



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

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## LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries February 2022

### DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

#### President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer

**Overture Review.** At this Board of Directors Meeting, the board will be considering overtures to bring to the 2022 convention. This is joyful work as we seek to partner together in the Gospel to give and to share Jesus—the light of the world.

**Seminary Call Days.** Call Day for our two seminaries has been set for April 26 in St. Louis and April 27 in Fort Wayne. There are 87 seminary candidates who will receive their first calls. As of this report, we have two Kansas congregations that are interested in calling from a seminary.

**Church Worker Recruitment Initiative.** “Set Apart to Serve” (SAS) is a Synod initiative to recruit church workers. Since church work is rooted in Baptism and a lifetime of hearing the Word, SAS encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and faithful involvement with their congregation. Parents and grandparents, pastors, professional church workers, Sunday school teachers and others in our congregations can help influence children to consider serving the church in these sacred and joyful vocations.

**Visits/Travel.** Over the past quarter, President Panzer put on 10,205 miles in his travels to installations, meetings, and stops on the November District Tour.

**Congregational Activity.** There are currently 10 calling congregations in the Kansas District. Eight churches are seeking a sole pastor, one a senior pastor, and one an associate/assistant. Six call lists were completed in the past quarter; one congregation is waiting for a call list. The partnership between Zion, Latimer and Christ, Manhattan has been dissolved. Zion, Latimer is in the process of closing.

#### Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

**De Soto Church Planting Activity.** Rev. Bert Tegtmeier has been meeting with LCMS Kansans interested in planting a church along the K-10 corridor. As part of the exploratory work, Rev. Tegtmeier has been visiting with community leaders and is offering a Bible study in February under the name “Light of the World Lutheran Church.” In other church planting news, President Panzer and Rev. Galchutt have been meeting with members of Bethany, Overland Park about developments with their Stilwell property and possibilities for the future. Please pray for the Lord’s blessings on these efforts.

**Kansas City Hispanic Ministry.** Rev. Galchutt continues to meet with Daniel Jordan to encourage his development as a future leader in Hispanic Ministry in the Kansas City area. Deb Hartje and the Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) are doing wonderful outreach at Immanuel, KCK. COVID-19 continues to present challenges, but the group is connecting with hundreds of people every week. We are working with the Missouri District to issue a call to a senior pastor for this ministry area. Please keep this work in your prayers.

**Congregational Partnerships.** The Partnership Project continues to be an incredibly important part of the work of the Kansas District. President Panzer has been starting more conversations in vacancy situations by talking about potential partnerships. These conversations are expected to become more common in the years ahead as the pool of active LCMS pastors shrinks. Congregations are encouraged to explore partnerships not only because of need but also because it pleases our Lord and gives us new opportunities.

**Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and Soldiers of the Cross COVID-19 Response Initiative:** LSS members met on January 12 and voted to distribute \$7,686 to each of the four member organizations, including the Kansas District. The Synod's Soldiers of the Cross Response Initiative has ended. We are awaiting some additional communication and accounting details for a report on final numbers.

**West and Central Africa Partnership.** 2022 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our international work in Guinea. The District's West Africa Committee recently met with three missionaries involved with work in Francophone West and Central Africa. The missionary team noted that CLET-Guinea is looking to construct a seminary with two buildings. Our Pentecost Offering this year will generate support for this project.

## Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

**Lutheran Schools.** Highlights from the past quarter include the installation of three commissioned workers and the celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week January 23-29, 2022, under the theme "In All Things" (Colossians 1:15-20). Six schools are involved in the call process. Looking ahead, the 2022 Worker Conferences will be held October 2-4 (pastors) and 9-11 (educators) at the Holiday Inn Manhattan at the Campus (near K-State).

**Youth Ministry Updates.** 250 youth and adults from 30 congregations attended the 2021 **Kansas District Youth Gathering** held at Hotel Topeka at City Center November 19-21. The first **Middle School Huddle** (for grades 5-8) will be held at Webster Conference Center in Salina, March 25-26, 2022. The theme is "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (John 15:12-17). Brian Young and DCE Rebecca Freed (CUNE) are speakers. Registration opened January 15, 2022. DCE Ben Venteicher (Messiah, Hays) is chairing the planning team. Due to the scheduling of the LCMS Youth Gathering in July, there will be only one **Kansas District LVR camp** in 2022 (June 3-8). DCE Paul White (Wamego) will chair the team of planners. **The LCMS Youth Gathering** in Houston will also take place this summer. District buses will depart Kansas on July 7 and 8. Planned activities for the Kansas group include the District service project/NASA visit July 8 and the District event July 9 at Stampede Houston.

