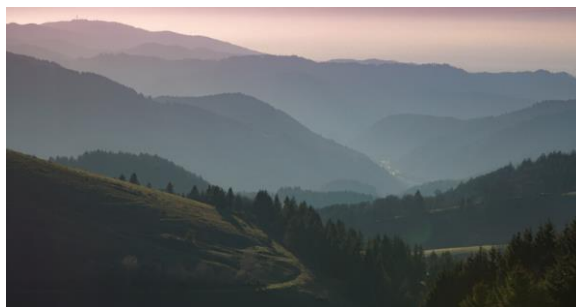
Save the Date: Pastors Wives Retreat

The Kansas District Pastors Wives Retreat Committee is exploring the possibility of holding a remote event for pastors' wives this year with five to six host sites across the state, which would provide an opportunity for more wives to participate. **The tentative date for the event is Saturday, March 13** with Deaconess Tiffany Manor (LCMS Life Ministry director) as the speaker. We'll share more information as plans develop.

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“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil” (Psalm 23:4).

The valley of death is full of suffering, pain, and death itself, swarming all around us. For many, this valley of death involves many factors of suffering: relationship strife, depression, despair, physical exhaustion, burnout, etc. No matter how hard we try to avoid it, sin and death continue to follow us, suffering continues to inflict us, and pain never seems to leave us.



It is natural to fear death and suffering. How can we not fear that which seems to harm us? How can we not fear that which is hard to bear? How can we ever walk through this valley and make it out . . . alive? And yet the psalmist says: I will fear no evil. How? Because of Christ. Only in Christ can we face death without fear. Only in Christ can we walk through suffering and find joy. Only in Christ can we live eternally with Him.

And so, we continue to sing:

*Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. (LSB 685:1a)
Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where He is, there is no loss. (LSB 685:2a)*

The season of Lent focuses on our Suffering Servant, Jesus. We follow Him to the cross, learning once more how He paid the price for our sins and suffered death in our place. Our walk with Christ through the valley of the shadow of death is a walk of suffering and death, because that is what Christ did for us, and because suffering is what we are called to do as Christians. Christ never promised our lives would be free from it, but He did promise to walk with us through it all, just as He bore temptation for us, endured the scorn and scourging for us, and suffered on the cross for us and for our salvation.

*Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath. (LSB 685:3)*

It is unnatural to have joy while dying. But God has given us this joy in our Baptism through His death and resurrection. To die with Jesus means to mortify “all passions that would lead us into sin.” Our Baptism is a daily act of dying to ourselves. We do not live for ourselves but for our neighbor, even though we may suffer to do so. By God’s love through the cross and given to us by Word and Sacrament, we are strengthened in our love toward others.

We will continue to sin while living on this side of heaven. And so, we are called to repent during this season of Lent and throughout our entire life here on earth. We know that in Christ death is not the end, for as we follow Him to the cross, we know that He didn’t stop there. Christ’s victory over death resulted in life eternal and the blessings of forgiveness of sins and salvation for us. Thanks be to God! And so, we sing once more:

*Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.
(LSB 685:4)*

Business Office

Reason for Rejoicing: District Year-End Report

The past year was full of challenges, but it also brought many blessings. We've heard many accounts of people in our congregations stepping up in various ways and working together to carry on the mission of the Church; we've seen that spirit on the district level, too. **Thanks to the generous support of our congregations, the Kansas District ended the year at 98% of budgeted congregational gifts. Expenses came in at 92% of budget, allowing us to end the year on very solid ground, financially. What a blessing!**

Once again, we have reason to thank God in our prayers with joy, "because of your partnership in the Gospel" (Phil. 1:3-5). We're grateful for your generosity in this challenging time and pray that God would keep you all in His care in 2021.

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District Scholarships Available



The Kansas District is offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at one of the Synod's colleges or seminaries. **The application deadline for 2021-22 scholarships is June 1.** For an [application](#) and more information, visit kslcms.org. Navigate to "Stewardship" and choose "Grants and Scholarships" from the menu.

Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of applications received. Awards are sent directly to the college or university.

Several other Kansas District organizations, including LWML, Lutheran Laymen's League, and St. John's Alumni Association, also offer scholarships. You can find links to these organizations on the [Grants and Scholarships page](#) of kslcms.org.

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Communications

Workers Together Focus Group

The pandemic has prompted many reflections about the status quo. What are we doing? Why? What should we change? What should we keep doing?

We're asking some of the same questions about *Workers Together*, our monthly newsletter. With the possible delay of our district convention until next year, we have an opportunity to move forward with projects that have been on the back burner. *Workers Together* is one of those projects.

