

# 74<sup>th</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District



## Convention Workbook



March 18, 2022



# 74<sup>th</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District

June 9-10, 2022

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR NAVIGATING THE WORKBOOK

**First things first:** This workbook should be opened with Adobe Acrobat or Reader. If you aren't seeing some of the features described in these instructions, it may be because you've opened the document with another program.

**Basic navigation:** On the left side of your document is a Bookmark Pane, which contains links (bookmarks) to the various sections of the workbook. When you click on a bookmark, the Document Pane displays that page. Using the bookmarks will allow you to move quickly through the workbook. (Has the pane disappeared? Look for the little bookmark icon on the far left, right over the paper clip, to bring it back.)

**Additional links:** Several sections have Index pages with additional links to pages within the section. These links are identified by red underlining. Some examples:

- In the Workbook Index, Speaker Biography is underlined in red. If you click on the underlined text, the Speaker Biography and photo will be displayed.
- In Section 5, Nominations Index, the page number following each nominee's name is underlined in red and links to that nominee's profile.

**Returning to a previous page:** When you click on a link in the document, you can't return to the original page, unfortunately. This is where the Bookmark Pane comes in handy. For example, if you finish reading the District Secretary profiles in Section 4 and want to go back to the Nomination Index, just look to the left in the Bookmark Pane and click on the Nomination Index. This is much easier than scrolling back and forth in the document trying to find a page.

## **TENTATIVE 2022 Convention Schedule**

*The schedule below is a shortened version of the final schedule and is subject to change. A more detailed schedule will be included in the Workbook Update and posted on the convention webpage in late May.*

### **Wednesday Evening, June 8**

6:30 p.m. ....Orientation for Elections, Credentials, and Excuse Committees

### **Thursday, June 9**

*Exhibitor area open 8 a.m.–10:30 p.m.*

8:00 a.m. ....Registration Opens

9:00 a.m. ....Floor Committee Open Hearings until 9:45 a.m.

10:00 a.m. ....**Convention Opening and Call to Worship**

10:15 a.m. ....Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:45 a.m. ....**Call to Order**

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ....**Convention Business**

12:15 p.m. ....*Lunch* (Circuit Caucuses as necessary)

1:15–5:00 p.m. ....**Convention Business**

5:00 p.m. ....Announcements and Prayer

5:15–7:00 p.m. ....*Dinner on your own*

7:00 p.m. ....**Convention Worship**

Host Congregation: St. Paul, Clay Center

8:30 p.m. ....**President's Reception**

Celebration: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Guinea Partnership

### **Friday, June 10**

*Exhibitor area open 7:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.*

7:15 a.m. ....Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m. ....CV/VP Breakfast Meeting

8:30 a.m.–Noon ....**Convention Business** (including Synod President's Report)

Noon ....*Lunch*

1:00–4:45 p.m. ....**Convention Business**

4:45 p.m. ....**Installation of the Board of Directors & Circuit Visitors**

5:00 p.m. ....Conclusion/Adjournment

## Speaker Biography, Rev. Roy S. Askins



**The Rev. Roy S. Askins** has been the managing editor of *The Lutheran Witness* since January 2020. A 2009 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., he was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Livingston, Texas (2009–2015), before serving as director of Communications for the LCMS Asia region of International Mission (2015–2019), during which time he and his family lived in Hong Kong and Taiwan. He and his wife, Eliza, currently live in Edwardsville, Ill., with their seven children who attend St. Paul Lutheran School in Hamel.

### Presentation Description

*The Lutheran Witness* has been published for 140 years. During this time, tremendous change has occurred. And yet, in the midst of such change, the church continues to proclaim, teach, and share God's message of forgiveness, won by Christ on the cross and delivered in Word and Sacrament. Despite great differences, the message has not changed. This presentation will explore how LW has participated in the work of proclaiming, teaching, and sharing this message, and then offer some suggestions for what the future might hold.

## Convention Special Standing Rules

The Special Standing Rules for the convention will be presented to the 2022 convention for approval. They are included at the front of the workbook for the information and convenience of delegates in the event they are adopted.

1. The chair will see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions shall be prioritized by floor committees and normally shall be presented to the convention in numerical sequence. However, resolutions that impact nominations or elections may be given earlier consideration at the discretion of the chair, in consultation with the floor committee chair and the chair of the floor committees on nominations and elections.
3. It shall be the discretion of the chair or presenting member of the floor committee to read the preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees that are printed in the Workbook Update. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the questions and then as he calls for the vote.
4. The delegates will consider omnibus resolutions as part of regular scheduled business. Omnibus A refers to overtures referred to a board, commission, or other group of Synod to consider and take action. Omnibus B refers to overtures that affirm an action previously taken in past conventions. Omnibus C refers to overtures declined by the floor committee. Omnibus D refers to overtures of thanks or recognition. **A majority vote is required to remove an overture from an omnibus resolution and have it referred to the appropriate floor committee for action.**
5. If any resolution is not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, it dies and the subject matter may be reintroduced for possible consideration by an overture to the next convention.
6. When recognized by the chair, members of the convention will state their name, whether they are a delegate or an advisory delegate, and the congregation or ministry they represent.
7. Voting delegates may speak and vote. All nonvoting advisory delegates may participate in debate but may not nominate candidates, make motions, or vote. The chair may acknowledge others to speak.
8. A delegate who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of their remarks move the previous question.
9. No delegate or representative may speak in debate any longer than two (2) minutes per speech. No delegate or representative may speak more than twice on the same motion on the same day and may not speak a second time until all delegates and representatives desiring to speak the first time have had the opportunity. The chair shall have discretion to make exceptions to this rule.
10. Any voting delegate may move to close debate (call the question) when recognized to speak. A vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) on the pending motion shall be put by the chair after every twenty (20) minutes of debate. The chair may also call for a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue. (The Pro-Con speakers on a question will be observed at the discretion of the chair.)
11. Personal Privilege will not be abused by using the time to advance the speaker's opinion. It is only to ask a procedure or parliamentary question. Ordinarily, questions of privilege (or point of personal privilege) shall be addressed in writing to the chair or his appointee.
12. All substitute motions and amendments must be presented in written form to the District Secretary. Materials should be provided in digital format. (Materials should be sent by e-mail to [KSDconvention@kslcms.org](mailto:KSDconvention@kslcms.org) when possible.)
13. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter will be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. The convention will then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
14. The convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief

biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when possible. (These are to (may) be sent to the Nominations Committee at [KSDconvention@kslcms.org](mailto:KSDconvention@kslcms.org) for review of proper credentials.)

15. During the convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice-Presidents, and (3) all other elective positions.
16. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
17. The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
18. The election of the Vice-Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
19. Upon the election of the regional Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.
20. Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply: Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates will constitute the ballot.
21. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure will be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
22. Electronic devices will be permitted in the delegate section. **Please respectfully turn all electronic devices to silent mode. Any phone calls received or made will be outside the convention floor. Not responsible for WIFI connections or power source.**
23. No distribution of literature will be allowed in the Maner Conference Center without pre-convention approval by the Office of the District President.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors*



## 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

### VOTING DELEGATES BY CIRCUIT

Updated 3/18/2022

Circuit#	Congregation	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
101	Trinity Lutheran Church	Atchison	Rev. Marty Reed	Adam Goodpasture
102	St. John Lutheran Church	Easton	*	*
103	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Fairview	Rev. Michael Dunaway	Carol Walter
104	Zion Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	*	*
105	Trinity Lutheran Church	Holton	(not eligible)	Erich Campbell
106	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Netawaka	(not eligible)	
107	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	Nortonville	Rev. Richard Lally	Randy Noll
108	Zion Lutheran Church	Powhattan	(not eligible)	
109	First Lutheran Church	Sabetha	*	*
110	Christ Lutheran Church	Wathena		
111	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Fairview	*	*
201	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Basehor	Rev. Robert Weinkauff	Steve Mariano
203	Bethel Lutheran Church	Kansas City	*	*
204	Faith Lutheran Church	Kansas City	Rev. Ken Nettling	*
205	Grace Lutheran Church	Kansas City	*	Wayne Hobelmann
206	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Kansas City	*	*
207	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Kansas City		
208	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Kansas City		
209	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Leavenworth	Rev. Ed Mease	Stephen Fruechtenicht
210	Trinity Lutheran Church	Leavenworth	Rev. Damian Snyder	Laura Gray
211	Trinity Family of Faith	Basehor	Rev. Jason Boetcher	Andrew Heskett
301	King of Kings Lutheran Church	Gardner	Rev. Daniel Wehmeier	L. Ed Bruns Jr.
302	Christ Lutheran Church	Overland Park	Rev. Jeff Meyers	Dave DeFreece
303	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Leawood	Rev. Scott Holder	Kyle Garrett
304	Trinity Lutheran Church	Mission/Shawnee	Rev. Mark Schulz	Bill Vaughn
305	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Olathe	Rev. David Kahle	Jon Schmidt
306	Bethany Lutheran Church	Overland Park	Rev. Kevin Wyssmann	Brad Reimer
307	First Lutheran Church	Paola	Rev. Christian Schultz	Joe Patton
308	Trinity Lutheran Church	Paola	Rev. Kevin Vogts	Paul Brack
309	Hope Lutheran Church	Shawnee	Rev. Michael Penikis	Christopher LaBelle
310	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church	Olathe	Rev. Joel Schultz	Mark Chapin
311	Augsburg Lutheran Church	Shawnee	Rev. Jay Watson	Graham Gerjerts
312	Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Louisburg	Rev. Andy Keltner	Deborah Keltner
401	St. John Lutheran Church	Westphalia		Dale True
403	Trinity Lutheran Church	Burlington	Rev. Don Haselhuhn	Robert Fitz Jr.
404	Faith Lutheran Church	Emporia	*	*
405	Messiah Lutheran Church	Emporia	Rev. Edward Hosch	Grant Riles
406	Trinity Lutheran Church	Garnett	(not eligible)	Marty Alley
407	Faith Lutheran Church	Ottawa	Rev. Timothy Roth	Michael Carey
408	Zion Lutheran Church	Vassar	Rev. Joshua Woelmer	James Bauck
502	Trinity Lutheran Church	Caney	(not eligible)	Josh Kristalyn
503	Zion Lutheran Church	Chanute	Rev. Thomas Presley	Andrew Engelman
504	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Coffeyville	(not eligible)	
505	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Erie	*	*
506	Trinity Lutheran Church	Fort Scott	Rev. Michael Apfel	Arthur Murrin
507	Trinity Lutheran Church	Girard	(not eligible)	Karen Wenzelburger

508	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hepler	Rev. Caleb Stoever	Bill Mein
509	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Humboldt	Rev. Don Copley	Bret Hauser
510	Zion Lutheran Church	Independence	Rev. Kevin Peterson	Phillip Fienen
511	Grace Lutheran Church	Iola	Rev. Bruce Kristalyn	Robert Hill
512	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Oswego	Rev. Jonathan Scheck	*
513	Trinity Lutheran Church	Parsons	*	*
515	Zion Lutheran Church	Pittsburg	Rev. Ted Cook	Martin Dupslaff
601	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lawrence	(not eligible)	
602	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Lawrence	Rev. Sean Kilgo	Robert Haisch
603	Calvary Lutheran Church	Topeka	Rev. Benjamin Ockree	Mike Patzer
604	Christ Lutheran Church	Topeka	Rev. Ben Micheel	John Hart
605	Faith Lutheran Church	Topeka	Rev. Jacob Heine	David Lippe
607	St. John Lutheran Church	Topeka	Rev. Jon Bruss	Dr. Stevin Gehrke
609	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Topeka	Rev. Kevin DeHope	Harlan Teske
701	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Barnes	*	*
702	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Bremen	Rev. Aaron Fenker	Allen Harries
703	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Bremen	*	*
704	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Clay Center	Rev. Paul Tessaro	David Parry
705	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Greenleaf	(not eligible)	Dale Hiesterman
706	Trinity Lutheran Church	Hanover	Rev. Sarge Fritz	Dan Scheele
708	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Linn	Rev. Richard Rikli	
709	Zion Lutheran Church	Linn	Rev. Bob Leiste	Stanton Uffman
710	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Marysville		
711	St. John Lutheran Church	Palmer	Rev. Joshua Hayes	Dan Thalmann
712	Trinity Lutheran Church	Afton	(not eligible)	
801	St. John Lutheran Church	Alma	Rev. Robert Grimm	Jim MacGregor
802	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Alta Vista	(not eligible)	Laurel Zimmerman
803	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Duluth	Rev. Rick Twenhafel	Andy Kocher
804	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Junction City		
805	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Junction City	(not eligible)	
806	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Manhattan	Rev. Michael Schmidt	Scott Stone
807	Trinity Lutheran Church	McFarland	(not eligible)	Rick Schley
808	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Wamego	Rev. Jim Price	Tom Maurer
809	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Wheaton	Rev. Terry DeGiovanni	Milton Falk
810	Christ Lutheran Church	Manhattan	Rev. King Crawford	Kevin Crawford
901	Faith Lutheran Church	Abilene	Rev. Joseph Barlau	Cliff Ascher
902	Calvary Lutheran Church	Council Grove	Rev. Adam Reichart	Levi Jaster
904	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Herington	(not eligible)	*
905	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Herington	(not eligible)	Sharon Kolanowski
906	St. John Lutheran Church	Herington	(not eligible)	*
907	Zion Lutheran Church	Hillsboro	Rev. John Werner	Sarah Werner
908	Zion Lutheran Church	Latimer	(not eligible)	
909	St. John Lutheran Church	Lincolnvillle	Rev. Alan Stahlecker	Barry Montgomery
910	Our Savior Lutheran Church	Marion	*	*
911	Trinity Lutheran Church	Ramona	Rev. Clark Davis	Ed Meisinger
912	Grace Lutheran Church	Strong City		
913	St. John Lutheran Church	Tampa	*	*
914	Zion Lutheran Church	Newton	Rev. Kurt Letcher	Peggy Gerber
1001	Peace Lutheran Church	Andover	Rev. Stephen Wipperman	Bill Wetzel
1002	Christ Lutheran Church	Augusta	Rev. John Einem	Ed Gard
1003	Grace Lutheran Church	El Dorado	*	*
1005	Ascension Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Mike Bingenheimer	Cyndy Bressler
1006	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Scott Snow	Stan Koster
1008	St. Andrews Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Craig Boehlke	Kelly Seltmann
1009	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Tom Harmon	Chad Harmon
1010	Ascension Lutheran Church	Pratt	(not eligible)	Brian Schrag
1101	Zion Lutheran Church	Argonia	Rev. David Ersland	Alex McClure
1102	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Arkansas City	Rev. David Herald	Tabitha Brown
1103	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Cheney	Rev. Chet Scherbarth	Steve Schomaker
1104	Faith Lutheran Church	Derby	Rev. Tom Johnson	Max Ayers
1105	Calvary Lutheran Church	Wellington	Rev. William Wingfield	Vickie Wingfield



1106	Bethany Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Aaron Schnelle	Michael Parmenter
1107	Grace Lutheran Church	Wichita	*	*
1108	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Mark Lovett	Suzanne Cooper
1109	Trinity Lutheran Church	Wichita	Rev. Daniel Metzger	Dr. Keith Buhr
1110	Trinity Lutheran Church	Winfield	Rev. Seth Meyer	Timothy Smith
1111	Trinity Lutheran Church	Medicine Lodge	Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer	Fred Mattal
1112	St. John Lutheran Church	Nashville	*	*
1113	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Preston	Rev. Michael Schotte	Kevin Schwertfeger
1201	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Canton	(not eligible)	Travis Sebits
1202	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Haven	(not eligible)	Duane Wiebe
1204	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Hutchinson	Rev. Quentin Nuttmann	Tom Stanton
1205	Grace Lutheran Church	Lyons	(not eligible)	
1206	Grace Lutheran Church	McPherson	Rev. Dale Dumperth	Douglas Dick
1208	Christ the King Lutheran Church	Salina	Rev. Aaron Wagner	Henrietta Boyer
1209	Trinity Lutheran Church	Salina	Rev. Mark Boxman	CJ Cross
1210	St. John Lutheran Church	Ellinwood	Rev. Thomas Thierfelder	Alan Brauer
1301	Zion Lutheran Church	Downs	Rev. Jason Toombs	Samantha Toombs
1302	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Ellsworth	Rev. Luke Brown	Bill Evans
1303	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Ellsworth	Rev. Keith Emshoff	Rick Sippel
1306	Trinity Lutheran Church	Hunter	Rev. Matthew Schneider	Ray Keller
1307	St. John Lutheran Church	Lincoln	*	*
1308	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Lincoln	*	*
1311	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Sylvan Grove	Rev. Christopher Craig	Tyler Gier
1312	Zion Lutheran Church	Clafin	Rev. Daniel Harders	Tiffany Harders
1313	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Great Bend	(not eligible)	
1314	Concordia Lutheran Church	Hoisington	Rev. Gary Wolf	Bobby Trapp
1315	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Holyrood	*	*
1316	Grace Lutheran Church	Larned	(not eligible)	
1501	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Atwood	Rev. Steven Frank	Alex Thomas
1502	Trinity Lutheran Church	Colby	Rev. Philip Hoppe	David Kruse
1503	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hoxie	Rev. Michael Brockman	*
1504	First St John Lutheran Church	Kensington	Rev. David Hutson	Steve Wangerin
1506	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Norton	(not eligible)	LaMont Shirk
1507	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Oakley	*	*
1508	St. John Lutheran Church	Oberlin	(not eligible)	*
1509	First Lutheran Church	Phillipsburg	(not eligible)	Sharon Christensen
1510	Grace Lutheran Church	Hill City	(not eligible)	Jesse McWilliams
1511	Messiah Lutheran Church	Hays	Rev. Rocco Mallardi	David Maier
1512	Peace Lutheran Church	Natoma	Rev. Michael Schmidt	Dale Eickhoff
1513	First Lutheran Church	Plainville	*	*
1603	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lakin	*	*
1605	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Dodge City	Rev. Randall Jahnke	Ron Albrecht
1607	Trinity Lutheran Church	Garden City	Rev. Michael Hageman	John Polson
1609	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Jetmore	(not eligible)	*
1610	Grace Lutheran Church	Liberal	Rev. Andrew Wehling	Milton Brune
1611	St John Lutheran Church	Meade	(not eligible)	
1612	Zion Lutheran Church	Offerle	Rev. Stanley Palmer	Gary Panzer
1613	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Scott City		Skip Numrich
1615	Grace Lutheran Church	Ulysses	*	*
1617	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Kinsley	*	*
1618	Peace Lutheran Church	Greensburg		
1619	Peace Lutheran Church	Beaver, OK	(not eligible)	

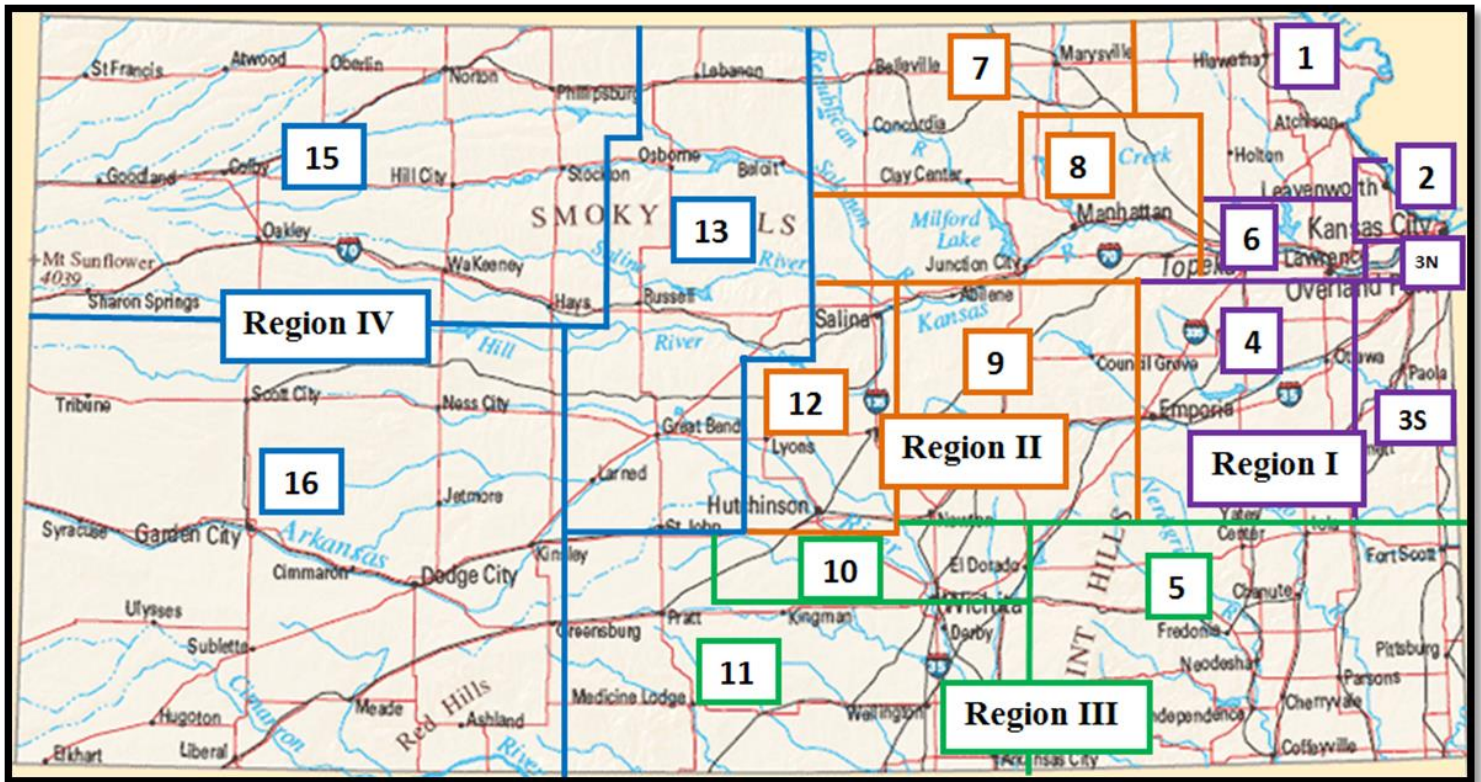
\* = multi-congregation parish



# 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

## KANSAS DISTRICT REGIONS



### REGION I

Circuit 1  
Circuit 2  
Circuit 3 North  
Circuit 3 South  
Circuit 4  
Circuit 6

### REGION II

Circuit 7  
Circuit 8  
Circuit 9  
Circuit 12

### REGION III

Circuit 5  
Circuit 10  
Circuit 11

### REGION IV

Circuit 13  
Circuit 15  
Circuit 16

## REGION LISTING – KANSAS DISTRICT (as of March 18, 2022)

### REGION I (Circuits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6)

#### Circuit 1 – Atchison

Atchison, Trinity .....	Rev. Robert Ziegler
.....	Rev. Marty Reed
Easton, St. John .....	(served by Rev. Rick Twenhafel)
Fairview, St. Paul .....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Ian Kinney
Hiawatha, Zion .....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Ian Kinney
Holton, Trinity .....	(served by Rev. Richard Lally)
Netawaka, Immanuel .....	Vacant
Nortonville, St. Matthew .....	Rev. Richard Lally
Powhattan, Zion .....	(served by Rev. Tim Brisbois, NE)
Sabetha, First .....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Ian Kinney
Wathena, Christ .....	Rev. Philip Wolf
Fairview, Immanuel .....	Rev. Michael Dunaway
.....	Rev. Ian Kinney

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Steven Hobus, Monica Lennington, Jill Lowe, Laurie Reed, Melissa Wolf

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Jennifer Curley, Joyce Duitsman, Rachel Goodpasture, Martha Pearson

#### Circuit 2 – Kansas City North

Basehor, Risen Savior .....	Rev. Robert Weinkauff
.....	Rev. Kurt Cockran
Kansas City, Bethel .....	(served by Rev. Kenneth Nettling)
Kansas City, Faith .....	Rev. Kenneth Nettling
Kansas City, Grace .....	(served by Rev. Kenneth Nettling)
Kansas City, Immanuel .....	(served by Rev. Kenneth Nettling)
Kansas City, Our Saviour .....	Rev. Mark Wood
Kansas City, St. Luke .....	Rev. Luke Kammrath
Leavenworth, St. Paul .....	Rev. Van (Ed) Mease
Leavenworth, Trinity .....	Rev. Damian Snyder
Basehor, Trinity Family of Faith .....	Rev. Jason Boetcher

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. John Niermann, Rev. David Parks, Rev. Peter Tremain, Rev. Thomas Van Duzer

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Kevin Dierks, Cynthia Hammons, Sarah Niemann, Denise Sprengeler, Susan Wells

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Laura Baack, Jay Floetke, Pam Floetke, Helen Genter, Cheryl Kirkendoll, Lori Lott, Leah Roesler, David Saving, Rebecca Thomlinson

#### Circuit 3 North

Overland Park, Christ .....	Rev. Jeffrey Kunze
.....	Rev. Jeffrey Meyers
.....	Rev. Russell Peterson
Mission & Shawnee, Trinity .....	Rev. Mark Schulz
.....	Rev. Philip Cook
.....	Rev. Luke Jacob
Olathe, Redeemer .....	Rev. David Kahle
Shawnee, Hope .....	(Senior pastor vacant)
.....	Rev. Michael Penikis
Olathe, Beautiful Savior .....	Rev. Joel Schultz
.....	Rev. Michael Ada
Olathe, Augsburg .....	Rev. Jay Watson

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Roland Boehnke, Rev. Thomas Brewer, Rev. Ronald Flentgen, Rev. Thomas Harries, Rev. LeRoy Hovel, Rev. Edward Kettner, Rev. Darrell Matthews, Rev. Richard Pingel, Rev. Roger Schepmann, Rev. Eugene Stohs

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Kelsey Adcock, Katrina Celmer, Debbie Coughlin, Korey Danley, Amber Goeglein, Diane Harries, Lisa Hellyer, Karen Horrigan, Brent Howard, Michelle Howard, Nancy Jankowski, Marjorie Kresinski, Kathy McIntosh, Miranda Mondary, David Rindt, Roberta Schempp, Amy Schultz, Elizabeth Stephens

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Kristine Alsin, Nancy Chapin, Ronald Cornett, Aleen Edge, Diane Eichholz, Amanda Fogelman, Richard Hanebutt, Kathleen Hanebutt, Janette Reinke, Lester Schmidt, Carol Schneider, Arlyn Sprecher, Lorraine Thaete, David Willingham, Kristen Willingham, Jennifer Woodrow

### **Circuit 3 South**

Gardner, King of Kings .....	Rev. Daniel Wehmeier
Leawood, Lord of Life .....	Rev. Scott Holder
Overland Park, Bethany .....	Rev. Kevin Wyssmann
.....	Rev. Sean Baker
Paola, First .....	Rev. Christian Schultz
Paola, Trinity .....	Rev. Kevin Vogts
Louisburg, Christ Our Savior .....	Rev. James (Andy) Keltner
.....	Rev. Stephen Sweyko

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Jerome Brownlee, Rev. Mark Croucher, Rev. Paul Helmer, Rev. Paul Hoppe, Rev. Thomas Krause, Rev. Jerome Peck, Rev. William Postel, Rev. Edward Trost

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Sarah Abramovitz, Molly Baker, Paige Borcharding, Heather Croucher, Debra Dillon, Sharon Fries, Jana Grimm, Joshua Keithley, Kevin Kuske, Shannon Manley, Allison Miller

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Lillian Brandt, Jody Brown, Megan Darby, Angel Gillespie, Joanna Hadle, Lucy Kettler, Sarah Kuske, Jane Limback, Dean Lovig, Randi Petrik, Nancy Schulz

### **Circuit 4 – Emporia**

Aliceville, St. John.....	Rev. Timothy Booth
Burlington, Trinity.....	Rev. Don Haselhuhn
Emporia, Faith .....	Rev. Adam Reichart
Emporia, Messiah.....	Rev. Edward Hosch
Garnett, Trinity .....	Vacant
Ottawa, Faith .....	Rev. Timothy Roth
Vassar, Zion.....	Rev. Joshua Woelmer

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Charlie Adams, Rev. Charlie Scott, Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Connie Becker, Malissa Desormeaux, Emily Jaster, Elaine Whiteneck

### **Circuit 6 – Topeka-Lawrence**

Lawrence, Immanuel .....	(served by Rev. Tom Harries)
Lawrence, Redeemer .....	Rev. Sean Kilgo
Topeka, Calvary .....	Rev. Benjamin Ockree
Topeka, Christ .....	Rev. Benjamin Micheel
Topeka, Faith .....	Rev. Jacob Heine
.....	Rev. Martin Albrecht (SMP)
Topeka, St. John.....	Rev. Jon Bruss
Topeka, Prince of Peace .....	Rev. Kevin DeHope

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Thomas Brooks, Rev. Richard Bruenger, Rev. Neil Buono, Rev. Daniel Galchutt, Rev. Roger Goetz, Rev. Devin Kerns, Rev. Steven Massey, Rev. Donald Miller, Rev. Robert Nestler, Rev. Cody Norton, Rev. Kenton Rohrberg, Rev. Joseph Seifert, Rev. Frederick Smith, Rev. Norbert Wodtke, Rev. Glen Wurdeman

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Amanda Adams, Kathy Bartels, James Bradshaw, Chris Francik, Philip Frusti, Erin Grass, Joshua Grass, Bethany Johnson, Andrea Kosmicki, Heather McCormick, Emma Taylor, Isaac Taylor

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Joanna Bradshaw, Marilyn Bruenger, Debra Freel, Betty Goetz, Donna Hass, Dennis Hintz, Rachel Kathman, Walter Malone, Amie Morlock

## **REGION II (Circuits 7, 8, 9, 12)**

### **Circuit 7 – Linn**

Barnes, St. Peter .....	Rev. Matthew Durance
Bremen, Bethlehem .....	Rev. Aaron Fenker
Bremen, Immanuel .....	Rev. Aaron Fenker
Clay Center, St. Paul .....	Rev. Paul Tessaro
.....	Rev. Michael Hofmann
Greenleaf, Bethlehem.....	Rev. Matthew Durance
Hanover, Trinity .....	Rev. Rodney Fritz
Linn, Immanuel.....	Rev. Richard Rikli
Linn, Zion .....	Rev. Robert Leiste
Marysville, Mt. Calvary .....	Rev. Philip Miller
.....	Rev. Jay Williamson (SMP)
Palmer, St. John .....	Rev. Joshua Hayes
Waterville, Trinity .....	Vacant

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Eugene Holtorf

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Roxanne Bayer, Rhonda Beethe, David Beikmann, Terry Harries, Robyn Meyer

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Diane Beikmann, Mildred Beikmann, Sheryl Kruse, John Macy, Katie Olson, Jeremy Pera, Susan Schotte, Jessie Uffman

### **Circuit 8 – Manhattan**

Alma, St. John .....	Rev. Robert Grimm
Alta Vista, St. Paul.....	Vacant
Duluth, St. Paul.....	Rev. Rick Twenhafel
Junction City, Immanuel .....	Rev. Timothy McCall
Junction City, St. Paul.....	(served by Rev. Tim McCall)
Manhattan, St. Luke.....	Rev. Michael Schmidt
McFarland, Trinity .....	Vacant
Wamego, Mt. Calvary .....	Rev. James Price
Wheaton, St. Luke .....	Rev. Terry DeGiovanni
Manhattan, Christ .....	Rev. King Crawford

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Lawrence Boye, Rev. Alan Estby, Rev. David Gruoner, Rev. James Mayes, Rev. David Meier, Rev. Justin Panzer, Rev. Christian Schultz

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Harmon Butler, Robyn Gray, Whitney Howard, Paul White

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Orville Altevogt, Thomas Forke, Rebecca Frank, Tracie Hudson, Lisa Ochs, Rebekah Pauls, Evelyn Schmidt, Kristina Schmidt, Andrea White

### **Circuit 9 – Herington**

Abilene, Faith.....	Rev. Joseph Barlau
Council Grove, Calvary.....	Rev. Adam Reichart
Herington, Immanuel .....	(served by Rev. Alan Stahlecker and Rev. Clark Davis)
Herington, Our Redeemer .....	(served by Rev. Alan Stahlecker and Rev. Clark Davis)
Herington, St. John .....	(served by Rev. Alan Stahlecker and Rev. Clark Davis)
Hillsboro, Zion.....	Rev. John Werner
Latimer, Zion.....	Vacant
Lincolnvile, St. John .....	Rev. Alan Stahlecker

Marion, Our Savior .....	Rev. John Werner
Ramona, Trinity .....	Rev. Clark Davis
Strong City, Grace .....	Vacant
Tampa, St. John .....	Rev. Clark Davis
Newton, Zion.....	Rev. Kurt Letcher

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Richard Andrus, Rev. George Mock

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Amanda Barlau, Charles Eaton

#### **Circuit 12 – Hutchinson-Salina**

Canton, Immanuel .....	(served by Rev. Tim Meyer)
Haven, St. Paul.....	(served by Rev. Quentin Nuttmann)
Hutchinson, Our Redeemer .....	Rev. Quentin Nuttmann
.....	Rev. Henry Blickhahn (SMP)
Lyons, Grace .....	Rev. Kenton Abbott (SMP)
McPherson, Grace .....	Rev. Dale Dumperth
Moundridge, St. John.....	Closed December 2020
Salina, Christ the King .....	Rev. Aaron Wagner
Salina, Trinity .....	Rev. Mark Boxman
.....	Rev. Dennis Kootz
Ellinwood, St. John .....	Rev. Thomas Thierfelder
.....	Rev. Kenton Abbott (SMP)

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Leroy Pralle, Rev. Gerald Radtke, Rev. Ron Rather, Rev. Victor Streufert, Rev. Timothy Wangerin, Rev. Allen Woelzlein

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Samantha Wagner

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Sharon Johnson, Jamie Kootz, Denise Lawrenz, Kate Soeken, Sarah Ann Stoelting

### **REGION III (Circuits 5, 10, 11)**

#### **Circuit 5 – Independence**

Caney, Trinity.....	(served by Rev. Scott Whittenburg)
Chanute, Zion .....	Rev. Thomas Presley
Coffeyville, St. Paul.....	Vacant
Erie, Good Shepherd .....	Rev. Caleb Stoeve
Fort Scott, Trinity .....	Rev. Michael Apfel
Girard, Trinity .....	(served by Rev. Jerry Hemmingson)
Hepler, Immanuel .....	Rev. Caleb Stoeve
Humboldt, St Peter .....	Rev. Matthew Jennings
.....	Rev. Don Copley (SMP)
Independence, Zion .....	Rev. Kevin Peterson
Iola, Grace .....	Rev. Bruce Kristalyn
Oswego, St. Paul .....	Rev. Jonathan Scheck
Parsons, Trinity.....	Rev. Jonathan Scheck
Pittsburg, Zion.....	Rev. Theodore Cook

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Ervin Daugherty

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Angela Achong, Eric Pralle, Bethany Stoeve

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Drew Achong, Dorothy Bredehoft, Lisa Krenz, Jennifer Seel

#### **Circuit 10 – Wichita North**

Andover, Peace .....	Rev. Stephen Wipperman
Augusta, Christ .....	Rev. John Einem
El Dorado, Grace .....	Rev. John Einem

Wichita, Ascension .....	Rev. Michael Bingenheimer
.....	Rev. Scott Goltl
.....	Rev. Aaron Hannemann
Wichita, Holy Cross .....	Rev. Scott Snow
.....	Rev. Daniel Myers
.....	Rev. Matthew Bohlmann
Wichita, St. Andrews.....	Rev. Craig Boehlke
Wichita, Risen Savior.....	Rev. Thomas Harmon
.....	Rev. Nick Cordt (SMP)
Ascension, Pratt.....	(served by Rev. Nick Cordt)

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Jeffrey Crane, Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Rev. Rocky Mease, Rev. Timothy Meyer, Rev. John Pool, Rev. Dean Von Stroh, Rev. Terry Wiechman

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Brian Amey, Karen Boettcher, Janet Dobler, Morgan Dunst, Paige Edgington, Jacob Kelly, Karen Maxson, Jenny Myers, Gwen Thomas, Molly-Ann Wells, Gregg Wolgast

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Betty Amey, Pamela Amey, Teddy Boettcher, Lindsey Flaten, Mike Freed, Carol Garrett, Ted Helmer, Susan Kleber, Katie Nelson, David Ochs, Andrea Prochnow, Doreen Scheuerman, Terri Vanwey, Karen Wilgers, Sandra Yount

#### **Circuit 11 – Wichita South**

Argonia, Zion .....	Rev. David Ersland
Arkansas City, Redeemer.....	Rev. David Herald
Cheney, St. Paul.....	Rev. Chet Scherbarth
Derby, Faith .....	Rev. Thomas Johnson
Wellington, Calvary .....	Rev. William Wingfield
Wichita, Bethany .....	Rev. Aaron Schnelle
Wichita, Grace .....	Rev. Geoffrey Boyle
.....	Rev. Daniel Metzger
Wichita, Immanuel .....	Rev. Mark Lovett
Wichita, Trinity .....	Rev. Geoffrey Boyle
.....	Rev. Daniel Metzger
Winfield, Trinity .....	Rev. Seth Meyer
Medicine Lodge, Trinity .....	Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer
Nashville, St. John .....	Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer
Preston, St. Paul.....	Rev. Michael Schotte

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Marvin Barz, Rev. Richard Boyer, Rev. Dean Christ, Rev. Ronald Gloe, Rev. Rick Hathaway, Rev. Al Hoger, Rev. Gilbert Holstein, Rev. Clifford Winter

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Christopher Dehning, Deb Doesken, Rebecca Hillman, Cheryl Voss

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Elizabeth Herald, Charles Jedelee, Pauline Jedelee, Keith Jopp, Heather Meyer, Roland Mueller, Karla Ohmie, Ronald Richter, Mark Schotte

### **REGION IV (Circuits 13, 15, 16)**

#### **Circuit 13 – Lincoln-Hays**

Downs, Zion.....	Rev. Jason Toombs
Ellsworth, Immanuel .....	Rev. Luke Brown
Ellsworth, St. Paul .....	Rev. Keith Emshoff
Hunter, Trinity .....	Rev. Matthew Schneider
Lincoln, St. John .....	Rev. Benjamin Siebert
Lincoln, St. Paul.....	Rev. Benjamin Siebert
Sylvan Grove, Bethlehem .....	Rev. Christopher Craig
Clafflin, Zion .....	Rev. Daniel Harders
Great Bend, Our Savior .....	(served by Rev. Kenton Abbott)
Hoisington, Concordia .....	Rev. Gary Wolf
Holyrood, St. Peter .....	Rev. Daniel Harders
Larned, Grace.....	(served by Rev. Stan Palmer)

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Garry Dassow, Rev. Lloyd Sprick

**Circuit 15 – Colby**

Atwood, Redeemer .....	Rev. Steven Frank
Colby, Trinity .....	Rev. Philip Hoppe
Hoxie, Immanuel.....	Rev. Michael Brockman
Kensington, First St. John .....	Rev. David Hutson
Norton, Immanuel .....	(served by Rev. Joel Hiesterman)
Oakley, Immanuel.....	Rev. Michael Brockman
Oberlin, St. John .....	(served by Rev. Bradley Rick, NE)
Phillipsburg, First .....	(served by Rev. Dave Hutson)
Hill City, Grace .....	(served by Rev. Joel Hiesterman and Rev. Michael Schmidt)
Hays, Messiah .....	Rev. Rocco Mallardi
Natoma, Peace .....	Rev. Michael Schmidt
Plainville, First .....	Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Joel Hiesterman, Rev. Larry McDermott

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Benjamin Venteicher

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Janine Mallardi

**Circuit 16 – Garden City**

Lakin, Immanuel .....	Rev. Michael Hagemann
.....	Rev. Santiago Keinbaum
Dodge City, Holy Cross .....	Rev. Randall Jahnke
Elkhart, Christ .....	Transferred to Oklahoma District
Garden City, Trinity .....	Rev. Michael Hageman
.....	Rev. Santiago Keinbaum
Jetmore, St. Paul .....	(served by Rev. Randall Jahnke)
Liberal, Grace .....	Rev. Andrew Wehling
Meade, St. John .....	(served by Circuit 16 pastors)
Offerle, Zion .....	Rev. Stanley Palmer
Scott City, Holy Cross.....	Rev. Matthew Koterba
Ulysses, Grace .....	Rev. Michael Hageman
.....	Rev. Santiago Keinbaum
Kinsley, Our Redeemer .....	Rev. Stanley Palmer
Greensburg, Peace.....	Rev. David McCloskey
Beaver, OK, Peace .....	(served by Circuit 16 pastors)

**Ordained Advisory** – Rev. Merlyn Lohrke, Rev. Patrick (Dennis) Mason

**Commissioned Advisory (Active)** – Cynthia Lavrenz

**Commissioned Advisory (Inactive)** – Mindy Brunkhardt, Sherry Moentmann, Alejandra Rojas De Robles (Keinbaum), Hillary Snyder, Miriam Wehling





# 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

## DISTRICT ROSTER CHANGES

### WORKERS, CONGREGATIONS, SCHOOLS (April 2018 thru March 2022)

(Names in alphabetical order)