**Caring Ministry Committees.** Barb Geuy (Our Redeemer, Hutchinson) is chairing the planning committee for the Saints Alive After 55 event, to be held July 18-19, 2022, in Wichita. Additional 2022 regional events for older adults are being planned for May 14 (Trinity, Mission campus) and August 13-14 (Messiah, Hays).

**Disaster Response.** Bob and Jean Warfel (Messiah, Hays) worked with Rev. Michael Schmidt (Peace, Natoma) to coordinate a disaster response event in the Natoma area January 15-18, arranging meals, lodging, and work involving around 30 people. The Warfels served as site coordinators; District Disaster Response Coordinator Donna Williams was also onsite. The work involved debris cleanup and chainsaw work.

## LCEF

Jeff Maltz

### **Business Summary**

- Through December 2021, the LCEF Kansas District has **26** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$13,578,585**
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1,831** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$59,254,183**

**Activity in the Kansas District.** Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton and Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka paid off their loans.

**LCEF Outreach Grants.** In partnership with the LCMS Kansas District, LCEF will once again be making outreach grants available in the spring. \$16,000 will be awarded in grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

**Kaleidoscope Fund Grants.** In 2022, Lutheran K-8 schools are eligible to apply for a Kaleidoscope Fund grant. Schools have until June 1 to submit a proposal to apply for a grant; the selection committee will then review proposals and invite selected ministries to apply. Grants awarded will range from \$10,000 to \$40,000.

## Business Office

Heather Williams

**Human Resources.** The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for six call documents and planning scenarios this quarter. In other news, Heather Williams chaired this year's Joint Business Administrators Conference (JBAC) in St. Louis in November.

**Property.** At the District Office, electrical-related conduit issues in the basement have been resolved with no excavation needed. An additional timer box for the north lights was installed. Winter maintenance on the boiler was completed. At the Retreat Center, trustees fixed the plumbing issue and stained sheetrock in the Water's Edge Suite. They also repaired broken outdoor furniture.

**Planned Giving.** We have one congregational planned giving presentation scheduled for the summer and one in the works. Planned giving articles will continue to be included in *Workers Together* to generate awareness and interest.

**Accounting/Finance.** Financial results for the end of the fiscal year are positive. Thanks be to God and to our congregations for their continued support! Congregational giving exceeded commitments, coming in at 105% of budget for the year ended. Expenses came in at 98% of budget. Cash flow is also positive. Convention assessments have been received in full by 109 congregations, with four months remaining until the due date. The Synod's internal auditors will be in Topeka the third week of March to audit our financial statement.

## Communications

Kris Bruss

**District Tour.** Much of the communications activity in November focused on the “Living as the Baptized” staff tour, which involved preparing a short presentation, taking photos at the six events, processing the photos and feedback after the event, and preparing a slideshow and an article for the February *Lutheran Witness* supplement to report outcomes (now available on the “Living as the Baptized” webpage).

**District Publications.** Our “Living as the Baptized” series continues in *The Lutheran Witness*, with recent articles on serving our neighbors and home devotions. The March issue, now in development, will include a piece on caring for others in Christ. As for our newsletter, *Workers Together*, we’re doing some reshuffling and redesigning, taking into account feedback from readers.

**Ash Wednesday.** A new round of “Together We Pray,” with 50 days of prayer for Lent and Easter, will begin March 2, Ash Wednesday, and end April 20. Also scheduled for Ash Wednesday: A districtwide Day of Repentance and the Ash Wednesday Offering, which supports scholarships for future church workers and educational loan repayment grants for active church workers.

**Life Ministry Conference.** In January, our staff assisted with registration and materials for the fourth annual Life Conference, which included the downtown March for Life and rally at the state capitol in Topeka. The conference, which drew over 100 attendees, was the largest to date. The LCMS contingent was hard to miss at the march and rally, thanks to the signs and green hats supplied by LCMS Life Ministry.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

**Campus Ministry.** Rev. Mark Boxman of Trinity, Salina has agreed to serve as the District’s Campus Ministry coordinator. He will be working to keep Campus Ministry in front of District pastors.