We know that communication patterns and preferences are changing. We'd like to hear more about that from our readers. To get the ball rolling, we'd like to gather a small group (8-10) of people from across the District to discuss possible new directions for the publication.

If you a) have opinions and b) would be interested in sharing them with a small discussion group sometime in March via Zoom (date and time TBD), send a note to communications specialist Kris Bruss at kbruss@kslcms.org. All types of readers (e.g., rostered workers; church leaders/staff; laypeople) are welcome.

The next step after the focus group: Sending a survey to readers. Start thinking.

Keep it!

Change it!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Dear Kansas District Members,

As your ministry partner, we at Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) understand the concerns you are experiencing as we continue to navigate these turbulent waters. To help our ministries, we have developed resources to address the specific needs of eligible Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, organizations, and rostered church workers. Since each situation is unique, please contact me directly to discuss your options.

A few programs to consider:

The Church Improvement Loan is designed to help churches fund critical church repairs and upgrades.

Church improvement loans are limited to LCMS congregations and include:

- Maximum 10-year term
- Up to \$150,000
- 24 months at Cost of Funds (COF) adjusted annually, currently 1.875%
- LCEF COF plus up to 2.5% adjusted annually for remaining term
- Payments fully amortized over term

PartnerPLUS is a fixed-rate term note for those who wish to invest even more into the future of the LCMS and its Christ-Centered ministries.

- Earn 1.75% on amounts up to \$50,000 for the two-year term note and 2.25% on amounts up to \$50,000 for the four-year term note.
- Available to LCMS individuals, organizations, congregations, and Individual Retirement Account investments.
- Minimum of \$500 to get started.

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- Amounts up to \$50,000 earn a 2.25% interest rate.
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"God is our refuge & strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, do not fear!" (Psalm 46:1-2)

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz
jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org
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www.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. 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 n.a. serves as the custodian of the LCEF IRA/HSA programs. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a.



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Kansas and Oklahoma | LCEF District Vice President
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Around the District

Installations



T.I.G. Partnership, Southwest Kansas

On January 10, 2021, Rev. Santiago Keinbaum was installed as associate pastor in the T.I.G. Partnership, a congregational partnership between Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; and Grace Ulysses. Trinity pastor Michael Hageman was also installed as senior pastor of the partnership. From left, Pastor Michael Brockman, Pastor Dennis Mason, Pastor Randall Jahnke, Pastor Andrew Wehling, Pastor Keinbaum, Rev. Dan Galchutt, Pastor Hageman, Pastor Stan Palmer, and Rev. Justin Panzer.

Men's Retreat at Risen Savior

Risen Savior, Basehor is making plans to host "Here I Stand: A Men's Retreat on Biblical Manhood." The event will take place April 16 and 17 at the District Retreat Center in Herington.

Event details:

- Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
- Event Starts: April 16 at 3 p.m.
- Event Ends: April 17 at 2 p.m.
- Cost: \$40 for meals and lodging

If interested in attending, contact Vicar Brennick Christiansen at vicar@risensaviorlcms.org

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RSO News: David's Harp

If you have an interest in music, missions, outreach, education, and/or youth, we encourage you to check out David's Harp, one of the newest RSOs (Recognized Service Organizations) in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

David's Harp began as a mission initiative of the Rev. Nathan Sherrill and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Pastor Sherrill was soon joined by Associate Pastor Rev. Timothy Frank. Iowa District West was honored to be an initial partner in encouraging and supporting this mission-music ministry startup.



Iowa District West President Steve Turner writes: "I give David's Harp my strongest endorsement. Their mission is to produce music resources and centers of music education for LCMS churches, schools, and missions. Mentioning only a few of their accomplishments, they've successfully launched five music conservatories across the nation, created and published music resources for the raising up of church musicians, and expanded connections in Latin America and Asia in order to bring Christ into the world through music. God be praised for the work He has done through them! If you have any questions about David's Harp, I know Pastor Sherrill or Pastor Frank would be happy to visit with you."

You can learn more about David's Harp at <https://davidsharpmusic.org/>

Contemplate Visitation Event

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 25, 2021—College-age and older men and women are invited to Contemplate, an online visitation event that gives prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor or deaconess. This free event will be held March 12.

During Contemplate, participants will engage in sessions that focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process, as well as learn about the academic program, field education, vicarage or internship year, financial aid, and housing. They also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area and meet with the admissions team.

The deadline to register is March 5. Interested participants can learn more and sign up at csl.edu/contemplate.

A link to join the event will be provided to registrants before the event.

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

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

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

District Archives

- Mike Grau: archives@kslcms.org