#### **ORDAINED ENTERING KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
BARLAU, Joseph	Indiana	Faith, Abilene	01/21
BOEHLKE, Craig	Southern	St. Andrew, Wichita	01/20
BOOTH, Timothy	Nebraska	St. John, Aliceville	02/22
CHRIST, Dean	Iowa East	Emeritus	07/20
COCKRAN, Kurt	English	Risen Savior, Basehor	09/21
DEHOPE, Kevin	CNH	Prince of Peace, Topeka	12/21
FERGUSON, William	Pacific Southwest	Emeritus	08/18
FRANK, Steven	Minnesota North	Redeemer, Atwood	09/19
HANNEMANN, Aaron	Iowa West	Ascension, Wichita	02/20
HAYES, Joshua	Rocky Mountain	St. John, Palmer	01/20
HEINE, Jacob	Northern Illinois	Faith, Topeka	10/20
HERALD, David	Missouri	Redeemer, Arkansas City	11/18
HOFMANN, Michael	Texas	St. Paul, Clay Center	10/20
HOLDER, Scott	Missouri	Lord of Life, Leawood	06/21
HOPPE, Philip	Minnesota North	Trinity, Colby	12/21
HOSCH, Edward	Oklahoma	Messiah, Emporia	07/18
JACOB, Luke	SELC	Trinity, Mission & Shawnee	08/21
JENNINGS, Matthew	Pacific Southwest	St. Peter, Humboldt	01/22
KAHLE, David	Nebraska	Redeemer, Olathe	11/21
KEINBAUM, Santiago	Nebraska	TIG Partnership	01/21
KOTERBA, Matthew	Nebraska	Holy Cross, Scott City	01/22
LETCHER, Kurt	Ohio	Zion, Newton	08/19
MASSEY, Steven	Northern Illinois	LeadaChild	10/19
MCCLOSKEY, David	SELC	Emeritus	06/21
MEYER, Seth	Nebraska	Trinity, Winfield	01/20
MEYER, Timothy	ELCA	(Colloquy) Emeritus	11/21
MICHEEL, Benjamin	Indiana	Christ, Topeka	07/20
MOCK, George	Pacific Southwest	Emeritus	10/21
MOORE, Jeffrey	Michigan	Faith, Topeka	02/19
NUTTMANN, Quentin	Michigan	Our Redeemer, Hutchinson	10/18
PECK, Kent	Rocky Mountain	St. John, Meade	07/18
PETERSON, Kevin	Montana	Zion, Independence	05/19
PRESLEY, Thomas	Mid-South	Zion, Chanute	10/19
REED, Marty	Missouri	Trinity, Atchison	02/20
SCHERBARTH, Chet	Pacific Southwest	St. Paul, Cheney	01/20
SCHNELLE, Aaron	Missouri	Bethany, Wichita	05/20
WAGNER, Aaron	Oklahoma	Christ the King, Salina	08/19
WANGERIN, Timothy	Oklahoma	Emeritus	01/20
WIPPERMAN, Stephen	Florida-Georgia	Emeritus	10/18
WOLF, Philip	Missouri	Christ, Wathena	12/20
WOOD, Mark	Texas	Our Saviour, Kansas City	06/19
YAHR, Karl	Minnesota South	Christ, Elkhart	03/20

**SEMINARY CANDIDATES CALLED TO KANSAS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ABBOTT, Kenton (SMP)	St. Louis	St John, Ellinwood	07/18
BAKER, Sean	St. Louis	Bethany, Overland Park	07/21
BOHLMANN, Matthew	St. Louis	Holy Cross, Wichita	06/20
COPLEY, Donald (SMP)	Colloquy	St. Peter, Humboldt	05/18
EMSHOFF, Keith	Fort Wayne	St. Paul, Ellsworth	06/20
KINNEY, Ian	Fort Wayne	Northeast Kansas Partnership	06/21
PETERSON, James	Fort Wayne	First, Phillipsburg	06/19
SCHULTZ, Christian	Fort Wayne	First, Paola	05/21
STOEVER, Caleb	Fort Wayne	Immanuel, Helper and Good Shepherd, Erie	06/21
WILLIAMSON, Jay	Colloquy	Mt. Calvary, Marysville	08/21

**ORDAINED TRANSFERRING FROM KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ALEXANDER, Robert	Mid-South	07/21
BENDER, James	Minnesota South	05/18
BONINE, Russell	Nebraska	09/21
BUROW, Gaylen	Minnesota South	11/21
CHRISMER, Daniel	Pacific Southwest	05/21
DUNCAN, Jeffrey	Nebraska	10/19
FIELDS, Anthony	Missouri	10/20
FILIPEK, Aaron	North Dakota	11/18
GARWOOD, Burt	Nebraska	02/21
GILKEY, Walter	North Wisconsin	02/20
GUMZ, Patrick	Indiana	01/19
HASKELL, Kenneth	Oklahoma	07/21
HEATH, Timmothy	Florida-Georgia	07/21
HOBSON, Jay	Oklahoma	07/19
HORNE, Brent	Nebraska	11/21
JONES, Joseph	Pacific Southwest	08/21
KERNS, Douglas (Scot)	Central Illinois	03/18
LANGE, Peter	Missouri	08/19
LOVICK, Richard	Southeastern	03/21
MACKIE, Roger	Michigan	05/19
MOORE, Jeffrey	Florida-Georgia	09/19
PECK, Kent	Iowa East	03/22
PETERSON, James	Nebraska	03/22
RAMSEY, Daniel	Nebraska	12/18
ROSS, Daniel	Oklahoma	07/19
ROSTEK, Wayne (Rick)	Oklahoma	01/22
SCHEMM, David	Florida-Georgia	11/21
SHERRY, Jacob	Michigan	11/18
SPENCER, Lynn	Mid-South	01/19
STARK, Brian	Indiana	06/21
SUKSTORF, Perry	Southern	01/21
TAPE, John	Indiana	10/21
VINEYARD, Benjamin	Nebraska	12/19
VOSSLER, Christopher	Michigan	06/21
WAMPFLER, Jacob	Pacific Southwest	07/20
WENGER, Mark	Missouri	12/18
YAHR, Karl	Minnesota North	09/21
ZABEL, Richard	Texas	01/19

**ORDAINED POSITION CHANGES WITHIN KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ALEXANDER, Robert	Trinity, Colby	Emeritus	06/21
CROUCHER, Mark	First, Paola	Candidate	10/20

DURANCE, Matthew	Dual parish installation	St. Peter, Barnes	12/21
EINEM, John	Dual parish installation	Grace, El Dorado	07/18
ERSLAND, David	Emeritus	Zion, Argonia	05/19
GARWOOD, Burt	Lord of Life, Leawood	Candidate	11/19
GESKE, Jeffrey	Peace, Andover	Candidate	04/18
GILKEY, Walter	St. John & Immanuel, Herington	Candidate	02/20
HAGEMAN, Michael	Sole congregation	TIG Partnership	01/21
JUDSON, James	Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove	Candidate	11/18
KERNS, Devin	St. John, Topeka	Candidate	03/22
KILGO, Sean	Northeast Kansas Partnership	Redeemer, Lawrence	03/21
LEISTE, Robert (IIM)	Redeemer, Lawrence	Zion, Linn	01/21
LOVETT, Mark	Our Redeemer, Herington	Immanuel, Wichita	01/20
MCCALL, George	Redeemer, Atwood	Immanuel, Junction City	01/19
MCCLOSKEY, David	Emeritus	Peace, Greensburg	06/21
MEASE, Rocky (IIM)	St. John, Meade	Trinity, Winfield	07/18
MEASE, Rocky (IIM)	Trinity, Winfield	Prince of Peace, Topeka	12/19
MEASE, Rocky (IIM)	Prince of Peace, Topeka	St. Paul, Coffeyville	01/21
NORTON, Cody	Christ, Wathena	Chaplain, BIM	06/20
PANZER, Justin	Sole at Faith, Abilene	Dual DP, Abilene pastor	08/19
PECK, Kent	Sole congregation to dual	Peace, Beaver, OK	09/21
PECK, Kent	Peace, Beaver St. John, Meade	Candidate	11/21
REICHART, Adam	Sole congregation to dual	Faith, Emporia	08/20
ROTH, Timothy	St. Peter, Humboldt	Faith, Ottawa	05/21
SEIFERT, Joseph	St. Paul, Cheney	Military Chaplain LCMS	01/19
SIEBERT, Benjamin	Sole congregation to dual	St. Paul, Lincoln	11/20
TAPE, John (IIM)	Emeritus	Lord of Life, Leawood	01/20
WIPPERMAN, Stephen	Emeritus	Peace, Andover	03/19
YAHR, Karl	Christ, Elkhart	Candidate	11/20

#### **ORDAINED RETIRED**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ADAMS, Charles	Ottawa, KS	08/20
ALEXANDER, Robert	Colby, KS	06/21
BUONO, Neil	Topeka, KS	07/18
DAUGHERTY, Ervin	Kincaid, KS	12/20
GLOE, Ronald	Wichita, KS	06/18
GOETZ, Roger	Topeka, KS	10/18
GRUONER, David	Linn, KS	10/20
HATHAWAY, Roderick	Winfield, KS	07/18
HIESTERMAN, Joel	Phillipsburg, KS	08/18
MOORE, Jeffrey	Dayton Beach, FL	09/19
KOHLMEIER, Keith	Wichita, KS	01/19
MEIER, David	Maple Hill, KS	12/19
RATHER, Ronald	Salina, KS	01/21
ROSTEK, Wayne (Rick)	Norton, KS	01/22
SCHEMM, David	Topeka, KS	04/19
TAPE, John	Wichita, KS	06/19
TAPE, John	Wichita, KS	03/21
TEGTMEIER, Norbert	Wellsville, KS	08/19
VAN DUZER, Thomas	Kansas City, KS	07/19
WEINKAUF, Randall	Lawrence, KS	11/19
WENZELBURGER, Mark	Girard, KS	02/22

#### **ORDAINED CALLED TO ETERNAL REST**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BITTER, Glenn	Topeka, KS	07/22/2020
FERGUSON, William	Wichita, KS	04/25/2019
HANNEMANN, Harvey	Wichita, KS	06/25/2018

HAUBEIN, Wendall	Salina, KS	05/17/2021
MAY, Michael	Kansas City, KS	05/27/2020
REINKE, Calvin	Salina, KS	09/06/2018
ZIMMERMAN, Earl	Ottawa, KS	09/05/2019

#### **ORDAINED RESIGNED/REMOVED FROM ROSTER**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
GESKE, Jeffrey	Topeka, KS	09/18
JUDSON, James	Salina, KS	02/22
MARTINEZ, Nicholas	Aberdeen, SD	10/20
PROCHNOW, Warren	Scott City, KS	05/20
VAN VELZER, Michael	Leavenworth, KS	10/21
WEINKAUF, Randall	Lawrence, KS	11/21

#### **COMMISSIONED ENTERING KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BAKER, Molly	Missouri	Bethany, Overland Park	08/21
BARLAU, Amanda	Indiana	Candidate, Abilene	04/21
BEETHE, Rhonda	Nebraska	Good Shepherd, Marysville	08/18
BUTLER, Harmon	Southern	St. John, Alma	06/19
CELMER, Katrina	Michigan	Hope, Shawnee	08/19
CHRISMER, Emma	Missouri	Candidate, Pratt	02/21
CROUCHER, Heather	Missouri	Bethany, Overland Park	07/20
DANLEY, Korey	Missouri	Christ, Overland Park	01/18
DEHNING, Christopher	Southern Illinois	Trinity, Winfield	07/21
DESORMEAUX, Malissa	Indiana	Candidate, Princeton	02/21
FORKE, Thomas	South Wisconsin	Candidate, Manhattan	12/20
GILLESPIE, Angel	Northern Illinois	First, Paola	08/19
GRASS, Joshua	Missouri	Topeka Lutheran School	08/18
GRAY, Robyn	Iowa East	St. John, Alma	08/20
HAMMONS, Cynthia	Missouri	St. Paul, Leavenworth	03/19
HERALD, Elizabeth	Missouri	Candidate, Arkansas City	02/19
HOBUS, Steven	Rocky Mountain	Trinity, Atchison	08/20
JASTER, Emily	CNH	Candidate, Emporia	05/21
KEITHLEY, Joshua	Nebraska	Candidate, Lenexa	04/21
KEINBAUM, Alejandra	Nebraska	Candidate, Garden City	12/20
KUSKE, Kevin	Iowa East	Bethany, Overland Park	08/19
LIMBACK, Jane	Nebraska	Candidate, Shawnee Mission	07/18
MAXSON, Karen	Rocky Mountain	Holy Cross, Wichita	08/20
MEYER, Heather	Nebraska	Candidate, Winfield	01/20
MEYER, Robyn	North Wisconsin	Linn Lutheran School Assoc.	08/20
MILLER, Allison	South Dakota	Bethany, Overland Park	08/18
MORLOCK, Amie	Missouri	Candidate, Topeka	02/19
NELSON, Katie	Rocky Mountain	Candidate, Wichita	01/20
PAULS, Rebekah	Indiana	Candidate, Manhattan	12/20
REED, Laurie	Missouri	Trinity, Atchison	08/19
RICHTER, Ronald	Northwest	Emeritus, Winfield	10/21
RINDT, David	Missouri	Christ, Overland Park	08/18
SNYDER, Hillary	Nebraska	Candidate, Dodge City	03/21
STEPHENS, Elizabeth	Michigan	Trinity, Mission & Shawnee	10/18
TAYLOR, Emma	Northern Illinois	Topeka Lutheran School	08/17
WAGNER, Samantha	Oklahoma	Candidate	08/19
WEINHOLD, Rachel	Missouri	Topeka Lutheran School	08/20
WELLS, Molly-Ann	Pacific Southwest	Holy Cross, Wichita	08/21
WOLF, Melissa	Missouri	Trinity, Atchison	08/21
WOODROW, Jennifer	Northwest	Candidate, Overland Park	06/21

**CONCORDIA GRADUATES CALLED TO KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ADCOCK, Kelsey	Seward	Hope, Shawnee	08/18
BORCHERDING, Paige	Seward	Bethany, Overland Park	08/20
COUGHLIN, Deborah	Seward	Christ, Overland Park	08/19
DOESKEN, Deborah	Seward	Faith, Derby	08/19
DUNST, Morgan	Mequon	Holy Cross, Wichita	08/21
GOEGLEIN, Amber	Seward	Christ, Overland Park	11/21
GRASS, Erin	Seward	Topeka Lutheran School	08/18
KELLY, Jacob	Seward	Holy Cross, Wichita	08/18
LENNINGTON, Monica	Seward	Trinity, Atchison	08/19
MANLEY, Shannon	Mequon	Bethany, Overland Park	08/18
NIEMANN, Sarah	Seward	St. Paul, Leavenworth	11/19
STOEVER, Bethany	Fort Wayne (Seminary)	Immanuel, Hepler	01/22

**COMMISSIONED TRANSFERRING FROM KANSAS DISTRICT**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BITTER, Denise	Nebraska	07/21
BRANDMAHL, Ashley	Indiana	07/19
CHRISMER, Emma	Pacific Southwest	05/21
DEHNING, Melanie	Missouri	06/18
DEHNING, Mervin	Missouri	07/18
DENNEY, Rebecca	Missouri	06/19
DIECKHOFF, Brent	Nebraska	06/18
DRESSLER, Kelly	Michigan	07/20
FLORES, Jacqueline	Nebraska	05/18
FORKE, Thomas	Nebraska	08/21
FOSS, Kayla	Missouri	05/18
GIBSON, Daniel	Indiana	07/20
GLOWINSKI, Michael	Florida-Georgia	07/20
GREIN, Michael	Indiana	06/20
GREIN, Sara	Indiana	06/20
HOFFMAN, Justin	Nebraska	09/19
KIRSCHNER, Christa	Rocky Mountain	07/18
KUDRAY, Andrew	Michigan	04/18
MANN, Brian	Central Illinois	06/19
MEINZEN, Faith	Missouri	05/18
MEYER, Heather	Nebraska	06/18
MERRITT, Gary	Florida-Georgia	12/21
MILLER, LeAnn	Minnesota South	08/19
MORGAN, Katie	Rocky Mountain	11/20
MURRAY, Miriam	Nebraska	06/20
NELSON, Sandra	Missouri	01/18
SCHUTZ, Mary	Missouri	08/20
SMITH, Charity	Missouri	08/21
SPIEHS, Shawna	Michigan	08/19
SPRENGEL, Charise	Missouri	07/18
STEPHENS, Kent	Rocky Mountain	04/18
STICHLER, Calah	Northwest	06/19
STIGGE, Judith	Pacific Southwest	06/20
TOLLEFSON, Tyler	Texas	08/20
TROESTER, Erika	English	03/20
TUBANDT, Nicole	Rocky Mountain	01/21
WEINHOLD, Rachel	Missouri	02/22
WENGER, Patricia	Missouri	12/18
WERNER, Rachel	Nebraska	06/18
ZICKFIELD, James	Missouri	07/18

**COMMISSIONED POSITION CHANGES WITHIN KANSAS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>TO</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BARTELS, Kathy	Candidate	Topeka Lutheran School	08/21
CROUCHER, Heather	Candidate	Bethany, Overland Park	08/21
CURLEY, Jennifer	Trinity, Atchison	Candidate	06/19
DARBY, Megan	Bethany, Overland Park	Candidate	06/18
GLOWINSKI, Michael	Good Shepherd, Marysville	Candidate	06/20
HELLYER, Lisa	Lord of Life, Leawood	LeadaChild	10/19
HOFFMAN, Justin	Trinity, Atchison	Candidate	08/19
KATHMAN, Rachel	Topeka Lutheran School	Candidate	07/19
KEITHLEY, Joshua	Candidate	Lord of Life, Leawood	01/22
KUDRAY, Andrew	St. John, Alma	Candidate	12/17
KUSKE, Sarah	Bethany, Overland Park	Candidate	07/20
MANLEY, Shannon	Bethany, Overland Park	St. Paul, Leavenworth	08/21
OCHS, Lisa	St. John, Alma	Candidate	07/16
PETRIK, Randi	Bethany, Overland Park	Candidate	10/20
SCHNEIDER, Carol	Hope, Shawnee	Candidate	06/15
SCHOTTE, Mark	Trinity, Winfield	Candidate	11/20
SCHULTZ, Mary	Bethany, Overland Park	Candidate	08/20
STRECKER, Kyle	Trinity, Atchison	Candidate	06/16
UFFMAN, Jessie	Candidate	Linn Lutheran School	08/19
UFFMAN, Jessie	Linn Lutheran School	Candidate	08/21
VANDEMARK, Steve	Christ, Overland Park	Candidate	07/18
WAGNER, Samantha	Candidate	Christ the King, Salina	11/21
WEINHOLD, Rachel	Topeka Lutheran School	Candidate	06/21
WHITE, Andrea	St. John, Alma	Candidate	05/13
WILLINGHAM, David	Redeemer, Olathe	Candidate	12/19

**COMMISSIONED RETIRED**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
BREDEHOFT, Dorothy	Independence	06/18
EICHHOLZ, Diane	Shawnee	06/19
FREEL, Debra	Topeka	09/20
KINNETT, Linda	Topeka	06/18
OCHS, David	Bel Aire	07/18
PERA, Jeremy	Clay Center	07/19
SCHNEIDER, Carol	Olathe	12/20
STEPHENS, Kent	Arvada, CO	04/18
STIGGE, Judith	Flagstaff, AZ	07/12 (not printed in previous workbook)
VANWEY, Teresa	Wichita	06/20
WHITENECK, Elaine	Emporia	09/21

**COMMISSIONED CALLED TO ETERNAL REST**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
EGGOLD, Robert	Topeka	11/05/2018
ERSLAND, Jac E Lu	Wichita	10/11/2021
JACOB, Norma	Kansas City	10/05/2020
KINNETT, Linda	Topeka	09/13/2021
LEHMANN, Robert	Heessen, Germany	11/24/2021
OHLMANN, Margaret	Bloomington, IL	04/27/2020
PETER, Herbert	Overland Park	02/13/2020
STIGGE, Mary	Wichita	12/15/2018
VANDEMARK, Steve	Olathe	09/25/2020
WEIKAL, Norma Jane	Wichita	01/05/2022

**COMMISSIONED RESIGNED/REMOVED FROM ROSTER**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
ABBOTT, Emily	Savannah, GA	05/21
JACKSON, Leland	Garden City	04/19

LOTT, Kenneth	Humboldt	07/20
MILLER, Noel	Winfield	07/18
PETERS, Rebecca	Basehor	11/19
SCHULTZ, Forrest (Gene)	Topeka	07/18
STRECKER, Kyle	Excelsior Springs, MO	12/18
TAYLOR, Ronda	Oviedo, FL	05/21
TEBBENKAMP, Ellie	Leavenworth, KS	12/18

#### **NEW CONGREGATION or SCHOOL**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
Risen Savior Classical School, Basehor	08/18/2018
Concordia Academy, Wichita	05/12/2021

#### **CONGREGATIONS MOVED**

Peace Lutheran Church, Beaver, OK	Oklahoma to Kansas	08/07/2021
Christ Lutheran Church, Elkhart	Kansas to Oklahoma	01/13/2022

#### **CONGREGATIONS or SCHOOL DISBANDED/CLOSED**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
Risen Savior Preschool	Wichita	05/19/2017
St. John Lutheran Church	Moundridge	01/01/2021

#### **CONGREGATION PARTNERSHIPS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
Faith, Emporia & Calvary, Council Grove	08/10/2020
St. John, Lincoln & St. Paul, Lincoln	09/11/2020
Trinity, Garden City, Immanuel, Lakin & Grace, Ulysses	01/10/2021
OIS Partnership, Herington	08/22/2021
Peace, Beaver & St. John, Meade	09/19/2021
Bethlehem, Greenleaf & St. Peter, Barnes	12/05/2021



## 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

### CONGREGATIONS' STATISTICAL REPORTING

#### Synod Handbook 2019

#### 1.3 Synod Relationships: Congregation, National, District, Circuit

1.3.4.3 Congregations of the Synod, to enable the Synod to plan current and future ministry efforts and to lend accuracy and integrity to the Synod's delegate representation and voting processes, agree to provide annual membership and statistical information to the Synod.

Circuit #	Church	City	2017	2018	2019	2020
101	Trinity Lutheran Church	Atchison	X	X	X	X
102	St. John Lutheran Church	Easton				X
103	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X	X
104	Zion Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X	X
105	Trinity Lutheran Church	Holton	X	X	X	X
106	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Netawaka	X	X	X	X
107	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	Nortonville	X	X	X	X
108	Zion Lutheran Church	Powhattan			X	
109	First Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X	X
110	Christ Lutheran Church	Wathena	X	X	X	X
111	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hiawatha	X	X	X	X
201	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Basehor	X	X	X	X
203	Bethel Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X	X
204	Faith Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X	X
205	Grace Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X	X
206	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X	X
207	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X	X
208	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Kansas City	X	X	X	X
209	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Leavenworth	X	X	X	X
210	Trinity Lutheran Church	Leavenworth	X	X	X	X
211	Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church	Basehor	X	X	X	X
301	King of Kings Lutheran Church	Gardner	X	X	X	X
302	Christ Lutheran Church	Overland Park	X	X	X	X
303	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Leawood	X	X	X	X
304	Trinity Lutheran Church	Mission/Shawnee	X	X	X	X
305	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Olathe		X	X	X
306	Bethany Lutheran Church	Overland Park		X	X	X
307	First Lutheran Church	Paola		X	X	X
308	Trinity Lutheran Church	Paola	X	X	X	X
309	Hope Lutheran Church	Shawnee	X	X	X	X
310	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church	Olathe	X	X	X	X
311	Augsburg Lutheran Church	Shawnee	X	X	X	X



312	Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church	Louisburg	X	X	X	X
401	St. John Lutheran Church	Aliceville	X	X	X	X
403	Trinity Lutheran Church	Burlington	X	X	X	X
404	Faith Lutheran Church	Emporia	X	X	X	X
405	Messiah Lutheran Church	Emporia	X	X	X	X
406	Trinity Lutheran Church	Garnett		X	X	
407	Faith Lutheran Church	Ottawa	X	X	X	X
408	Zion Lutheran Church	Vassar	X	X	X	X
502	Trinity Lutheran Church	Caney		X	X	X
503	Zion Lutheran Church	Chanute	X	X	X	X
504	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Coffeyville	X	X	X	X
505	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Erie	X	X	X	X
506	Trinity Lutheran Church	Fort Scott		X	X	X
507	Trinity Lutheran Church	Girard	X	X	X	X
508	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hepler	X	X	X	X
509	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Humboldt	X	X	X	X
510	Zion Lutheran Church	Independence	X	X	X	X
511	Grace Lutheran Church	Iola	X	X	X	X
512	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Oswego		X	X	X
513	Trinity Lutheran Church	Parsons	X	X		X
515	Zion Lutheran Church	Pittsburg		X	X	X
601	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lawrence	X	X	X	X
602	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Lawrence	X	X	X	X
603	Calvary Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X	X
604	Christ Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X	X
605	Faith Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X	X
607	St. Johns Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X	X
609	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Topeka	X	X	X	X
701	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Barnes	X	X	X	
702	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Bremen	X		X	
703	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Bremen	X	X	X	X
704	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Clay Center	X	X	X	X
705	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Greenleaf	X	X	X	X
706	Trinity Lutheran Church	Hanover	X	X	X	X
708	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Linn	X	X	X	X
709	Zion Lutheran Church	Linn	X	X	X	X
710	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Marysville	X	X	X	X
711	St. John Lutheran Church	Palmer	X	X	X	X
712	Trinity Lutheran Church	Linn		X	X	X
801	St. John Lutheran Church	Alma	X	X	X	X
802	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Alta Vista	X	X	X	X
803	St. Pauls Lutheran Church	Duluth	X	X	X	X
804	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Junction City	X	X		X
805	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Junction City	X	X	X	X
806	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Manhattan	X	X	X	X
807	Trinity Lutheran Church	McFarland	X	X	X	X

808	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church	Wamego	X	X	X	X
809	St. Luke Lutheran Church	Wheaton	X	X	X	X
810	Christ Lutheran Church	Manhattan	X	X	X	X
901	Faith Lutheran Church	Abilene	X	X	X	X
902	Calvary Lutheran Church	Council Grove	X	X	X	X
904	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X	X
905	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X	X
906	St. John Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X	X
907	Zion Lutheran Church	Hillsboro	X	X	X	X
908	Zion Lutheran Church	Herington	X	X	X	X
909	St. John Lutheran Church	Lincolnville	X	X	X	X
910	Our Savior Lutheran Church	Marion	X	X	X	
911	Trinity Lutheran Church	Ramona	X	X	X	X
912	Grace Lutheran Church	Strong City	X	X	X	X
913	St. John Lutheran Church	Tampa	X	X	X	X
914	Zion Lutheran Church	Newton	X	X	X	X
1001	Peace Lutheran Church	Andover	X	X	X	X
1002	Christ Lutheran Church	Augusta	X	X	X	X
1003	Grace Lutheran Church	El Dorado	X	X	X	X
1005	Ascension Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1006	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1008	St. Andrews Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1009	Risen Savior Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1010	Ascension Lutheran Church	Pratt	X	X	X	X
1101	Zion Lutheran Church	Argonia	X	X	X	X
1102	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Arkansas City		X	X	X
1103	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Cheney	X	X	X	X
1104	Faith Lutheran Church	Derby	X	X	X	X
1105	Calvary Lutheran Church	Wellington	X	X	X	X
1106	Bethany Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1107	Grace Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1108	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1109	Trinity Lutheran Church	Wichita	X	X	X	X
1110	Trinity Lutheran Church	Winfield	X	X	X	X
1111	Trinity Lutheran Church	Medicine Lodge	X	X	X	X
1112	St. John Lutheran Church	Nashville	X	X	X	X
1113	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Preston	X	X	X	X
1201	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Canton	X	X	X	X
1202	St. Pauls Lutheran Church	Haven		X		X
1204	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Hutchinson	X	X	X	X
1205	Grace Lutheran Church	Lyons	X	X	X	X
1206	Grace Lutheran Church	McPherson	X	X	X	X
1207	St. John Lutheran Church	Moundridge	X	X	X	X
1208	Christ the King Lutheran Church	Salina	X	X	X	X
1209	Trinity Lutheran Church	Salina	X	X	X	X
1210	St. John Lutheran Church	Ellinwood	X	X	X	X

1301	Zion Lutheran Church	Downs	X	X	X	X
1302	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Ellsworth	X	X	X	X
1303	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Ellsworth			X	X
1306	Trinity Lutheran Church	Hunter		X	X	X
1307	St. John Lutheran Church	Lincoln		X		
1308	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Lincoln		X	X	X
1311	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Sylvan Grove	X	X	X	X
1312	Zion Lutheran Church	Claflin	X	X	X	X
1313	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Great Bend	X	X	X	X
1314	Concordia Lutheran Church	Hoisington	X	X	X	X
1315	St. Peter Lutheran Church	Holyrood	X	X	X	X
1316	Grace Lutheran Church	Larned	X	X	X	
1501	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Atwood	X	X	X	X
1502	Trinity Lutheran Church	Colby	X	X	X	X
1503	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Hoxie	X	X	X	X
1504	First St. John Lutheran Church	Kensington	X	X	X	X
1506	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Norton	X	X	X	X
1507	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Oakley	X	X	X	X
1508	St. John Lutheran Church	Oberlin	X	X	X	X
1509	First Lutheran Church	Phillipsburg	X	X	X	X
1510	Grace Lutheran Church	Hill City	X	X	X	X
1511	Messiah Lutheran Church	Hays	X	X	X	X
1512	Peace Lutheran Church	Natoma	X	X	X	X
1513	First Lutheran Church	Plainville	X	X	X	X
1603	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Lakin	X	X	X	X
1605	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Dodge City	X	X	X	
1606	Christ Lutheran Church	Elkhart	X	X	X	X
1607	Trinity Lutheran Church	Garden City	X	X	X	X
1609	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Jetmore	X	X	X	X
1610	Grace Lutheran Church	Liberal	X	X	X	X
1611	St. John Lutheran Church	Meade	X	X	X	X
1612	Zion Lutheran Church	Offerle	X	X	X	X
1613	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	Scott City	X	X	X	X
1615	Grace Lutheran Church	Ulysses	X	X	X	X
1617	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Kinsley	X	X	X	X
1618	Peace Lutheran Church	Greensburg	X	X	X	X
1619	Peace Lutheran Church	Beaver, OK				

## **APPROVAL OF REVISED CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS**

Constitution Committee members: Rev. Robert Grimm (Chair), Rev. David Meier, Rev. Rodney Fritz, Rev. Joshua Woelmer

The following is from the 2019 Handbook of Synod:

### **2.4 Continued Eligibility of Congregations**

- 2.4.1 A congregation desiring to retain membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall continue to have a constitution and bylaws approved by the Synod.
- (a) A member congregation which desires to revise its constitution and/or bylaws shall, as a condition of continued eligibility as a member of the Synod, submit a proposed revised constitution and/or revised bylaws to the district president.
  - (b) The district president shall refer such to the district constitution committee for review to ascertain that the provisions are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the Synod.
  - (c) Upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation by the district president, the district board of directors shall determine if the changes are acceptable to the Synod.
  - (d) Upon favorable action by the district board of directors, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are acceptable to the Synod, and the congregation may proceed with formal adoption of the revised constitution and/or bylaws and remain a member in good standing of the Synod.
  - (e) Upon formal adoption of the proposed revised constitution and/or bylaws, the congregation shall provide to the district a dated copy of the action taken, accompanied by a copy of the dated revised constitution and bylaws.
  - (f) Until a congregation formally adopts a revised constitution and/or bylaws using this process, the Synod shall consider the existing constitution and bylaws to be in effect for all purposes.
- 2.4.2 A copy of the signed constitution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the district board of directors shall be reported to the next regularly scheduled convention of the district.

To fulfill the last statement, the following is a list of the congregational constitution and bylaw revisions that have been approved by the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors in the last triennium.

#### **2018**

Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor  
Bethlehem, Bremen  
St. John, Meade

#### **2020**

St. John, Aliceville  
Immanuel, Wichita

#### **2019**

Christ the King, Salina  
Zion, Vasssar  
St. Peter, Holyrood  
Immanuel, Junction City  
Trinity, Winfield  
Peace, Andover  
Trinity, Atchison  
Redeemer, Atwood  
Grace, El Dorado  
St. Luke, Kansas City  
St. John, Nashville

#### **2021**

Trinity, Garden City  
Beautiful Savior, Olathe  
Hope, Shawnee  
St. Paul, Preston  
Prince of Peace, Topeka



# 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

## DISTRICT REPORTS

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## Officer Reports

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**District President**  
**Rev. Justin Panzer**

### Introduction

As the LCMS Kansas District gathers in convention for the 74<sup>th</sup> time since its founding in 1888, we do so under the theme “Proclaim. Teach. Share.” The theme is based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

We are the baptized of Christ. As such, we are joined to His death and resurrection. Just as Christ died and was bodily raised from the dead, so also we have died to sin and been raised to new life in Christ.

My identity is in Christ. I know exactly whose I am and where I am going. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. His work changes me. In fact, it can’t help but to change me. Everything that I do is now centered in Christ.

This baptismal identity that we now possess makes us one of God’s own chosen priests. You are a royal priest of Christ. As such, you are called in your baptism to proclaim the Gospel in your daily life. Through your own words and deeds, you can’t help but to share the crucified and risen Savior. You can’t help but to share the One who has taken your rightful place of death on the cross and been bodily raised from the grave for you on the third day. You can’t help but to “proclaim the excellencies of Him who called out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

We rejoice in our “Life Together in Mission” that we have shared during this past triennium, and we look forward to building on this emphasis as we “Proclaim. Teach. Share.” during the next triennium.

### Follow-Through from the 2018 Kansas District Convention

A key part of reviewing and celebrating our “Life Together in Mission” during the past triennium is to survey the key resolutions that were adopted by the 2018 Kansas District convention through which the Kansas District leadership was given a charge for the triennium.

#### **2018 KSD Resolution 18-01-02 – To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Use Synod Outreach Materials:**

The Kansas District has actively encouraged congregations to use LCMS church revitalization resources. We have provided and still provide grants for congregations to use *Every One His Witness* (E1HW) vocational evangelism materials and *re:Vitality* revitalization materials. The Office of National Mission (ONM) continues to produce materials for *re:Vitality*, with the latest being “Shepherding Our Strays.”

#### **2018 KSD Resolution 18-01-03 – To Support Lutheran Mission and Mercy Work in Guinea and West Africa:**

The Kansas District continues to work with our Synod’s Office of International Mission (OIM) in supporting missionaries, mission projects, and the mission priorities of the Synod for Francophone West and Central Africa.

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-01-06 – To Encourage Congregations to Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies:** In 2021, the Kansas District entered into a three-year agreement with the LCMS Foundation for planned giving services. Coordinators were also raised up around the District.

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-02-01 – To Affirm the Sanctity of Life:** District congregations are encouraged to celebrate the “Sanctity of Human Life” Sunday every year. In addition, I wrote letters of support to the Kansas Legislature and worked with Kansans for Life to help pass the “Value Them Both” Amendment. District congregations and pastors also provided much needed support in this effort through emails, letters, and telephone calls to their local representatives. The amendment is to be voted upon by Kansans in the August 2022 primary elections.

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-02-05 – To Encourage Pastors and Congregations to Provide Christ-Centered, Compassionate Care to Those with Mental Illnesses and Disorders:** Pandemic shutdowns were hard on everyone. Not only do members need compassionate care, but church workers and their families do as well. To that end, a “Kansas District Counselors” online resource was developed. Here, pastors and people might find a vetted, Christian counselor to help in their time of need.

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-03-02 – To Encourage Congregations to Welcome Visits from Their Visitor:** Kansas District Circuit Visitors, region Vice-Presidents, and the District President continue to actively visit circuit and region congregations once every triennium. These visits have proved helpful in the key aims of “Witnessing Faithfully, Fostering Unity, and Helping Ministries Thrive.”

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-03-09 – To Foster Active Participation in the Koinonia Project through the LCMS Kansas District among Pastors, Laity, and Congregations:** A definition and details about the Koinonia Project can be found at <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/koinonia-project>. This resolution came to fruition through the appointment of the Koinonia Project Task Force. Pastors from the District selected by fellow brother pastors formed this committee. Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy conducted a facilitator training event in September 2021. In October 2021 and January 2022, Kansas District pastors participated in this event together. The pastors of Circuits 10 and 11 continue to be actively involved in this project at their monthly circuit gatherings.

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-04-07 – To Encourage Colloquy or Other Educational Tracks for Non-Rostered Teachers to Be Inculturated into Lutheran Theology:** The Kansas District took steps to provide scholarship monies to be available to teachers who want to become rostered through the colloquy program. To date, there have been four applicants and two teachers who have completed the colloquy program with the help of scholarship dollars.

**2018 KSD Resolution 18-04-09 – To Study and Recommend Strategies in the Advancement of Congregation-based Older Adult Ministries in the Kansas District LCMS:** The Kansas District took action to re-establish the “Older Adult Ministry” committee. In 2019, our Older Adult Ministry Task Force produced a report that included findings on older adult ministry, a survey of available and recommended resources, and implications for older adult ministry for both smaller and larger congregations. The report also contains sample documents for congregational use, including a comprehensive advance funeral planning document. The report can be found on the Kansas District website.

### **Three (Four!) Years in 25 Points**

As your servant leaders, the District staff and Board of Directors strive to be good stewards of the mission gifts our congregations entrust to the District for our common work together. Here is how we have sought to advance the mission and vision of the Kansas District since the last District convention.

1. Ongoing strategic planning
2. Increased communication with congregations and schools
3. Timely COVID-19 communications and provision of resources to congregations and schools
4. Districtwide 90-day prayer campaign, “Together We Pray” (Fall 2021), centered around the theme, “Be Strong, Church!”
5. Districtwide “Day of Repentance” on Ash Wednesday and “Together We Pray” for Lent and Easter (50 days of prayer; 2021 and 2022)
6. Kansas District resource webpage for vetted Christian counselors
7. Streamlined call process for pastors
8. “The Partnership Project,” a District website resource for partnerships and partnership conversations with congregations and circuits across the district (and beyond)
9. Realigned and balanced the budget; use of Zoom platforms to decrease expenses while also increasing communication
10. Increased social media presence
11. Service board and lead staff report summaries on the website; enhanced budget summary on the website; Board of Directors minutes on the website
12. Working closely with “Value Them Both” in advance of the vote August 2, 2022
13. Church planting and church revitalization; *Every One His Witness (E1HW)*
14. Proactive, triennial congregational visitations by Circuit Visitors, District President, and Vice-Presidents
15. Annual visit by the DP and Assistant to the DP for Missions and Stewardship to each monthly circuit conference of pastors
16. Annual visit by the Assistant to the DP for Education and Youth to each of the schools
17. Six “District Tour” events throughout the District, with the entire lead staff
18. Increased and intentional visits to congregations all across the District
19. District disaster response efforts through District Disaster Response Coordinator and LERT
20. Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) for pastors in first three years of ministry
21. Annual new worker orientation for all new workers in the District
22. Increased attention to and re-evaluation of the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington
23. Salary Review Task Force to address Kansas District Salary Guidelines
24. Koinonia Task Force and Koinonia groups addressed “Walking Together in a Digital Age”
25. Partnership with the LCMS Foundation for planned giving services

## **Our Calling in the New Triennium**

Looking ahead to the next triennium, as the Lord grants opportunity, it is my prayer to lead the Kansas District forward in the following four areas:

- **Abiding in the Word** (John 8:31-32): In our churches, we hear God's Word, receive His grace, offer Him our prayers and thanks, and encourage one another. Our District works to ensure that Word and Sacrament ministry thrives in Kansas and beyond.
- **Connecting in Christ** (Romans 12:5): God's Church is a fellowship of believers, called to encourage and care for one another and work together for the good of God's kingdom. Strengthening ties with our "partners in the Gospel" is a high priority.
- **Equipping the Saints** (Ephesians 4:12): As God's baptized, we study His Word, training ourselves for godliness (1 Tim. 4:7). In the Kansas District, we provide our congregations, schools, and affiliated organizations with the resources they need to equip themselves and others—with the help of the Holy Spirit—to stay strong in the faith.
- **Engaging in God's Mission** (Matthew 28:19-20): The royal priesthood has been given a charge: to show God's love to others, help your neighbor in need, and share the Good News. The District seeks to support these activities in Kansas and abroad.

## **Conclusion**

The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is 159 congregations, 14 parochial schools, 43 preschools, 211 ordained ministers, 197 commissioned ministers, and approximately 48,000 baptized people of God who gather around altars, pulpits, and fonts where Jesus Christ meets us until the end of the age, and where His saving Gospel is proclaimed clearly according to the confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church—all so that our own souls as well as many souls that are not yet part of this fold (John 10:16) may be ushered eternally into the courts of heaven.

As your servant leaders of the LCMS Kansas District, our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## **First Vice-President, Region 3 Rev. Scott Snow**

During the days of the past triennium (plus), it has been my privilege and my joy to represent our Lord Jesus Christ, our Kansas District President, and the workers and member congregations of Region 3. Throughout this time I have had the opportunity to serve alongside many wonderful, competent, and dedicated professional church workers and laymen and women as a part of the Kansas District Board of Education and Youth, the Council of Circuit Visitors, the President's Council, the Executive Council, and the Kansas District Board of Directors.

I thank God for each of my brother pastors on the Kansas District Praesidium – Justin Panzer, Rick Rostek, Mark Schulz, Alan Stahlecker, Dave Meier, and Bob Grimm. It is fitting for us to thank and honor these dedicated, godly men who have given so much of themselves, their time, and talents to serve the Savior and the redeemed saints of the Kansas District!

As a trained Synod Reconciler for over 19 years, and one of the Kansas District Reconcilers, I have had the opportunity over the last four years to provide godly assistance and council in several conflict situations between professional church workers and members, and between church workers and the congregations they serve. "How good and pleasant it is when brothers [and sisters] live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head and running down..." (Psalm 133:1).

The congregations of Region 3 have continued their faithful service to the Savior, guided by the Holy Spirit, working through the Word and Sacraments, in order to preach, teach, and share the Law and Gospel—encouraging all people to know and serve the Savior. Some of the strongest and most vibrant Kansas District congregations and schools serve side by side in this region of the District.

Throughout the past four years, the congregations of Region 3 have faced significant ministry challenges and hurdles that came with serving the saints of God throughout this period of a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, God has provided many ministry opportunities including...

- The growth, remodeling, and expansion of the campus ministry at Fairmount Ministries and Coffee Company (formerly the Lutheran Student Center) across the street from the campus of Wichita State University (WSU).
- Congregations that are "somewhere along the church planting path" to giving birth to new daughter LCMS Word and Sacrament ministries.



We pray God's continued blessing and the guidance of His Holy Spirit as we look to the coming triennium. The District will elect new leadership and continue the work of determining a plan for the mission and ministry of the Kansas District – its churches and schools, its professional workers, and congregational members. May God help us to seek His will for our work in this corner of His vineyard!