**Quarterly Mission Grant Reports.** Mission grant recipients have been busy with their projects. Among the highlights: A number of homeless strangers have stayed in the cabin at the Disciple Garden, and one homeless man is now attending church and Bible studies; members of Zion, Newton are participating in discipleship education (e.g., *Every One His Witness*); the LCMS U chapter at Redeemer in Lawrence is active and growing stronger as a community in Christ.

**Congregational Partnerships.** We’re currently working on another partnership resource for the Partnership Project. Several Kansas congregations are actively exploring partnership possibilities, and other districts have expressed an interest in partnership materials.

## ACTION ITEMS

- The board moved and approved a motion to send the following overtures to the Board of Directors for approval:
  - To Prioritize Living as the Baptized as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2022-2025 Triennium
  - To Support LCMS Mission Work in Francophone West and Central Africa

- To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Seek Opportunities to Collaborate and Partner to Enhance Mission and Ministry in the Kansas District
- The board moved and approved a motion to redirect a returned \$1,000 mission grant to Campus Ministry, for use by the new coordinator.

### Board of Education

Bruce Schultz, Chair

**Reviews.** The board heard a report from Education Executive Jim Bradshaw and reviewed subcommittee reports from the Adult Education Committee, Children and Family Life Committee, Lutheran Schools Committee, and Youth Ministry Committee.

**Legacy Fund.** There were no Legacy Fund Requests in the past quarter.

**Convention Overtures.** The board reviewed drafts of several overtures, noting that they would submit in a separate document recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors and Floor Committee.

### Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

**Report Review.** The board reviewed reports on Disaster Response, Parish Nurse Ministry, Church Worker Care, Older Adult Ministry, and the Pastors' Wives Retreat. A few points of interest:

- The board expressed appreciation for the LERT volunteers in response to the December 2021 wildfires and noted the District appeal for donations, which ran through January 15.
- Older Adult Ministry is planning three events for older adults in 2022: A symposium at Trinity, Mission, May 14; a Saints Alive event in Wichita July 18-19; and an event in Hays August 13-14.
- The Pastors' Wives Retreat will be held March 11-12, 2022. Heather Ruesch will be the featured presenter for the weekend with the theme "You Matter."

**Overture Review.** The board reviewed the following draft overtures prior to forwarding to the Board of Directors for approval:

- To Support Church Workers
- To Advance the Gospel and Reject Racism
- To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service (similar to the "Shine" program in the LCMS Missouri District)

**Background Checks.** The board continued a discussion of mandatory background checks for District volunteers (especially related to the Disaster Response program).

### ACTION ITEM

**The board adopted the following resolution:**

- Resolved, that unspent 2021 funds earmarked for Human Care—Pastor's Wives Retreat be moved to a board-designated fund for "Human Care—Pastor's Wives Retreat" for the 2022 year.

## Board of Stewardship

Dan Thalmann, Chair

**2021 Budget Review.** Heather Williams reviewed the draft “Budget to Actual” report for the fiscal year ended January 15, 2022. (See the Business Manager’s report for figures.) The District saw an increase in net assets in 2021. Final numbers may vary slightly from the draft numbers.

**2021 Congregation Mission Receipts Review.** The board reviewed the “Congregational Giving Report” (2018-2021), which includes monthly numbers and a graph of the prior three years in comparison to the current year’s monthly congregational giving. The final three months of the year continued to track within the three-year average for congregational giving. The past year included five months that were the highest of any of the four years included, while two other months were the lowest. Thanks be to God for a strong year of congregational giving.

**2021 Congregation Receipts History.** The number of “no pledge, no receipt” congregations is down from the prior year. Fewer than 10% of our congregations fall into this category, which is a blessing.

**Document Review.** The board reviewed a draft of the Board of Stewardship position description, which will be submitted to the District Operations Manual Committee for review. The board also reviewed a draft of the convention report for the Board of Stewardship.

### ACTION ITEM

**The board approved submission of the following convention overture to the Board of Directors:**

- To Thank God for the LCMS Foundation and Encourage LCMS Congregations to Educate People about Planned Giving Opportunities

## Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

**Report Review.** Heather Williams presented financial reports to the board. The draft convention report for the Board of Administration was read and approved as corrected.

### ACTION ITEMS

**The board adopted the following resolution:**

- **Resolved,** that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from October 16, 2021 to January 15, 2022, in the amount of \$34,015.62.