We joyfully and expectantly anticipate the ways in which the Lord will lead us, as His Church, in His service—strengthening the saved through His precious Word and Sacraments as we continue to intentionally, steadfastly, and tirelessly strive to reach the lost with the life-giving message of the Gospel, and as we cultivate faithful and generous Christian stewards.

To God alone be the Glory!

#### **Second Vice-President, Region 4** **Rev. Rick Rostek**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Lord and our District as vice-president for Region 4 for the last ten years. As my time of service comes to an end, it has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve the District in this capacity. During the past triennium, I have attended quarterly Board of Directors meetings in Topeka and have served as a member of the Board of Missions.

The changing demographics of western Kansas have provided opportunities for new types of ministries among our congregations. The TIG Partnership of congregations in Garden City, Ulysses, and Lakin looks to become a strong presence for the Gospel in that area. St. John, Lincoln, and St. Paul, Westfall also formed a partnership to serve the Gospel needs of Lincoln County.

Such partnerships are likely not the last of their kind in Region 4. Population trends point to the possibility of more shared ministries as time goes on. The congregations in Region 4 have shown a willingness to partner together so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to go forth. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in the years to come as we seek to share the good news of Jesus throughout the region

#### **Third Vice-President, Region 1** **Rev. Mark Schulz**

Region 1 of the LCMS Kansas District includes Circuits 1, 2, 3N, 3S, 4, and 6, and comprises the northeast part of the state of Kansas, bordering Nebraska on the north and Missouri on the east, and extending west to Topeka and south to Emporia and surrounding communities. The ministry in Region 1 is quite diverse, with rural, suburban, and urban congregations, several elementary schools, and Hispanic ministry.

I have visited the winkels of each of the six circuits in Region 1 during my term, as well as assisting the District President with various matters in the region.

Member congregations and pastors continue to seek faithfully to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Many adjustments have been made due to challenges of ministry during the pandemic. Most congregations either began or enhanced a worship presence online, with several planning to continue this online presence in the future.

One exciting ministry opportunity to highlight is the ongoing development of Hispanic ministry in the KC metro in partnership with the Missouri District. Assistant to the President Pastor Dan Galchutt has been instrumental in prioritizing development of this important ministry.

Forming partnerships between existing congregations is also a focus in Region 1, creatively exploring the best ways to continue to proclaim the Gospel even as demographic and economic circumstances change. God continues to provide wonderful opportunities to proclaim, teach, and share “the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9b ESV).

#### **Fourth Vice-President, Region 2** **Rev. Alan Stahlecker**

Thanks be to God for His gifts and His continual faithfulness by which He richly blesses His church. By grace He has blessed us with the privilege to serve together in this place for the furtherance of His kingdom.

It has been a joy and privilege to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the LCMS Kansas District to serve as Region 2 vice-president, beginning a year into the current triennium (quadrennium) to fill the vacancy created when Rev. Justin Panzer became our district president. It has been an honor to serve this region and to work with and observe the work of many individuals who serve our Lord faithfully in their vocations within the church at large.

Over the time that I have served in this position I have sought to faithfully attend the quarterly meetings of the President's Council and our District's Board of Directors, along with the associated meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Stewardship.

It has been a joy and privilege to serve on the Board of Stewardship along with Dan Thalmann, David Meisinger, Rev. Dan Galchutt, Jeff Maltz, and Heather Williams. I have served as recording secretary for this service board. It has been a privilege to work with such talented people in the District Office in seeking to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to the LCMS Kansas District by congregations and individuals. I have also served on the Retreat Center Task Force and the Salary Review Task Force.

It has been a joy and privilege to attend circuit winks (7, 8, 9, 12) within Region 2 on an annual basis while also attending installations that have taken place within the region, when it is possible for me to do so. In dealing with matters within Region 2, I have assisted President Panzer when he has requested it.

It has been my joy and privilege to serve with the pastors, church workers, and congregations of the Kansas District as we seek to faithfully proclaim, teach and share the good news of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Peace be with you!

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## **Circuit Visitor Reports (where congregations have submitted them)**

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### **Circuit 1 - Rev. Michael J. Dunaway, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 1 (Northeast Kansas) includes eleven congregations; four are joined in a quad partnership, two are in a proposed dual parish arrangement, two are being served by a pastor who also serves another congregation outside Circuit 1 (one serves a congregation from an adjoining circuit and the other serves a congregation from another district, one of the congregations is served by a team ministry, another of the congregations is served by a sole pastor and the last one is vacant and searching for a pastor. Our circuit has, since the last triennium, had one pastor retire, had one called to serve at the seminary in Fort Wayne, and a third called to serve a congregation in Lawrence, Kansas. The congregation whose pastor retired remains vacant, as a call they recently made was declined. The congregation whose pastor was called to the seminary is being served by the pastor serving our Nortonville congregation in a dual parish arrangement. The pastor who left the quad partnership to serve in Lawrence has been replaced by a pastor called from the seminary. Circuit 1 has not yet fully recovered from the drop in worship attendance caused by the COVID-19 virus, but attendance is slowly improving.

Our circuit had been using the Winkel Bible Study series, which is now out of publication. We have since agreed to begin the *Preach the Word* program, after which we will look at such topics as evangelism, and worker wellness. Several of our congregations have had *Every One His Witness* training and hosted "Share Your Faith" workshops.

### **St. Matthew Lutheran, Nortonville**

St. Matthew is served by Rev. Richard Lally, who has just recently agreed to also serve Trinity Lutheran, Holton on a partnership basis, if those two congregations come to an agreement. He reports that St. Matthew was impacted by the COVID-19 virus, like everyone else, and that they used that disruption as an opportunity to evaluate their ministry programs and priorities. They will maintain their work with the food and clothing banks, as well as their involvement with Oktoberfest, Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, and VBS activities, which they view as major community events. Their church received a new roof in 2019 and new audio/visual equipment in 2021. Their members are receptive to holding discussions with Trinity, Holton regarding a potential partnership.

### **Trinity Lutheran, Holton**

Trinity in Holton was served by Rev. Brian Stark until he accepted a call to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, last year. Shortly after their vacancy started, Rev. Lally (above) of Nortonville was asked to and agreed to serve both his congregation at Nortonville and Trinity. His willingness, along with the approval of the leadership of St. Matthew, has led to talks of a partnership between Trinity and St. Matthew in which they would share pastoral resources and consolidate catechetical instruction. From my interaction with Trinity during a circuit visit, and from information gleaned as Rev. Stark prepared to leave and the call process began, it became apparent that the drop in attendance and other budget considerations made a partnership arrangement more feasible for Trinity right now than remaining a single parish with a sole pastor. As Trinity's absented members return to worship, they may be in a better position to call a pastor of their own.

### **Trinity Lutheran, Atchison**

Trinity Lutheran in Atchison is currently being served by Rev. Bob Zeigler, Rev. Marty Reed, and Deacon Michael Carney. Rev. Ziegler recently celebrated both his 50-year anniversary at Trinity and his 60-year anniversary in the pastoral ministry. Since the last triennium, Trinity called Rev. Reed to replace Rev. Ben Ockree, who accepted a call to a congregation in Topeka. Although their church attendance has been down, they still offer a number of Bible studies between services each Sunday, and they continue their long history of door-to-door evangelism (Kennedy Calling) in the Atchison area. As a result of their outreach efforts, they are able to host “inquirer’s classes” as well as an *Every One His Witness* workshop and “Share Your Faith” training from Evangelism Explosion to further enhance their evangelism efforts. Trinity’s school just celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. They have recently acquired both a new principal and a new teacher, after one teacher retired. Plans have been made, but are now on hold, for some building expansion at Trinity in the near future.

### **Immanuel Lutheran, Netawaka**

Immanuel Lutheran was served by Rev. Michael Van Velzer until about June of last year, when Rev. Van Velzer retired from active ministry. At that time Immanuel began a search from the field for another pastor. In their vacancy, Immanuel is being served by Deacon Michael Carney, Trinity, Atchison, the pastors from the NEK Partnership, and soon a pastor now serving Zion in Powhattan. In that Deacon Carney is not yet able to administer Holy Communion, once a month he serves the NEK partnership so one of its pastors can go to Immanuel, Netawaka and commune its members. Rev. T. R. Brisbois and Rev. Chris Gerdes, who have been serving Zion, Powhattan, have agreed to also help fill the pulpit at Netawaka. Rev. Van Velzer had two young members of Immanuel in catechetical instruction when he left. Efforts are underway to have the children driven to St. Paul, Fairview, about 17 miles north of Netawaka, to join the partnership confirmation class, or to designate the person who serves Immanuel most frequently assume their instruction.

### **Christ Lutheran, Wathena**

Christ Lutheran in Wathena is currently served by Rev. Phillip Wolf, who was called there in December 2020, when Rev. Cody Norton accepted a call into military chaplaincy. Rev. Wolf’s wife teaches at Trinity, Atchison and they now reside in Highland. Christ Lutheran continues to livestream their Sunday morning worship service, since some of their members have not yet returned to Sunday worship.

### **Northeast Kansas Lutheran Partnership, Hiawatha, Fairview, Rural Fairview, and Sabetha**

The Northeast Kansas Partnership (NEKP) is currently served by Rev. Michael Dunaway and Rev. Ian Kinney. It is comprised of Zion in Hiawatha, St. Paul in Fairview proper, Immanuel in rural Fairview (located one mile north and one and a half miles east of Fairview on 240<sup>th</sup> Street near Falcon Road), and First Lutheran in Sabetha. Rev. Dunaway has been with the partnership about 15 years and believes the four-congregation partnership model, although a challenge at times, provides many more opportunities than obstacles for its members to grow in both their relationship to God and each other. For instance, over time, the member congregations have all adopted the *Lutheran Service Book*, they’ve also, at times, each set aside their particular wants and desires for the sake of the other congregations. If one church needs help at an event or function, other congregations come forward to meet those needs. All congregations now see the value in such programs as Higher Things for the youth, and they all support the use of technology to better reach our shut-ins as well as the unchurched in the community. Although each congregation still values their autonomy, they are becoming more unified in their worship practices and more comfortable in being part of a four-congregation partnership and, as such, a microcosm of the larger body of Christ. The NEKP, too, has had “Share Your Faith” and *Every One His Witness* training, and some congregations are well known in their respective communities for not just their very popular preschools, but also for their involvement in service projects. Per the partnership agreement, our churches continue to meet jointly at certain times for worship and for social activities. Together they have hosted guest speakers for community and church presentations on such topics as abortion, missionary outreach, ministry to the Muslims, and human trafficking. They have also sponsored trips to such places as the Creation Museum in Kentucky, Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, and to Branson, MO for Biblical Theatre performances. Pastor Kinney has, since his arrival, initiated a mid-week Partnership Worship/Prayer Service as well as a Partnership Bible Study, which he conducts opposite Catechism classes. These events are growing in both interest and attendance. Rev. Kinney has also volunteered to be a chaplain for the Police Department in Hiawatha.

### **St. John’s Lutheran, Easton**

St. John’s is the third dual parish in the circuit and the one being served by a pastor also serving a congregation outside Circuit 1. Rev. Rick Twenhafel is currently serving both St. John, Easton, and St. Paul, Duluth. He has served St. John about ten years and reports their weekly worship attendance is about 12 to 24 people.

### **Zion, Powhattan**

Zion, Powhattan is currently being served on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays by Rev T. R. Brisbois from Beatrice, NE, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays by Rev. Chris Gerdes from Johnson, NE. Rev. Brisbois has been serving Zion since about 2013. Over the years, since they did not have a pastor close by, the Partnership has taken care of Zion’s shut-ins, and when Zion does not have worship service, some of their members come to our services on Sunday. When they cancelled

services during the pandemic, they were communing once a month. When their services were resumed, they went to every week communion. Now, they have returned to their earlier practice.

### **Circuit 2 - Rev. Ed Mease, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 2 was served by Jason Boetcher as circuit visitor until December of this past year, when I was appointed. I served previously in the position in both Circuit 5 and Circuit 2.

Our circuit encompasses the congregations of both Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties. To the north are the two parishes in Leavenworth: St. Paul (where I serve) and Trinity (served by Damian Snyder).

Also in Leavenworth County are Risen Savior (served by Robert Weinkauff and Kurt Cockran) and Trinity Family of Faith (served by Jason Boetcher), both in Basehor.

Wyandotte County's parishes all have a Kansas City address: Bethel, Faith, Grace, and Immanuel (served by Ken Nettling); St. Luke's (served by Luke Kammrath); and Our Savior (served by Mark Wood).

While I am yet catching up on the details of congregational life of each parish, I am happy to report that each place of mission is stable, served by the most part, by long-term pastors.

On the horizon, Trinity, Leavenworth, is looking toward an addition to their pastoral staff; Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor, is exploring a building campaign; and at St. Paul, Leavenworth, we continue toward the goal of adding more commissioned ministers to our K-8 school faculty, which is led by Principal Cindy Hammons and served by Commissioned Ministers Shannon Manley, Sally Niemann, and Susan Wells, in addition to a very seasoned and faithful Christian faculty.

By the end of the coming triennium, we will likely see some retirements, and in addition to the above, some new faces in ministry leadership, but one thing will not change: a common commitment to serve the Lord and His people as both a circuit and individual congregations of Jesus-followers!

### **Circuit 3N - Rev. Joel Schultz, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 3 North includes six congregations. Pastor Joel Schultz serves as circuit visitor. The circuit had two pastoral vacancies during the past triennium. The vacancy at Redeemer was filled with a sole pastor. The vacancy at Hope for senior pastor remains unfilled. The circuit congregations had an increased online presence in response to the pandemic. The congregations remain strong and viable. God's Word is being proclaimed, and Christ's children are being served.

Our circuit meetings, which are held jointly with Circuit 3 South, have moved from online to in-person meetings. We are studying *Pastoral Theology* by C.F.W. Walther. This is proving to be a timely and beneficial study.

#### **Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Olathe**

Beautiful Savior is served by Pastor Joel Schultz (senior - 2008) and Pastor Michael Ada (associate - 2010). Beautiful Savior is also part of the vicarage program and rejoices in the opportunity and responsibility of helping to train pastors for the LCMS. We are also bringing to completion a 30,000-square-foot addition that includes a 100 x 100 fellowship hall/basketball court, a very large kitchen, a large youth room, eight Sunday school classrooms, and other space. We look forward to offering our new space for ministry events, District events, and private events. Our preschool continues to have a strong enrollment. God continues to bless the congregation as we seek to remain faithful to His Word.

#### **Christ Lutheran, Overland Park**

Christ Lutheran Church & Education Center is building Phase V of their facility expansion which will include a multi-ministry room with kitchen, full-size gymnasium, and a high school youth room. We will also repave our parking lot. Construction should start April 2022.

#### **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe**

Redeemer is being served by Pastor David Kahle, who was installed November 21, 2021. Redeemer continues to offer two services on Sunday. The second service is also provided in American Sign Language. They have Bible studies for women and men and a general Bible study on Sunday. Redeemer's online presence includes their first service on Sunday and the Bible study. LWML operates two societies, the Lydia and Ruth circles. Redeemer Lutheran Preschool continues to offer preschool and day programs for 50 children serving 46 families.

#### **Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee**

Hope Lutheran is served by Pastor Michael Penikis, who has been at Hope for 21 years, and by Principal Nancy Jankowski, who has been at Hope for seven years. During the pandemic shutdown, Hope started recording videos of its

services, then switched to livestreaming services on YouTube. In-person services resumed in June 2020, and Communion was resumed the next month. In Advent 2021, Hope adopted every-Sunday Communion. For the final months of the 2019–20 school year, instruction was done remotely. When in-person instruction resumed in the school in Fall 2020, chapels were also livestreamed to classrooms. Classroom instruction and school chapels are now fully in-person. Hope is beginning a three-year capital campaign this Lent to address capital improvements, debt reduction, and ministry staffing (intentional interim). In May, Hope will be celebrating 44 years of service to the Lord and His Church from Teacher Kathy McIntosh, who will be retiring after having served at Hope since 1991.

### **Trinity Lutheran, Mission and Shawnee**

Trinity, like all congregations, has had to adapt ministry in this pandemic time. Worship services were pre-recorded for a time and now are livestreamed at both campuses. Small midweek communion services were offered for 18 months during the height of the pandemic. A drive-through food pantry was begun in partnership with community members that served 5,000 individuals in its first year. A bi-weekly mailing was initiated to many of our seniors who were especially isolated before vaccines were widely available. Many Bible studies and meetings have been conducted online instead of in-person.

Three significant staff changes occurred since the last convention. Beth Stephens accepted the call to be Trinity's Youth Family Minister; Pastor Luke Jacob accepted the call to be Trinity's Pastor of Discipleship; and Brian Daniel accepted the position of Administrator.

Trinity is in the midst of a capital campaign to expand the Shawnee campus, providing additional space for gatherings and Bible studies, increased seating capacity for worship, an elevator for better accessibility, and more parking.

Trinity also entered into a partnership with the Kansas District to assist with Hispanic Ministry in the KC metro by supporting the work of Hispanic vicar Daniel Jordan, who is working with the Hispanic population at Immanuel, Kansas City, KS and Jesus El Buen Pastor in Kansas City, MO.

Despite these challenging times, God is always faithful. We give thanks for the ongoing opportunities to be "A Community Following Jesus" as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those in our congregation and community.

### **Augsburg Lutheran, Shawnee**

No report submitted

### **Circuit 3S - Rev. Andy Keltner, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 3 South includes six congregations. Pastor Andy Keltner serves as circuit visitor. The circuit had and filled three pastoral vacancies during the past triennium. The vacancies were filled with two senior pastors and an assistant. The circuit congregations had an increased online presence in response to the pandemic. The congregations remain strong and viable. God's Word is being proclaimed, and Christ's children are being served.

Our circuit meetings, which are held jointly with Circuit 3 North, have moved from online to in-person meetings. We are studying *Pastoral Theology* by C.F.W. Walther. This is proving to be a timely and beneficial study.

### **Bethany Lutheran, Overland Park**

Bethany Lutheran has been served since 2011 by Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann. During the last triennium they were blessed by the peacemaker ministry of Ambassadors of Reconciliation. They also installed Pastor Sean Baker as assistant pastor. Pastor Jerry Brownlee serves in a part-time capacity. The congregation voted to close the campus in Stilwell and study the possibilities of expanding their education ministries on a campus adjacent to its Overland Park facilities. Bethany Lutheran Preschool and Mother's Day Out has 140 students and 28 teachers and staff. Bethany Lutheran School operates a fully accredited K-8 day school with 178 students and 31 teachers and staff.

### **Christ Our Savior Lutheran, Louisburg**

Christ Our Savior is served by Pastor Andy Keltner, who has been at Christ Our Savior since it was incorporated in 2004. Pastor Keltner is assisted by Pastor Stephen Sweyko. The congregation recently changed its stewardship practices. The council voted to tithe off our weekly offering to the Kansas District. Each week ten percent of the regular offering is put aside to send to the District. Since making this change our financial position as a congregation has improved. We have our challenges, but God continues to bless the congregation as we seek to remain faithful to His Word.

### **First Lutheran, Paola**

First Lutheran, Paola, is served by Rev. Christian Schultz (CTSFW, 2020). After a vacancy (served by Rev. Andy Keltner and Rev. Steve Sweyko), Schultz was called and installed at First in July 2021 and has served for the last six months.

Future ministry goals include recalling members to return to in-person worship. Schultz is conducting every-member visits to encourage this return.

First also operates SonShine Preschool. This preschool thrives under the leadership of Mrs. Kris Fuchs and two part-time teachers who teach around 40 students in three classes (M-W-F morning, M-W-F afternoon, T-R morning). While very few of the students are members of First (<5), Fuchs and Schultz will be working to incorporate the children and families into the regular worship life of First. Until then, weekly chapel services teach the children the Christian faith.

### **King Of Kings, Gardner**

Under the pastoral care of Pastor Daniel Wehmeier, King of Kings continues to be an active presence in the southern Johnson County region. They enjoy reaching out to many new families moving into the area and welcoming them into their communities and congregation. With the help of their dynamic Open Arms Child Development Center and VBS ministries, they look for ways to equip and involve families and friends in the mission field beginning in their own backyard and reaching the ends of the earth through servant and mission opportunities. Highlights include the joy of watching unchurched and dechurched individuals and families grow in faith, understanding, and service in response to God's grace and guidance. Another growing ministry is their Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), which has grown to be the training team for the Kansas District. King of Kings is actively looking for new ways to share the unchanging God in a constantly changing society through worship and ministry. Recently, they have expanded their campus with the addition of classroom, storage, and multi-ministry wing.

### **Lord of Life, Leawood**

Lord of Life is served by Rev. Dr. Scott Holder. Pastor Holder was installed in the summer of 2021. The congregation has experienced many called staff changes during the last triennium. They are anticipating renewed growth and opportunity during the next triennium. The Early Education Center at Lord of Life is licensed by the state of Kansas and accredited by the National Lutherans School Accreditation (NLSA).

### **Trinity Lutheran, Paola**

Trinity, Paola celebrated two milestones in 2018, our 150th anniversary and refurbishment of our church and expansion with a new north wing. But just after adding a north wing, the south wing was destroyed by a tornado, and construction started over to restore the building we had just renovated.

Other highlights are growing attendance at our annual "Blocktoberfest," named after our rural community of Block, and large contingents we sent to the national youth gatherings.

We successfully navigated the pandemic and turned challenges into blessings. With a large country campus and excellent sound system for our "Blocktoberfest," we were the only church in the area to hold drive-in services, for about a year having drive-in attendance equal or better than usual.

We also invested in equipment and an internet link—a challenge in our rural location—for online broadcast of services. An unexpected outcome was connecting with viewers all over the country, many with no previous relationship to our congregation or even the Lutheran Church.

Though we began the pandemic apprehensive about the impact on membership and attendance, God worked all things together for good, and even in the midst of the shutdown we received several dozen new members.

### **Circuit 4 - Rev. Don Haselhuhn, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 4 is seven churches strong from Aliceville to Vassar and Emporia to Ottawa and a few in between. As a circuit, the pastors meet during the school year monthly for worship, study, fellowship, and to share our ministry joys and concerns. This is my second full term as circuit visitor.

**St. John, Aliceville** saw the departure of Pastor Timmothy Heath Sr., who took a call as an intentional interim minister out of the Kansas District in June 2021. The church has been blessed with the ministry of Pastor Timothy Booth since February 2022.

**Trinity, Burlington** continues to be pastored by Pastor Don Haselhuhn since July 2000. Pastor Haselhuhn celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry this past triennium.

**Faith, Emporia** joined into a dual parish agreement with Calvary, Council Grove, served by Pastor Adam Reichart, in August 2020.

**Messiah, Emporia** saw Pastor Eddie Hosch installed in July 2018 as associate pastor. With the retirement of Pastor Norbert Tegtmeier in August 2020, Pastor Hosch was installed as senior pastor. DCE Elaine Whiteneck retired in September 2021.

**Trinity, Garnett** has been served monthly by newly retired pastor, Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier.

**Faith, Ottawa** saw the retirement of Pastor Charlie Adams in July 2020. Pastor Timothy Roth was installed in May 2021.

**Zion, Vassar** continues to make disciples by baptism and teaching, and the flock is fed by our Lord's Word and Sacrament. Rev. Joshua Woelmer has been pastor there for almost six years. The congregation celebrated its 125th anniversary in October 2018, inviting Pastor Tom Harries to preach. The Daughters of Zion (LWML) is an active group in the church. The youth have attended both Higher Things Conferences and National Youth Gatherings. Zion hosts an annual VBS with 30+ children in attendance. The congregation is supportive of the ministry and seeks to grow in knowledge of Christ and the life of the faithful.

Three of our churches—Faith, Emporia; Faith, Ottawa; and Trinity, Burlington—have blessed their communities and congregations through the work of Lutheran preschools.

God's grace and love has been evident throughout the circuit, and we pray His continued care and mercy be on His churches, workers, and people as we all reach out with the Good News of Jesus each and every day.

### **Circuit 5 – Rev. Bruce R. Kristalyn, Circuit Visitor**

As of this writing our thirteen congregations are being faithfully served by fourteen pastors (one Intentional Interim, one soon to retire, and two vacancies). We are confident that those vacant pulpits will be filled by faithful men of the Gospel. However, the sad reality is the Evil One continues to “pester” the people of Christ. He did so with the turmoil of the pandemic.

The good news is that many of our congregations have resumed pre-COVID-19 events, such as serving Thursday community lunch, VBS, Trunk-or-Treat, and other activities. The local chapters of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League resumed their meeting. One local chapter raised nearly \$3000 dollars for mission projects. St. Paul, Coffeyville hosted their annual October Fest. Trinity, Girard hosted their annual Live Nativity.

In our Synod and elsewhere, aging membership and declining numbers is a concern. Still, many of us in Circuit 5 were encouraged by the large attendance and favorable discussion at a recent circuitwide presentation led by Rev. Dan Galchutt regarding the possibility of partnerships. Over the ensuing months that topic was explored by some of the congregational leaders in this circuit.

### **Trinity, Caney**

Trinity is served by vacancy Pastor Scott Whittenburg, who is halfway through his third year serving Trinity. Post-COVID-19 attendance has stabilized but is still short of pre-pandemic levels. During this time, livestreaming of the Sunday services began on the Trinity Facebook page and has continued. The plan is to move the media files to the TrinityCaney.net website where there will be greater access. Despite losing key members during the past two years, the congregation managed to host VBS, restart the Trinity Youth Group, and restart Sunday School.

### **Zion, Chanute**

Zion is served by Rev. Thomas Presley, who is in his second year of service at Zion. The congregation has been doing well despite a brief drop in attendance due the pandemic. Praise be to God that Zion has recovered from said drop and is approaching pre-pandemic numbers in both worship and Bible study attendance. In his brief time at Zion, Rev. Presley has had three Baptisms, ten funerals, and two confirmations. As for the future, Rev. Presley plans to institute an additional Bible study that focuses on the first seven ecumenical counsels of the church and a brief history of the church fathers.

### **St. Paul's, Coffeyville**

After a long pastorate and two relatively short pastorates, St. Paul's called Rocky Mease to be their Intentional Interim Minister. After nearly a year of self-study, Bible study, and prayer, St. Paul's has issued its first call and hopes to have a permanent pastor soon. During the interim, the congregation rewrote their constitution and bylaws, led Coffeyville congregations in helping Coffeyville Community College students move into the dormitory, participated in a prayer walk, and looked for other ways to serve God and their neighborhood.

### **Good Shepherd, Erie**

Good Shepherd is served by Pastor Caleb Stoeber, a recent graduate from the seminary. Pastor Stoeber and the congregation are encouraging one another in person as we deal with the devastating impact of COVID-19 and a long vacancy. The congregation continues to be faithful to God's Word and the Sacraments and encouraging one another to

receive faithfully in person. We have been seeking opportunities to bring back those who are lost sheep from our midst while also engaging the lost sheep who are not of our congregation. We enjoy faithful and solid attendance at both the Divine Service on Sunday as well as at a weekly fellowship dinner, Bible study, and Compline on Thursday nights.

### **Trinity, Fort Scott**

Trinity is served by Pastor Michael Apfel, who is now in his fourth year at Trinity. Pastor Apfel began serving Trinity after a two-year vacancy. The last triennium has brought the revival of men's Bible study, and no existing ministries have been discontinued. New ministries include a Book Club where members gather once a month to review a chapter(s) of a book that is theological or has Christian overtones (pre-selected by Pastor or voted upon by members). We are blessed with three confirmands who will be confirmed (tentatively) in 2023. Five child and one adult Baptism have been performed. One marriage and five funerals have been performed in the last triennium. In 2020, we cancelled in-person worship for three months but started a video "service" that is a modified Prayer and Preaching offering. We have continued with the video production as we have several members who are truly homebound. Attendance is presently two-thirds of the pre-2020 numbers with no deaths and four transfers.

### **Trinity, Girard**

Trinity was served by Pastor Mark Wenzelburger until his retirement in 2022. Rev. Jerry Hemmingson is serving as vacancy pastor.

### **Immanuel, Hepler**

Immanuel is served by Pastor Caleb Stoeve, a recent graduate from the seminary. Pastor Stoeve and the congregation are working together to reestablish a sense of rhythm and focus after the devastating impact of COVID-19 and a long vacancy. The congregation continues to be faithful in its focus on God's Word and the Sacraments and is encouraging its members to come and receive God's gifts in person. We recently added a deaconess to our toolbox of serving Hepler and the surrounding area. She will be an added asset as the congregation seeks to engage those within the body of Christ who are learning what it means to be a Christian in today's world.

### **St. Peter's, Humboldt**

St. Peter's is served by Pastor Matthew Jennings, who was installed January 2022, and Pastor Don Copley.

### **Zion, Independence**

Zion is served by Pastor Kevin Peterson. Zion will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary June 12, 2022.

### **Grace, Iola**

Grace is served by Rev. Bruce R. Kristalyn. Despite COVID-19 concerns, Grace has weathered the storm fairly well with God's divine help. We have not suffered much financially. During that time those members unable to attend mailed in their offerings and made appointments to receive the Sacrament. Like many other congregations we began to livestream the worship service via Facebook. Not long ago, Grace was the host for a circuitwide discussion of partnerships. That event was very well attended, and some discussion has continued among the Circuit 5 congregations. More importantly,

- Babies have been baptized.
- Children and adults catechized.
- Marriages blessed.
- Saints laid to rest (we wait for the resurrection).
- Burdens have been carried and shared.
- And our hope remains built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

### **St. Paul, Oswego & Trinity, Parsons**

Rev. Jonathan Scheck officiated five funerals before the pandemic and eight Baptisms over the triennium. During the pandemic, St. Paul's hosted a Facebook livestream of Sunday service for both congregations, which was well received. As the pandemic has begun to settle down, the livestreaming has now ended, but an audio recording of the sermon is posted, and a video recording of the service continues for shut-ins who have enjoyed the visuals. In-person Bible study has restarted. Plans have begun to reach out to members who have become inactive.

### **Zion, Pittsburg**

Zion is served by Pastor Ted Cook.

### **Circuit 6 - Rev. Dr. J.S. Bruss, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 6 (Topeka-Lawrence) has faced significant challenges since the 2018 LCMS Kansas District Convention. In addition to the trials of the coronavirus pandemic starting mid-March 2020, three pastors have retired, and one received and accepted a call, even as there remained a vacant pastorate from the previous triennium. For significant stretches of time there were three or four pastoral vacancies, a circuit vacancy rate of 33%-44% (i.e., as few as five or six full-time



active pastors to serve the 3,741 baptized in our congregations). As of 1 February 2022, only two vacancies remain. In His inestimable grace and mercy, however, the good Lord saw to it that His holy Word continued to be proclaimed and His Sacraments administered in all the pulpits and altars of the circuit.

As vacancies began to be filled Summer and Fall 2020, the circuit pastors and congregations took steps to work in concert in response to pandemic conditions, thereby reducing occasion for offense, and always with a mind best to preserve the vigor of the public ministry of Word and Sacrament. Present attendance ranges from 60%-93% over against pre-COVID numbers, depending on the congregation. Despite diminished attendance, however, the congregations and school of the circuit find themselves on firm financial footing through wise stewardship and above all the Lord's abundant blessing.

In two proactive developments, the circuit pastors adopted awinkel agenda focused heavily on study across the theological disciplines to ensure continuing pastoral education and to hold one another responsible for it. The circuit congregations and pastors also devised an initiative, "Maintain the Ministry, Grow the Mission," which seeks ways [better] to do together what we cannot do on our own. The project has already borne fruit in left-hand matters.

**Calvary Lutheran Church, Topeka**, served by Pr. Ben Ockree since 2017, adjusted to the pandemic by having a Saturday Divine Service capped as required that was also streamed online. "Family Communion" was also offered to ensure the Sacrament was given to all. Calvary has returned to regular Sunday worship with Bible classes. Online streaming of the service and "Family Communion" services continue. Calvary has also moved to offering weekly communion. The Calvary Lutheran Learning Center continues to do well and is an important focus the congregation. Long-time director Brenda Zimmerman retired in 2019, succeeded by Michele Saighman. In 2018 Calvary was still managing debt related to a building project from the 2000s. That debt has since by the grace of God been paid off. Calvary has now approved a remodeling project to make their church more accessible with completion projected by the end of 2022.

**Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka**, became vacant early July 2019. Pr. Daniel Ross, who had served the congregation, accepted a call to serve the saints of *another* Christ Lutheran Church—this one in Mustang, Oklahoma. The congregation embarked almost immediately upon the call process, and the good and gracious Lord called to the pulpit and altar of Christ in Topeka Pr. Ben Micheel, who was installed one year and five days after Pr. Ross' last day. During the pandemic, whose onset fell mid-vacancy, God's people at Christ were served through online services and numerous weekday communion services with attendance caps set by county health order. In 2021 Christ initiated and by God's grace successfully ended a capital campaign to pay off all the debt owed on an addition.

The senior pastorate of **Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka**, became vacant Spring 2016, when Pr. Jim Bender received and accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Hudson, Wisconsin. Faith was joined early February 2019 by Intentional Interim Pastor Rev. Jeff Moore, who for health reasons asked to be released from his call early, Fall 2019, thus leading to a re-opening of the vacancy, at which point a call committee was formed. Meanwhile, associate pastor Rev. Jake Wampfler accepted a call to serve Shepherd of the Desert in Scottsdale, AZ, leaving a vacancy in the associate pastorate as of 31 July 2020. On 24 October 2020, Pr. Jacob Heine was installed as senior pastor. Since then, partially to address the associate pastor vacancy, member Jeff Lane has been accepted into the Specific Ministry Program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. During the pandemic the people of Faith were served first and primarily through online broadcast of services, with small face-to-face communion services being offered later on. Since the arrival of Pr. Heine, Faith has resumed a normal schedule.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence**, became vacant October 2019, when Pr. Randall Weinkauff, who had served Immanuel for about a decade, retired from active ministry. Pr. Weinkauff has since removed himself from the roster of the Synod. After a vacancy of three months, February 2020, Immanuel began an Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) under the charge of Pr. Martin Lee, a seasoned IIM pastor. That interim ministry came to an end January 2021, at which time Immanuel embarked upon the call process. To adapt to pandemic conditions, Immanuel offered both online and parking-lot services. Immanuel continues in the call process confident that the Lord in His time and His way will bring them the pastor whom He already knows.

The Rev. Dr. Neil Buono retired from active ministry at **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Topeka**, July 2018. Prince of Peace initially embarked upon the call process with pulpit supply service from retired pastors in the area. 21 December 2019, Rev. Rocky Mease was installed as IIM pastor, serving through December 2020 and the height of the pandemic. Prince of Peace used almost exclusively online broadcast to serve God's people during the pandemic, though by Summer 2021 had resumed face-to-face services. The Lord used the voters of Prince of Peace, with assistance from Region 1 Vice-President Pr. Mark Schulz, to call Rev. Kevin De Hope as succeeding pastor (installed 12 December 2021). In Winter 2021, Prince of Peace's boiler failed; the Lord blessed a significant hurry-up capital campaign shortly thereafter to pay in full for a replacement. Prince of Peace's preschool continues to enjoy the highest reputation in Topeka.

During the pandemic, **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence**, offered both online broadcast as well as in-person communion opportunities to serve God's people. 22 November 2020 Pr. Robert Leiste retired from active ministry at Redeemer, offering up his pastoral services in retirement to Intentional Interim Ministry (with recent service at Zion

Lutheran Church in Linn, Kansas). A call committee that had begun some initial work prior to Pr. Leiste's retirement began upon his retirement to work in earnest. Through the congregation the Lord called Pr. Sean Kilgo, formerly of the Northeast Kansas Partnership, as pastor of Redeemer, installed 21 March 2021. Prior to Pr. Leiste's retirement, the congregation was able by God's grace to retire all historical debt.

By the grace of the Lord who sustained him, Rev. Roger Goetz celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordained ministry, July 2018, the last 38 years of which were served as minister of music at **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Topeka**. He retired later that year, succeeded by Bethany Johnson, formerly associate kantor. December 2019, several months early, by God's grace St. John's concluded *Paid in Full*, a capital campaign to retire all building debt. St. John's also suffered some significant losses. 28 July 2020, Visitation Pastor Emeritus Rev. Glenn Bitter (active 1998 – 2016), received Christian burial at St. John's. Just over a year later, 17 September 2021, Deaconess Emerita Linda Kinnett likewise received Christian burial. During the pandemic the congregation was without interruption able to hold face-to-face Divine Services, at times averaging 20+ Divine Services per week to accommodate county restrictions. Fall of 2021, St. John's entered into partnership discussions with Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland, to explore calling a third pastor to serve both St. John's and Trinity.

**Topeka Lutheran School (TLS)** is the school of Christ, Faith, and St. John's, operating as Topeka Lutheran School since 1952, when the St. John's school, founded 1874, was restructured as an association school. Spring 2018 the TLS Foundation embarked upon "Growing God's Children for Generations to Come," a capital campaign with a two-fold purpose: to pay back loans owed by the school to the Foundation and to raise additional funds for the support of the Lutheran education of our youth well into the future and capital improvements. By God's grace, the first goal has been met even as funds continue to come in, placing TLS on firmer financial footing. TLS is blessed beyond measure to have a 100% LCMS teaching staff, with 77% of them on the LCMS roster. Several new additions have been made to the faculty since 2018 (rostered workers\*): Mr. Josh Grass\*, middle school (2018); Mrs. Erin Grass\*, music and PE (2018); Mrs. Kathy Bartels\*, middle school (2021); and Mrs. Brenda Schwartz, first grade (2021). Total enrollment fluctuates between 75 and 85 pupils, with roughly 70% drawn from association congregations. 9 January 2022 Principal Francik announced that he had accepted a call to serve at an LCMS school in Michigan.

#### **Circuit 7 - Rev. Paul Tessaro, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 7 (Linn) is comprised of eleven congregations. We are a mostly rural area with an exceptionally good bond among the pastors of our circuit. We work well together as we support one another and at times have joint services to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We study well together as we grow professionally and spiritually. Our circuit has seen some transitions as Mr. Jeremy Pera, DCE at St. Paul, Clay Center, has retired. Rev. David Gruoner, pastor at Zion, Linn, has also retired. In addition, Mt. Calvary in Marysville has added an SMP pastor, Jay Williamson, to their staff. St. Paul, Clay Center, has added an associate pastor, Rev. Michael Hofmann. Sadly, SMP candidate Donald Dodd, who was serving Trinity, Afton, was called to his eternal rest following a bout with COVID-19. Being in a rural area the circuit is well on its way, and in some cases, has recovered from the COVID restrictions and low attendance caused by governmental mandates early in the pandemic.

#### **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bremen**

In 2019 Immanuel Lutheran Church celebrated its 150th anniversary. They held three different worship services over two days. The preachers for those services were Rev. Delton Stohs (son of the congregation), Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer (President, Concordia Seminary St. Louis), and Rev. Peter Lange (First Vice-President of the LCMS). Immanuel still rejoices to support Good Shepherd Lutheran School, being part of the school association, along with Bethlehem (Bremen) and Mt. Calvary (Marysville). Immanuel continues to be part of a dual parish with Bethlehem (Bremen) and rejoices in the continued service of Pastor Aaron Fenker. The Men's Club, LWML, Ladies Guild, Quilters, and a dual parish LYF youth group continue to meet a regular basis.

#### **Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bremen**

Bethlehem rejoices in the rich blessings of God and uses those blessings to support Good Shepherd Lutheran School. They are still part the school association, along with Immanuel (Bremen) and Mt. Calvary (Marysville). Bethlehem is still part of a dual parish with Immanuel (Bremen) and rejoices in the continued service of Pastor Aaron Fenker. The Men's Club, LWML, Ladies Guild, Quilters, and a dual parish LYF youth group continue to meet a regular basis. In just a few short years, Bethlehem will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. Planning for this joyous occasion has already begun!

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover**

The highlight for this last triennium (actually now four years) was the celebration of Trinity's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. The celebration was held in August of 2020 during Trinity's Mission Festival in Munstermann's Grove. Our guest speaker was Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier, a son of the congregation. It was a great day of celebrating the grace of God. At this anniversary/Mission Festival service the congregation also celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rev. Rodney D. Fritz's (Sarge) service as pastor of Trinity. His family from Iowa was able to make this celebration much to Pastor Fritz's

surprise and enjoyment. His 40 years of service is a testimony to the quality of members at Trinity, who after all those years continue to work together with Pastor Fritz as the people of God.

Like most congregations we did our best to cope with the coronavirus. The congregation went from total shutdown with services being provided on the congregation's website to a gradual reopening to where we are today – completely open for worship with no attendance restriction. Our attendance is back to where it was prior to COVID.

As far as the next triennium is concerned, we do not know what the future holds. But we do know that the future is in the hands of God, so we trust in Him for our continual care as we gather to worship and serve at Trinity, Hanover.

### **Zion, Linn**

Zion Lutheran has undergone major changes over the last three years. First was that Pastor David Gruoner, after 34 years, retired. The congregation called Pastor Robert Leiste to serve as interim pastor beginning January 3, 2020. During this interim time in preparation for the call the congregation did a self-study, a series of surveys, and in general took a look at itself in preparation for the call. As the call process developed, the congregation came to see that they needed to address the parsonage needs of a larger young family; at this writing, they are forming a plan and seeking financial backing for it. Also out of this parsonage process, the congregation established a long-term planning committee to see the needs of the congregation. Zion continues with St. John's in the school association. The school has been richly blessed with an all-time high number of students as well as broad financial support from St. John's and Zion. The school is tuition-free. The congregation has come back from COVID-19 in terms of attendance.

### **Immanuel Lutheran, Linn**

Rev. Richard Rikli continues to serve at Immanuel as he has since June 27, 2009. The congregation currently serves 258 communicants – 48 children and 206 baptized. They continue to have a strong VBS program. Their LWML is now at 20 members, an increase of 15 from the previous decade. During the Lenten season, Immanuel joins up with the area LCMS churches in a joint Lenten service on Wednesday. Immanuel still hosts their own Ash Wednesday service. Immanuel continues to participate in a joint Mission Festival with Zion and St. John. Every January, Immanuel's LLL hosts the annual Soup Dinner. Rev. Rikli has served in many ways in our circuit and district, including (1) Kansas District Pastors Conference (2) LYF Gathering – Topeka (3) pastoral advisor for LLL and LWML Circuit 7 Kansas District; (4) Pre-Lent Conference – Wichita; (5) Worship service (speaker/liturgist) at the Kansas State Fair 2010; (6) convocation service organizer for Circuit 7 in 2010, 2014, and 2017, which featured Lutheran Hour guest speakers Ken Klaus, Gregory Seltz, and President Matthew Harrison, and (7) chapel service at Linn Lutheran School and Linn Nursing Home. As for COVID-19, Immanuel was able to update their Wi-Fi/internet system so as to livestream, do Facebook, etc. and also updated their sound system so as to hold outside services with drive-through communion. These services are still available.

### **Bethlehem, Greenleaf and St. Peter's, Barnes**

On December 5, 2021, Pastor Durance was installed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Barnes as the first called pastor since 2008. This was in conjunction with a new partnership formed between Bethlehem Lutheran in Greenleaf and St. Peter's in Barnes, which began on January 1, 2022. St. Peter's has begun a twice-monthly Bible study on Monday evenings at 6:30, and the parish has four students who will be confirmed this spring. Bethlehem continues to be blessed with an increase of children and young families. This fall the congregation received a new set of green altar paraments, and each congregation was able to hold a Children's Christmas Program this year, both of which were very well attended. The Lord certainly continues to bless us. May He continue to do so in the future.

### **St. John, Palmer**

St. John, Palmer received Rev. Joshua J. Hayes as its pastor in January of 2020. St. John remains committed to the Linn Lutheran School Association with Zion Lutheran, Linn. The school continues to grow such that the Lord has provided it with a fourth teacher and a sizeable building expansion paid in full. The benefits of strong Christian education and catechesis are felt both in the congregation and in witness to the community. St. John weathered COVID-19 creatively, using its outdoor space, parish hall, radio transmitter, and other means to hold services continuously through the pandemic. Easter service was held outdoors in cars as Pr. Hayes preached in the snow. Still, the congregation rejoiced to return indoors and to more normal services, responding appropriately as the pandemic waxed and waned in our area. God has richly blessed St. John to be a caring church family deeply committed to the pure Word and Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Mt. Calvary, Marysville**

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, located in Marysville, Kansas, is part of Circuit 7 in the Kansas District. Rev. Philip T. Miller began his 7<sup>th</sup> year as pastor in 2021. The congregation continued to meet in in-person church services, as well as streaming one service a week on Facebook Live. Many of the groups at Mt. Calvary resumed meetings again, and Sunday School once again continued to meet in person weekly following some online offerings in the previous year. Special Saints services resumed in the fall of 2021, following Twin Valley allowing outside activities once again. Pastor Jay Williamson was ordained and installed as specific ministry pastor in August 2021. Several of our high school youth

attended the Kansas Youth Gathering in Topeka in the fall, and our congregation was once again able to open our Fellowship Hall doors to the community for Soup Day in October.

### **Trinity, Afton**

Trinity has been served by Deacon Don Dodd for a number of years. Deacon Dodd was an LLD-to-SMP Colloquy. Unfortunately, he contracted COVID-19 at the end of 2021 and was called from this veil of tears to life eternal. Trinity is a small congregation and is currently evaluating their future direction and ministry. They continue to meet in a beautiful rural facility with an associated cemetery.

### **St. Paul Lutheran, Clay Center**

St. Paul regretfully celebrated the retirement of DCE Jeremy Pera. Mr. Pera had served at St. Paul for 40 years and the church at large for approximately 47 years. He also served in various District positions. Mr. Pera continues to serve the congregation and community in various ways in his retirement, as well as spending a bit more time with children and grandchildren.

With Mr. Pera's retirement the need for additional staff was explored in detail. The final decision was to call an associate pastor, Rev. Michael Hofmann, to focus on youth ministry and to help with shut-in visitation and other pastoral tasks in the congregation. Rev. Paul Tessaro continues to serve as the senior pastor at St. Paul. Rev. Tessaro celebrated 15 years of service to St. Paul in this triennium.

St. Paul continues to have a preschool directed by Mrs. Susan Melton. Mrs. Melton is assisted by Mrs. Becky Beichter. It is a joy to be able to share the living Word of God with such a lively group of young people!

St. Paul adapted well to COVID-19 restrictions, beginning a Facebook Live service and reopening as soon as we were permitted. Following health care guidelines, we opened safely and relatively early in the pandemic. Thanks be to God, the congregation continues to recover from COVID with increasing attendance.

### **Circuit 8 - Rev. Larry Boye, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 8 (Manhattan) includes ten congregations, served by seven pastors. Three congregations (St. Paul's, Alta Vista; St. Paul's, Clarks Creek; Trinity, McFarland) are vacant. All three congregations are in partnership conversations. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lake Wabaunsee, an outreach ministry of St. Paul's, Alta Vista, is also involved in partnership conversations. Rev. Rick Twenhafel, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Duluth and St. John Lutheran Church, Easton serves in a bi-vocational ministry. Rev. King Crawford, Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan also serves in LCMS U (campus ministry) at Kansas State University. Rev. Chris Vossler, Trinity, McFarland accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sanford, MI (June 1, 2021). Rev. Chris Schultz, St. Paul's, Alta Vista and Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee resigned February 1, 2022, to fill a position in a family business. In addition to the seven pastors serving the ten congregations of Circuit 8, Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District president, and five retired pastors reside in the circuit. St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wheaton will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary July 17, 2022.

### **Anniversaries (2018-2021)**

#### **Congregations**

Trinity, McFarland – 125 (2018)	Immanuel, Junction City – 95 (2021)
Mt. Calvary, Wamego – 70 (2018)	St. Paul's, Junction City (Clarks Creek) – 160 (2021)
St. John, Alma – 150 (2020)	Christ, Manhattan – 25 (2021)
St. Paul, Duluth – 145 (2020)	St. Luke's, Manhattan – 110 (2021)

#### **Schools**

St. John, Alma – 145 (2018)  
Immanuel, Junction City (school, Early Childhood Center) – 65 (2019)  
St. Luke's, Manhattan (Pre-School, Early Learning Center) – 40 (2021)

#### **Ministers of Religion – Ordained**

(Active)	Rev. Bob Grimm – 35 (2020)	(Inactive)	Rev. Alan Estby – 20 (2018)
	Rev. Rick Twenhafel – 25 (2020)		Rev. Dave Meier – 40 (2018)
	Rev. Tim McCall – 10 (2020)		Rev. Dave Gruoner – 40 (2019)
	Rev. Mike Schmidt – 25 (2021)		Rev. Jim Mayes – 45 (2021)
	Rev. Terry DeGiovanni – 15 (2021)		

### Ministers of Religion – Commissioned

(Active) Whitney Howard – 5 (2018)  
Harmon Butler – 5 (2019)  
Robyn Gray – 15 (2020)

(Inactive) Thomas Forke – 5 (2020)  
Andrea White – 20 (2020)  
Orville Altevogt – 50 (2021)  
Lisa Ochs – 15 (2021) \

### **Activities**

Rev. Dr. Heath Curtis, coordinator of LCMS Stewardship Ministry, presented “Demographics and Church Planning” to our circuit in 2018. Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Revitalization, presented “*re:Vitality*” to our circuit in 2019.

Beginning in 2015, our circuit has hosted a Circuit Reformation Service and Presentation. Following the service, a presentation on a current issue is given by a learned presenter. Those presentations have been

- “U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Same-Sex Marriage” (Mitch Herren, Attorney, Alliance Defending Freedom, 2015)
- “Two Kingdoms and Christian Responsibility in Both” (Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, 2016; presentation given 10 days before the national election.)
- “Faith, U.S. Military, and Chaplains’ Challenges” (Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary, U. S. Army, 2017)
- “Partners in the Gospel” (partnership ministry; Rev. Dan Galchutt, Kansas District Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, 2018)
- Concordia University–Nebraska 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2019
- “Religious Liberty” (Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, 2020; presentation given 10 days before the national election)
- “Social Justice and Critical Race Theory – Responding with Lutheran Clarity and Loving Care” (Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford, Minnesota South District President, 2021)

### **St. John Lutheran Church, Alma**

St. John Lutheran held a three-year celebration as it commemorated 150 years of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ to the community. The celebration included guest preachers every two months and concluded with the ordination of a hometown seminarian, Rev. Christian D. Schultz, who entered the ministry in Summer 2021.

St. John created a livestream presence with its worship services as it continues to share the Gospel in ways that meet the needs of those around it. Rev. Bob Grimm has served the congregation the past 25 years, during which 50 more baptisms than funerals have been celebrated. Vacation Bible School has grown tremendously these past four years. St. John’s focus remains to reach the lost with the Gospel.

St. John Lutheran School remains a faithful servant to the congregation as approximately 35 students attend its K-8 school. About one-half of its students have no church affiliation. St. John strives to incorporate students and parents into the life of Christ at St. John. Called staff includes Harmon Butler, Whitney Howard, and Robyn Gray, with Rebecca Greene as a lay teacher.

While St. John faces challenges, it prays that God leads it to trust and follow His gracious Word.

### **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Alta Vista – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lake Wabaunsee**

#### **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Clarks Creek**

Rev. David Meier served St. Paul’s as Intentional Interim Minister (IIM), beginning Summer 2016. Following the retirement of Rev. Alan Estby (Immanuel Lutheran Church, Junction City), Rev. Meier also served Immanuel as its vacancy pastor. During this time, Pastor Meier worked to see if there would be interest at St. Paul’s and Immanuel in becoming partners in ministry. Pastor Meier resigned as Intentional Interim Minister for St. Paul’s and vacancy pastor for Immanuel in November 2019 due to health.

Following Pastor Meier’s resignation, St. Paul’s continued worshiping, thankful for pulpit supply pastors proclaiming the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. St. Paul’s began discussion with Rev. Timothy McCall (Immanuel, Junction City) in March 2020 about leading worship services at St. Paul’s twice a month. But then COVID-19 happened, and St. Paul’s suspended in-person worship from March – October 2020. During the summer, an elder led Bible studies, many of them outdoors.

In November 2020, Rev. McCall began leading worship and administering the Sacraments at St. Paul’s on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. That schedule continues today. St. Paul’s is working to have services and Bible study every Sunday. It continues to seek partnership with another congregation or congregations.

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Duluth**

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Junction City**

### **Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan**

Christ Lutheran is living in excitement as it grows and increases activities for its members. It continues to be a positive influence in its community. Christ Lutheran supported its pastor, Rev. King Crawford, during health issues. Christ Lutheran's average worship attendance has grown from 22 to 38 and is expecting that growth to continue. New members serve in various capacities, e. g. Sunday School teacher, elder, and the like. The number of youth acolytes has increased. Vacation Bible School has not occurred during COVID-19. Resurfacing the asphalt parking lot is a need.

### **St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan**

Mission Statement: *Sharing Christ's love with those around us.*

On July 19, 2020, St. Luke's relocated to its new home at 4801 Anderson Avenue, on the far west side of Manhattan. St. Luke's owns 28 acres of land on which the new facilities were built. In 2021 St. Luke's pastor, Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, celebrated 10 years of service at St. Luke's and 25 years in the ministry. Charity Smith, Director of Christian Education, accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, MO, in August 2021, following almost nine years of ministry at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's has a thriving Early Learning Center which includes infant care. It has about 65 students and 25 staff. St. Luke's also has a Sunday School, B.A.S.I.C. (a Wednesday night program for children); a youth group, Cancer Companions, and two LWML circles. It owns and operates American Heritage Girls Troop KS0057 and Trail Life USA Troop KS0057, with each troop comprised of about 20-25 active members. St. Luke's music ministry involves children, handbells, choir, and a Praise Team.

St. Luke's is involved in campus ministry at Kansas State University. Rev. King Crawford leads LCMS U @ KSU with a weekly Bible study and meal. St. Luke's also sponsors many foreign exchange students, being involved in both International Student Ministry (an RSO of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod) and Helping International Students (HIS).

### **Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland**

Rev. Chris Vossler, Trinity Lutheran's pastor, accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sanford, MI in June 2021. Rev. Terry DeGiovanni serves Trinity as vacancy pastor. Sunday worship services and Bible classes are led by a round-robin of seven pastors. Trinity is currently involved in partnership talks with St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka.

### **Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Wamego**

Mt. Calvary Lutheran's pastor is Rev. Jim Price. Its Director of Christian Education is Paul White. Mt. Calvary has expanded its online presence this past year and a half. An active men's Bible study is resulting in more engagement with God's Word during the week and has led to a planned men's retreat in 2022. God's grace and the demographics of Wamego and surrounding communities have blessed Mt. Calvary with a period of growth.

### **St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wheaton**

St. Luke Lutheran is served by Rev. Terry DeGiovanni, who has served the congregation 13 years. The pandemic has not deterred St. Luke from proclaiming the Gospel. The congregation conducts two services every weekend to meet the needs of its members. St. Luke will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary July 17, 2022. Rev. Lynn Spencer, a son of the congregation, will preach the anniversary sermon.

### **Circuit 9 - Rev. Clark Davis, Circuit Visitor**

Since our last District convention Circuit 9 has undergone significant change. Both Faith, Abilene and Zion, Newton have new pastors in the Rev. Joe Barlau at Abilene and the Rev. Kurt Letcher at Newton. The Rev. Walter Gilkey, who served Immanuel, Shady Brook and St. John's, Lyons Creek, resigned his call. Since his resignation Rev. Alan Stahlecker and I have shared the preaching and pastoral care for those parishes. Our Redeemer, Herington became vacant when the Rev. Mark Lovett took a call to Wichita. Rev. Alan Stahlecker is serving as the vacancy pastor for the fourth time in his career. In addition, Zion, Latimer voted on December 26, 2021, to close after the Rev. King Crawford had to resign his call there for health reasons. One other change occurred when Calvary, Council Grove and Faith, Emporia formed a dual parish served by Rev. Adam Reichart.

Prior to the pandemic shutting down our congregations in 2020, talks had begun between St. John's, Lincolnville, St. John's, Lyons Creek, Immanuel, Shady Brook, and Our Redeemer, Herington about forming a partnership. When those

talks stalled in early 2021, St. John's, Lyons Creek, Immanuel, Shady Brook, and Our Redeemer, Herington, formed a tri-parish. They have issued one call that was returned. They are currently in the call process.

### **Faith Lutheran, Abilene**

When the Rev. Peter Lange became the Synod's First Vice-President at the last Synod convention, the Rev. Justin Panzer, as First Vice-President of the Kansas District, became the District President. For the first few months following his move to that position he tried to serve Faith, where he had been for 16 years, and function as District President. It became clear that the duties of District President were too demanding for that to continue, so he stepped down from his call. After two other calls were returned, the Rev. Joe Barlau, who was serving in Indiana as an associate pastor, accepted a call to Faith.

The congregation took every precaution possible during the pandemic to continue worshipping. Numbers have fluctuated, as they have in all of our congregations, as the spread increased or decreased. God's holy and precious saints of Faith look forward to 2022 with hope and the expectation that we will be closer to the new normal.

### **Calvary Lutheran, Council Grove**

Our response to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines in early spring of 2020 was to NOT stop meeting in person throughout. (We gathered outside in cars in our parking lot March until June.) We added a streaming version of the service but stressed the importance of maintaining face-to-face interaction. We therefore did not experience the drop off in attendance and connection to church that many others who shut down did and are now trying to recover from.

Also, we had been working since 2019 with Faith, Emporia on forming a dual parish. This was finalized in August 2020. Our congregation has welcomed two new young families in late 2021, resulting in four baptisms. We also had a wedding!

Thanks be to God for the work He has prepared for us to do in this community. We are praying for zeal and strength to carry out this work with joy-filled hearts and love poured outward to our neighbors.

### **Immanuel Lutheran, Shady Brook**

During the past few years, we have held joint worship services with St. John's, Lyons Creek, which alternated between the two congregations and held on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. This enabled Pastor Davis and Pastor Stahlecker to serve us, and we thank God for these two dedicated servants of the Lord. When the tri-parish was formed, we decided to continue this practice of alternating services, but they will be on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to assist any pastor we call. In 2020, after returning to worship, we were able to hold a Children's Christmas program, but it was cancelled in 2021 due to bad weather and the damage done to the church in early December by a fierce windstorm.

### **St. John Lutheran, Lyon's Creek**

Since the resignation of Pastor Gilkey, St. John's has been served by Pastor Davis and Pastor Stahlecker on a rotating basis. Alternating services with Immanuel has been good for both congregations. As the talks of a four-parish partnership stalled and new ones to form a tri-parish of the Dickinson County churches took shape, one of the first steps was to sever the dual parish agreement with Immanuel, Shady Brook. That was done in 2021, and the new tri-parish agreement was put into place. The three congregations should work well together, and we pray that 2022 will bring a new pastor to serve us.

In-person worship was basically shut down from March to June 2020 due to COVID-19. During that time some of our members took advantage of online worship as well as small group communion at neighboring congregations offering the Sacrament. Worship attendance has been steady since resuming worship.

### **Our Redeemer Lutheran, Herington**

Our Redeemer was served by Rev. Mark Lovett until the end of 2019, when he accepted a call to Immanuel, Wichita. Rev. Alan Stahlecker has provided pastoral care during the vacancy. Due to the pandemic, the 2020-2021 school year of the Our Redeemer Preschool was suspended, but operations resumed in the fall of 2021. A weekly Communion service at the local nursing home has continued (despite a 10-month interruption due to COVID-19) to serve the residents from circuit congregations, a service that has been provided by Our Redeemer's pastors for over 20 years. After a one-year break due to the pandemic, the congregation resumed their annual Vacation Bible School with the enthusiastic participation of many in the congregation.

The congregation has continued a TIM partnership with Rev. Jonathan Clausing (Tanzania); the parents of Rev. Clausing's wife, Anita, are members at Our Redeemer. The Clausing family had arrived in the U.S. shortly before the pandemic escalated and stayed in our area for much of a year. It was good to have them close and able to participate in some of the life of the congregations in both Herington and Lincolnville.

Our Redeemer has utilized technology to videotape their worship services for about two decades. When the pandemic began, it was a relatively smooth step to offer online services to the congregation. After an eleven-week absence from in-person worship at the onset of the pandemic, the congregation returned in June 2020, and now most congregational activities (in a vacancy situation) are much as they were before the pandemic began, with slightly smaller numbers.

With multiple vacancies in the Herington area congregations, Our Redeemer became a part of partnership conversations within Circuit 9. The three Herington area congregations have formed a tri-parish to serve in southern Dickinson County and are involved in the call process for a pastor to serve them.

#### **Zion Lutheran, Latimer**

The congregation has come to the support of their pastor, who was dealing with health issues and is now back in the pulpit to serve as long as he could. However, the pastor has still been dealing with health problems. Zion Lutheran Church has been meeting at 6:00 p.m. for services. The pastor had to drive 52 miles both ways to conduct services. The last four years have proven to be a challenge for the congregation to continue to move forward. The pastor has had issues with delirium, causing him to black out. No one wanted the pastor to be driving 52 miles and possibly black out. The congregation held a voters meeting and decided to close the church as of December 26, 2021.

#### **Zion Lutheran, Hillsboro and Our Savior Lutheran, Marion (combined report)**

Our Savior, Marion and Zion, Hillsboro were able to hold a Sunday Night Movie Night during the summer weekends this last year. It was wonderful for both congregations to join for fellowship and discussion on the recent streaming series, "The Chosen," concerning the early ministry of Jesus and His disciples. Both churches continued meeting regularly on Sunday mornings for Divine Worship and Bible Study while also holding an additional service on Monday nights for those uncomfortable or unable to attend on Sundays. Zion's after-school program, Zion Kids, also continues to thrive while serving 12-15 children snacks, a Bible story, and a game. New faces were added this year to the program. Zion also has a member of the congregation who will begin SMP studies at the St. Louis seminary in February.

#### **St. John Lutheran, Lincolnvile**

The saints at St. John's, Lincolnvile continue to be served by Rev. Alan Stahlecker. The congregation observed his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and service to the congregation in July 2018 with a meal. The congregation has also continued their TIM partnership with Rev. Jonathan Clausing, who is currently serving in Tanzania. His wife, Anita, is the granddaughter of long-time members of St. John's. The Clausing family had arrived in the U.S. shortly before the pandemic escalated and ended up staying in our area for much of a year. It was good to have them close and able to participate in some of the life of the congregations in both Lincolnvile and Herington.

With vacancies in the Herington-area congregations, St. John's was part of partnership conversations in Circuit 9 for a period of time. Eventually St. John's stepped back from the conversation to allow the three Herington-area congregations to pursue a partnership together in southern Dickinson County. Future conversation about partnerships lie ahead for the congregation as various resources for ministry are challenged.

After an eleven-week absence from in-person worship at the onset of the pandemic, the congregation returned in June 2020, and now most congregational activities are much as they were before the pandemic began, with slightly smaller numbers. We thank God for His faithfulness in our life together as the baptized.

#### **Zion Lutheran, Newton**

Since the last convention, Zion has called a new pastor, the Rev. Kurt Letcher. He was installed about six months prior to the beginning of COVID-19. During the early weeks of the pandemic, online-only worship was held. Once in-person began again, they also opted to have two services, one early with no singing of hymns or liturgy, and the regular service. The congregation feels that the handling of the pandemic went well.

One new project that was begun was the hosting of a weekly GriefShare support group. This national program offers videos and discussion to guide people through the loss of their loved ones. We pray this program helps the some of the many who are hurting in Newton and our world and draws them closer to Christ.

#### **Trinity Lutheran, Ramona**

Trinity is served by Rev. Clark Davis, who has been there since 2002. They have recovered fairly well from the pandemic and continue to worship in person. Because the congregation is small, there has been no problem with social distancing. During the shutdown from March to June 2020, small group Communion services were held weekly in accordance with the requirements of the State of Kansas. They were well attended given the circumstances. The congregation has had an ongoing effort to reach out to the community by sponsoring a school supply giveaway to community children each fall. We have also been able to hold Vacation Bible School the past two summers, and it has been well received. Bible study has stalled at the present because of work schedules and outside commitments.

#### **St. John's, Tampa**

St. John's is also served by the Rev. Clark Davis, who is in his 27<sup>th</sup> year at St. John's. During the shutdown in 2020, he held weekly Facebook Live broadcast of devotions. Since resuming worship in June 2020, he has been doing a series of devotions on the Psalms daily and posting them to Facebook Monday through Friday. He also posts his weekly sermon on Sundays. The congregation has bounced back, and virtually every member has returned to worship. Bible study has been well received, and we look forward to continued participation as we explore new topics and books of the Bible. During the past years since the last convention, the congregation also celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



### **Grace Lutheran, Strong City**

Grace continues as a congregation vacant and not calling. They are served by retired pastors from the Wichita area, with the Rev. Cliff Winter being the primary one. They continue to have presence in the community as they seek to serve the Lord.

### **Circuit 10 - Rev. Tom Harmon, Circuit Visitor**

#### **Christ, Augusta / Grace, El Dorado**

On Sunday, April 17, 2018, Grace Lutheran, El Dorado and Christ Lutheran, Augusta entered into a dual parish relationship. On July 8, 2018, Grace installed Rev. John Einem as their called pastor in conjunction with his position as pastor at Christ, Augusta. The transition to dual parish has gone smoothly, and the relationship has proved beneficial to both congregations in numerous ways. Areas that have been enhanced include, but are not limited to, each congregation's operation in the black financially, an expanded view of and activities with fellow believers (encouragement/fellowship), shared best practices, a greater sense of future ministry, security and hope. Soli Deo Gloria!

During the COVID-19 period of restrictions, both congregations effectively employed the Synod-produced media theme and graphics "Life Has Changed; Jesus Has Not." Reproducing the theme on yard signs for members' homes, decals for car windows, and banners for each church yard, members engaged in extending highly visible invitations for the community to join in worship. The emphasis was well-received by members and the community alike.

#### **Ascension, Wichita**

During the last four years, Ascension, Wichita, has been blessed. After several years of guidance, Ascension was able to launch a new congregation in Pratt, guiding them through the process of becoming an independent, incorporated church of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. They called a pastor who served them for a couple years. They chose the name Ascension Lutheran Church, Pratt.

Ascension, Wichita added a third pastor. Rev. Aaron Hannemann was installed in February 2020 and becomes Ascension's Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism. Pastor Scott Goltl moved to being Pastor of Discipleship and Education. Pastor Michael Bingenheimer remained Director of Ministries.

COVID-19 actually hit at a serendipitous time for Ascension, Wichita. We were in process of adding on to the Maple campus and renovating the Tyler campus. We had just finished receiving commitments for the capital campaign and construction bids when COVID-19 hit. Pre-pandemic, construction companies were hungry for business. Bids came in well below estimates. The construction and renovation happened during COVID-19 lockdown and as a result, we experienced little disruption since we were not meeting in person for worship. The Maple campus addition has been completed and dedicated. The Tyler renovation of the sanctuary and oldest parts of the complex are also completed and reconsecrated. We have also been very blessed financially. It appears we will carry no additional debt from this \$1.2 million project. Like all other churches, we experienced a dramatic decrease in attendance, but that, too, is coming back as we have focused on rebuilding community and participation among our worshippers. We are fully open and back to full activities as we were pre-COVID. Ascension is blessed to report that no one contracted COVID-19 from any of the worship, events, or activities held during the pandemic. Praise God!

#### **Ascension, Pratt**

Rev. Dan Chrismer, first pastor of Ascension, Pratt, accepted a call to St. John, Bullhead City, AZ and left in June of 2021. Pastor Nick Cordt from Risen Savior has been serving the vacancy. The congregation is actively calling a new pastor.

#### **Holy Cross, Wichita**

The Lord has continued to work powerfully through His Word and Sacraments at Holy Cross throughout the last four years, and we are truly thankful for ALL His gracious blessings! (We thank God for the faithful preaching and teaching of His Word every week, the thousands who have communed at His altar, and the 42 children/infants and 12 adults (54 total) who have been received by Him through the waters of Baptism!) By the work of the Holy Spirit in and through His people at Holy Cross, it is our desire to "Strengthen the Saved and Reach the Lost," while "Cultivating Joyful and Generous Christian Stewards!"

The Elders are continuing to encourage congregational members in their faith and growth in spiritual life. The Elders are prayerfully, carefully, and faithfully contacting and encouraging, especially, our "less active" members.

Holy Cross Lutheran School has seen growth under the leadership of our principal, Mrs. Karen Boettcher. Current enrollment (Pre-K through 8th grade) stands at just under 250 students. We are thankful for four new teachers (Karen Maxson, Molly-Ann Wells, Morgan Dunst and Amy Ruppert)! Our school has received renewed accreditations from Cognia, NLSA, and the State of Kansas.

The last triennium has seen the completion of a capital campaign (raising \$1.5 million), allowing us to retire our mortgage, grow the church endowment, help start a new worship service, fund missions around the world, and make major renovations to our facilities and grounds, including a new roof for the church, complete audio-visual upgrades in the Worship Center, and heating/air equipment.

Holy Cross congregation and members are “Blessed to be a Blessing!” We are thankful for having had the opportunity to share the Gospel and host thousands of people from the community – including a meal, concert, and fireworks - for the 2019 and 2021 “Fourth of July - Let Freedom Sing” events held on our campus. In 2020 the congregation began an exciting new outreach ministry – becoming an International Friendship Center. We continue to cultivate the mission relationship with our sister congregation, Divine Savior Lutheran Church and School – in Zacapa, Guatemala. Following a hiatus caused by COVID-19, several international short-term mission trips are being planned.

We are increasing our “pro-life footprint” through Foster Care ministries, Care Portal activities, “Value Them Both” involvement, praying outside area abortion clinics, and in many other ways.

2021 marked a major ministry commitment by the calling of a third pastor (Pastor Matthew Bohlmann) and the implementation of a fourth weekend worship service (Sundays at 10:37 a.m.).

Many encouraging and challenging opportunities presented themselves as we faced (and are facing) the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 epidemic. God graciously provided the people, technology, and financial resources for Holy Cross to set up AM and FM broadcasts to our parking lots as people gathered for worship. The congregation began new livestreaming services and by the Spirit’s guidance discovered innovative ways to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to members and the community.

Further strategic planning continues while we are seeking God’s guidance and blessings as we faithfully serve the Savior throughout the coming triennium and beyond.

To God Alone be the Glory!

### **Risen Savior, Wichita**

Risen Savior, Wichita, over the past four years has been blessed by God in many ways. During the past few years, we have been under construction for Phase III. The visioning, planning, and capital campaign brought us a renewed excitement for the future. The facility was doubled in size with our first Worship Center, which can seat 700. Offices are now in a dedicated section rather than being spread out in several classrooms. Dedication of the 4.5-million-dollar expansion to the glory of God was held on October 7, 2018.

When COVID-19 hit we were able to spread out and continue with services. Due to the additional technology, livestreaming was available to us and has been a strong asset even now. We continue to expand in our outreach support and service to community organizations. Serving our local community, weekly work continues with the “Crossover Recovery Center” in downtown Wichita, bringing the Word of God and meals to those struggling with addictions. The Wichita Police Department utilizes the facilities God has blessed for our management to evaluate and train new police officers. The facility is used by our community neighborhoods as well as other groups and agencies. We are honored to support the local Sedgwick County Fire Department and Gammon Elementary School. Pastor Nick Cordt was ordained and installed as assistant pastor on January 15, 2017.

After 12 years of assisting our sister congregation, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Grants, NM, the congregation officially closed last year.

We have begun a dedicated look to the future regarding staffing needs to serve the people of our area more efficiently. Even through COVID, we packaged and sent 100,000 meals to Haiti through Umana. Our goals include making this an annual event. Funding for the University Lutheran Ministries Association remains a priority as well as supporting foreign missionaries.

The two circuits of the Wichita area, 10 and 11, continue to meet together. Each meeting concludes with a meal sponsored by the hosting parish for those who can attend, followed by a time of “koinonia.”

### **Circuit 11 - Rev. Mark Lovett, Circuit Visitor**

#### **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Preston**

God’s people at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Preston express, through word and deed, thankfulness to the heavenly Father for the congregation that was established here 122 years ago. The setting is rural, but the ministry is the same; gifts of grace from the Lord Jesus Christ are given to faithful people week by week as they gather around the Gospel

proclaimed and the Sacraments administered. There have, of course, been challenges faced here much like those encountered by most, if not all, of the congregations of our District due to the effects of a pandemic over the last couple of years. A decline in attendance at worship was the most noticeable effect. However, in spite of this, the financial stewardship of the people has remained constant and generous, and we give thanks to God that more and more people are returning to regular worship. Even as Jesus the Savior is the same yesterday and today and forever, His gifts and blessings to this congregation continue to provide for our temporal and eternal needs. "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)

#### **Grace Lutheran Church, Wichita**

Grace Lutheran remains in a joint-parish agreement with Trinity Lutheran. These congregations have been served by the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle since 2010 as their senior pastor, and the Rev. Daniel Metzger since 2018 as their associate pastor. Grace continues to offer an annual Lutheran Lecture Series each spring and is excited to host the up-and-coming Lutheran classical high school, Concordia Academy, which will begin with a 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022. The Hispanic Ministry at Grace continues to offer a *Misa en Español* each week as well as gathering for special feasts and celebrations.

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita**

Trinity Lutheran remains in a joint-parish agreement with Grace Lutheran. These congregations have been served by the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle since 2010 as their senior pastor, and the Rev. Daniel Metzger since 2018 as their associate pastor. Trinity rejoices in the opportunities to host the annual Reformation Festival. Trinity generously supports the up-and-coming Lutheran classical high school, Concordia Academy, which will begin with a 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2022. Trinity rejoices in a strong and steady growth both in its membership as well as its catechetical formation in the faith.

#### **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wichita**

Immanuel has had a wonderful two years. We received a new pastor and have added several families to our membership rolls, with more enrolled in our New Member Catechesis. The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Lord's Day, and many of the feasts and festivals are also observed. Matins is prayed daily Monday through Friday, and all-day prayer vigils are held every Ember Saturday (or close to that). Our Sunday school is active, and we have a moderate choir that does a wonderful job. Oh, and we have replaced nearly all of our paraments and vestments over the last year, replacing the worn out with new, beautiful vestments for the glory of the Lord.

#### **Zion Lutheran Church, Argonia**

Zion Lutheran continues to serve the Argonia community faithfully. Attendance has decreased due to death, people moving, and poor health, but those who gather are enthusiastic for the fellowship. The future is uncertain. God has blessed Zion, and we will continue to trust Him.

#### **Bethany Lutheran Church, Wichita**

Bethany Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center, Wichita, continues to be blessed by God. He has provided support for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament through the saints at Bethany in various and many ways. Not unlike our sister congregations, Bethany presses forward in faith and joy in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **St. John Lutheran Church, Nashville**

St. John is faithfully served by Pastor Dennis L. Fangmeyer, who is now in his twentieth year. Being in a rural area, membership has declined, but the congregation is still active in worship, adult Bible class, and Sunday school. Total baptized membership is 69, and communicant membership is 58. Average worship is around 35 for Sunday worship. Worship attendance remained stable during the COVID-19 pandemic and livestreaming of the service was made available with an average of 55 viewers. This was later changed to uploading the service, and viewership dropped to around 20. Pastor conducted 17 funerals and three baptisms during the last triennium. The sanctuary windows were recently replaced, and stained glass film applied.

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Medicine Lodge**

Pastor Dennis L. Fangmeyer continues to serve Trinity as well. This, too, is a rural congregation in a small community with eleven other denominational congregations. Growth is difficult with the number of congregations in the community, but the congregation continues to reach out to the community. The congregation is still active in Sunday worship, adult Bible class, and Sunday school. Total baptized membership is 42, and communicant membership is 36. Sunday worship averages 24. Worship attendance remained stable during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the service was and is still made available on Facebook. Pastor conducted eight funerals and one baptism during the last triennium. Some remodeling was done to increase the size of the narthex and allow for an elevator to the basement. A new entrance walk was installed with an automatic door opener to allow easier access for attendees.

#### **Calvary Lutheran Church, Wellington**

Calvary Lutheran Church in Wellington, by the grace of God, did not suffer any COVID-19 deaths, or any deaths at all, in the last three years. A handful of parishioners were sick for a while from, or with, COVID-19, but not seriously. Matins

services were recorded and posted online during 2020. About a third of the congregation that had attended worship fairly regularly before the outbreak of COVID-19 stayed home during 2020, and many of them have not returned. With the help of God, Calvary will continue to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Lord's sacraments for many years to come in their community.

### **Faith Lutheran Church, Derby**

By the grace of God we have been able to keep our doors open for both services on Sunday morning since the last convention. At the peak of the first COVID-19 outbreak we followed the 10-person rule per service. We held four services on Easter morning of 2020. God is indeed gracious and merciful to allow us to serve Him in Word and Sacrament ministry in the midst of difficult circumstances. Our love and care for one another in this congregation has been displayed in marvelous, God-pleasing ways. Although our average attendance has not regained pre-COVID levels, it has steadily improved, albeit slowly. Thankfully, enrollment in our preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade day school has increased by 30%. We now have 38 students enrolled in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our teachers, staff, school board members, principal, and many others have been amazing, dedicated servants through all of our trials and tribulations. A celebration was planned and held in November 2021 in honor of 20 years of service at Faith for Pastor Johnson. It was well attended and greatly appreciated. The leaders at Faith see the way forward as the way of faithfulness to God's Word. We have such a rich heritage of confessional Lutheranism within our Synod that needs to be understood and relied upon during these tough times. This heritage is trustworthy because it has put the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word first and did not waver. It is our privilege and joy to carry on with this ministry, to pass on the faith to subsequent generations. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9 ESV).

### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Winfield**

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Winfield continues in its commitment to share the Gospel in all of its varied activities. From the Word and Sacrament ministry and active Sunday School and Bible classes to daily staff and classroom devotions, chapel worship, and mid-week Bible study opportunities, we encourage one another to be in the Word so that we are equipped to live by the Word. Within our walls, the school installed Clear Touch boards in most of the classrooms. In celebration of 140 years, the worship space has received an extensive refresh with painted walls, cleaned and repaired stained glass, replaced carpet, recovered pew cushions, and upgraded cameras. Since the last convention, our staff has had two retirements of servants to Trinity since the early 90s, Rev. Roderick Hathaway as well as Mark Schotte, principal and teacher. Rev. Rocky Mease served as an interim pastor, and Jane Limback filled in as interim principal. Following them, Rev. Seth A. Meyer accepted the call as pastor, and Christopher Dehning accepted the position as principal and teacher. Currently the Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade school is fully staffed with Mrs. Sheryl Pugmire and aide Mrs. Crystal Ray (PRE-K 3 & 4), Mrs. Katrina Tarver (K), Ms. Cynthia Foster (1-2), Ms. Erin Miller (3-4), Principal Dehning (5-6), and Mrs. Heather Meyer (Religion, Art, Writing, and English).

### **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City**

Human affairs have suffered great upheavals, and yet the Lord governs the Church by His Word and Spirit. During this past triennium at Redeemer Lutheran Church, He has enlarged His Church militant by the baptism of four infants and one adult. He has furthermore added to the ranks of communicant members three souls. He has graciously received into the Church triumphant 13 souls. He has also seen to it that the Word is purely preached and the Sacraments administered according to His institution, the young and old are instructed in the faith, the sick and those in prison are visited, and the poor fed commensurate with our means. For this we give thanks, and at the same time cry, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cheney, KS**

In the last two years, St. Paul's has decreased in regular attendance. Many factors contribute to this. We have recently hired a new preschool director and two new teachers. We have increased our technological presence on the internet and continue to seek ways to do that. The school added a second van route with a second van. We have begun 2022 with inviting guest speakers. Our outreach team known as Soar has been revived. Our Lifeteam is doing well and is very active in all areas of life. Our LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship) has become Jr. LYF. With the repair of our organ, we have launched a music ministry with the intent to bring in musicians from the area, since that is a lack in our community. We currently have the only active choir and organ in our community. We also have a number of talented musical members. There are lots of other areas that have continued, and we are striving to find our normal.

### **Circuit 12 - Rev. Dale Dumperth, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 12 (Hutchinson - Salina) now includes eight congregations, since St. John, Moundridge, closed at the end of 2020. The saints were blessed at St. John, having received the gifts of God unto life and salvation for many decades. There have been five vacancies over the last triennium, three of which are now filled. Two congregations are currently vacant, their pastors having received calls out of the district in 2020. Within our circuit, one pastor retired and two accepted calls to another district. We were blessed with the ordination of one pastor. With the exception of the circuit visitor, all of the

pastors of this circuit have joined us in the last seven years. So, in a sense our circuit is new. The fraternity is strong. The Lord blesses us and works in our midst.

To hone our theological acumen, the brothers in our circuit study Walther's *Law and Gospel* each month. The host pastor leads the group in the discussion of one thesis per meeting. Evangelism is a constant theme. Several congregations have provided workshops employing *Every One His Witness* to encourage God's saints to speak of His glory in their vocations.

**Immanuel Lutheran, Canton** was served ably by Pastor Brent Horne for five years until he accepted a call to St. Paul's, Malcolm, NE, in 2021. This vacancy is being served by the Rev. Tim Meyer. In the interest of trying to attract and retain young families with children, Immanuel has resolved to start two new fellowship groups: FLYP (Fellowship of Lutheran Younger People) and FLOP (Fellowship of Lutheran Older People). Immanuel is also looking into collaborating with other congregations in the circuit to sponsor more youth events and activities. New lay leaders have already volunteered to head up these activities.

**Christ the King, Salina** has had a blessed and eventful couple of years. Pastor Aaron Wagner was installed in 2019, having served previously at Zion, Alva, OK. At the end of 2020, Christ the King called a new DCE, Samantha Wagner; we are excited about what we can do together as a church as we look to a future. We also are in the process of finishing a campaign to buy a new organ and are looking forward to having it installed at the beginning of 2022. Our potential continues to grow, and we are excited about where God will lead us!

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina** is served by Pastor Mark Boxman and Pastor Dennis Kootz. Two hundred fifty saints gather in Christ's name every week to receive the Lord's gifts, to sing His praises, and to offer our prayers. Outreach efforts include the Lutheran Hour broadcast, online resources, adult confirmation classes, college ministry, "The Streets of Bethlehem," the congregation of priests witnessing in their daily vocations, and support for LCMS world missions. Caring ministry is a way of life and is fostered through elder care assignments, I-Pray U, Stephen Ministry, Strength for Today and Tomorrow gatherings, and health and family ministry. Multiple educational classes are offered throughout the week. Thanks be to the Lord for the blessings He daily showers upon His Church!

**St. John Lutheran, Ellinwood** is blessed to be served by Pastor Thomas Thierfelder and Pastor Kenton Abbott. Pastor Abbott, who was ordained in 2018, also serves Grace Lutheran, Lyons. The state of the parish is strong and active with many activities and ministries. Our child development center continues to serve in two locations, one on main street and the other on our church property. Our centers are accredited through the LCMS and are both thriving. Our congregation continues to grow with many infant baptisms this past year. Each year, we host a community fish fry with proceeds going to the Lutheran Laymen's League as well as many other outreach activities. This past year with a grant from the Kansas District we are repairing our bell tower to let our community hear that we are here! This past year we served over 100 children for Vacation Bible School. Most importantly, Word and Sacrament ministry is the center of life at St. John, Ellinwood! May God continue to bless us through the coming year.

**Grace Lutheran, McPherson** called Pastor Dale Dumperth to serve them with the Means of Grace 21 years ago. During the last triennium, Grace, McPherson, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, rejoicing in our Heavenly Father's continuing mercy and His grace bestowed through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Focusing on evangelism, we have employed *Every One His Witness* to enable us to grasp opportunities to speak of Jesus in our daily vocations. Since the world often objects to Godly doctrine and practice, we began a Bible study series titled "Seat of Doctrine," so that we know and are able to reference those key Bible passages on which our Christian faith is based. This enables us to open our lips and declare His praise!

**Grace Lutheran Church, Lyons** is a small, active congregation. Grace has a membership of 43, and two baptized preparatory members. The average Sunday worship attendance is around 25, with a high of 42 last year. Bible studies are well attended. The church is active in the local community thrift store once a month. Also, each year the community has a craft fair downtown, where we have had a booth selling baked goods, sharing information about the church, and greeting people in the town. The proceeds of the baked goods have been given to the local food bank. Being a small congregation, Grace is unable to sustain a full-time pastor and has been served by Pastor Kenton Abbott from St. John, Ellinwood. This partnership has been a blessing so that there is consistency in providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, and regular administration of the Lord's Supper. God continues to grow this small congregation, slowly, a few at a time.

**Our Redeemer, Hutchinson** is served by Pastor Quentin Nuttmann and Pastor Henry Blickhahn. Our Redeemer focuses on the mission of the church: to baptize and to teach all things whatsoever God has commanded us. All members are continually exhorted to hold fast to the doctrine which has been entrusted to the Church. To this end, numerous opportunities exist to come to the faith and to grow in the faith, such as worship, Bible study, confirmation, and Sunday school, to name a few. God richly pours out His blessing upon Our Redeemer.

**St. Paul, Haven** was well served for 12 years by Pastor Russell Bonine, who accepted a call to Bethlehem, Ravenna, NE, in 2021. Pastor Quentin Nuttmann, senior pastor of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, serves as vacancy pastor. St. Paul is eager to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ not only within the walls of the church, but also in the homes and lives of its members. The members of St. Paul are always eager to study the Word of God and serve their fellow man. They earnestly seek the shepherd whose name the Lord knows, the one who will be called to serve them as pastor.

### **Circuit 13 – Rev. Jason Toombs, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 13 (Lincoln-Hays) includes 12 congregations and one mission plant. The circuit has had some turnover in the past triennium, and all but two congregations are being served by called pastors with wonderful vacancy pastors serving those without called pastors.

#### **Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove**

The last four years have been a struggle. Yet even in the midst of that struggle, we can look around see the blessings that God has given us. As with most congregations, our attendance dropped to about half of what it had been pre-COVID. Despite that concerning trend, the people who remained proved faithful and have shown time after time a deep desire to hear the Word preached to them and to receive the Sacraments given to them by Rev. Christopher Craig. While we are not yet at pre-COVID levels, it is always a joy to see more people in the pews on Sunday to receive the forgiveness of their sins and the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Looking forward, it is our intention to continue doing what we've always done. We have also decided to continue livestreaming our services to give our members a useful devotional tool. Other than that, we will continue to look for ways to serve our Lord and our community and to share the Word with all those around us.

#### **Concordia Lutheran Church, Hoisington**

Concordia Lutheran Church in Hoisington, Kansas, is joyfully celebrating God at work in central Kansas. Rev. Gary Wolf serves as pastor. During the past triennium our biggest challenge, and victory, has been dealing with COVID-19. When we could not worship, we started to broadcast our services on Facebook Live. We have continued offering this for our members who cannot meet together for service. This has been helpful in reaching more of our community, though too many of our shut-ins do not get Facebook. Our concern now is to get people "back in church." Too many of our members have not returned to worship regularly and thus are not receiving the Sacrament. We are continuing to discuss numerous ways to get people back in church, as they need Jesus. One event we had last year was an Easter program led by our children (like at Christmas), and it was very successful. We are looking forward to our second one this Easter.

#### **Grace Lutheran Church, Larned**

Grace Lutheran Church does not currently have a called pastor, but Rev. Stan Palmer, Our Redeemer, Kinsley and Zion, Offerle, serves as vacancy pastor, and other area pastors help as needed. Due to difficulties in trying to meet each Sunday, the saints at Grace have elected to meet once a month, on the fourth Sunday of the month. They have been invited to attend other area church or to attend Our Redeemer, Kinsley on the other Sundays if they want to continue to worship with Rev. Palmer. The saints at Grace continue to bless the area with the Orphan Grain Train, Larned Food Pantry, and Helping Hands.

#### **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth**

Rev. Luke Brown welcomed Comfort Dog Keren to Immanuel Lutheran, Ellsworth in March 2021. Keren (Job 42:14) is the first Lutheran Church Charities comfort dog in Kansas and regularly offers comfort, compassion, and presence in many settings including hospitals, nursing homes, preschools, schools, funerals, visitations, events, as well as disaster response situations. Keren is one aspect of other mercy ministries offered in Kansas and the LCMS. She is willing to go wherever needed and has been a very public and visible ministry in Ellsworth County. She has a Facebook page and can be contacted by emailing Top Dog Carol Kratzer at [jckratzer@yahoo.com](mailto:jckratzer@yahoo.com). The COVID-19 experience slowed and frustrated the process of obtaining Keren as well as other ministries of Immanuel. Immanuel hopes to continue to creatively and aggressively seek to serve our neighbors, with the goal of bringing them into Word and Sacrament relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### **Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Great Bend**

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Great Bend, is a small congregation that regularly has 19 gathered for worship. They are currently without a called pastor and are being served during their vacancy by Rev. Kenton Abbott from St. John Lutheran, Ellinwood. Currently their Sunday service is held at 2:30 p.m., and a small group meets on Monday morning for Bible study. They have been blessed by other congregations as they received an Advent candle set and holder from a church that was closing and were gifted an electronic piano from a small congregation that had upgraded to a new one. Though the members are few, they are very faithful and are regular in attending worship.

### **St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lincoln/Westfall**

St. John and St. Paul's have entered into a dual parish relationship, with Rev. Ben Siebert having served as vacancy pastor at St. Paul's the last several years. Both churches continue to meet, with St. Paul's meeting at 9 a.m. and St. John at 10:30 a.m. for worship on Sunday morning. Having previously worked as a dual parish in essence, the formalized dual parish relationship is a wonderful blessing for the saints of St. John and St. Paul's. They continue to offer Bible study, confirmation, and other opportunities to study God's Word throughout the week as well. We look forward to continuing to serve God's saints in and around Lincoln for years to come.

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellsworth**

One of the priorities at St. Paul's has, and continues to be, the new fellowship hall. The committee is constantly at work with planning and fundraising in order to have a wonderful new building for catechesis, teaching and instruction, and for fellowship. Rev. Emshoff, who was installed in 2020, continues to focus on preaching and teaching with emphasis on living the life of the baptized—the importance of daily repentance and remembrance of Baptism and the necessity of continual immersion in God's Word and instruction within the Christian home. After all, our Christian life is lived out daily, not just as we gather together for study and service. We look forward to having our new facility and inviting you to join us for events and to check out our new space for fellowship.

### **St. Peter Lutheran Church, Holyrood and Zion Lutheran Church, Claflin**

St. Peter and Zion continue to be served by Rev. Daniel Harders. St. Peter has continued to support the Feeding the Children of Central Kansas program by hosting the Holyrood distribution site during the summer months. St. Peter also has continued to offer support throughout the community through its distribution box, where those in need can retrieve items as needed. Zion has remodeled its main entrance with a new door and carpeting. Zion has also continued its support of Claflin residents through its distribution box where those in need can retrieve items as needed.

### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Hunter**

Trinity Lutheran Church in Hunter continues to be served by Rev. Matthew Schneider. We have celebrated some wonderful times together as many people have come out to support our fundraisers, meals, and gatherings, whether at the church or at the Community Center. We still enjoy coming together to hear God's Word, to celebrate the fellowship that we have, and to rejoice with those who rejoice, as well as weep with those who weep. There has been much weeping and rejoicing but being together with those who love one another means all the more to us. We look forward to what God will do for us.

### **Zion Lutheran Church, Downs and Zion Lutheran Church – Concordia Outreach, Concordia**

Shortly before the last Kansas District convention, Zion started a mission plant in Concordia. We had met with other area congregations to see the feasibility of the plan and to get some assistance in our effort. Several area pastors have volunteered of their time to help start a mission plant. We have continued to reach out to the people in Concordia with God's message of free forgiveness because of Jesus Christ. At Downs, we have had ups and downs as all congregations will, especially in the time of COVID-19, but we have continued to proclaim Jesus to those who are hurting. We plan on adding a back-up generator to our facility to be a warming/cooling shelter, should the power go down, as well as a place where meals, showers, and charging of devices can be done to help the community. Rev. Jason Toombs celebrated his fifth year as pastor at Zion. We look forward to sharing the love of God with those in and around Downs and Concordia and bringing the love of Jesus to those who are in need.

### **Circuit 15 - Rev. Michael Schmidt, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 15 covers the northwest corner of Kansas, and after years of consistency has seen some turnover in pastors this past quadrennium. Pastor Bob Alexander, Pastor Rick Rostek, and Pastor Joel Hiesterman retired, and Pastor James Peterson and Pastor Phil Hoppe joined the circuit. With this changing of the guard, the pastors and congregations give thanks to the Lord of the Church for continuously raising up workers for the harvest field, even as we explore new partnerships and opportunities to proclaim the Gospel even as the days can be challenging. In June 2021, the circuit hosted a continuing education workshop through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, which had good attendance. Another workshop has been scheduled for June 2022.

### **Peace, Natoma**

At Peace Lutheran, the Word continues to be preached faithfully and the Sacraments administered rightly. A triennium can sometimes go by in the blink of an eye; what has happened? Nothing and everything! A flurry of young children has revived the Sunday school program, though increasing age has caused the Guild to rethink and rechart its work in the congregation. Opportunities abound for *Natoma Lutherans For Life* to continue to proclaim the value of life in all stages. A surprise flood in town in May 2020 and a massive grass fire south and east in December 2021 resulted in Natoma being on the receiving end of much aid and assistance from across the state, and for that the congregation and community are forever grateful. Sunday morning worship continues, and we can report with gladness not having missed a Sunday due to the pandemic. Videos of services and Bible studies were well received, but to be together is always better. Peace has been served by Pastor Michael Schmidt for 14 years.

### **First, Plainville**

At First Lutheran, the Word continues to be preached faithfully and the Sacraments administered rightly. Plainville finds itself ideally situated at the crossroads of K-18 and US-183, allowing for boundless opportunities for people to come to town, and by relation, opportunities for the congregation to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The LWML continues to think of new and creative ways to reach out with service projects and mercy offerings, so that those who find themselves in need may always know that they are loved by the Lord and by His people. Sunday morning worship continues, and we can report with gladness not having missed a Sunday due to the pandemic. Videos of services and Bible studies were well received, but to be together is always better. First has been served by Pastor Michael Schmidt in a dual parish with Peace, Natoma for seven years.

### **Messiah, Hays**

In the last four years in the life of the Body of Christ at Messiah Lutheran Church, many souls have been welcomed through new member classes, baptisms, and confirmations. In 2020, the congregation, in need of additional Sunday school classrooms, remodeled the education wing of the building, allowing for more classrooms and an updated decor. In addition to Pastor Rocco Mallardi, the congregation is also served by DCE Ben Venteicher. Together, they and the members of Messiah serve the bustling community of Hays through an active midweek, a sizeable VBS, and a campus ministry to Fort Hays State University.

### **Immanuel, Hoxie**

Immanuel Lutheran, Hoxie is in a dual parish with Immanuel Lutheran, Oakley, and has been served by Pastor Michael Brockman the past five years. The Sunday morning divine service is held at 9 a.m., and while pastor heads to Oakley, Bible study is held by listening to an episode of Issues, Etc. During the week, Pastor Brockman traditionally spends Tuesday and Thursday at Hoxie, which includes a Thursday evening Bible study. During Advent and Lent, midweek services are held on Thursday evening. As with many congregations in western Kansas, age and distance are consistent factors that must be taken into consideration when doing ministry in this historic, confessional congregation.

### **Immanuel, Oakley**

Immanuel Lutheran, Oakley is in a dual parish with Immanuel Lutheran, Hoxie, and has been served by Pastor Michael Brockman the past five years. The Sunday morning divine service is held at 11 a.m., and while pastor is on his way over from Hoxie, Phil Berndt leads Bible study with ample notes provided by Pastor Brockman. During the week, Pastor Brockman traditionally spends Wednesday and Friday in Oakley, which includes a Friday morning Bible study. During Advent and Lent, midweek services are held on Wednesday evening. As with many congregations in western Kansas, age and distance are consistent factors that must be taken into consideration when doing ministry in this historic, confessional congregation.

### **Trinity, Colby**

Opportunity abounds at Trinity. After serving for 12 years, Pastor Bob Alexander retired at the end of May 2021. His final Sunday was celebrated with a fantastic potluck and many fond memories of his ministry over the years. The vacancy was covered by Pastor Steven Frank of Atwood, who was assisted as needed by Pastor Joel Hiesterman. On January 16, Pastor Phil Hoppe was installed as pastor.

### **Redeemer, Atwood**

The past four years at Redeemer has had its share of events. First, Pastor Steven Frank was called to be their pastor and was installed in beginning of September 2019. It was also the first school year for the God's Little Saints preschool to have a full-time teacher/director. Because of this, we were able to run both morning and afternoon preschool classes, Monday through Friday. In the fall of 2021, God's Little Saints also hired a full-time assistant.

COVID-19 did cause our church to close for a couple of months in the spring of 2020 with online services on Facebook. We did have our Easter service at the empty lot of our home congregation. But at the end of May 2020, we opened completely and have had no restrictions since. The attendance, for the most part, has been back to normal.

### **St. John, Oberlin**

St. John's, Oberlin has been greatly blessed the past four years, as they continue to be served by Rev. Brad Rick in a dual parish with St. John, Culbertson, Nebraska. The congregation sold its parsonage, which had been hosting a daycare, as many costly repairs were needed and numbers in the daycare had dwindled. The congregation reaches out to the community through a Thanksgiving dinner, with all donations being given to the local food bank. A successful midweek program remains intact, reaching out to children in the community with the love of Jesus. The congregation is also an active supporter of KNGN Radio out of McCook, Nebraska.



### **Immanuel, Norton**

After a period of significant growth during the previous triennium, Immanuel has experienced somewhat of a pullback both in membership and Sunday morning attendance. Nevertheless, the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to be proclaimed, and Immanuel has received several new members, including one adult baptism and five adult confirmations.

Immanuel borrowed money through LCEF for the installation of a new parking lot in 2017. That loan was paid off in 2022.

While the pandemic has caused a reduction in Sunday morning attendance, Immanuel is seeing a gradual increase in attendance as of January 2021.

The Wednesday afternoon Christ for Kids Midweek Program continues to be a bright spot for Immanuel. Almost half of the enrollees are children from outside the congregation. Thanks to the dedication of Immanuel's teachers, this program was able to start up again in the fall of 2020 and is going strong.

Immanuel was served by Rev. Rick Rostek for 20 years. He retired December 31, 2021. The congregation is in the process of calling a new pastor.

### **Grace, Hill City**

Thanks be to God for the saints at Grace, Hill City. This small band of Lutherans continues to provide an outpost for the Gospel in Graham County. Bible study and worship take place on Saturday evenings, with a vibrant group gathering each week to study the Word and come together for worship.

Thanks to a grant from the Dane Hansen Foundation, Grace was able to replace its original 50-year-old furnaces with new, safe, and efficient units. The aging air conditioner was also replaced. These new units should serve well for several decades.

Though shut down for 2.5 months for the pandemic, worship attendance quickly came back to the usual levels upon reopening. Grace was served by Rev. Rick Rostek until his retirement. The congregation is currently served by Rev. Michael Schmidt and Rev. Joel Hiesterman.

### **First, Phillipsburg**

At First Lutheran, Phillipsburg, Pastor Joel Hiesterman retired in July 2018 after 39 years of service to the congregation. The following spring, the congregation applied for and received Pastor James Peterson from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Pastor Peterson was ordained and installed in June 2019. The congregation has begun a Sunday School program and hosted VBS for the first time in many years. The congregation is currently moving forward with a stained glass window project and has established a parsonage committee. Beginning in November 2021, the congregation also began hosting the local homeschool co-op once a month. The Lord continues to provide for and care for His flock in Phillipsburg.

### **First Saint John, Kensington**

First Saint John Lutheran Church, Kensington stands on Highway 36, the main artery across north central Kansas. The church serves a rural/small town area of declining population and local community of just under 400. The church serves a largely agriculture-related area and aging population. Still, the congregation does not reflect the area decline but continues to thrive in rural/small town ministry. The congregation has recovered well from pandemic concerns and attendance has almost reached pre-pandemic levels. Precautions, distancing, and adjusted practices are still being used.

The First Saint John Preschool continues to draw children from the area communities and has a full roster of students, many of whom are not members at First Saint John. We continue to have semi-annual church planning events through which new ideas for outreach, mission, and service possibilities are lifted up and set as goals for the next 2-5 years. This dreaming and planning has brought very helpful results for First Saint John. Overall, we enjoy continuing to serve in obscurity in rural/small town, remote Kansas.

We are planning a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Saint John, which will be coming in the fall of 2024. Preparations are beginning, and program considerations are being done. We look forward to that celebration of 150 years of grace, ministry, and faithful people as we serve the Lord together.

### **Circuit 16 - Rev. Randall Jahnke, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 16 has experienced constancy of Word and Sacrament in all of our congregations in the midst of pandemic challenges that affected so many parts of life. At the same time there were several significant changes within the circuit. A partnership of three congregations was formed between Trinity, Garden City; Grace, Ulysses; and Immanuel, Lakin. This partnership is led by Rev. Michael Hageman of Trinity, Garden City (senior pastor) and Rev. Santi Keinbaum (associate pastor). A congregation—Peace, Beaver, OK—was added. Peace had been served many years by St. John, Meade.

Christ, Elkhart has joined the Oklahoma District, as the geographical potential for partnerships were more prevalent due to proximity of congregations. Rev. Randall Jahnke was appointed to fulfill the circuit visitor term due to the resignation of the previous circuit visitor. Our circuit recognizes the many challenges of continue Word and Sacrament in our areas and commend ourselves to God's leading to address, meet, and overcome those challenges by His grace and mercy.

### **Peace, Beaver OK**

Peace has been served for many years by the pastor called to St. John, Meade. Last year, the congregation entered the LCMS Kansas District. The members are pleased to be a part of the District and Circuit 16. A joyous group gathers there to hear God's Word in the study of Holy Scripture and to be sustained weekly by the Body and Blood of Christ.

### **Dodge City, Holy Cross**

God's Word and Sacrament have been faithfully and regularly administered to the blessing of the people of God. Worship services resumed the pre-pandemic schedule. One service continues to be streamed, which provides for the hearing of the Word of God for those who might miss service and several of our homebound members. In the spring of 2020, our DCE accepted another call. Since that time, we have hoped to consider resuming this important ministry. However, due to lower attendance in many areas of parish life due to the challenges wrought by COVID-19, we have not made any solid progress. We are thankful to God for the faithfulness of the financial stewardship of the congregation during this time as the offerings have been consistent, faithful, and substantial. Rev. Randall Jahnke continues to serve the congregation.

### **Trinity Lutheran, Garden City**

Trinity has been blessed with many gifts from the Lord this past triennium. Their new pastor, Rev. Michael Hageman and DCE of over 20 years, Cynthia Lavrenz, teamed together with the leadership of the church and used multiple resources to bring health and wellness to their congregation. Trinity continued to minister to its members and the community through Stephen Ministers, its preschool, Bible studies, and many other activities. As ministries adapted and changed, talks began with Grace, Ulysses and Immanuel, Lakin about forming an official ministry agreement in order to share multiple pastors and ministries for the sake of proclaiming Christ in the communities of southwest Kansas. This agreement, accomplished in the summer of 2019, is called the T.I.G. Ministry. In January 2021, Rev. Michael Hageman was installed as senior pastor, with Rev. Santiago Keinbaum, who was installed as the associate pastor of these congregations. 2020 brought about many opportunities to proclaim Christ to the congregation and the community. A few examples include Vacation Bible School being held in a community park, livestreamed services for shut-ins, service projects, letters of encouragement to those in nursing homes, youth attending Lutheran Valley Retreat as a small group in Colorado, and preparations for Trinity's 100th anniversary. Trinity looks forward to proclaiming Christ to their community in a renewed way.

### **Immanuel, Lakin**

Immanuel has seen a few changes in this triennium. Their pastor, Rev. Patrick Gumz, accepted a Divine Call in February 2019 to Trinity Lutheran Church, Hammond, Indiana. Talks began with Trinity Lutheran, Garden City and Grace Lutheran, Ulysses to form an official ministry agreement in order to share multiple pastors and ministries for the sake of finances and with the focus of proclaiming Christ into the communities. This agreement was eventually called the T.I.G. Ministry. This was accomplished in the summer of 2019, and the three congregations then began to work together in order to call an associate pastor to this new ministry. In June 2020, Rev. Michael Hageman took over the vacancy and in January 2021 was installed as senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran with Rev. Santiago Keinbaum, who accepted the Divine Call as associate pastor of Trinity, Immanuel and Grace Lutheran churches. Members now have a pastor who can see them during office hours or by appointment. Shut-in visits are taking place regularly. Immanuel looks forward to bringing Christ to their community in a renewed way. Immanuel has continued to reach out to its community each year by providing over 100 backpacks to students in need.

### **Grace, Ulysses**

Grace has seen a few changes in this triennium. Their pastor, Rev. Patrick Gumz, accepted a Divine Call in February 2019 to Trinity Lutheran Church, Hammond, Indiana. The vacancy was covered by Rev. Michael Hageman, and talks began with Trinity Lutheran, Garden City and Immanuel Lutheran, Lakin to form an official Ministry Agreement in order to share multiple pastors and ministries for the sake of finances and with the focus of proclaiming Christ into the communities. This agreement was eventually called the T.I.G. Ministry. This was accomplished in the summer of 2019, and the three congregations then began to work together in order to call an associate pastor to this new ministry. In January 2021 Rev. Michael Hageman was installed as senior pastor of Grace Lutheran with Rev. Santiago Keinbaum, who accepted the Divine Call as associate pastor of Trinity, Immanuel and Grace Lutheran churches. Members now have a pastor who can visit with them during office hours or by appointment. Shut-in visits are taking place regularly. Grace looks forward to bringing Christ to their community in a renewed way. They continue to reach their community through a yearly community blanket drive, supporting one family in need through the Christmas season and giving school supplies to all the teachers of the Ulysses school district.

### **Our Redeemer, Kinsley & Zion, Offerle**

Both of our congregation are slowly recovering since the 2020 COVID-19 shutdown but are still experiencing slightly reduced attendance. We give thanks to God that our financial status is sound – giving remains fairly strong. Pastor Stan Palmer continues to livestream his sermons via our church Facebook page, which continues to have regular viewership. Our Redeemer's traditional pancake feed was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns in 2021; happily, it returned this year (late February). Our Redeemer's Mary-Martha Guild raised over \$1000 for local charity in their annual Soup Supper and Silent Auction. Several students from Zion attended the Higher Things youth event in Colorado last summer, which was very well-received by them. We rejoice with Zion's Ladies Aid (which predates LWML by about 20 years) as they celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their numbers today may be small, but they continue to faithfully serve those in need in their quilt making and raising money for various charities and seminary students.

### **Grace, Liberal**

Grace is served by Rev. Andrew Wehling. Sunday morning Bible class and worship services are offered each week. During the school year, a midweek meal, worship service, and Bible classes are made available to the congregation and community. A women's Bible study and quilting group are also active. Outreach to the community includes a Trunk-or-Treat event that reaches around 500 children and their families each year, as well as a Vacation Bible School each summer. Seven youth and adults are planning to attend the 2022 National Youth Gathering.

### **St. John, Meade**

St. John also experienced difficulties since the arrival of COVID-19. The congregation was sustained throughout in Word and Sacrament. St. John saw the retirement of Rev. Lynn Spencer and later placed a call to Rev. Kent Peck. The congregation is being served with Word and Sacrament ministry by a rotation of circuit pastors during the current vacancy that the congregation is experiencing. St. John looks forward to celebrating together the anniversary of 135 years as a congregation. St. John will be moving toward placing a call for a pastor in the near future.

### **Holy Cross, Scott City**

Holy Cross in Scott City continues to serve her community with the Word and Sacrament and other ways of loving her neighbor. With the installation of Rev. Matthew Koterba in January 2022, church services returned to Sunday morning at 10:15. The congregation gives thanks for the 7 p.m. Saturday services led by Rev. Michael Brockman in 2020 and 2021. The Sacrament is currently offered twice a month. Bible study continues on Tuesday evening and Sunday morning.

The parish hall has become a great resource for Holy Cross. It has helped the congregation reach 30 years for its annual community Thanksgiving Day meal. Holy Cross also holds an annual rummage sale in the summer. Members are regularly hosting other events in the parish hall both for the church and the community. Overall Holy Cross is thankful for recent changes and hopeful of the future as she awaits the return of the one who made her holy.

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## **Missions and Stewardship**

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### **BOARD OF MISSIONS**

The members of Board of Missions for this past triennium (quadrennium) were Kris Bruss (staff advisory), Rev. Dan Galchutt (appointed advisory staff member), Sue Kleber, Rev. Rick Rostek, and Marvin Schulteis (chair). It has been our blessing and privilege to serve the Kansas District over the past four years.

### **Proclaim, Teach, Share**

That's what we do because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That's also what we do with the Gospel. "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). It is the desire of the Board of Missions that the churches, pastors, commissioned workers, and all people of the LCMS Kansas District would work in the mission field of God so that the Good News of Jesus would be spread across Kansas and beyond, including to West and Central Africa.

### **Mission Grants**

Over the past four years the Board of Missions has been appointed to oversee Mission Grant funding of over \$550,000 to the churches, schools, and ministries of the Kansas District. These funds have been used to support church planting (Pratt, Concordia, Kansas City), campus ministry (at KU, KSU, WSU and other colleges), multi-ethnic ministry (especially in Kansas City and Wichita), *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* workshops, as well as various other congregational initiatives. In addition to financial support, members of the board have offered prayers for, consulted with, and visited the various ministries that have received funding.

## Other Grants

Money has also been given to support mission work across Kansas out of the generosity of those who have participated in the annual Reformation Offering, which supports the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund, established by the Board of Directors in 2017. These and other gifts have supported congregational partnerships, Hispanic ministry, church planting, and many other congregational projects.

## 2018 Resolution

One of the significant assignments from the 2018 LCMS Kansas District convention was to offer support and guidance for congregations to explore new models and ideas for small, struggling, or isolated congregations. The Partnership Project was initiated in light of God's Word in 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." This project used the very method that it seeks to bring about, partnership and working together. Experienced leaders of congregations in our region were brought together to share wisdom and create resources to help congregations across Kansas. The collection of resources can be found at [kslcms.org/missions/partnerships/](https://kslcms.org/missions/partnerships/). These resources are being used across Kansas, in other districts of the Synod, and even in the Lutheran Church of Canada.

## A Significant Anniversary

Another emphasis of the Board of Missions is our continued support of Guinea and West & Central Africa. We give thanks to God during this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of when the Kansas District officially began our work in that part of the world. Over the past two and a half decades, prayers have been offered, financial gifts have been given, missionaries have been sent, and mission teams have visited and offered encouragement. With the Lord's blessing the work has progressed to leadership training and running a seminary. The generosity of the Kansas District has provided financial support for Guinean men to go to the seminary. We have also supported efforts in other areas of the region as Togo, initially, and now Congo have become strategic areas for our Synod's mission efforts. We pray for God's continued blessing in this mission field and that we would be able to offer great support in the years to come.

## District Mission Staff

Rev. Dan Galchutt is called to serve the Kansas District as the Assistant to the District President for Missions and Stewardship. Janet Powell supports Rev. Galchutt in the area of Missions. Kris Bruss with Communications also plays a vital role in getting the word out about what is happening with Kansas District Mission work.

Rev. Galchutt visits congregations across Kansas, preaching and teaching on the Lord's mission. He also provides support for workers through networking, sharing resources, and providing consultation. His consultation work has increased in recent years in conjunction with his certification from Thom Rainer's Church Consultation University.

## Priorities for the Next Triennium

There are several efforts that we pray that God would bless in the coming triennium. We especially commend the following to you to keep in your prayers:

- To maximize, when and where feasible and possible, funds available from the Kansas District for distribution to the congregations as Mission Grants, recognizing that the optimal opportunity for mission outreach lies with the ingenuity and energies of the local congregations and their saints.
- Church planting discussions and efforts across Kansas. Discussion (and in some cases work) has begun for potential new starts in the suburbs of Kansas City, the Goddard area, and Russell.
- Hispanic ministry with an increased emphasis on developing and equipping leaders.
- Congregational partnerships.
- Discipleship in conjunction with our Synod's *Making Disciples for Life* emphasis.
- Encouraging use of Synod's resources (like *Every One His Witness* and "Shepherding Our Strays") so that the people of the Kansas District would proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite new people to join with us.

## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

This Board of Stewardship report comes from the following members: Rev. Dan Galchutt (appointed advisory staff member), Jeffrey Maltz (staff advisory), Dave Meisinger, Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Dan Thalmann (chair), and Heather Williams (staff advisory). The chair of the Board of Stewardship at the start of this triennium (quadrenium), Rich Schotte, was called to our Savior's side in 2020. We give thanks to God for the life and service of Rich and wait in hopeful expectation of our heavenly reunion.

## **Proclaim, Teach, Share**

The Board of Stewardship of the LCMS Kansas District works to help the District leadership, as well as members of the District, to practice faithful and joyful stewardship that we might proclaim, teach, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## **Stewardship of District Resources**

One of our main roles in service to the Kansas District Board of Directors involves budgeting and planning so that the District can faithfully steward the resources provided to it by the members and people of the Kansas District. The blessing of God, more than our careful budgeting and planning, has resulted in the District being in a good financial position. We thank God for His blessing and for you and your support of the Kansas District.

## **Support for Church Workers**

One of the significant tasks that the Board of Stewardship oversees involves Scholarship Grants for future church workers and Education Loan Repayment Grants for workers in the District who are in their first ten years of ministry service. In the past four years, these grants have totaled \$321,283, with \$183,848 going to Scholarships and \$137,435 to Education Loan Repayment. We give thanks to God for His blessings and for the many people across Kansas who have enabled us to bless current and future church workers with this financial aid.

## **2018 Resolutions**

The 2018 Kansas District Convention passed a number of resolutions that provided direction for the Board of Stewardship. We were tasked with promoting materials from the Synod and LCEF to help encourage people in their stewardship practices. This was done in a variety of ways. Rev. Heath Curtis, the coordinator of LCMS Stewardship Ministry, provided workshop trainings in general stewardship education and planning for congregational stewardship for members of our District in person and online. Also, materials from the LCMS and LCEF were provided to our District related to online giving, which became much more prominent in 2020 and in the years to follow.

In addition to providing materials from the Synod and LCEF, we also created some materials to offer to members of the District. "Placed for a Purpose," a four-week sermon and Bible study series, was created to help educate people in stewardship from the perspective of our calling to serve our neighbor (vocational stewardship). This series is offered for free on our District website and has been used by dozens of pastors and congregations throughout the District. A Narrative Budget Guide was also created to help congregations "tell the story" of what happens with the offerings received by the congregation. This enables congregations to make a different kind of appeal to members to support the ministry of the congregation. This different approach can create more joyful conversations on giving when it comes to stewardship.

## **A New Partnership**

Another significant task from the 2018 convention was to explore options for providing resources for planned giving in the Kansas District. The Board of Directors met with Rev. Phil Krupski of the LCMS Foundation to consider a partnership that would enable a planned giving counselor to work in the Kansas District. After much discussion, it was decided this would not be the best model for us at the current time. Instead, advocates have been trained who can raise awareness of planned giving and connect interested LCMS Kansans to gift planning counselors with the LCMS Foundation. Three members of District staff became trained advocates: Rev. Dan Galchutt, Jeffrey Maltz, and Heather Williams. These staff members are ready to assist your congregation with gift planning to practice good stewardship unto life's end. This effort can be a great financial benefit to your congregation and other LCMS entities. Please consider inviting one of the three trained Kansas District staff members to your congregation to learn more about the LCMS Foundation and gift planning.

## **District Mission Staff**

Rev. Dan Galchutt is called to serve the Kansas District as the Assistant to the District President for Mission and Stewardship. Shannon Fender supports Rev. Galchutt in the area of Stewardship. Jeff Maltz serves as a District Vice President for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and is ready to provide stewardship consultation to congregations of the District.

Rev. Galchutt also visits congregations to preach and teach about Christian stewardship. He also provides support for workers through networking, sharing resources, and providing consultation. His consultation work has increased in recent years in conjunction with his certification from Thom Rainer's Church Consultation University.

## **Priorities for the Next Triennium**

There are several efforts for which we pray for God's blessings in the triennium to come. We especially commend the following to you to keep in your prayers:

- Increasing awareness and use of planned giving resources through our partnership with the LCMS Foundation.
- Continued advanced planning for District budget and three-year projections.

- Staying current on best practices for stewardship to offer quality resources and consulting for congregations of the District.
- Connecting with all members of the District to partner together for our joint work in the Gospel.
- Encouraging use of Synod's resources so the people of the Kansas District would continue to grow in their practice of free and joyful activity of Christian stewardship.
- Promoting Scholarship Grants and Education Loan Repayment Grants and increasing support for these programs.
- Encouraging congregations to support their church workers well by using the compensation recommendations from the District.

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## Education

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Since 2018, the work of the **District Board of Education and Youth** has been done by District First Vice-President Rev. Scott Snow (Wichita); Educator Jeremy Pera (Clay Center), Lay Leader Bruce Schultz, Chair (Alma), Lay Leader Mark Wolters (Atwood), and Staff Advisor James Bradshaw, Assistant to the District President for Education and Youth.

### Ministers of Religion – Commissioned

Mr. Bradshaw assists the District President in ecclesiastical supervision for all commissioned workers in the Kansas District. He also assists congregations and schools as they administer the call process for commissioned workers. A call rubric is available for calling congregations and schools.

In 2021, the Kansas District included **196 Commissioned workers**. In general categories, this breaks down as follows: Active – 80, Candidates – 66, Emeritus – 50. This represents 134 teachers, 13 principals, 38 DCEs, 3 early childhood directors, 4 deaconesses, 1 parish musician, and 1 parish assistant. Of the active K-8 teachers and DCEs, we have 46 and 32 respectively. K-8 schools in the District employ 42 non-rostered teachers. Three teachers are currently enrolled in the colloquy program.

### School Ministry

#### Lutheran Schools

As of September 2021, members of the Kansas District are operating 43 early childhood centers. The 2021-22 enrollment is 2,212. Two centers closed temporarily due to COVID-19 impact. In 2021-22, District congregations and associations are operating 14 K-8 schools with a total enrollment of 1,170, a 4% increase relative to 2020-21!

A District Professional Development Committee (PDC) oversees the State of Kansas teacher licensure process. This committee has the responsibility of awarding in-service points to teachers in Kansas District Lutheran schools. In-service points are awarded as teachers address plans that they have developed for continuing education. In 2021, District record-keeping was moved to an online tracking system.

Mr. Bradshaw interfaces with the Kansas State Department of Education on behalf of Kansas Lutheran schools, as he monitors compliance with the new state accreditation system. In addition, the District advances the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) process for all interested early childhood and Lutheran day schools. Six elementary schools and seven early childhood centers currently hold accreditation through NLSA.

Concordia Academy-Wichita, a classical Lutheran high school, is scheduled to open in Fall 2022.

The Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) is an organization representing non-public schools. The association involves more than 35,000 Kansas school children, almost 2,400 teachers, and more than 22,000 families. KAIRS strives to ensure that children attending religious and independent schools are treated equitably in educational law, policy, and programs. The organization offers a two-day annual conference for its administrators, an annual conference for early educators, and a summer conference for teachers. Kansas Lutheran schools are KAIRS members.

At the pandemic onset, all Kansas K-12 school buildings (public and non-public) were closed in March for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year by the governor's executive order. All school systems were required to submit Continuous Learning Plans to the State. Schools were asked to request a waiver from the statutory hours, allowing the State Board of Education to waive those hours. All 12 state-accredited Lutheran schools complied and submitted a Continuous Learning Plan. In the following months, schools applied for and received PPP loans or EANS funding. These funds assisted with

either payroll or supply expenses incurred due to the pandemic. Early childhood centers did not fare as well, as most closed temporarily due to worker shortage caused by the impact on households.

In 2021, the District applied and received approval for \$2,000 from the LCMS District Pandemic Resiliency Grant program. The funds assisted in covering expenses for keynote presentations focusing on mental wellbeing at three worker conferences.

#### **Lutheran Schools – COVID-19 Impact (2020-21):**

The LCMS Department of Rosters, Statistics and Research Services shared observations from the 2021 *LCMS School and COVID-19 WAVE 2 Report*. Some key conclusions of the Synodwide survey are as follows:

- Overall, most LCMS schools are optimistic moving forward.
- Most LCMS schools have maintained their enrollment numbers, and many have increased enrollment during the pandemic.
- Freestanding early childhood centers are most likely to be concerned about long-term viability, with many reporting that enrollment and finances remain down.
- The pandemic has *not* negatively impacted the overall number of teachers at Synod schools, but teachers are worn down with new stressors from the past year.
- Many schools report that their greatest concern moving forward is increasing difficulty in recruiting new teachers, especially Synod-trained teachers.
- Other rising concerns of schools relate to enrollment and finances (which were concerns for several schools even prior to the pandemic).
- Survey results indicate that many schools identified new opportunities in the pandemic. LCMS schools already had solid reputations in their communities, and for many, their reputation was strengthened by their approach and responses to situations throughout the pandemic.

### **Parish Ministry**

#### **Adult Education**

The purpose of this committee is to give specific attention to equipping adults for faithful service to God and His Word. During this extended triennium, the committee conducted a survey regarding home catechesis. They subsequently produced two videos, *Getting Things Done* and *Congregation at Prayer*, that can be accessed from the District website. A second survey was conducted in early 2021 to further assess needs. The *Congregation at Prayer* project produced additional resources for congregations through a one-year series (Rev. Geoff Boyle) and a three-year series (Rev. Ed Kettner). Both series are available at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org). Finally, an overture to the 2022 Kansas District Convention was drafted – “*To Encourage Daily Family Prayer and Use of District Resources Provided by the Adult Education Committee of the Kansas District.*”

#### **Children’s and Family Life**

In this triennium, the committee addressed how best to help parents realize the importance of faith-building in the home. Many young parents need training in Biblical literacy. Committee goals included equipping parents through book reviews of current Concordia Publishing House resources that aim to assist in parent education. Articles appeared in the monthly issues of *Workers Together* with links to video reviews. All resource reviews can be accessed from the Family Ministry page of the District website – [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org).

### **Youth Ministry**

#### **District Youth Ministry**

This committee gives specific attention to equipping youth for faithful service to God and His Word, provides training opportunities for youth, and provides settings for youth to experience and demonstrate the mission of the church in word and life. Since 2018, this committee has been chaired by DCE Brian Amey (Wichita), Rev. Michael Ada (Olathe), and Parish Worker Arleata Harmon (Wichita).

#### **2019 Kansas District Youth Ministry Task Force**

A 2016 District survey conducted by the committee indicated that 63% of congregations have participated in District-sponsored youth events over the past decade. To reassess congregational needs and strengthen youth ministry connections between the District and its congregations and workers, former President Rev. Peter K. Lange charged a task force in January 2019 to assess attitudes and trends further and to make recommendations for action and implementation. The task force set out to complete its charge by the end of 2019, with these recommendations:

- Expand the number of middle school offerings, including, but not limited to, confirmation retreats.
- Develop and enhance the communication of all youth ministry events.

- Assist in promoting individual congregation and circuit youth events that are open to neighboring congregations and circuits.
- Expand the communication and support of partnering Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) and the Synod including, but not limited to, *Higher Things*, LCMS Young Adult Corps, and other service organizations.
- Family ministry is important for youth retention; therefore, bolster efforts to strengthen the home.

In 2021, the LCMS Youth Ministry office officially launched a new initiative, **YouthLead**, which replaced Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF). The Youth Committee adopted training that focuses on equipping teenagers in the areas of relationship building, leading devotions, and Bible studies. A distinct goal is that these activities, by the grace of God, would build faithful and effective student leaders in the church and world.

**Lutheran Valley Retreat** is an LCMS camp in the Rocky Mountain District located near Divide, Colorado. This annual Kansas District Youth Ministry offering registers nearly 120 high school students each summer. In 2021, the District offered two summer camps. There will be only one camp offering in 2022 (June 3-8) due to the LCMS Youth Gathering being held in July.

The annual **District Youth Gathering** is for high school students. During this past triennium, events were held in November in Wichita (2019), virtually in 2020, and in Topeka (2021). The 2021 event drew 250 attendees.

**The 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering** was held July 11-15, in Minneapolis, MN, with the theme, “Real. Present. God.” based on Psalm 46. Kansas District coordinators for the 2019 Gathering were DCE Amanda Adams (Topeka) and DCE Kate Soeken (McPherson). They assisted in providing bus transportation, a pre-Gathering servant event, pre-Gathering activities, and the Kansas District event.

**The 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering** will be held in Houston, TX, July 9-13. The theme is “In All Things” (Colossians 1:15-20). Adams and Lay Leader Debbie Dennett (Winfield) are the District coordinators.

**Higher Things** is a recognized service organization of the LCMS whose mission is to assist parents, pastors, and congregations in cultivating a distinctly Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults. The 2022 conference theme is “For You” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2) and will be held in three locations in July. Some *Higher Things* materials, such as *Retreat in a Box*, may be useful for confirmation retreats as they are being planned in the District.

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## LCEF

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### Kansas/Oklahoma District Vice President, Jeffrey Maltz

#### 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.

#### Organization Overview

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has pursued its mission to “vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is an organization that empowers ministry through investments, loans, and support services. Incorporated in 1978, LCEF continues a long history of church extension fund service to the LCMS and its individual and corporate members.

We’ve grown from a mere \$100 million when LCEF was first incorporated in 1978 to over 60,000 faithful Lutheran investors with over \$2.1 billion dollars in total assets.

Historically, church extension operations have centered on loans made possible through investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Today, LCEF has expanded its offerings to include resources that define opportunities, design solutions, and align resources that propel the Kingdom forward using a ministry clarity process and capital campaigns as well as real estate solutions to help develop and/or execute the best strategies to support ministry objectives.

Our strong and stable financial base represents the important role LCEF plays in supporting the LCMS now and how it will continue that support long into the future.



We use investments to support the work of thousands of LCMS individuals, congregations, schools, and organizations. They fund home loans for rostered church workers. They support the renovation and construction of sanctuaries, senior living communities, fellowship halls, Lutheran schools, early childhood centers, and much more.

Rev. Bart Day serves as president and CEO and reports to a 12-member board of directors. LCEF employs over 116 people located in St. Louis and more than 35 employees in 31 LCMS member districts throughout the United States. LCMS ministries connect to LCEF through their district vice president (DVP). DVPs are supported by the national office staff in St. Louis.

For over 43 years, our mission has been to make sure “financial resources and related services” are available for the church—we intend to keep doing it for the next 40 years and beyond.

### **Economic Overview**

2021 has been volatile, and looking back at the past 12 months, it's clear that some aspects of the economy have improved greatly while others remain challenged by the pandemic. The U.S. economy has continued to improve since the onset of the 2020 pandemic. Q3 of 2021 expanded by over 30%, and although a record, it was not enough to offset earlier losses, including the Q1 5% decline in gross domestic product (GDP) at an annual rate, signaling the onset of the 2020 recession.

The new recession, which began in March 2020, ended 128 months of expansion, the longest in U.S. history. In Q2, the economy contracted by a record 31.2%. Quarterly GDP had never experienced a drop greater than 10% since record-keeping began in 1947.

In April 2020, retail sales were down 14.7% as officials closed nonessential businesses, but by May, sales recovered, increasing by 18.3% as shops and restaurants slowly reopened safely. While there have been several months in late 2020 and early 2021 with small declines, none have been as dramatic, and by June 2021, sales were up 0.6%.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) has remained committed to a low interest rate environment and has held the benchmark rate at its current level of 0.1% until inflation reaches 2% over an extended period of time. The pandemic also restarted the FOMC's quantitative easing program, which grew their balance sheet to its current level of \$8.1T as of June 2021. Speculation has begun regarding the timing of their tapering of the security purchases. The FOMC has remained patient while inflation has been on the rise. Time will tell if or to what degree the current inflation is transitory.

Throughout the challenges over the past 12 months, LCEF has worked with our advisors to navigate the volatile investment markets. With their help, we have been able to strengthen our capital position and better position LCEF for future growth. While the financial markets provided many challenges, we saw FY 2021 close out with gains of over \$15.5M.

### **LCEF Impact in the Kansas District**

As of December 31, 2021, here is a glance at the Kansas District:

- 1831 investors.
- \$59,524,183 invested
- 26 loans
- \$13,578,585 in loans
- 5.1% of LCMS Kansas District members are investors.

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. View current rates at [lcef.org](http://lcef.org). Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod (NMLS #3444). Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Law License (6037619). For more information on LCEF's lending license go to [lcef.org/state-disclosures/](http://lcef.org/state-disclosures/). The National Office is located at: 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. 800-843-5233. 1221G102

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## Administration

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### Board of Administration

Board members for 2018-2022 include Dave Bruns, Chair; Rev. Bob Grimm; Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz; Thad Sullivan, Treasurer; and Heather Williams, Staff Advisor

### District Personnel

The LCMS Kansas District is served by seven full-time staff members and three part-time staff members. In July 2019, the District experienced a changeover when District President Rev. Peter Lange was elected as first vice-president of the Synod. District First Vice-President Rev. Justin Panzer assumed the position of District president. The District was also served by a summer intern in 2021.

Mr. Mike Grau is our volunteer District archivist. This triennium, Mike has been working toward updating and integrating the archives with our District website.

Mr. Thad Sullivan was appointed District treasurer following the 2018 convention.

### Accounting and Finance

The Board of Administration serves as the audit review committee overseeing the financial affairs of the District. The financial statements are audited annually by the LCMS Internal Audit Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Along with the financial statements, an audit management letter to the Board of Directors communicates requirements and recommendations that management should consider for implementation.

The management letters during the past triennium stated that no deficiencies or material weaknesses were identified in the financial statements. The letters were absent of any management recommendations. The District's current statement of financial position reports sufficient assets in excess of liabilities, indicating the ability to continue as a going concern is not an issue.

In 2019, the District's financial statements were reformatted in compliance with Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-14, which presents assets as "with donor restrictions" and "without donor restrictions." A statement of functional expenses and a liquidity disclosure were added as required by the ASU.

In 2020, the District applied for, received, and was granted forgiveness for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The Business Office also assisted 23 congregations with their PPP calculations.

### District Bylaw and Operations Manual Committee

The committee continued to make significant updates to the District Operations Manual. The bylaws have been revised with items required by 2019 Synod convention and 2018 District convention. Further bylaw revisions have been considered and will be presented to the 2022 District convention.

In 2018, the Board of Directors divided the executive staff personnel manual classification into two categories: executive and professional. The business manager and the communications specialist now fall under the professional category and are hired at will under the District president instead of being appointed by the Board of Directors.

### District Property

*District Office:* The District office in Topeka provides office space for the staff as well as meeting space for the various boards, committees, and groups. Improvements over the past four years included the replacement of the roof; installation of security cameras, monitors and key fobs; outdoor lighting; signage; and technology updates.

*Retreat Center:* The District continues to operate the Retreat Center located in Herington, Kansas. The center has been used by individuals, families and congregational groups who have taken advantage of the central location. The District staff and committees also use the facility to hold retreats and events.

Rev. Mark Lovett volunteered as property manager of the Retreat Center through March 2020, when he took a pastoral call to Wichita. The District appreciates his contributions toward marketing, reservation procedures, and site improvements. The Business Office has resumed management of the Retreat Center with assistance from a group of local trustees. Improvements in the past four years included fencing around the air conditioner; new mattresses and linens; new dishwasher, washer and dryer; repair of outdoor furniture; and replacement of the lawn mower.

## Business Manager

Heather Williams serves as the business manager. Her responsibilities include serving as the District controller; supervising the financial, accounting and investment activities; providing budget assistance to the Board and staff; providing support for event planning; administering human resources; management of District property; and supervision of the office support staff. The business manager also provides advisory assistance to congregations, schools and workers in matters relating to business management, budgeting, finances, property, human resources, and tax/not-for-profit issues. Heather serves as the chair of the Synod's Joint Business Administrators Conference and is trained as a Kansas District planned giving advocate.

The business manager is supported by Administrative Assistant Shannon Fender.

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## Caring Ministry

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### Board of Caring Ministry

In 2018-2022, the work of the **Board of Caring Ministry** was conducted by Educator Rick Hanebutt, Chair (Olathe), Lay Representative Curt Engelbrecht (Wichita), Rev. Paul Tessaro (Clay Center), Mr. James Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth (advisory); and Rev. Justin Panzer, District President (advisory).

The board has reviewed, updated, and added some new ministries during the past triennium. Five committees report to the board: Disaster Response, Parish Nursing, Older Adult Ministry, Church Worker Care, and the Pastors' Wives Retreat. For each of these committees, a new or updated ministry description was written to reflect the current work and purpose of the committee. The Board of Caring Ministry also revised its ministry description.

The Board of Caring Ministry worked through several resolutions from the 2018 LCMS Kansas District Convention that were related to its ministry. It also addressed several major topics. The board was responsible for defunding the District-sponsored comfort dog program and pointing congregations to resources available in an established LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO) with comfort dog programming. The board also assisted President Panzer with the formation of a District counselor network.

Additionally, a policy to disburse restricted funds for Disaster Response was written. The Board of Caring Ministry also affirmed the use of new liability forms for underage volunteers working with the LCMS Disaster Response - Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) program. Through the Church Worker Care Committee, the Board for Caring Ministry approved the use of a Church Worker Care Manual in the District. These guidelines were written for use by local leaders in congregations as they assist in the support of their pastors and other professional church workers. Finally, the board created a policy for offering additional financial assistance for church workers facing hardships.

In the new triennium the Board for Caring Ministry will continue its practice of reviewing ministries and addressing new ministry needs as needed. The board will also look for new sources of funding to assist in ongoing ministry support, especially through Church Worker Care and Disaster Response.

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## Communications

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### Communications Specialist, Kris Bruss

One year before the 2018 convention, the Kansas District added a communications specialist to the staff. The timing couldn't have been better. With some major tasks out of the way, including a website overhaul in 2017, the District was well-positioned in the 2018-2022 triennium to handle additional communication demands created by a mid-term presidential transition, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the one-year delay of the Synod convention and our Kansas District convention.

The primary aim with Kansas District communications, whatever the task, is to support and encourage our workers and congregations by keeping them **informed** and **connected**. Our main communication channels include the website (kslcms.org), *Workers Together* (monthly newsletter), the district supplement in *The Lutheran Witness*, our Facebook page, and mass e-mails.

The communications position also provides support for special projects. Major projects of the 2018-22 triennium included:

- Convention resolutions tracker and mid-term update
- Strategic plan document (one-pager and posters)
- “Placed for a Purpose” Bible Study
- Narrative Budget Guide
- The Partnership Project (congregational partnerships webpage and related materials)
- Church Worker Care Team Manual (document and webpage)
- Annual District offerings (Ash Wednesday, Pentecost, Reformation)
- Three “Together We Pray” prayer campaigns (booklets plus daily Facebook posts)
- Materials for the “Living as the Baptized” staff tour of Kansas
- Redesign of *Workers Together*

Additional responsibilities of the communications specialist include assistance with event communication (e.g., editing, event webpages, publicity, and, if needed, logo creation), board communication (e.g., assisting the Board of Missions; producing Board Report Summaries; updating the BOD webpage), and other communications tasks as assigned.

As digital communication has exploded, the need for trained communicators in the Church has become more pressing, and the interest in networking with other communicators has grown. One of the most welcome developments of the triennium on this front was the launch of the Communicators Roundtable, a monthly Zoom meeting of district communicators and other interested parties, hosted by Concordia Plan Services. It’s been very helpful to hear the insights and strategies of other district communicators on topics of shared interest, such as social media and convention communication.

In the coming triennium, we’ll continue to look for ways to improve Kansas District communications, including strengthening our network and highlighting best practices in our congregations and schools. District communications may be a “department of one” on paper, but it takes a bigger team to make these aims a reality. If you’ve spread the word, provided feedback, created content, or assisted with a communications project, you’re on the team. Thank you!

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## District Archives

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### Kansas District Archivist/Historian, Michael Grau

In the past year we received two queries for baptism records by pastors for funeral services. We also received a query for records from Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wichita, but we do not have the church books for that congregation and suggested checking at the other nearby LCMS churches for the Redeemer records.

We received a query for information about Zion Lutheran in Guthrie, OK, which was originally part of the Kansas District. We did find it listed a Statistical Yearbook.

We also received some queries for genealogical help, but they were not for LCMS churches; thus, no effective help could be provided.

An archives website is being developed which will allow visitors to search for congregations in the Kansas District and do a full-text search of documents related to those congregations. Designated staff members will be able to add/modify/delete congregations and documents. Additional sections are being planned (e.g., pastors who have served the Kansas District).



# 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

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## NOMINATIONS REPORT

### District Secretary, Rev. Robert W. Grimm

The following nominations were submitted to the District Secretary by the congregations of the Kansas District and are verified by the chairman of the Elections Committee. The Nominations Committee is not part of the nominations process for the offices of President, Vice-President and Circuit Visitor. The term of office for District President is three years, and he may serve four terms. The Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors are elected for three-year terms; an incumbent may succeed himself twice (for a total of nine years). The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates. The amendment procedure shall include a motion, second and a vote on the amendment. There shall be no discussion of the amendment except for the chair to determine that requirements for filing of the Biography and Consent form and eligibility have been met. Any delegate making a nominating amendment from the floor shall have secured the Biography and Consent form from the nominee prior to making the nomination and shall submit this document to the Secretary immediately upon making the nominating amendment.

#### PRESIDENT

Candidates for District President are nominated by ballot by the congregations of the District. The nominee must be on the clergy roster of the Synod. Only the three individuals receiving the most nominations may be listed on the Convention ballot. The following is a listing of those who received nominations, along with the number of nominations that each individual received. Those names preceded by an asterisk (\*) have declined the nomination. **Names underlined are those that will appear on the Convention ballot. Incumbents are in bold type.**

**Rev. Justin Panzer** - 48

Rev. Alan Stahlecker - 1

\* Rev. Scott Snow - 3

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Candidates for District Vice-President are nominated by the congregations of the region that they represent. They must be on the clergy roster of the Synod. Those candidates who received more than one nomination are considered for nomination. Incumbents automatically receive a nomination. There will be at least two candidates in each region. The Convention as a whole elects the four Vice-Presidents. After all four Vice-Presidents are elected, a ranking ballot will be provided to designate the First, Second, Third and Fourth Vice-President, in order of succession. The following is a list of those receiving nominations and the number of nominations each received. **Names underlined will appear on the Convention ballot. Incumbents are in bold type. Those names preceded by an asterisk (\*) have declined the nomination.**

Vice-President Region 1

**Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz** - 1

Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss - 4

Rev. Ben Okree - 1

Vice-President Region 2

**Rev. Alan Stahlecker** - 13

Rev. Joshua Hayes - 2

Vice-President Region 3

Rev. Tom Harmon - 6

\*Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle - 4

Rev. Mike Schotte - 1

\* Rev. William Wingfield - 1

Vice-President Region 4

Rev. Christopher Craig - 1

Rev. Michael Schmidt (Natoma) - 2

\* Rev. Dr. Rocco Mallardi - 2

Rev. Michael Brockman - 7

Rev. Michael Hageman - 3  
Rev. Andrew Wehling - 2  
Rev. Luke Brown - 1

## **REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate two lay members who are presently members of a congregation in the respective region as candidate for regional lay member of the Board of Directors. Candidates shall be at least the two lay members in the region who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve if elected. All candidates not elected shall be on the ballot for the at-large lay positions on the Board of Directors.

### Board of Directors Lay Region 1

**David Bruns - 3**  
**Marvin Schulteis - 2**  
Marvin Weber - 2  
Adam Goodpasture - 1

### Board of Directors Lay Region 2

**Dan Thalmann - 1**  
Phil Friedrichs - 3  
**Dr. Bruce Schultz - 4**  
\* Clyde Wollenberg - 1

### Board of Directors Lay Region 3

**Curt Engelbrecht - 3**  
Randy Allenbach - 3

### Board of Directors Lay Region 4

**Mark Wolters - 11**  
\* Gerry Schultz - 1  
Dave Bergmeier - 1  
\* David Maier - 1  
\* Brian Bitter - 2

### Board of Directors Lay-at-Large

Kevin Fredrickson - 2  
Scott Schneider - 2  
\* David Samuelson - 1

### Board of Directors Commissioned (Region)

**Rick Hanebutt (1) - 2**  
Gregg Wolgast (3) - 2  
**Sue Kleber (3) - 2**  
Ben Venteicher (4) - 3  
Bethany Johnson - 1  
\* Betty Kruse - 1

## **2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### Ordained (Region)

Rev. Michael Hageman (4) - 2  
Rev. Daniel Harders (4) - 1  
Rev. Sean Kilgo (1) - 1  
\* Rev. Mark Boxman (2) - 1  
Rev Jonathan Scheck (3) - 1  
\* Rev. Timothy Heath - 1  
\* Rev. William Wingfield - 1

Commissioned (Region)

Betty Amey (2) - 1  
Ben Venteicher (4) - 1  
Cynthia Lavrenz (4) -1

Lay (Region)

Kevin Fredrickson (1) - 1  
Phil Friedrichs (2) - 1  
Brad Persinger (4) - 1  
Ken Wabel (3) - 1  
\*Gerry Schultz (4)

**SECRETARY**

Rev. Joshua Woelmer - 7  
\* Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss - 1  
\* **Rev. Robert Grimm - 4**  
Rev. Rodney Fritz – 1  
\* Rev. W. Rick Rostek – 7

**CIRCUIT VISITORS**

The following is a listing of those elected by circuit forums for the office of Circuit Visitor. These names will appear on the ballot for ratification by the Convention. An asterisk (\*) indicates that these circuits must caucus at the District Convention

**Circuit Elected**

# 1 Rev. Michael Dunaway  
# 2\* Rev. Jason Boetcher (elected); Rev. Ed Mease  
(\*appointed in 2021)  
# 3N Rev. Joel Schultz  
# 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner  
# 4 Rev. Don Haselhuhn  
# 5 Rev. Ted Cook, Zion  
# 6 Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss  
# 7\* Rev. Matthew Durance  
# 8 Rev. Larry Boye, retired  
# 9 Rev. Kurt Letcher  
# 10 Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer  
# 11 Rev. Mark Lovett  
# 12 Rev. Dale Dumperth  
# 13 Rev. Jason Toombs  
# 15 Rev. Michael Schmidt  
# 16\* Rev. Kent Peck (elected); Rev. Randall Jahnke  
(\*appointed in 2021)

**Church, Town**

Northeast Kansas Partnership  
St. Paul, Leavenworth  
  
Beautiful Savior, Olathe  
Christ Our Savior  
Trinity, Burlington  
Pittsburg  
St. John's, Topeka  
Bethlehem, Greenleaf  
Manhattan  
Zion, Newton  
Ascension, Wichita  
Immanuel, Wichita  
Grace, McPherson  
Zion, Downs  
Peace, Natoma/First, Plainville  
Holy Cross, Dodge City



## **REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR DISTRICT CONVENTION**

Nominating Committee members were all contacted initially by the District Secretary, Rev. Robert Grimm, in November 2020, with an explanation that the committee work was likely to be delayed, due to COVID-19 restrictions that may postpone the convention. He contacted the committee again when the convention was postponed until 2022, and the nominations process was continued for another year. During our initial conference call November 4, 2021, Mr. Dave Bergmeier was elected as committee chair. The committee reviewed its duties and the positions to be filled on the slate of candidates. As nominations were received, the committee verified names and positions to ensure that all positions would have representatives from their appropriate areas, including clergy, commissioned ministers, and laity, as well as regional representation. The initial request for Biography and Consent forms from the list of nominees was sent January 3, 2022, with a number of follow-up requests being sent electronically and through the USPS until all forms had been received. Our second committee meeting was held January 28, 2022 to review the list of nominees, verify their congregation, region, and positions, and ensure that we had sufficient names per position to complete a full slate. Several calls were made to finalize these details.

Committee members are David Bergmeier, Laity Region 4; Brent Ostrgen, Laity Region 3; Richard Schotte<sup>l</sup>, Laity Region 2; Marvin Schulteis, Laity Region 1; Jeremy Pera, Commissioned; Rev. Stan Palmer, Ordained, Region 3; Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Ordained Region 2; Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Ordained, Region 1; and Rev. Robert Grimm, Secretary of the Kansas District.

### **Nominations Committee Report**

Following is a breakdown of nominations **received from congregations and workers** and acceptances:

**District Secretary** 21 nominations (5 nominees), 1 accepted

#### **Board of Directors**

Commissioned Ministers: 9 nominations (5 nominees), 4 accepted

Laity: 40 nominations (15 nominees), 9 accepted

#### **2021 District Nominations Committee**

Clergy: 7 nominations (5 nominees), 3 accepted

Commissioned Ministers: 4 nominations (4 nominees), 4 accepted

Laity: 4 nominations (4 nominees), 3 accepted

Nominees who received one nomination were placed onto the slate only if they were needed to complete a ballot. The committee nominated individuals to complete the ballot for several elections. The committee offers gratitude to all those whose were considered for offices in the Kansas District, including those who did not appear on the 2022 ballot.



# 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

## NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

### ❖ PRESIDENT

Rev. Justin Panzer, Mt. Calvary, Wamego  
Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville

### ❖ VICE-PRESIDENTS (4)

#### Region 1

Rev. Dr. J.S. Bruss – St. John's, Topeka  
Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz – Trinity, Mission

#### Region 2

Rev. Joshua Hayes, St. John, Palmer  
Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville

#### Region 3

Rev. Tom Harmon, Risen Savior, Wichita  
Rev. Mike Schotte, St. Paul's, Preston

#### Region 4

Rev. Michael Brockman, Immanuel, Oakley and Immanuel, Hoxie  
Rev. Michael Hageman, Trinity, Garden City  
Rev. Michael Schmidt, Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville

### ❖ SECRETARY

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Zion, Vassar  
Rev. Rodney Fritz, Trinity, Hanover

### ❖ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*NOTE: Candidates for regional lay member of the Board of Directors who are not elected shall be on the ballot for the at-large lay positions on the Board of Directors.*

### REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

#### Region 1

David Bruns, Christ, Overland Park  
Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence  
Marvin Weber, Zion, Vassar

#### Region 2

Dan Thalmann, St. John, Palmer  
Phil Friedrichs, Bethlehem, Bremen  
Bruce Schultz, St. John, Alma

#### Region 3

Randy Allenbach, Holy Cross, Wichita  
Curt Engelbrecht, Trinity, Wichita

#### Region 4

Dave Bergmeier, Holy Cross, Dodge City  
Mark Wolters, Redeemer, Atwood

### LAY MEMBER AT LARGE (3)

Kevin Fredrickson, Redeemer, Lawrence  
Scott Schneider, Trinity, Wichita

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (3)

Rick Hanebutt (1), Beautiful Savior, Olathe  
Gregg Wolgast (3), Holy Cross, Wichita  
Sue Kleber (3), Holy Cross, Wichita  
Ben Venteicher (4), Messiah, Hays

### ❖ DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

#### CLERGY (3; no two from same region)

Rev. Sean Kilgo (1), Redeemer, Lawrence  
Rev. Jonathan Scheck (3), St. Paul, Oswego and Trinity, Parsons  
Rev. Michael Hageman (4) Trinity, Garden City  
Rev. Daniel Harders (4), St. Peter, Holyrood and Zion, Claflin

#### COMMISSIONED MINISTER (1)

Betty Amey (2), Holy Cross, Wichita  
Ben Venteicher (4), Messiah, Hays  
Cynthia Lavrenz (4), Trinity, Garden City

### REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

Kevin Fredrickson (1), Redeemer, Lawrence  
Phil Friedrichs (2), Bethlehem, Bremen  
Ken Wabel (3), Immanuel, Wichita  
Brad Persinger (4), Immanuel, Norton

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## CIRCUIT VISITORS

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*Elected at 2020 fall circuit forums (or appointed thereafter); list to be ratified by the district convention. In cases of post-forum appointments and vacancies (see asterisk), circuits will caucus at the convention to elect a CV.*

### **Region 1**

Circuit 1 Rev. Michael Dunaway  
Circuit 2 Rev. Jason Boetcher (elected); Rev. Ed Mease (appointed)\*  
Circuit 3N Rev. Joel Schultz  
Circuit 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner  
Circuit 4 Rev. Don Haselhuhn  
Circuit 6 Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss

### **Region 2**

Circuit 7 Rev. Matthew Durance\*  
Circuit 8 Rev. Larry Boye  
Circuit 9 Rev. Kurt Letcher  
Circuit 12 Rev. Dale Dumperth

### **Region 3**

Circuit 5 Rev. Ted Cook  
Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer  
Circuit 11 Rev. Mark Lovett

### **Region 4**

Circuit 13 Rev. Jason Toombs  
Circuit 15 Rev. Michael Schmidt  
Circuit 16 Rev. Kent Peck (elected); Rev. Randy Jahnke (appointed)\*

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

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### PRESIDENT

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Name:	Justin Allan Panzer	Home Congregation:	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Home Address:	2206 Willow Creek Lane		Wamego, KS
	Wamego, KS	Email:	kspres@kslcms.org
Phone:	(785) 357-4441	Years in the District:	19
Occupation:	LCMS KS District President	Years Ordained:	19

**Education:** Lewis High School, Lewis, KS, graduated May 1992; Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS, graduated May 1994 with Associate of Arts; University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, graduated December 1996 with Bachelor of Science in Education; Westfield House, Cambridge, England, 1999–2000, seminary exchange program; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, graduated May 2003 with Master of Divinity; DOXOLOGY-The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel 2013–2014; Mental Health First Aid USA Certified 2016–Present; ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) Certified 2018–Present.

**Service to Congregation:** Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS, July 2003–January 2020; vacancy pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Herington, KS, October 2013–June 2014; LCMS Kansas District President August 2019–Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Kansas District Church Worker Committee, 2003–2004 and 2013–2015; Circuit 9 pastoral delegate, 2007 Synod Convention, Houston, TX; Kansas District Educational Loan Repayment Committee, 2007–2019; 2009 Kansas District Convention Caring Ministry Committee chair; Circuit 9 pastoral delegate, 2010 Synod Convention, Houston, TX; Circuit 9 pastoral delegate, 2013 Synod Convention, St. Louis, MO; Circuit 9 pastoral delegate, 2016 Synod Convention, Milwaukee, WI; Circuit 9 pastoral delegate, 2019 Synod Convention, Tampa, FL; vacancy pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Herington, KS, October 2013–June 2014; Kansas District Region 2 Vice-President, June 2014–July 2019; LCMS Kansas District President, August 2019–Present.

**Community service, special gifts, and related experience:** Abilene Kiwanis Club, 2003–2004; Dickinson County Quality of Life Coalition Committee Member, 2004–2007; Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class coordinator (three times); City of Abilene Recreation Commission committee member, 2007–2019; City of Abilene Recreation Commission vice-chairman, 2011–2019; Dickinson County Relay for Life volunteer, 2010; Salina Rescue Mission pastoral volunteer, 2010–2019; City of Abilene rec youth coach, 2011–2016; Kansans for Life 2019–Present.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** The mission of the LCMS Kansas District “is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.” We have a wonderful message to “Proclaim, Teach, and Share” as His baptized royal priests. We have exactly what this hurting and dying world needs to possess right now. To that end, it has been my privilege to serve as District President since August 2019. I have striven to work with the church workers and congregations of the District in a timely manner, providing support, counsel, and assistance. It has been a joy to work with the District office staff and the Board of Directors. It has been my privilege to work with the region vice-presidents and circuit visitors. Kansas is a great place to be and to do ministry. I would be honored to serve if elected for the next triennium.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Looking ahead to the next triennium, as the Lord grants opportunity, it is my prayer to lead the Kansas District toward the following vision targets:

- Abiding in the Word (John 8:31-32): In our churches, we hear God's Word, receive His grace, offer Him our prayers and thanks, and encourage one another. Our District works to ensure that Word and Sacrament ministry thrives in Kansas and beyond.
- Connecting in Christ (Rom. 12:5): God's Church is a fellowship of believers, called to encourage and care for one another and work together for the good of God's kingdom. Strengthening ties with our "partners in the Gospel" is a high priority.
- Equipping the Saints (Eph. 4:12): As God's baptized, we study His Word, training ourselves for godliness (1 Tim. 4:7). In the Kansas District, we provide our congregations, schools, and affiliated organizations with the resources they need to equip themselves and others—with the help of the Holy Spirit—to stay strong in the faith.
- Engaging in Christ's Mission (Matthew 28:19-20): The royal priesthood has been given a charge: show God's love to others, help your neighbor in need, and share the Good News. The District seeks to support these activities in Kansas and abroad.

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Name:	Alan R. Stahlecker	Home Congregation:	St. John Lutheran Church
Address:	220 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Lincolnville, KS	Email:	revalanstahlecker@hotmail.com
Phone:	(620) 382-4248	Years in the District:	28
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	28

**Education:** M. Div, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, May 1993; B.S., business administration/accounting, Adams State College, Alamosa, CO, May 1982; Rangely High School, Rangely, CO, May 1977.

**Service to Congregation:** Prior to attending seminary I served as treasurer for both Trinity Lutheran Church, Alamosa, CO, 1981-1982, and Resurrection Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO, 1986-1989; sole pastor for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lincolnville, KS, July 1993-Present; vacancy pastor for several congregations of our circuit (at various times and for varying lengths of time).

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Pastoral Delegate to 1995 and 2004 Synod conventions; Circuit Counselor, 2003-2012; Zone LWML Pastoral Advisor, 1998-2003; Kansas District LWML Pastoral Advisor, 2000-2004; Kansas District Convention Nominating Committee, 2003 and 2022; Kansas District Convention Floor Committee – Life Together, 2018, Chair, 2018; Kansas District Koinonia Project Task Force – Chair, 2019-Present; Kansas District Region 2 Vice-President, 2019-Present, 4th Vice-President; Kansas District Board of Stewardship, 2019-Present; Kansas District Retreat Center Task Force, 2019-Present; Kansas District Salary Review Task Force, 2021-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Briargate Sertoma Club, Colorado Springs, CO 1986-1989 and Treasurer, 1986-1989; Lincolnville Fire Department Chaplain (as needed); Centre School Site Council 1996-2008; Coach in Centre School District 2002-2021.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** Having gained experience while serving the District as a Vice-President since 2019, I am ready and willing to continue that service if elected, utilizing my skills and experiences from both churchly and secular positions for the benefit of those whom the Kansas District serves.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** As the Lord has exhorted us to make disciples through baptism and the teaching

of His Word, it is essential that the District do all that it is capable of doing to encourage and support congregations and church workers as they carry out the work of the church for the furtherance of God's kingdom, as the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace.

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## VICE-PRESIDENTS

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### REGION 1

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Name:	Jon S. Bruss	Home Congregation:	St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
Address:	901 SW Fillmore Topeka, KS	Email:	Topeka, KS jbruss@stjlcms.org
Phone:	(785) 506-5501	Years in the District:	8.5
Occupation:	Senior Pastor	Years Ordained:	24

**Education:** B.A., classics, St. Olaf College, 1989; M.Div. Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 1994; M.A., classics and philosophy, University of Minnesota, 1996; Ph.D., classics and philosophy, University of Minnesota, 2000.

**Service to Congregation:** Senior Pastor.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Synod chair, Ecclesiastical Accreditation Drafting Committee, 2020-Present; interlocutor, Roundtable on Building Partnerships webinar, RSTM, 2021; member, 2019 Resolution 7-03 Task Force, 2019-Present; CUS Board member, 2019-Present; participant, LCMS President's Think-Tank on Higher Education, 2014; translator, Luther's Works supplemental series, CPH; co-founder, Lutheranism & the Classics Conference, CTSFW, 2010; District co-editor, "Together We Pray," 2020-2021; testimony before Kansas State Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee on SB 218 on mandatory reporters, 2019; papers and presentations at pastors conferences and retreats, 2020, 2018, 2013, 2010, 2009; member, Koinonia Task Force 2019-Present; editor, Reformation Essays, 2017-2018; chair, Colloquy Committee, 2016, 2018; Circuit Visitor, 2015-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Circuit 6 multi-parish cooperative venture, Maintain the Ministry, Grow the Mission; development of unique congregation partnership between St. John's, Topeka and Trinity, McFarland.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Committed above all to the proclamation of the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ and a vigorous embrace of our Confession, I seek to foster thriving ministries that bring Christ to His people, and through His people to the world in our own backyards and on other continents. I firmly believe that a strong, united LCMS and Kansas District is the best way to do this.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Re-inculcate how to live as baptized Christians. Mission starts in growing communities (footprint matters). Foster koinonia in doctrine and practice and cooperation in ministry and mission.

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Name:	Mark Schulz	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	8405 W 98th Circle Overland Park, KS	Email:	Mission and Shawnee mark@tlcms.org
Phone:	(913) 432-5441	Years in the District:	17
Occupation:	Senior Pastor	Years Ordained:	36

**Education:** Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, B.A., 1982; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, M.Div., 1986; Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, IL, D.Min., 1997.

**Service to Congregation:** St. Mark, Omaha, NE, 1986-1992; St. Luke, Itasca, IL, 1992-1999; Faith, Lake Forest, IL, 1999-2005; Bethany, Overland Park and Stilwell, KS, 2005-2013; Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, KS, 2013-Present.

**Service to Circuit, District, and Synod:** Circuit Visitor (NID, KS); District Evangelism Committee (NEB, NID); District Conference Registrar (NID); District Conference Planning Committee (KS); Board of Directors, Lutheran High School—Kansas City; Region 1 Vice-President (KS).

**Community service, special gifts, and related experience:** Rotary (IL), HOA board (KS), Volunteer tutor (KS).

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I feel that my 36 years of experience as a pastor (including 17 years in Kansas) help me to consider the viewpoints of others. I am a good listener and communicator. I grew up in a small town in a rural area of Minnesota but have pastoral experience in metropolitan areas. I have served as a vice-president for the past four years and feel that I have something to contribute.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Three priorities: 1) Continue to explore and develop new church plants and partnerships. 2) Assist congregations as we come out of the time of the pandemic. 3) Continue to explore and facilitate Hispanic ministry throughout the District. Even in challenging times, God is always faithful!

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## REGION 2

Name:	Joshua J. Hayes	Home Congregation:	St. John Lutheran Church
Address:	312 National Rd Palmer, KS	Email:	palmer, KS pastor.hayes@outlook.com
Phone:	(720) 897-6829	Years in the District:	2
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	11

**Education:** B.A., theological languages, Concordia Chicago, 2006; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2011; M.A., classics, Washington University in St. Louis, 2010.

**Service to Congregation:** Pastor.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Editor for Johann Gerhard, *Theological Commonplaces* (CPH), 2010-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Luther Classical College, Casper, WY, Board of Regents, 2020-Present. Lifelong LCMS Lutheran and a pastor of 11 years.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am not interested in serving in this position but will do so if elected. I would prefer not to at this time but understand that someone has to do it.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Building strong Christian families and Lutheran education. Being the best Christians we can be on this side of heaven according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions.

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Name:	Alan R. Stahlecker	Home Congregation:	St. John Lutheran Church
Address:	220 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Lincolnvill, KS	Email:	revalanstahlecker@hotmail.com
Phone:	(620) 382-4248	Years in the District:	28
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	28

**Education:** M. Div, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, May 1993; B.S., business administration/accounting, Adams State College, Alamosa, CO, May 1982; Rangely High School, Rangely, CO, May 1977.

**Service to Congregation:** Prior to attending seminary I served as treasurer for both Trinity Lutheran Church, Alamosa, CO, 1981-1982, and Resurrection Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO, 1986-1989; sole pastor for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lincolnvill, KS, July 1993-Present; vacancy pastor for several congregations of our circuit (at various times and for varying lengths of time).

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Pastoral Delegate to 1995 and 2004 Synod conventions; Circuit Counselor, 2003-2012; Zone LWML Pastoral Advisor, 1998-2003; Kansas District LWML Pastoral Advisor, 2000-2004; Kansas District Convention Nominating Committee, 2003 and 2022; Kansas District Convention Floor Committee – Life Together, 2018, Chair, 2018; Kansas District Koinonia Project Task Force – Chair, 2019-Present; Kansas District Region 2 Vice-President, 2019-Present, 4th Vice-President; Kansas District Board of Stewardship, 2019-Present; Kansas District Retreat Center Task Force, 2019-Present; Kansas District Salary Review Task Force, 2021-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Briargate Sertoma Club, Colorado Springs, CO 1986-1989 and Treasurer, 1986-1989; Lincolnvill Fire Department Chaplain (as needed); Centre School Site Council 1996-2008; Coach in Centre School District 2002-2021.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** Having gained experience while serving the District as a Vice-President since 2019, I am ready and willing to continue that service if elected, utilizing my skills and experiences from both churchly and secular positions for the benefit of those whom the Kansas District serves.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** As the Lord has exhorted us to make disciples through baptism and the teaching of His Word, it is essential that the District do all that it is capable of doing to encourage and support congregations and church workers as they carry out the work of the church for the furtherance of God's kingdom, as the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace.

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### REGION 3

Name:	Thomas Harmon	Home Congregation:	Risen Savior Lutheran Church
Address:	2731 N Cranberry St Wichita, KS	Email:	pastortom@risensavior.net
Phone:	(316) 650-3223	Years in the District:	39
Occupation:	Senior Pastor	Years Ordained:	39

**Education:** Cheney High School, 1971-1975; Butler Community College, El Dorado, 1975-1977; Southwestern College, Winfield, 1977-1979; Concordia Theological Seminary, 1979-1983; Pastoral Leadership Institute – PLI, 2000-2004.



**Service to Congregation:** First Lutheran Church, Sabetha, KS, 1983-1993; Christ Lutheran Church, Seneca, KS, 1983; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairview, KS, 1983-1993; Missionary at Large, Kansas District, 1993-1994; Risen Savior Lutheran, Wichita, KS, 1994-Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit 1 counselor, 1988-1993; Circuit 10 counselor, 1998-2003; University Lutheran Center Executive Board, 1994-Present; Circuits 10 and 11 president, 2003-2004; Circuits 10 and 11 program chair, 2004-2006; Circuit 10 visitor 2012-2022, District Rural Ministry Task Force, 1991-1993; District LWML counselor, 1992-1994; District President's Commission on Women advisor, 1992-1998; District Youth Gathering chaplain, 2003-2005; District LWML Bible study leader, 2006; District Outreach Board, 2008-2010; National Youth Gathering Yellow Shirt 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016; National Youth Gathering Green Shirt, 2019, Synod reconciler, 2020-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** USD 259 Allison Traditional Middle Magnet School Founding Committee, 1994, Site Council, 1995-2000, chairman 1998-2000; USD 259 Wichita High School Heights Site Council, 2000-2005, chairman 2002-2005; Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK) Board Member 2008-2018.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** "Change" will be a continuum for years to come. I believe that the Lord has given me unique opportunities to see it defined in rural, urban, and suburban settings. I have been part of starting new churches and closing churches. Rural is not urban and urban is not suburban. The Word of the Lord does not change; the people God has called us to reach have embraced challenges which we need to address. In Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI), my collegial group strove to learn strategic planning and mission planting options. The Great Commission reminds us that too many people do not belong to the body of Christ!

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** As a native Kansan and a pastor in Kansas for nearly 40 years, I have witnessed the changing scene of ministry in Kansas. Be it the impact of corporate moves in the cities or the impact of fluctuating prices for crops and fuel for farmers as well as the rapid change in technology. Now more than ever, strategic planning and innovative measures to fulfill the Great Commission must be considered and utilized.

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Name:	Michael L. Schotte	Home Congregation:	St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Address:	40307 NE 40th Ave		Preston, KS
	Preston, KS	Email:	mslcms@sctelcom.net
Phone:	(620) 388-0131	Years in the District:	26
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	30

**Education:** M. Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN; B.S., business administration, St. John's College, Winfield, KS.

**Service to Congregation:** Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Whitney, TX, June 1991-September 1995; Pastor, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Preston, KS, October 1995 – Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit 14 Visitor, 2012-2015; District Nominating Committee, prior to 2015 convention; regular attendance at monthly Circuits 10 and 11 pastors' meetings and Koinonia Project discussions; former pastoral advisor for Great Bend Zone LWML.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Quarterly pastoral columns for The Pratt Tribune.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Only because I have been considered qualified and nominated by other congregations do I accept this responsibility if elected. With God's grace and blessing, I would serve to the best of my ability.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** My greatest joy and thanksgiving to the Lord is that vacant congregations who are ready to have pastors serve them with the Word and Sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ, and extend calls, are being given faithful men, without unnecessary delay, to serve. The Lord of the harvest is sending laborers into His harvest (Matthew 9:38). I'm also encouraged that discussions related to congregational partnership formation are taking place. This is likely becoming a reality that more of our congregations must face. By such discussions, the work of the District, through its workers and congregations, supports the people of its parishes that they should not neglect "to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Heb. 10:25). District congregations must faithfully and regularly pray for the District's officers, office workers, board, and committee members who serve them.

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#### REGION 4

Name:	Michael Brockman	Home Congregation:	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Address:	214 E 7th St Oakley, KS	Email:	Oakley, KS fathermichaelc@gmail.com
Phone:	(316) 249-3377	Years in the District:	27
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	38

**Education:** Iowa State University, agricultural journalism, 1980; Concordia Theological Seminary, M.Div., 1984; continuing theological education in various places during the summer for the last 35 years.

**Service to Congregation:** Venezuela, 1984-1987; Wyoming District, 1988-1992; Iowa District East, 1992-1995; Kansas District 1995-Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** LWML, Wyoming and Kansas Districts; Board of Evangelism, Wyoming District; presenter at District Conferences in the Kansas District.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** None.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Familiarity with many congregations in all four regions of the Kansas District.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I think it most important that our elected Kansas District officers "hold up the hands" of our District congregations and pastors in steadfastness to "the essence of the church: the Word and Sacrament, confession and liturgy" (Herman Sasse, THE LONELY WAY, Vol. 1, p. 47), for On Christ our Lord, Zion's cries are poured; Your help will afford (paraphrase of TLH, #265, stanza 1).

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Name:	Michael Hageman	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	502 N 10th Street Garden City, KS	Email:	Garden City, KS hagmission@att.net
Phone:	(620) 521-9991	Years in the District:	4
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	18

**Education:** Concordia University, Nebraska, 2000; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2004.

**Service to Congregation:** Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland, OH, 2004 – 2009; Trinity Lutheran Church and School (senior), Rockledge, FL, 2009 – 2018; Trinity Lutheran Church (senior), Garden City, KS, 2018 – Present; Immanuel Lutheran Church (senior), Lakin, KS, 2021 – Present; Grace Lutheran Church (senior), Ulysses, KS, 2021 – Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Board member, Lutheran Memorial School, Cleveland, Ohio, 2005-2009; Committee for Ballots and Elections, Ohio District, 2006; Fan into Flame circuit coordinator, Ohio District, 2009; LWML zone counselor, East Cleveland Zone, 2006-2009; LWML zone counselor, Southwest Zone 2018 – Present; Kansas District Early Response Committee, 2018 – Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** YMCA basketball coach, Cocoa, FL, 2014-2019; girls U12 softball coach, Rockledge, FL, 2012-2016; instruction of theological courses in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, 2006 – 2021; Board of YMCA, Garden City, KS, 2019 – Present.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Our loving Lord Jesus builds His Church with the proclamation of the Gospel and delivery of the Sacraments. It is God who creates, builds, and sanctifies His Church through these gifts to His Bride. In faith, we, the bride of Christ, in the state of Kansas, joyfully confess Him in word and deed amongst our families and those connected to them. It is with this confession and zeal that I would be honored to guide my brothers and sisters in Western Kansas in order to further the mission God has given to our District.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** As our doctrine and practice remain to be built on Christ, God's call to make disciples is of utmost importance. Having served in diverse settings, making disciples has been my coercion. The next three years will likely experience a shift in how mission is carried out. The District's guidance will be vital as we form stronger partnerships amongst congregations and focus on new ministries in our communities. The challenges of church workers, finances, education, youth, and others will challenge us to carry out His call, and yet to the Glory of God there is no better service to be doing.

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Name:	Michael Schmidt	Home Congregation:	Peace Lutheran Church
Address:	PO Box 282		Natoma, KS
	Natoma, KS	Email:	revschmidt@yahoo.com
Phone:	(785) 885-8308	Years in the District:	14
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	14

**Education:** B.A., Concordia College, Bronxville, New York, 2003; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis 2007.

**Service to Congregation:** Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma, 2007-Present; First Lutheran Church, Plainville, 2013-Present, Grace Lutheran, Hill City, 2022-Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Synod Convention delegate, 2010; Circuit 15 Circuit Visitor, 2016-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Natoma Lions Club 2008-2016; Natoma American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Day committee, 2008-Present.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Having served for 14 years in the District, as Circuit Visitor for several years, and having attended various District conferences and workshops, I believe I have seen the District at work, and am willing to help the District continue in this work of proclaiming, teaching and sharing.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Since coming to Kansas in 2007, a great deal has changed in the names and the faces, and even the places, but the desire to continue proclaiming the Gospel, supporting church workers, and strengthening congregations has always remained strong, and through various means the

District has even sought to expand and enhance these measures. The work of the Church never changes in preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and forgiving and retaining sins, ergo the work of the District never changes in supporting congregations and schools in fulfilling this work.

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## SECRETARY

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Name:	Joshua Woelmer	Home Congregation:	Zion Lutheran Church
Address:	23147 Topeka Street		Vassar, KS
	Vassar, KS	Email:	jwoelmer2@gmail.com
Phone:	(785) 893-3960	Years in the District:	5
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	5

**Education:** B.A., pre-sem studies and theological languages, Concordia University Wisconsin, 2010; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, 2015.

**Service to Congregation:** Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar 2016-Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Constitution Committee, 2018-Present; Nominations Committee, 2018-Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I have interacted with and assisted the local county Help House as well as the LifeCare Center in their services to our area. I was a graduate assistant for my seminary's quarterly theological journal and received editing experience, which has proved helpful for the Constitution Committee and elsewhere.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** "All things should be done decently and in order" (1 Cor 14:40) applies not only to worship, but also to our lives together as the priesthood of all believers. I have served on two committees headed up by the District secretary that have given me insight into our congregations and the work of District, and I hope to assist our congregations further in their ministry of Word and Sacraments so that more may hear and believe.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Our convention theme verse provides a good focus. The District should encourage faithfulness for the royal priesthood, for there is a difference between our dark world and the light of Christ, between the unholy realm and a holy nation. It should support church workers who are calling with the Word of Law and Gospel to bring people out of darkness into God's marvelous light. It should encourage the teaching of young and old to be faithful priests who recognize their vocation of prayer to God and service to one another, and who desire the calling of all to faith.

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Name:	Rodney "Sarge" Fritz	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	409 Hilltop Drive		Hanover, KS
	Hanover, KS	Email:	rdftlc@kansas.net
Phone:	(785) 337-6030	Years in the District:	41
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	41

**Education:** A.A., St. Paul's College, Concordia, Missouri, 1974; B.S., Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, 1976; M. Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1980.

**Service to Congregation:** I have served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover, Kansas, since 1980.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit chair and secretary of the Circuit Pastor's Conference for Circuit 7; chair of the Circuit Forum Meeting, Circuit 7; pastoral advisor for the LLL and LWML Circuit 7; District pastoral advisor for the Kansas District LLL; chair of the floor committee on Nominations multiple times; chair of the floor committee on Elections; member of the Kansas District Board of Directors as circuit visitor chair; chair of the Board of Administration Committee; member of the Salary Review Committee; member of the President's Council for the Board of Directors; currently serving on the District Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee; currently serving on the District Operations Manual (DOM) Committee; three-time Synod convention delegate; circuit visitor.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Former member of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce; parade announcer for the Hanover Days of 49.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** I would consider it an honor to serve as the District secretary. I have a basic understanding of the responsibilities after serving with District secretaries Rev. David Meier while on the Board of Directors and with Rev. Bob Grimm on several District committees. I am not arrogant enough to claim to know all of the responsibilities of the secretary, but I am willing to learn and willing to serve to the best of the abilities God has given me.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** In no particular order, these are some, but by no means all of the mission and ministry projects important for the District: Life Ministry, West Africa/Guinea Mission, evangelism and outreach, grants and scholarships, Lutheran schools, youth ministry, older adult ministry, church worker wellness, Koinonia Project.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### LAY REGION 1

Name:	David E. Bruns	Home Congregation:	Christ Lutheran Church
Address:	10313 S North Lake Ave		Overland Park, KS
	Olathe, KS	Email:	brunsteam@aol.com
Phone:	(785) 633-9141	Years in the District:	62
Occupation:	Judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals		

**Education:** National Judicial College, University of Nevada—Reno, 2000; Washburn University School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1984; University of Kansas, Bachelor of Science in education, 1981; Kansas City, Kansas Community College, Associate of Arts in pre-law 1979.

**Service to Congregation:** Bible study leader, Present; member of Benevolence Committee, Present; Communion assistant, Present; former chair of Board of Elders; former chair of congregation; former high school Bible class teacher and youth leader; former Sunday School superintendent and served on various other boards and committees over the years at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, 1959-1983, Christ Lutheran Church-Topeka, 1983-2016, and Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park, 2016-Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Presiding officer of Kansas District Board of Directors (Present); chair of Kansas District Board of Administration (Present); member of Kansas District Executive Council (Present); member of Kansas District Salary Review Committee (Present); Kansas LCMS Public Servants Bible Study leader (Present); former member of Kansas District Board of Missions; former member of LCMS Board of International Mission; former chair of LCMS Board of District and Congregational Services (board was responsible for pre-K to 12 Lutheran education, stewardship, youth ministry, and family life ministry across the LCMS); former member of Kansas District Family Life Committee; former member of Kansas District Adjudication Committee; former member of Topeka Lutheran School Board of Education; former basketball coach at Topeka Lutheran School, and various other positions.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Past president and chairman of the Board of Optimist International (worldwide youth service organization); founder of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships; Author of “Bringing Out the Best—The First Century of Optimist International (1919-2019)”; member of Olathe Noon and Topeka Optimist Clubs; member of the Hon. Earl E. O'Connor Inn of Court; former adjunct professor at Washburn University School of Law and Washburn University School of Business; former member of Journal of the Kansas Bar Association Board of Editors; founder of Topeka-Shawnee County Youth Court; presenter on various legal and civic subjects throughout North America; former director of United Way of Greater Topeka; graduate of Leadership Greater Topeka; former member of YMCA Safe Visits Program, and various other boards and committees.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I thank God for allowing me to serve on the Kansas District Board of Directors the past seven years, including the last four years as presiding officer. As a lifelong member of the Kansas District, I am very familiar with both our strengths and challenges that we face. It is comforting to know that God is in control, and He will lead us on the path that we should go. If it is God's will, I look forward to continuing to serve during the next triennium.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Although it is wonderful to see so many LCMS congregations and schools continuing to share the Gospel of Christ Jesus across the state of Kansas, we must recognize that the Kansas District—like other districts throughout the LCMS—has suffered a decline in membership and a loss of students over the years. I believe that it is imperative that we work together to reverse these trends. While staying true to God's Word, we must revitalize our existing congregations and schools. We must also take the steps necessary to start new congregations and schools. As C.F.W. Walther said, “the most careful cultivation of our parochial schools is, and remains, after public ministry, the chief means for [the church's] preservation and continuation.”

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Name:	Marvin H. Schulteis	Home Congregation:	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Address:	5619 Plymouth Drive		Lawrence, KS
	Lawrence, KS	Email:	mhschulteis2020@gmail.com
Phone:	(785)231-7953	Years in the District:	All of my life
Occupation:	Attorney/Adjunct College Instructor		

**Education:** Washburn University, Topeka, KS, B.A., dual major in history, political science; Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, KS, Juris Doctor.

**Service to Congregation:** Currently serving on Board of Elders, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence, KS; recently member of Pastor Call Committee, Redeemer, Lawrence; recently vice-president, Redeemer Lutheran, Lawrence; vice-president, St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS; Board of Elders, St. John's, Topeka for two different terms; Board of Elders in different LCMS congregations in Kansas, Missouri, and New Jersey.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Currently serving on the Kansas District Board of Directors, 2018 – 2022; currently on Kansas District Nominating Committee for the 2022 District Convention; Circuit lay delegate to Milwaukee Synod Convention, 2016; floor committee member, Milwaukee Synod Convention, 2016; Redeemer congregation lay delegate to Kansas District Convention, 2015; Kansas District Nominating Committee for 2006 District Convention, 2005.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Washburn University Board of Regents, board member & board president; University of Missouri--St. Louis Chancellor's Council, council member; Topeka Community Foundation board member; Kansas Telecommunications board member; Junior Achievement of St. Louis board member; Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, board member; Missouri State Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors. I am currently an adjunct instructor at Columbia College, Lake Ozark, MO.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am a lifelong committed Christian and LCMS Lutheran. As such, my great joy in life has been to serve my home church and the Kansas District Board of Directors in these recent years. Because God has given me the opportunity, I have learned a great deal about the LCMS mission and relevance in the several venues I have served. I feel I can best serve the Church and its saints using this background and experience in the next triennium.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I think the District can be even more aggressive in our outreach to our fellow Kansans of all backgrounds, races, and ages in the upcoming triennium. LCMS Lutherans are inventive enough to make our outreach even more meaningful and relevant for teens, millennials, and non-traditional Lutherans. We needn't abandon liturgy nor confession to open the church doors just a little wider with a "welcome" to all who seek an opportunity to serve their Lord and Savior.

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Name:	Marvin E. Weber	Home Congregation:	Zion Lutheran Church
Address:	22405 Surf Dr Vassar, KS	Email:	webermarvin1969@gmail.com
Phone:	(785) 366-1016	Years in the District:	58
Occupation:	Clerk US Postal Service	Years Commissioned:	3

**Education:** St. John's Academy, Winfield, KS; St. John's College, Winfield, KS, A.A.; Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, B.A.

**Service to Congregation:** Sunday school teacher; adult Bible class leader; chairman; elder; Board of Education; Board of Finance; Outreach Board; St. John's Lutheran School Elyria, OH, as teacher and athletic director.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** St. John's Lutheran School, Ottertail, MN, teacher and principal; Board of Trustees, St. Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, MO; Kansas District Scholarship Committee.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Volunteer fire department; emergency medical technician; Little League coach; baseball/softball; basketball official; City Council; Board of Directors, officer Mid-America Tire Dealers Association.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** God has provided each of us with certain gifts. Using them to advance His Kingdom should be at the forefront of each of our lives. Having the honor and opportunity to use my God-given gifts in service to the Kansas District in this position is a very small expression of my thankfulness for the many blessings provided to me by this district.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** In the Great Commission Jesus commands us to "teach." The convention theme includes "teach." We need to revisit (return) to our history. Most congregations had schools associated with them. After the demise of the parochial schools, congregations turned to Saturday morning or Wednesday evening Catechism classes usually lasting several hours. Currently those classes are shorter in length and frequency. Lack of catechetical instruction can be traced to many congregational, district, and synod problems. I believe a renewed effort to instruct members (not only the young) in the basics of theology and doctrine is needed.

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## LAY REGION 2

Name:	Daniel J. Thalmann	Home Congregation:	St. John Lutheran Church
Address:	206 W 1 <sup>st</sup> Street		Palmer, KS
	Palmer, KS	Email:	editor@bluevalley.net
Phone:	(785) 747-6980	Years in the District:	34
Occupation:	Newspaper Publisher		

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in history, University of Kansas.

**Service to Congregation:** Elder, vice-chairman, Board of Education.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Lay delegate to Kansas District; currently serving on the District Board of Directors.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Involved in many civic organizations, community and school volunteer groups, holding many officer positions.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I grew up with an inside view of the work of the church as an LCMS pastor's son. The importance of nourishing a living faith in our souls has never left me. I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve on this board and want to help the church's work grow any way I can.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** The devil is working through modern culture and technology to support an all-out assault on Christianity. Our church needs to help Christians navigate the times in a Biblical way and with loyalty to Christ. We also need to call for more churches to consider establishing Lutheran schools to provide a strong foundation of faith.

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Name:	Phillip Friedrichs	Home Congregation:	Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Address:	449 Arrowhead Rd		Bremen, KS 012012
	Bremen, KS	Email:	phlfrfriedrichs@gmail.com
Phone:	(785) 629-0018	Years in the District:	69
Occupation:	Enumerator for NASDA		

**Education:** Bethlehem Lutheran School, grade school; Marysville High School; B.S., Kansas State University.

**Service to Congregation:** Board of elders; church secretary; board of elders; school board; president and secretary of school board; president, secretary, and treasurer of LLL.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** None.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Township board; supervisor at NASDA.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I recently spent two weeks in ICU with pneumonia from Covid, not sure if I was going to survive. Three weeks ago my 38 year old son-in-law passed away leaving my daughter and two small children. It's at times like this this when your only comfort is to cling to the Word of God, in particular remembering that you are a baptized Child of God, His Triune Name is on you.



**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Understanding that Word and Sacrament faithfully preached and administered in accordance to Scripture is what our business is. We need to continue to encourage faithful young men to enter into the ministerial office, pray for them, and find ways to support them financially. Support and encourage faithful pastors and faithful congregations. We also need to not be fearful about giving a faithful Lutheran confession in public.

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Name:	Bruce Schultz 38324 Plymouth Street Wamego, KS	Home Congregation:	St. John Ev. Lutheran Church Alma, KS
Phone:	(785) 313 5174	Email:	bdschultzphd@gmail.com
Occupation:	Research Scientist	Years in District:	24

**Education:** Cornell University (pharmacology), Ithaca, NY, Ph.D. 1991; University of Nebraska (veterinary science), M.S. 1985; University of Nebraska (animal science/ag economics) B.S. 1983.

**Service to Congregation:** St. John, Alma, 1997-Present, Board of Elders (four years), school board, 17 years (chair, nine years); Board of Christian Education, six years, Church Council, nine years, Parent-Teacher League Vice President and President, Handbell choir, 19 years.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Previous service at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glenshaw, PA, First Lutheran Church, Birmingham, AL, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Ithaca, NY. Synod delegate to the LCMS convention, 2019, Advisory, 2016, National Youth Gathering volunteer, 2016, "Yellow Shirt" 2013; Concordia University-Chicago, Board of Regents appointed; 2015-Present. Kansas District Board of Directors, 2003-2006, 2015-2022, Board of Caring Ministry 2003-2006, Board of Education, 2015-2022, Speaker, District Theological Convocation, 2006, District Steering Committee – Fan into Flame, 2008-2009. Eastern District: Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, 1996. Southern District: Sunday School Teachers Convention, Jackson, MS, 1993. Eastern District Coordinator, Eastern District Lutheran Student Fellowship Conference, 1989, Eastern District Convention delegate, 1988.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** My vocation is teaching/research and providing administrative support at the university level. Currently, I am a professor in the veterinary college and have been the associate and interim department head. I have served the national and international research community as an officer in two physiology societies where I serve or have served on steering committees, editorial boards and as the Research Ethics Subcommittee chair. For six years I have been on the Concordia-Chicago Board of Regents, where I also serve as the Student Success & Academics Committee chair. Locally, I have been a 4-H leader and have coached a Christian home school high school football team. I continue to be a first responder in the local volunteer fire department. Perhaps it is noteworthy that I have delivered seminars to recruit graduates of Concordia, Seward, NE, and Selma, AL. Graduates of Concordia, Seward, and Concordia, Portland, have completed their doctoral programs under my direction at Kansas State.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** Doctrines held by the LCMS regarding Law and Gospel, sin and salvation, justification and sanctification, judgement and grace are supported by Scripture. Overall, there is a message of salvation by grace through faith, which should be shared with all. My interest is to be unswerving in sharing these doctrines within our families and communities. The Kansas District is positioned to support the preaching, teaching and sharing of this good news. To the extent that I am able, I will work to leverage District resources to support Kansas congregations as they share this message.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Faithfulness in proclaiming God's word within families and communities. Education that is grounded in a Christian world view is necessary for the stability of our society. The natural family is the fundamental element of society and structures of community develop from it. Parents are the first and most influential teachers that children will ever have. Priorities for our District include: 1)

equipping and supporting parents and especially fathers in their role as a teacher and role model for their children; 2) supporting education that is grounded in Christian doctrine; and 3) supporting congregations as they minister to all segments of their families, church family, and community.

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### LAY REGION 3

Name:	Randall L. Allenbach	Home Congregation:	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Address:	11408 E. Killarney		Wichita, KS
	Wichita, KS	Email:	allenbach@att.net
Phone:	(316) 684-4564	Years in the District:	39
Occupation:	Industrial Engineer		

**Education:** B.S., industrial engineering; M.S., industrial engineering.

**Service to Congregation:** Congregation president; congregation vice-president; youth commissioner; youth leader; Day School Committee; playing piano for offertory and with organist for special services.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Kansas District Convention delegate; Kansas District Youth Gathering.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Wichita State University adjunct lecturer, mentoring students, and serving as a judge for the Wallace Scholarship engineering competition. Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers past president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I consider myself a servant leader, both in the church and in my occupation. I have not sought out leadership positions; they have found me, and I believe that God has called me to the various roles that I have been in for a particular time and reason.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I believe that the District exists to support the outreach of our congregations. As such, we need to be educating our congregations how to be known and relevant in their communities and to reach people where they are in life if we want to draw them to Christ.

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Name:	Curtis Engelbrecht	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	5713 E 39 <sup>th</sup> St N		Wichita, KS
	Bel Aire, KS	Email:	curtengelbrecht@cox.net
Phone:	(316) 744-1155	Years in the District:	40
Occupation:	Retired Engineer		

**Education:** B.S. mechanical engineering; M.S. systems engineering.

**Service to Congregation:** Elder, president, treasurer.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Circuit Forum delegate, Kansas District Convention delegate, Synod Convention delegate, District Board of Directors lay member

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served in governance boards and in elected positions in work, political, and church bodies for many years. My experience includes city capital projects planning board, national level political party national committee member, political party Kansas and National Executive Committee membership, political national committee secretary, national political party resolutions committee chairman. Currently serving as Kansas Lutherans for Life state board member and treasurer.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** As a District Board of Directors lay member this extended triennium and on the Caring Ministry service board, I've had the privilege to help shape how precious resources provided by the congregations and their members to the District are allocated and used to support congregations and extend the reach of the Kansas congregations collectively through the District's various missional outlets. The Caring Ministry service board has worked to improve the support for those who on our behalf provide human care in various ways – disaster response, older adults, comfort dogs, parish workers, parish nurses, and the spouses of our pastors.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Always in the direction of best using limited and precious resources for equipping and supporting the congregations of the Kansas District through congregations' called workers, staff, and members, and only in those common tasks the congregations entrust to the District through convention direction.

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#### LAY REGION 4

Name:	Dave Bergmeier	Home Congregation:	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Address:	409 University Drive		Dodge City, KS
	Dodge City, KS	Email:	dbergmeier@hpj.com
Phone:	(620) 728-8548	Years in the District:	58
Occupation:	Journalist		

**Education:** College.

**Service to Congregation:** President.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Nominating Committee.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Rotary Club member.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I agreed to the nomination; although my time schedule is very limited right now on personal and professional levels. Public service is good.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I think is good to listen and find out what some of the ideas and feedback are from those who have greater knowledge.

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Name:	Mark Wolters	Home Congregation:	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Address:	406 S Railroad Ave		Atwood, KS
	Atwood, KS	Email:	mark.wolters@surefireag.com
Phone:	(785) 626-0672	Years in the District:	66
Occupation:	Technical Writer and Support Specialist		

**Education:** B.S., secondary math education, Kansas State University, 1978; MS, educational administration, Fort Hays State University, 1998.

**Service to Congregation:** Elder, organist, teacher, choir.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Kansas District Board of Directors, 2018-2022.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Worked for 30 years in K-12 education; member of Atwood Rotary Club; Main St. Foundation Board.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am interested in getting to know people all across Kansas who love the Lord and to work with them in helping the Kansas District serve the congregations of the District.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Helping our schools and educators continue to serve families is very important. Helping smaller congregations in areas of declining population to continue to function effectively is important.

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#### LAY MEMBER AT LARGE

Name:	Kevin Fredrickson	Home Congregation:	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Address:	1381 N 1150 Rd		Lawrence, KS
	Lawrence, KS	Email:	Kevin@EagleTrailerCo.com
Phone:	(785) 691-5400	Years in District:	49
Occupation:	Small business owner		

**Education:** Grace Lutheran School, Fargo, ND; Bethlehem Lutheran School, Ft. Wayne, IN; Bachelor of Science in geology, Kansas State University, 1985.

**Service to Congregation:** Board of Evangelism, four years, Board of Trustees, four years, chairman of the Board of Elders; congregation vice-president.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Delegate to the Kansas District convention; delegate to the 2019 Synod convention.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I am a small business owner, since 1987.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am a life-long Lutheran active in my local community and have a strong interest in serving.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Encourage congregations to develop, strengthen, and maintain their members' family devotions and remind members of the importance of their children attending our Lutheran schools. Encourage congregations without schools to financially support a Lutheran school in the District.

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Name:	Scott J. Schneider	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	547 N. Birkdale Court		Wichita, KS
	Wichita, KS	Email:	sjschneider@cox.net
Phone:	(316) 303-5379	Years in the District:	8
Occupation:	Attorney		

**Education:** Juris Doctor, Washburn Law School, 2003.

**Service to Congregation:** Board of Stewardship chair & Council member.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** None.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I provide pro bono advice for those interacting with government agencies and engaging legislators. I have been engaged with government relations work for nearly 25 years and continually review the relationship between the church and our

governments and organizations. Remaining free from government entanglements yet responsive to areas of legitimate service is a balance our modern-day church must routinely manage.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** To the extent my experience is helpful I am willing to serve.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Continually strengthening local pastors and local churches to allow them to be in a position to follow where they are led in their communities.

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## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Name:	Richard Carl Hanebutt	Home Congregation:	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Address:	5207 Woodsonia Dr		Olathe, KS
	Shawnee, KS	Email:	hanebutthhi@gmail.com
Phone:	(913) 660-8988	Years in the District:	17
Occupation:	Retired	Years Ordained:	47

**Education:** B.A., Concordia RF; M.S., UWO; Ed. Spec., CMSU.

**Service to Congregation:** Teacher/principal for 40 years.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Served as representative at various District and Synod conferences/conventions. Serve on Kansas District boards.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Served on several community boards. Held leadership positions in many school/church/community groups.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I have been involved with church work for 47 years. I have a passion for God's Word to be shared to all, especially through our Lutheran churches and schools.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I believe the District should develop programs to support our churches and schools to better share God's Word to their congregation and communities. With stronger local churches and schools, there will be greater support and opportunities to share God's Word to His mission fields locally, nationally, and throughout the world.

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Name:	Gregg Alan Wolgast	Home Congregation:	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Address:	2752 N Beacon Hill Ct		Wichita, KS
	Wichita, KS	Email:	gwolgast@hcwichita.net
Phone:	(316) 285-4400	Years in the District:	62
Occupation:	Teacher/Athletic Dir.	Years Commissioned:	10

**Education:** B.S. in social studies education, Kansas State; M.S. in athletic administration, Wichita State.

**Service to Congregation:** Elder, Day School Commission, Stewardship Commission, audio visual team, usher.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Presenter at Lutheran Schools Convention.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Youth coach at the YMCA, pack leader for Cub Scouts, Troop Assistant Leader for the Boy Scouts.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am interested in helping to grow and improve the Kansas District in the LCMS.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** To share the Good News to the lost and strengthen the faith of the saved.

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Name:	Susan Kleber	Home Congregation:	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Address:	8711 E. 44th Street N.		Wichita, KS
	Wichita, KS	Email:	skkleber@aol.com
Phone:	(316) 682-1894	Years in District:	27
Occupation:	Educator	Years Commissioned:	47

**Education:** M.S. in education, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; B.S. in education and Lutheran Teachers Diploma, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; K-12 Certification in Spanish, Friends University, Wichita, Kansas; PS-8 Administrative (Building) Certification, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska; K-12 Certification in English as a Second Language, State of Kansas.

**Service to Congregation:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, Kansas; Faith Lutheran Church and School, Derby, Kansas; Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Columbus, Nebraska; Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, Kansas; St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Chaska, Minnesota; St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Battle Creek, Nebraska; Central Lutheran School, member at St. John's Lutheran Church, Newhall, Iowa.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Served as educator on PLC for Kansas District. Have served on planning committees for conferences in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa East Districts, LCMS, and national NLSA conferences, including pastor/teacher conferences, singles events/retreats, and LWML. Also, have helped count votes and proctor at the Kansas District Convention. Recently served on Board of Directors and on appointed committees, Board of Caring Ministry, Board of Missions, Standard Operating Procedures Committee (SOPM), and special task force for District's Retreat Center. Also, assisting as a part-time principal at Faith Lutheran Church and School, Derby, Kansas.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Have worked voting polls, participated in Bi-Centennial activities, sold buttons at the Wichita River Festival and walked in its Walk-a-thon, and held various offices in Thrivent and local activities. Co-founded ILS Extravaganza for school funding. Special gifts include that of coordinating and administrating events, dates, and resources including the talent of helping people work together for a common goal. Teaching is a true talent and gift.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** Leadership in Scripture states that God's qualification for leadership as people who are capable, God-fearing, and haters of dishonest gain (Ex. 18:21). Basing my leadership style on this biblical premise, I strive to serve the various roles God has placed before me in a Servant Leadership model. I have been honored with a "45 Years of Service" recognition to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Focus on the Gospel, buoyed and strengthened by Christ and His love in prayer. Strategize and learn how to plant new churches and ministries; re-energizing and/or continue to let go of what is waning. Teach budgets, fiscally, and in faith. Help and support various congregations in learning to work toward goals in sharing resources, recognizing and celebrating the various strengths and needs of both large and small congregations.

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Name:	Benjamin Venteicher	Home Congregation:	Messiah Lutheran Church
Address:	510 W 32nd St		Hays, KS
	Hays, KS	Email:	BenVDCE@gmail.com
Phone:	(402) 984-3937	Years in the District:	4
Occupation:	Director of Christian Education	Years Commissioned:	15

**Education:** Concordia University of Nebraska graduate, Bachelor of Education & DCE certification, Lutheran Teacher Diploma; two associate's degrees in management and electro/mechanical technologies from Community College of the Air Force.

**Service to Congregation:** I have served in four different congregations as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) in Green Bay, WI (Pilgrim Lutheran), Cedar Rapids, IA (Bethany Lutheran), Hiawatha, IA (Zion Lutheran), and Hays, KS (Messiah Lutheran). Ministry areas have included Children, Youth, Family, Young Adult, Adult, and Small Groups.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** I have served as the Professional Educators Coordinator for the Iowa District East Professional Worker meetings for numerous years. I also served on the Board of Directors for Iowa District East for 4 years. I was a commissioned worker delegate to the national convention. I have served on numerous planning committees for various youth ministry events. Currently, I've been serving as the chairperson for the new Kansas District Middle School Huddle and sit on the Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee. I've been a coordinator/planner for the annual Circuit 15/16 Confirmation Retreat. I am also the coordinator for the DCE Wichita Cluster meetings and hosted the last Kansas District DCE Retreat in Herington.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served over 25 years in the US Air Force and Air National Guard and currently am a First Sergeant for the 155th Maintenance Group. I love serving in the community and encouraging that with the youth in my congregation. I organize multiple youth community service projects each year, including helping Dream Camp (support kids in homes w/drug or alcohol issues), Leaf Raking Marathon, Bethesda Place, and helping older congregational members with home upkeep. In the past, I have led youth/adults to serve in New Orleans and Joplin after major disasters, and I'm currently a Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) member.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I've served at multiple levels of leadership and planning for various district/circuit activities, events, and committees. Having served on the Board of Directors in Iowa District East, I have seen what goes on at that level of District support, leadership, and planning. I love being an advocate for the work of educators and commissioned workers (DCEs, teachers, etc.). I have a lot of leadership and life experience thru the church and military. I can bring those skills in to support the work of God's kingdom here in the Kansas District and to the Missouri Synod.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** We need to continue the work that is before us, to seek the lost and strengthen the saved. Our current climate in the nation brings with it many new and interesting challenges, but with a level head and healthy conversations, our Kansas District churches can navigate those challenges. 1) Promote/support mental health for workers and members, 2) Help congregations see the value they bring to a confused/broken world, 3) Connecting to Gen Z, 4) Technology gaps, and 5) Support parents as they try to understand God's Word from a Lutheran perspective and to teach it to their kids.

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## DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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### CLERGY

Name:	Sean Kilgo	Home Congregation:	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Address:	3917 Harvard Rd		Lawrence, KS
	Lawrence, KS	Email:	kilgosr@gmail.com
Phone:	(505) 553-4829	Years in the District:	5
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	5

*Education:* M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

*Service to Congregation:* Pastor, 2016-Present.

*Service to Circuit, District and Synod:* Kansas District LWML Zone 1 counselor, 2016-2021; Kansas District Pastors Conference Planning Committee, 2017-2019.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Neighbor-2-Neighbor: Community Renewal Program - 2016-21.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am interested in serving the District in whatever capacity the Lord and the voters of the District deem fit and will do so to the best of my ability.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I believe that the most important priorities are the emphasizing and supporting of the overall study of the scriptures, learning and discussing the faith in the home, and putting our faith into action within our communities, and finding joy in all our work as the Lord's Christians.

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Name:	Jonathan Scheck	Home Congregation:	St. Paul/Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	522 5th Street		Oswego, KS/Parsons, KS
	Oswego, KS	Email:	jonathanascheck@gmail.com
Phone:	(240) 475-5207	Years in District:	5
Occupation:	Pastor		

*Education:* Master of Divinity.

*Service to Congregation:* St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oswego and Trinity Lutheran Church in Parsons.

*Service to Circuit, District and Synod:* Pastor.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** None.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I learned my name was put out as an option and am happy to participate and learn what it means to be on the Nominating Committee.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Caring for church workers as the District has been focusing on and helping churches teach their congregation members how to support one another both in general and during difficult times.



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Name:	Michael Hageman	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	502 N 10th Street		Garden City, KS
	Garden City, KS	Email:	hagmission@att.net
Phone:	(620) 521-9991	Years in the District:	4
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	18

**Education:** Concordia University, Nebraska, 2000; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 2004.

**Service to Congregation:** Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cleveland, OH, 2004 – 2009; Trinity Lutheran Church and School (senior), Rockledge, FL, 2009 – 2018; Trinity Lutheran Church (senior), Garden City, KS, 2018 – Present; Immanuel Lutheran Church (senior), Lakin, KS, 2021 – Present; Grace Lutheran Church (senior), Ulysses, KS, 2021 – Present.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Board member, Lutheran Memorial School, Cleveland, Ohio, 2005-2009; Committee for Ballots and Elections, Ohio District, 2006; Fan into Flame circuit coordinator, Ohio District, 2009; LWML zone counselor, East Cleveland Zone, 2006-2009; LWML zone counselor, Southwest Zone 2018 – Present; Kansas District Early Response Committee, 2018 – Present.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** YMCA basketball coach, Cocoa, FL, 2014-2019; girls U12 softball coach, Rockledge, FL, 2012-2016; instruction of theological courses in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, 2006 – 2021; Board of YMCA, Garden City, KS, 2019 – Present.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Our loving Lord Jesus builds His Church with the proclamation of the Gospel and delivery of the Sacraments. It is God who creates, builds, and sanctifies His Church through these gifts to His Bride. In faith, we, the bride of Christ, in the state of Kansas, joyfully confess Him in word and deed amongst our families and those connected to them. It is with this confession and zeal that I would be honored to guide my brothers and sisters in Western Kansas in order to further the mission God has given to our District.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** As our doctrine and practice remain to be built on Christ, God's call to make disciples is of utmost importance. Having served in diverse settings, making disciples has been my coercion. The next three years will likely experience a shift in how mission is carried out. The District's guidance will be vital as we form stronger partnerships amongst congregations and focus on new ministries in our communities. The challenges of church workers, finances, education, youth, and others will challenge us to carry out His call, and yet to the Glory of God there is no better service to be doing.

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Name:	Daniel E. Harders	Home Congregation:	St. Peter Lutheran/Zion Lutheran
Address:	301 S County Road		Holyrood/Claflin, KS
	Holyrood, KS	Email:	deharders@hotmail.com
Phone:	(712) 330-2113	Years in the District:	10
Occupation:	Pastor	Years Ordained:	10

**Education:** M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, 2011.

**Service to Congregation:** Pastor.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Church Workers Conference Planning Committee.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Helped facilitate summer meal program for students in Holyrood.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I desire to help serve in any position that is needed.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** I believe that the District needs to continue to help all pastors to help proclaim the word and administer the sacraments.

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#### COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Name:	Betty A. Amey	Home Congregation:	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Address:	4170 N Parkwood Ln Bel Aire, KS		Wichita, KS
Phone:	(316) 737-2973	Email:	bamey@sbcglobal.net
Occupation:	Teacher	Years in the District:	75
		Years Commissioned:	35

**Education:** Master of Science Ed, Wichita State University, 1971; B.S. from Concordia Teachers College 1968; A.A., St. John's College, 1966.

**Service to Congregation:** Holy Cross Lutheran School teacher for 17 years, interim principal five years, youth leader four years, President of LWML five years, Sunday school teacher 40 years, member of various committees, choir member, education commissioner, substitute teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran School.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Currently Kansas District LWML Vice President for Caring Service and member of the Kansas District Committee for Older Adults; formerly a member of the Professional Development Committee and four years president of our zone LWML.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Formerly I served as president of the Kansas Associate of Teacher of Science and editor of their newsletter. Presently I serve on the BOD for the Saint John's College Alumni Association and the Orphan Grain Train Wichita Branch.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position:** I have been privileged to serve our Lord and Savior within the Kansas District for many years. Growing up in a small rural congregation and serving in a larger urban congregation gives me a unique perspective. The mission of our local congregation, district, and synod are important to me.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** We need to continue to support and encourage our pastors, DCEs, and teachers in their ministry and to encourage them to use and train lay leaders. COVID has reduced attendance and energy in our congregations. We need a fresh start for our Bible classes, Sunday Schools, and worship services.

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Name:	Benjamin Venteicher	Home Congregation:	Messiah Lutheran Church
Address:	510 W 32nd St Hays, KS		Hays, KS
Phone:	(402) 984-3937	Email:	BenVDCE@gmail.com
Occupation:	Director of Christian Education	Years in the District:	4
		Years Commissioned:	15

**Education:** Concordia University of Nebraska graduate, Bachelor of Education & DCE certification, Lutheran Teacher Diploma; two associate's degrees in management and electro/mechanical technologies from Community College of the Air Force.

**Service to Congregation:** I have served in four different congregations as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) in Green Bay, WI (Pilgrim Lutheran), Cedar Rapids, IA (Bethany Lutheran), Hiawatha, IA (Zion Lutheran), and Hays, KS (Messiah Lutheran). Ministry areas have included Children, Youth, Family, Young Adult, Adult, and Small Groups.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** I have served as the Professional Educators Coordinator for the Iowa District East Professional Worker meetings for numerous years. I also served on the Board of Directors for Iowa District East for 4 years. I was a commissioned worker delegate to the national convention. I have served on numerous planning committees for various youth ministry events. Currently, I've been serving as the chairperson for the new Kansas District Middle School Huddle and sit on the Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee. I've been a coordinator/planner for the annual Circuit 15/16 Confirmation Retreat. I am also the coordinator for the DCE Wichita Cluster meetings and hosted the last Kansas District DCE Retreat in Herington.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served over 25 years in the US Air Force and Air National Guard and currently am a First Sergeant for the 155th Maintenance Group. I love serving in the community and encouraging that with the youth in my congregation. I organize multiple youth community service projects each year, including helping Dream Camp (support kids in homes w/drug or alcohol issues), Leaf Raking Marathon, Bethesda Place, and helping older congregational members with home upkeep. In the past, I have led youth/adults to serve in New Orleans and Joplin after major disasters, and I'm currently a Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) member.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I've served at multiple levels of leadership and planning for various district/circuit activities, events, and committees. Having served on the Board of Directors in Iowa District East, I have seen what goes on at that level of District support, leadership, and planning. I love being an advocate for the work of educators and commissioned workers (DCEs, teachers, etc.). I have a lot of leadership and life experience thru the church and military. I can bring those skills in to support the work of God's kingdom here in the Kansas District and to the Missouri Synod.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** We need to continue the work that is before us, to seek the lost and strengthen the saved. Our current climate in the nation brings with it many new and interesting challenges, but with a level head and healthy conversations, our Kansas District churches can navigate those challenges. 1) Promote/support mental health for workers and members, 2) Help congregations see the value they bring to a confused/broken world, 3) Connecting to Gen Z, 4) Technology gaps, and 5) Support parents as they try to understand God's Word from a Lutheran perspective and to teach it to their kids.

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Name:	Cynthia J. Lavrenz	Home Congregation:	Trinity Lutheran Church
Address:	2313 C Street		Garden City, KS
	Garden City, KS	Email:	dcecynthia@tlcgck.kscoxmail.com
Phone:	(620) 271-8260	Years in District:	24
Occupation:	Director of Christian Education	Years Commissioned:	23

**Education:** DCE ministry with emphasis on family life ministry.

**Service to Congregation:** I serve as a DCE, also working with family ministry. I teach and supervise Stephen Ministers.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** I have served on our District Family Committee; I participated and later was a leader in the Family Life Academy; I participate in the District convention, attend DCE events, attend yearly educator conferences, and have participated in the bi-annual circuit mission events.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I have served on the board of Family Crisis for Finney County, an officer on our local ministerial alliance, served on a local medical committee to provide approval on our special needs individuals for medicine and medical needs, Kansas Guardian for adults needing legal and life decisions and report to the courts annually. I am also a trained chaplain and serve our hospital.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I feel a calling to be a participant in preparations for our Kansas District conventions. It's an opportunity to serve alongside other church workers and pastors.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Focusing on the Word and providing skills and scriptural support in congregations for outreach. Encourage pastors and congregations to explore possibilities of adding music ministers to enhance the beauty of LSB, which encourages growth in the congregation.

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#### REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS

Name:	Kevin Fredrickson	Home Congregation:	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Address:	1381 N 1150 Rd		Lawrence, KS
	Lawrence, KS	Email:	Kevin@EagleTrailerCo.com
Phone:	(785) 691-5400	Years in District:	49
Occupation:	Small business owner		

**Education:** Grace Lutheran School, Fargo, ND; Bethlehem Lutheran School, Ft. Wayne, IN; Bachelor of Science in geology, Kansas State University, 1985.

**Service to Congregation:** Board of Evangelism, four years, Board of Trustees, four years, chairman of the Board of Elders; congregation vice-president.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** Delegate to the Kansas District convention; delegate to the 2019 Synod convention.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I am a small business owner, since 1987.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am a life-long Lutheran active in my local community and have a strong interest in serving.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Encourage congregations to develop, strengthen, and maintain their members' family devotions and remind members of the importance of their children attending our Lutheran schools. Encourage congregations without schools to financially support a Lutheran school in the District.

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Name:	Phillip Friedrichs	Home Congregation:	Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Address:	449 Arrowhead Rd Bremen, KS	Email:	Wichita, KS 012012philfriedrichs@gmail.com
Phone:	(785) 629-0018	Years in the District:	69
Occupation:	Enumerator for NASDA		

**Education:** Bethlehem Lutheran School, grade school; Marysville High School; B.S., Kansas State University.

**Service to Congregation:** Board of elders; church secretary; board of elders; school board; president and secretary of school board; president, secretary, and treasurer of LLL.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** None.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Township board; supervisor at NASDA.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I recently spent two weeks in ICU with pneumonia from Covid, not sure if I was going to survive. Three weeks ago my 38 year old son-in-law passed away leaving my daughter and two small children. It's at times like this this when your only comfort is to cling to the Word of God, in particular remembering that you are a baptized Child of God, His Triune Name is on you.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Understanding that Word and Sacrament faithfully preached and administered in accordance to Scripture is what our business is. We need to continue to encourage faithful young men to enter into the ministerial office, pray for them, and find ways to support them financially. Support and encourage faithful pastors and faithful congregations. We also need to not be fearful about giving a faithful Lutheran confession in public.

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Name:	Kenneth Wabel	Home Congregation:	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Address:	12621 E Killarney Ct Wichita, KS	Email:	Wichita, KS ken.wabel@gmail.com
Phone:	(363) 795-2317	Years in the District:	9
Occupation:	Investment Research Director		

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, University of Kansas; MBA, Saint Louis University.

**Service to Congregation:** Chairman of Stewardship Committee; former elder; usher teams.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** N/A

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** Board of Directors, Concordia Academy Wichita; former director, Lead-a-Child.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** Always willing to serve my local congregation and the extended family of God wherever the Lord has placed me.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Ensuring that the District (and the Synod) stays resolute in its commitment to the historical teachings and confessions of the Lutheran Church, and not fall prey to the temptation to dilute the liturgy or doctrine for the sake of growth.

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Name:	Brad Persinger	Home Congregation:	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Address:	828 Timbercreek Rd		Norton, KS
	Norton, KS	Email:	bradleypersinger@gmail.com
Phone:	(913) 267-1800	Years in the District:	3
Occupation:	Instrumental Music Teacher		

**Education:** Bachelor of Music Education, Kansas State University, 1989; Master of Music Education, University of Northern Colorado, 1992; Doctor of Arts, University of Northern Colorado, 2001.

**Service to Congregation:** Church elder.

**Service to Circuit, District and Synod:** I was a representative to the District convention on several occasions for my church when I lived in Montana; I have also represented Montana at the Synod convention in Houston in 2007 and in St. Louis in 2013.

**Community service, special gifts and related experience:** I am active in my home church of Immanuel Lutheran. I serve as an elder and play my trumpet frequently for church services.

**Briefly describe your interest in serving in this position.** I am happy to serve the LCMS Kansas District in any capacity that they ask me to.

**What mission and ministry priorities do you think are most important for the District to pursue in the coming triennium?** Reaching out to the unchurched in our communities, particularly to younger people. Keep the proclamation of the Gospel in our rural communities, where church memberships are declining and whose congregations are made up largely of older adults who are retired and on a fixed income.



## 74<sup>th</sup> Convention of the LCMS Kansas District

June 9-10, 2022

### 2022 LCMS Kansas District Convention Floor Committee members (March 2022)

#### Proclaim

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Joshua Hayes
Ordained	Rev. Richard Lally
Commissioned	Amy Schultz
Commissioned	Joyce Duitsman
Lay	James Bauck
Lay	Tom Maurer
BOD	Dave Bruns
Staff	Rev. Dan Galchutt

#### Share

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Phil Hoppe
Ordained	Rev. Michael Hageman
Commissioned	Heather Croucher
Commissioned	Rebecca Hillman
Lay	Steve Mariano
Lay	Adam Goodpasture
BOD	Dan Thalmann
Staff	Jeff Maltz

#### Credentials

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. John Werner
Commissioned	Harmon Butler
Lay	Bret Hauser

#### Teach

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Kevin Peterson
Ordained	Rev. Timothy Roth
Commissioned	Sue Kleber
Commissioned	Amanda Adams
Lay	Tyler Gier
Lay	Randy Noll
BOD	Curt Engelbrecht
Staff	Jim Bradshaw

#### Elections

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Joshua Woelmer
Commissioned	Kathy Bartels
Lay	LaMont Shirk

#### Excuse

Ordained (Chair)	Rev. Sean Kilgo
Commissioned	Cynthia Lavrenz
Lay	Stan Koster



## 2022 Kansas District Convention

June 9-10 | Hotel Topeka at City Center

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### OVERTURES

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#### Explanation of Overtures

##### Committee #1 – PROCLAIM

- 22-01-01 To Prioritize Living as the Baptized as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2022-2025 Triennium – Board of Directors, BOM
- 22-01-02 To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Seek Opportunities to Collaborate and Partner to Enhance Mission and Ministry in the Kansas District – Board of Directors, BOM
- 22-01-03 To Support LCMS Mission Work in Francophone West and Central Africa – Board of Directors, BOM
- 22-01-04 To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel (Modified from Mid-South District RESOLUTION 03-04A-21) – Board of Directors, BOCM
- 22-01-05 Doctrinal Review Process for District – Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Basehor
- 22-01-06 To Encourage LCMS Kansans to Vote “Yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment – District Pastors Business Meeting
- 22-01-07 To Encourage LCMS Kansans to Vote “Yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment – Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita
- 22-01-08 Anti-Racism Resolution – Circuit 15 Forum

##### Committee #2 – TEACH

- 22-02-01 To Approve Revisions to the Kansas District Bylaws – Board of Directors
- 22-02-02 To Encourage Daily Family Prayer and Use of District Resources Provided by the Kansas District Adult Education Committee – Board of Directors, BOEY
- 22-02-03 To Exhort the Congregations of the LCMS to Actively Encourage Future Lutheran School Teachers – Board of Directors, BOEY
- 22-02-04 To Commend and Give Thanks for our Lutheran Early Childhood Centers and Elementary Schools – Board of Directors, BOEY
- 22-02-05 To Recruit and Equip Lutheran Administrators for Service in Early Childhood Centers and Schools – Board of Directors, BOEY
- 22-02-06 To Develop Biblically Faithful Textbooks/Curricula for our Day Schools, High Schools, and Home Schools (Modified from Wyoming District RESOLUTION 1-03-2021) – Board of Directors, BOEY
- 22-02-07 To Recommend and Implement a Rigorous Program of Study (Continuing Education) in Circuit Winkels – Circuit 6 Forum

##### Committee #3 – SHARE

- 22-03-01 To Support Church Workers – Board of Directors, BOCM
- 22-03-02 To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service – Board of Directors, BOCM
- 22-03-03 To Thank God for the LCMS Foundation and Encourage LCMS Congregations to Educate People about Planned Giving Opportunities – BOS
- 22-03-04 To Encourage the Implementation of the Church Worker Care Manual in LCMS Kansas District Congregations – Circuit 16 Forum
- 22-03-05 To Encourage the Implementation of the Church Worker Care Manual in LCMS Kansas District Congregations – St. John’s Lutheran Church, Topeka
- 22-03-06 To Encourage Communication Regarding Relocating Members – District Pastors Business Meeting



22-03-07 To Decrease the Term Limit of the Office of District President from 4 Terms (12 years) to 3 Terms (9 years) – Circuit 15 Forum

### **Explanation of Overtures**

Congregations, official conferences (Circuit Forums, Pastors and Educators Conferences), and the Board of Directors of the Kansas District may submit overtures to the Convention. Overtures are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of the Convention. These overtures are then assigned to the appointed Floor Committees. The Floor Committees will hold hearings before and sometimes during the Convention. Resolutions for consideration by the Convention shall be brought to the floor of the Convention by Floor Committees.

**To Prioritize Living as the Baptized as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2022-2025 Triennium**

1       **WHEREAS**, Holy Baptism is a treasured gift through which God claims us as His own, forgives  
2 our sins, and grants us life and salvation (Rom. 6:3-11; 1 Peter 3:21); and

3  
4       **WHEREAS**, We, as baptized children of God, are members of the royal priesthood, living stones  
5 “rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious ... being built up as a spiritual house, to be  
6 a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4-5); and

7  
8       **WHEREAS**, Our citizenship as the baptized is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), and as such, we are called  
9 to live according to the Word, not the world; and

10  
11       **WHEREAS**, Living according to our baptismal identity is becoming more challenging, as norms  
12 and values of our post-Christian culture, many of which are rooted in ideas antithetical to God’s Word,  
13 exert ever stronger pressure on Christians to think, act, and believe in ways contrary to their God-given  
14 identity in Christ; and

15  
16       **WHEREAS**, Church membership in the U.S. has continued to decline while the percentage of  
17 those claiming no religious affiliation (“nones”) has increased (Gallup Poll, March 2021), pointing to a  
18 general weakening of Christian identity; and

19  
20       **WHEREAS**, Lutherans confirmed in the faith acknowledge in the Rite of Confirmation their  
21 intention “to remain steadfast in this confession and church, and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall  
22 away from it,” yet a recent study of millennials and the church (LCMS, 2017) found that The Lutheran  
23 Church—Missouri Synod is retaining only 33% of its young people into adulthood, reflecting general  
24 societal trends; and

25  
26       **WHEREAS**, Lack of a strong baptismal identity, especially in the context of an increasingly  
27 secular culture, is a serious obstacle in our calling to proclaim, teach, and share the Gospel, leaving the  
28 baptized ill-equipped to engage in mission and ministry activities; therefore be it

29  
30       **Resolved**, That the District and its members prioritize strengthening baptismal identity in the  
31 coming triennium, equipping and encouraging the baptized to stand firm in the faith and resist being  
32 conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2) and to move forward boldly as the baptized people of God to expand  
33 the Kingdom; and be it further

34  
35       **Resolved**, That the District promote the use of resources designed to strengthen habits central to  
36 a strong sense of baptismal identity, including faithful worship, reception of the Lord’s Supper, prayer,  
37 Bible Study, home devotions, mutual upbuilding, and living out one’s vocation; and be it further

38  
39       **Resolved**, That congregations be encouraged to equip the saints in their midst to boldly  
40 “proclaim, teach, and share” by providing training and opportunities in evangelism, apologetics, and  
41 lifelong discipleship, with the help of Synod and District resources (e.g., *Every One His Witness*;  
42 “Shepherding the Strays” *re: Vitality* module; *Mission Field: USA*); and be it finally

43  
44       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District Board of Directors submit an overture to the 2023 LCMS  
45 national convention recommending adoption of a mission and ministry emphasis consistent with helping  
46 Lutheran Christians hold fast to their baptismal identity, as is the case with the Synod’s current emphasis  
47 of *Making Disciples for Life* (2019 LCMS Res. 4-03).

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOM*

**To Encourage Kansas District Congregations to Seek Opportunities to Collaborate and Partner to Enhance Mission and Ministry in the Kansas District**

1       **WHEREAS**, We are baptized children of God, united in Christ and called to work together as one  
2 body in mission and ministry (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:16); and  
3

4       **WHEREAS**, God calls us to work together for the good of the Church and of our neighbor (Heb.  
5 10:24-25; Ecc. 4:9; 2 Cor. 8:1-7); and  
6

7       **WHEREAS**, Scripture provides many examples of the faithful working together (Mark 6:7; Eph.  
8 4:11-13; Acts 6:1-7; Phil 4:14-20); and  
9

10       **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is itself a large partnership, made up  
11 of congregations “walking together” for the sake of the Gospel, united by a common confession; and  
12

13       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has experienced declines in recent years in baptisms, confirmations,  
14 communicant membership, attendance, and offerings, pointing to a need to rethink mission and ministry  
15 in many locations, including Kansas; and  
16

17       **WHEREAS**, The number of church work graduates in the years ahead is not projected to keep  
18 pace with the number of retirements; and  
19

20       **WHEREAS**, Collaboration opportunities among like-minded Christians will become more critical  
21 in the years ahead as the U.S. population becomes increasingly secular; and  
22

23       **WHEREAS**, Resources from The Partnership Project, launched in 2020 to assist congregations  
24 that are thinking about, planning, or implementing partnerships, has proven useful in the Kansas District  
25 and beyond, helping to facilitate a variety of partnership discussions; and  
26

27       **WHEREAS**, Kansas congregations and circuits are developing creative ideas about how to work  
28 together (e.g., the T.I.G. Ministry partnership in western Kansas; Circuit 6’s “Maintain the Ministry, Grow  
29 the Mission” collaboration); therefore be it  
30

31       **Resolved**, That LCMS Kansas congregations, schools, and circuits be encouraged to consider  
32 ways in which they can be “better together” for the sake of advancing the Gospel in their location; and be  
33 it further  
34

35       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District identify, refine, and develop resources as needed to support  
36 The Partnership Project and encourage use of these resources; and be it finally  
37

38       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District missions executive support congregations, schools, and  
39 circuits with partnership exploration through presentations, consulting, and circuit visitor training.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOM*

**To Support LCMS Mission Work in Francophone West and Central Africa**

1       **WHEREAS**, God has commanded His people to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations”  
2 (Matt. 28); and

3  
4       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District has supported international mission work in French-  
5 speaking Africa since 1997, focusing initially on the country of Guinea, where funds have been sent  
6 annually to support missionary work, church planting, mercy care, and other needs; and

7  
8       **WHEREAS**, God has blessed the work in Guinea in myriad ways, establishing a foundation for  
9 future Gospel outreach through dedicated missionaries and indigenous workers; and

10  
11       **WHEREAS**, In 2016, the District transitioned to “Phase 2” of its mission strategy in West Africa in  
12 response to a growing need for theological education in the region, providing support for the Lutheran  
13 Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo, primarily through tuition funding for Guinean  
14 students; and

15  
16       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Office of International Mission recently helped establish two new local  
17 CLET seminaries in Guinea and the Congo, responding to a need for well-trained indigenous Lutheran  
18 evangelists, pastors, and professors in this Muslim-majority region; and

19  
20       **WHEREAS**, LCMS personnel have relocated to the Congo (Central Africa) in response to  
21 personnel changes, threats of violence, and emerging opportunities but plan to continue serving French-  
22 speaking countries to the north, including Guinea; and

23  
24       **WHEREAS**, LCMS mission outreach in West and Central Africa includes important human care  
25 efforts through which the love of Christ is shared, including Mercy Medical Teams and Community Health  
26 Education; therefore be it

27  
28       **Resolved**, That we give thanks to God for the LCMS missionaries now serving West and Central  
29 Africa as well as the seminary students and indigenous church workers, with prayers that God would  
30 guard their well-being and bless their work in advancing the Gospel in this region; and be it further

31  
32       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District continue to support theological education and other mission  
33 outreach in West and Central Africa, including Guinea, through the Pentecost Offering and regular  
34 contributions to missionaries and related projects; and be it further

35  
36       **Resolved**, That the Assistant to the District President for Missions and Stewardship, working with  
37 the LCMS Office of International Mission, identify ways to strengthen our collaboration in the region, and  
38 be it finally

39  
40       **Resolved**, That convention delegates and guests rise and sing the common doxology in thanks  
41 and praise to God for His many blessings in the areas of evangelism, church planting, seminary training,  
42 mercy work, and missionary care as we mark 25 years of partnership with the Synod in Francophone  
43 West and Central Africa.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOM*

**To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel  
(Modified from Mid-South District RESOLUTION 03-04A-21)**

1       **WHEREAS**, God has created one human race, and they are blood-related going back to our mutual  
2 fathers, Adam and Noah, and all are subject to the stain of original sin, but now also have been equally  
3 redeemed by the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God and to each other; and  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, God's Word says, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall  
6 love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and  
7 are convicted by the law as transgressors" (James 2:8, 9); and  
8

9       **WHEREAS**, Racism (the sinful notion that some races are inherently superior to others),  
10 misunderstanding, and strife are present in the world and experienced in congregations due to our sin; and  
11

12       **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) abhors racism, and in convention has  
13 passed resolutions repudiating all racism (see 1992 Res. 3-03 and 2019 Res. 11-04A); and  
14

15       **WHEREAS**, Nihilism and other similar theories including Critical Race Theory (CRT), have become  
16 common, multifaceted, and controversial theories for discussion of contemporary race relations;  
17

18       **WHEREAS**, The Eighth Commandment forbids us to speak falsely of our neighbor; therefore be it  
19

20       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District professes the teaching of the Eighth Commandment that  
21 we defend and speak well of our neighbors and explain everything in the kindest way. We reject any doctrine  
22 that teaches:

- 23       • One's race, ancestry, or nationality are inherently superior to the race, ancestry, or nationality of  
24 another.
- 25       • Any individual is inherently racist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, because  
26 of his or her race, ancestry, or nationality; and be it further  
27

28       **Resolved**, That the circuits of the Kansas District of the LCMS develop an objective mission and  
29 ministry action plan for outreach to diverse communities among us; and be it further  
30

31       **Resolved**, That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to conduct  
32 conversations on race and diversity, to strengthen unity within the congregation; and be it further  
33

34       **Resolved**, That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to engage members  
35 of their communities in these conversations, in light of Christ's Gospel; and be it further  
36

37       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention commend those within the District who  
38 intentionally proclaim and work to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus to those who are different from  
39 themselves in the light of the Great Commission; and be it further  
40

41       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District in convention reject the world view of CRT, as it is contrary to  
42 Scripture and counterproductive to true racial conversation and reconciliation, for it pursues equality of  
43 outcome ("equity") between racial groups, which requires treating individuals unequally based on race, and  
44 also reject all organizations, movements, petitions, and theological language that support that world view  
45 in a positive manner; and be it finally

46           **Resolved**, That the Kansas District memorialize the Synod as it gathers at its 2023 convention to do  
47   similarly.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOCM*

**Doctrinal Review Process for District**

1 *Rationale: Our publishing house (CPH) has a doctrinal review process and our Synod has a board*  
2 *(CTCR) for Synodwide items. This motion pertains to what is taking place in our local churches in use of*  
3 *materials from various non-Lutheran sources and/or creating their own resources. It would establish a*  
4 *formal process for review in our District. Perhaps a process for review of materials is at the monthly circuit*  
5 *gathering of pastors, or perhaps the region vice-presidents approve materials, or perhaps the District has*  
6 *a board to review materials submitted, such as there is a District Constitution Review Board that must*  
7 *approve changes to each congregation's constitution.*

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, Every pastor and congregation has agreed in our governing documents that  
10 "Condition of Membership" in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Synod Constitution, Article IV, 4.)  
11 states: Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, There is widespread use of these materials created by individual pastors and  
14 congregations without any doctrinal review by the District or region, that may contain error; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, There is widespread use of these materials in our congregations from heterodox  
17 publishing houses and heterodox music companies that have no doctrinal review by the District or region,  
18 that may contain error; therefore be it  
19

20 **Resolved**, That the Kansas District President establish a process in which doctrinal review can  
21 take place of these materials; and be it finally  
22

23 **Resolved**, That the Kansas District memorialize the Synod in convention to establish a consistent  
24 process in our Synod, established by the Council of Presidents, to address doctrinal review of these  
25 materials produced or used in the congregations.

*Submitted by Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Basehor*

**To Encourage LCMS Kansans to Vote “Yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment**

**WHEREAS**, The Holy Scriptures clearly teach that human beings are created in the image of God, formed and knit together by God Himself in the womb, and therefore prohibit every sort of murder, including abortion (Gen. 1:26-27, 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:16; Is. 49:1, 5; Matt. 5:21-22; Luke 1:41, 44; James 3:9-10); and

**WHEREAS**, The Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” along with the Small Catechism’s explanation “not to hurt nor harm our neighbor, but help and support him in every physical need” celebrate God’s gift of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Christians are called “to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Prov. 31:8-9); and

**WHEREAS**, We are to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) on issues that God’s Word has clearly spoken on in the Holy Scriptures, while being careful to “put not our trust in princes” (Ps. 146:3), meaning that we, as a Church, speak to Biblical issues without aligning ourselves to certain parties or candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, On April 26, 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court effectively ruled in the case *Hodes & Nauser vs. Schmidt* that abortion is a “right guaranteed in the Kansas constitution,” thereby removing the legal foundation for all existing laws that permit basic regulations on abortion; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of the Kansas Supreme Court’s April 26, 2019, ruling, and subsequent lower court ruling, April 7, 2021, existing bans on late-term and taxpayer-funded abortion are now in danger of being rendered unenforceable. Furthermore, the ruling already allows violent live dismemberment abortions to continue and threatens these lifesaving limits in the future:

- parental consent for minors seeking abortion
- informed consent, alerting women to potential health risks
- a 24-hour waiting period,
- and abortion clinic sanitation and safety standards; and

**WHEREAS**, In January 2021, the Kansas Legislature passed the “Value Them Both Amendment” by supermajorities, placing it on the August 2, 2022 general ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, The “Value Them Both Amendment” would amend the Bill of Rights in the Kansas Constitution to add a new section that reads as follows:

**§ 22. Regulation of abortion.** Because Kansans value both women and children, the constitution of the state of Kansas does not require government funding of abortion and does not create or secure a right to abortion. To the extent permitted by the constitution of the United States, the people, through their elected state representatives and state senators, may pass laws regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, laws that account for circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, or circumstances of necessity to save the life of the mother.”; and

**WHEREAS**, The following statement shall be printed on the August 2, 2022 ballot with the amendment as a whole:

*“Explanatory statement.* The Value Them Both Amendment would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion because there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion or to require the government funding of abortion.

*“A vote for the Value Them Both Amendment would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion because*



53 there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion or to require the government funding of  
54 abortion.

55 "A vote **against** the Value Them Both Amendment would make no changes to the  
56 constitution of the state of Kansas and could prevent the people, through their elected state  
57 legislators, from regulating abortion in many circumstances. It would leave in place the newly  
58 discovered right to abortion first recognized in 2019."; therefore be it

59  
60 **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention encourage all Christians earnestly to  
61 pray for elected and appointed officials, that they may carry out their duties faithfully in a manner  
62 consistent with God's Word and His will, for the general welfare and benefit of all citizens (1 Tim. 2:1-2);  
63 and be it further

64  
65 **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention call upon all Christians to be loyal  
66 citizens, adhering to the laws of government, insofar as such laws of said governments do not contradict  
67 or contravene the eternal and everlasting truth set forth in God's Word (Acts 5:29); and be it further

68  
69 **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention reject the *Hodes & Nauser vs. Schmidt*  
70 decision as antithetical to the sanctity of life and encourage members of LCMS congregations to seek  
71 ways to embrace life and witness faithfully to the confession they hold; and be it further

72  
73 **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to use the resources  
74 provided by the "Value Them Both" coalition at the website: <https://valuethemboth.com/take-action/>; and  
75 be it further

76  
77 **Resolved**, That LCMS Kansas District congregations observe a month of prayer for life during  
78 the five Sundays of July 2022 before the August 2, 2022 vote with specific petitions provided to Kansas  
79 District congregations by the District President in a timely manner following the June 2022 Kansas District  
80 Convention; and be it finally

81  
82 **Resolved**, That LCMS Kansans be encouraged to vote "Yes," according to individual conscience,  
83 for the "Value Them Both Amendment" on August 2, 2022

*Submitted by the LCMS Kansas District Pastors Business Meeting*

**To Encourage LCMS Kansans to Vote “Yes” for the Value Them Both Amendment**

**WHEREAS**, The Holy Scriptures clearly teach that human beings are created in the image of God, formed and knit together by God Himself in the womb, and therefore prohibit every sort of murder, including abortion (Gen. 1:26-27, 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:16; Is. 49:1, 5; Matt. 5:21-22; Luke 1:41, 44; James 3:9-10); and

**WHEREAS**, The Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” along with the Small Catechism’s explanation “not to hurt nor harm our neighbor, but help and support him in every physical need” celebrate God’s gift of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Christians are called “to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Prov. 31:8-9); and

**WHEREAS**, We are to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) on issues that God’s Word has clearly spoken on in the Holy Scriptures, while being careful to “put not our trust in princes” (Ps. 146:3), meaning that we, as a Church, speak to Biblical issues without aligning ourselves to certain parties or candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, On April 26, 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court effectively ruled in the case *Hodes & Nauser vs. Schmidt* that abortion is a “right guaranteed in the Kansas constitution,” thereby removing the legal foundation for all existing laws that permit basic regulations on abortion; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of the Kansas Supreme Court’s April 26, 2019, ruling, and subsequent lower court ruling, April 7, 2021, existing bans on late-term and taxpayer-funded abortion are now in danger of being rendered unenforceable. Furthermore, the ruling already allows violent live dismemberment abortions to continue and threatens these lifesaving limits in the future:

- parental consent for minors seeking abortion
- informed consent, alerting women to potential health risks
- a 24-hour waiting period,
- and abortion clinic sanitation and safety standards; and

**WHEREAS**, In January 2021, the Kansas Legislature passed the “Value Them Both Amendment” by supermajorities, placing it on the August 2, 2022 general ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, The “Value Them Both Amendment” would amend the Bill of Rights in the Kansas Constitution to add a new section that reads as follows:

**§ 22. Regulation of abortion.** Because Kansans value both women and children, the constitution of the state of Kansas does not require government funding of abortion and does not create or secure a right to abortion. To the extent permitted by the constitution of the United States, the people, through their elected state representatives and state senators, may pass laws regarding abortion, including, but not limited to, laws that account for circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, or circumstances of necessity to save the life of the mother.”; and

**WHEREAS**, The following statement shall be printed on the August 2, 2022 ballot with the amendment as a whole:

*“Explanatory statement.* The Value Them Both Amendment would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion because there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion or to require the government funding of abortion.

*“A vote for the Value Them Both Amendment would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion because*

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54 abortion.

55 "A vote **against** the Value Them Both Amendment would make no changes to the  
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57 legislators, from regulating abortion in many circumstances. It would leave in place the newly  
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61 pray for elected and appointed officials, that they may carry out their duties faithfully in a manner  
62 consistent with God's Word and His will, for the general welfare and benefit of all citizens (1 Tim. 2:1-2);  
63 and be it further

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66 citizens, adhering to the laws of government, insofar as such laws of said governments do not contradict  
67 or contravene the eternal and everlasting truth set forth in God's Word (Acts 5:29); and be it further

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70 decision as antithetical to the sanctity of life and encourage members of LCMS congregations to seek  
71 ways to embrace life and witness faithfully to the confession they hold; and be it further

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73 **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to use the resources  
74 provided by the "Value Them Both" coalition at the website: <https://valuethemboth.com/take-action/>; and  
75 be it further

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77 **Resolved**, That LCMS Kansas District congregations observe a month of prayer for life during  
78 the five Sundays of July 2022 before the August 2, 2022 vote with specific petitions provided to Kansas  
79 District congregations by the District President in a timely manner following the June 2022 Kansas District  
80 Convention; and be it finally

81  
82 **Resolved**, That LCMS Kansans be encouraged to vote "Yes," according to individual conscience,  
83 for the "Value Them Both Amendment" on August 2, 2022

*Submitted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita*

**Anti-Racism Resolution**

1       **WHEREAS**, Racism – the sinful notion that some races are inherently superior to others – is  
2 being heralded by some as a both an ordinary and permanent feature of society in the United States  
3 of America (see Prof. Derrick Bell's 1992 book *Faces at the Bottom of the Well – The Permanence of*  
4 *Racism*); and

5  
6       **WHEREAS**, Racism is said by some to be embedded in our legal and free-enterprise  
7 systems, imposing a “rigged” capitalism favoring “whiteness”; and

8  
9       **WHEREAS**, Racism is being taught in colleges, schools (high schools, middle schools and  
10 grade schools), businesses, by political parties and in military training under such names and  
11 concepts as critical race theory, equity of outcome, social justice, restorative justice, systematic or  
12 institutional oppression, cultural intelligence, colonialism, Eurocentrism/Afrocentrism, victimhood vs.  
13 oppressors, reparations, white rage, white privilege, white supremacy, unconscious bias, “wokeism”  
14 and black lives matter; and

15  
16       **WHEREAS**, Racism is implied in a statement like “I am black” or “I am white” and personhood  
17 is best expressed by stating “I am a person who is black” or “I am a person who is white” or “I am a  
18 person of color”; and

19  
20       **WHEREAS**, Racism is anti-Christian; and

21  
22       **WHEREAS**, All teachings and forms of racism are condemned by Scripture, for all mankind is  
23 made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and all nations came from one man (Acts 17:26); and the  
24 Law given to Moses commands that man love his neighbor as himself (Mark 12:31 & James 2:8-9)  
25 but to show partiality is a sin - a form of hate (1 John 2:9), - for the God who created all nations shows  
26 no partiality (Deuteronomy 10:17); and finally, the Lord God desires that the Eternal Gospel be  
27 preached to every nation and tribe and language and people (Revelation 14:6); therefore be it

28  
29       **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of the Kansas District-Missouri Synod be encouraged to  
30 engage the members of their communities in conversation regarding love of neighbor; and be it  
31 further

32  
33       **RESOLVED**, That all forms of racism be condemned by congregations and pastors of the  
34 Kansas District-Missouri Synod; and be it finally

35  
36       **RESOLVED**, That the Kansas District-Missouri Synod submit an overture to the 2023 LCMS  
37 Convention requesting that it does the same.

*Passed by Circuit 15 on Dec. 7, 2021, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Atwood*

**To Approve Revisions to the Kansas District Bylaws**

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# ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

## Charter of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The undersigned, citizens of the State of Kansas, do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a private corporation under the laws of the State of Kansas, and do hereby certify:

### First

(Amended June 8, 1948)

That the name of this corporation shall be The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

### Second

(Amended June 7, 2018)

That the purposes for which this corporation is formed are to propagate the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and to aid congregations in securing and maintaining property for public worship, according to the confessions of the Book of Concord of the year 1580. All provisions of the Kansas District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention.

### Third

(Amended June 18, 1976)

That the places where its business is to be transacted are at any and all places in Kansas.

### Fourth

(Amended June 7, 2018)

The term of existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual.

In the event of dissolution other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the assets of the Kansas District, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

### Fifth

(Amended June 12, 1974)

That the number of Directors of this Corporation shall be not less than three nor more than twenty.

In testimony whereof, we hereunto subscribed our names, this 31st day of January, A.D. 1890.

F. Pennekamp  
C. Vetter

H. C. Senne  
F. Droegemueller

Aug. Mangeldorf  
C. Hafner

## MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Our **mMission** is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church (Mt. 28).

Our **vVision** is to partner with and connect the workers, congregations and schools of the District with resources to advance God's mission.

## PREAMBLE TO THE BYLAWS

We, the members of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as redeemed children of God, acknowledge our part in Christ's mission of proclaiming the freedom and forgiveness of God in Christ to all human beings and of providing aid for them in their spiritual and physical needs. We acknowledge that we have bound ourselves together in a common bond of faith based on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as the members of District and Synod because we recognize the need for helping each other carry out this mission. We need the ministry of fellow Christians so that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we may grow in faith and be better prepared to participate in Christ's mission both individually and corporately. In order that we may carry out this mission effectively, we, united in the common bond of faith and love, have established these procedures that shall help to strengthen and guide us. Within the framework of these procedures we pledge ourselves to study the Scriptures diligently, to use the Sacraments faithfully, and to solicit the help of the Holy Spirit boldly.

# THE BYLAWS

## Article I - Name

The name of this corporation is: "The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," hereinafter referred to as "The Kansas District" or "The District."

## Article II - Organization

1. **Constitution:** The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of The Kansas District. The Bylaws of the Synod are also the primary Bylaws of the Kansas District.
2. **Legal Representation:** The President and Secretary of the District shall sign all official documents of the District in the name of the District.
3. **Membership:** Membership in The Kansas District shall be governed by the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Synod.
4. **Relationship of the District to the Synod:** The relationship of The Kansas District to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
5. **District Conventions:** District Conventions shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and also by the specific articles governing Convention procedure as may be defined in these Bylaws and the District Operations Manual (which includes position descriptions for Convention Floor Committees, District Convention Planning Committee, Election Committee, Nominations Committee, Endorsement of Candidates for District Office, and the like).
6. **District Board of Directors:** The business and financial affairs of The District shall be governed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees the implementation of the strategic mission of The District and is responsible to the District convention to equip, enable and encourage congregations to proclaim the Gospel. The Board of Directors is vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure said management and supervision are effected. Between conventions the Board of Directors shall provide for implementation within the District of decisions of the Synod and District conventions, approve and review progress of work program plans, adopt annual budgets to support work plans, procure and allocate necessary funds for support of Synod and District budgets, review program performance, call or hire District Executive Staff as deemed appropriate, provide review of Executive Staff positions, and administer the District endowment funds and other District funds.
7. **District Operations Manual:** In addition to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the Bylaws of the District, a District Operations Manual shall be established and maintained. This Operations Manual shall specify responsibilities of all officers, boards and committees as well as policy statements and operating procedures governing all District functions.
8. **Geographical Regions:** The District shall be divided into geographical regions, each comprised of two (2) or more circuits, by the action of the District Convention. A vice-president and a layperson shall be elected to the Board of Directors from each geographic region and a layperson from each geographic region shall be elected to the District Nominations Committee. The region membership of an individual is determined by the region of the congregation of which he or she is a member.

## Article III - Administration

1. **Elective and appointive officers shall execute their responsibilities in accordance with Synod Bylaws.** These elective and appointive officers shall be:



(a) The District President: ~~The District President shall be e~~lected from the clergy roster of Synod and who shall hold membership in a ~~voting-congregation member congregation of the District~~. The District President is the Chief Executive of the District. He shall represent the Synod in the District. He is responsible for implementation of the resolutions of the Synod and the District Conventions. The District President serves the congregations of the District as liaison between the congregations, District and the Synod and provides leadership and vision for the common work of the congregations, District, and District ~~S~~taff. He is responsible as top staff administrator, for oversight of staff carrying out the directives of the Board of Directors. He shall serve as a voting member of the District Board of Directors and is not eligible to be appointed as the ~~P~~residing ~~O~~fficer of the Board meetings. The District President also serves as an ecclesiastical supervisor to congregations and professional workers, makes official visits and investigations, and maintains the official roster of workers in the District.

(b) Vice-Presidents: A District Vice-President shall be elected from each region as provided by Article II, Section 8 of the Bylaws. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected from the clergy roster of the District and have ~~residence~~ membership in a congregation within the region from which elected. The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in administering the overall program of the District, especially in their regions. They shall succeed to the office of President, in the event the President is unable to serve, in the order designated by the Convention.

(c) Secretary: The District Secretary shall be elected from the clergy roster of the District and shall hold membership in a voting congregation of the District. The District Secretary is responsible for conducting the nominations process for the elections of President and Vice-~~P~~residents, facilitating the work of the Nominating Committee, organizing the work of the Elections Committee, and maintaining the District Operations Manual and related guidelines. The District Secretary is responsible for recording and preserving the official record of actions of the District Convention and the Board of Directors

(d) Treasurer: The District Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and is the custodian of all money and legal documents of the District. The Treasurer is assisted by the District staff for accounting and preparation of records. The Treasurer shall be a layperson, a member of a voting congregation of the District and demonstrate skills in finance and accounting. The appointment shall run concurrent with ~~D~~istrict ~~C~~onvention, after which reappointment may be granted.

(e) Circuit Visitors: A Circuit Visitor for each circuit of the District shall be nominated and elected from the clergy roster of the District as prescribed by the Bylaws of the Synod.

The Conference of Circuit Visitors shall assist the District President according to the Bylaws of the LCMS and shall serve as liaison to bring~~ing~~ the needs of congregations to the attention of the District President.

(f) Presiding Officer of Board meetings: The Board of Directors shall appoint a member of the Board to be the ~~P~~residing ~~O~~fficer of the meetings of the Board in consultation with and with the concurrence of the District President. The District President will not normally serve as the ~~P~~residing ~~O~~fficer of the Board meetings. In the absence of the ~~P~~residing ~~O~~fficer, the District ~~P~~resident shall assume the role of ~~P~~residing ~~O~~fficer, pro tem.

## **2. Elective Boards and Appointive Boards, Committees and Commissions shall be:**

(a) The Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of seventeen (17) voting members elected at the District Convention:

I. Seven (7) ordained ministers:

- a. The District President.
- b. The Regional Vice Presidents.
- c. The District Secretary.
- d. The Chairperson of the Conference of Circuit Visitors.

II. Three (3) Commissioned Ministers.

III. Seven (7) Laypersons, at least one (1) elected from each region. (Regional members shall have residence membership in a congregation within their region.)

The ~~advisory members~~ advisors of the Board of Directors shall be the District Treasurer and the District Executive Lead Staff.

The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four (4) times each year. Additional meetings may be called by the District President. Time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the District President. A majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

To meet the exigencies of District operations, the Board may meet ~~electronically by telephone conference call~~, or vote by written, mailed or electronic ballot pursuant to ~~written~~ notification. Actions taken at such meetings or by written ballot shall have the same effect as those taken at regular meetings of the Board.

#### Electronic Meetings

- The board may conduct its meetings electronically using audio, video, or internet-based conferencing technologies.
- In such cases, the technology must allow for each board member to fully participate (hear, speak, have or been given access to documents and other materials as appropriate), including the opportunity to vote.
- Members must be given a reasonable opportunity to access the electronic meeting. If a board member does not have access to the technology to be used, arrangements will be made for the member to participate in person by coming to the District Office or other mutually agreed upon location (prior arrangement necessary).
- As with any board, regular or special meeting, minutes shall be kept that record a summary of the major points of discussion and any action(s) taken.
- ~~All~~ any board members listening or watching shall acknowledge their presence to the meeting. These names, along with the attending board members, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Quorum: A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or scheduled meeting.

- ~~A majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any properly called or scheduled meeting.~~

Actions Using Electronic Ballot: In situations where board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board may take action by use of electronic ballot (e.g., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.) provided all voting members of the board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.

Minutes of previous meetings, including conference calls and the responses to mailed ballots, shall be provided to the members of the Board at least ten (10) days prior to Board meetings.

The agenda for each meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the District President in consultation with the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee.

The District Secretary shall serve as secretary of the Board.

(b) Service Boards: The Board of Directors shall organize the following service boards as described in the District Operations Manual:

I. Board of Missions: The Board of Missions is responsible for planning and implementing evangelism and mission efforts of the District and equipping, encouraging and empowering congregations in their mission and outreach efforts.

II. Board of Education and Youth: The Board of Education and Youth is to foster and promote Christian education in the congregations of the District, so that children, youth, and adults may grow in their faith, knowledge and understanding of God's Word, thereby equipping, encouraging and empowering them to proclaim the Gospel in their lives.

III. Board of Caring Ministry: The Board of Caring Ministry equips, empowers and encourages congregations in caring ministry which responds to the special needs of people. It also offers care and support where needed for professional workers of the church.

IV. Board of Stewardship: The Board of Stewardship encourages the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes and fulfilling the responsibilities of ~~the Synod Bylaws~~ section 4.6.

V. Board of Administration: The Board of Administration provides administrative and support services to the Board of Directors and congregations of the District including accounting, property management, communications, and related services.

VI. ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee: The ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee shall include the District President, Presiding ~~Officer~~ of the Board meetings, the Regional Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Circuit Visitors, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The District President shall serve as chairman of the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee. The ~~District Executive Lead Staff, defined as Executive and Professional Staff,~~ are advisory ~~members~~ of the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee. The ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee shall recommend action to the Board on matters which do not fall within the scope of activities of the Boards listed above. The ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee is to serve as the coordinating agency of the Board of Directors for meeting preparation, recommendations for appointments and as a forum for sharing program and budget information with service boards.

VII. ~~Emergency meetings:~~ The ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee may act for the Board of Directors in times of emergency between meetings and in all matters delegated to it by specific action or by policy of the Board, including response to legal action. The ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod that are required to be performed by the agency Board, nor may they overturn actions of the agency Board. All ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee actions shall be reported to the Board of Directors. Any member of the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee may request full Board action on any matter. Minutes of the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee shall be sent to the Board within two weeks of ~~the~~ Committee Council action. These meetings may be called by the District President, the Presiding Officer of the Board meetings or three members of the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee.

VIII. ~~Salary Review Committee:~~ The Salary Review Committee is responsible to the Board of Directors for recommending salaries for the staff positions of the District and recommending ~~changes in the base figure used for the annual Guideline guidelines~~ for ~~w~~Worker ~~c~~Compensation for use by congregations.

~~VIII~~X. President's Council: The President's Council shall consist of the District President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Chairperson of the Circuit Visitors. The District President may consult with them on ecclesiastical matters as appropriate.

(c) The District Nominations Committee.

(d) One member of the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations when required.

(e) The following Service Boards are appointed by the District President in consultation with the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors: Board of Caring Ministry, Board of Stewardship, Board of Education and Youth, Board of Missions and the Board of Administration.

(f) The Standing Committees and Commissions of the Kansas District shall be: The Elections Committee, the Congregational Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee, the District Bylaws and Operations Manual Committee and others described in the District Operations Manual.

Members of these Standing Committees are appointed by the District President and approved by the Board of Directors.

Members of these Standing Committees must be members in good standing of a voting congregation of the Kansas District.

(g) Special Committees shall be such committees as are from time to time necessary for carrying out the duties of the District Service Boards. Members of these committees are appointed by the District President in consultation with the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee and are approved by the Board of Directors.

Members of these committees must be members of a voting congregation of the Kansas District.

### 3. Term of Office:

(a) The term of office for the President shall be three (3) years. The President shall not serve more than four (4) consecutive terms.

(b) The term of office for the Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Circuit Visitors, and the Board of Directors shall be three (3) years. None of these officers shall serve more than three consecutive terms.

(c) Service of more than one half (1/2) term in any elected office shall be regarded as full term.

~~(d)(e)~~ The term of office of the District Nominations Committee shall be three (3) years. Members of the Committee may not succeed themselves.

~~(e)(f)~~ The term of office of appointive boards, committees and commissions shall run concurrent with ~~D~~istrict ~~C~~onvention. Due to their responsibilities, the District Youth Ministry Team and the Church Worker Conference Planning Committee are exempt from running concurrent with ~~D~~istrict ~~C~~onvention.

~~(f)(g)~~ Members of District boards and commissions shall be ineligible for reelection or reappointment to the same board or commission after serving three (3) consecutive terms unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws. They may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office, board or commission after an interval of three (3) or more years. ~~More than one half (1/2) term shall be regarded as a full term.~~

~~(g)(h)~~ Any member of a board or commission who is ineligible for reelection or reappointment may be elected or appointed to another position.

~~(h)(i)~~ Members of the District ~~S~~taff, while eligible for elective office, shall not serve concurrently as staff and elected officers.

**4. Accountability of Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions:** All boards, committees and commissions shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the discharge of their responsibilities. Officers in general are responsible to the ~~C~~onvention of the ~~D~~istrict (Const. XI A 1) and, as regards ecclesiastical supervision, to the President of the ~~D~~istrict ~~S~~ynod.

**5. Holding More than One (1) Elective Office:** A nominated candidate, if elected, may not hold more than one (1) office to which he/she was elected. The individual may be considered for a second office provided it is by official appointment as referenced in ~~LCMS Bylaws 1.5.1.1-2~~ the Synod Bylaws. Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of Synod.

**6. Succession to the Office of District President:** The Vice-Presidents shall, in the order in which they have been designated by the District Convention, succeed to the presidency in the event the President becomes unable to carry out his duties. Whenever the Board of Directors determines that the President is unable to serve in the capacity because of prolonged illness or disability, the duties and responsibilities of the office of the President shall be assumed by the First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall remain as the acting President until the Board of Directors determines that the conditions of illness or disability have been removed.

#### **7. Vacancies in Elective or Appointive Office:**

(a) In the event of a vacancy in the office of a Vice-~~P~~resident, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from the region not represented. A Vice-~~P~~resident so appointed shall be last in the order of succession.

(b) Vacancies that occur in the office of Circuit Visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the District President.

(c) Vacancies in standing committees shall be filled by the District President.

(d) Vacancies in the other elective or appointed offices or any other board, special committee or commission shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. At least one nominee shall be submitted by the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee. A vacancy in a position of a regionally elected layperson on the Board of Directors shall be filled with an appointee from that region.

**8. Appointment of Board Chairpersons:** The President shall appoint the chairperson of each service board. in consultation with the ~~Executive Council~~ Executive Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors.

## Article IV – Convention Nominations and Elections

1. **Nominations Committee:** There shall be a District Nominations Committee consisting of three (3) ordained ministers (not more than one [1] from the same region of the District), one (1) commissioned minister, and four (4) laypersons, (one [1] elected from each region of the District). These shall be elected at a regular District Convention from the membership of voting congregations. This committee shall propose at least two (2) candidates for each office to be filled at the next District Convention except the offices of President, Vice-President and Circuit Visitor. All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered to be nominees. The region membership of an individual is determined by the region of the congregation of which he or she is a member.

2. Nominations for District President, Vice-Presidents, Regional Lay Members of the Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors:

(a) District President – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister as candidate for District President. Candidates for the office of District President shall be on the clergy roster of Synod. Only three individuals receiving the highest number of nominations, and agreeing to serve if elected, may be listed on the Convention ballot.

(b) Regional Vice-Presidents – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate from their region one ordained minister from the clergy roster of the District ~~and~~ who shall have residence membership in a congregation within the region from which nominated. Candidates on the ballot for Vice-President from each region, shall be all those having been nominated more than a single nomination and who agree to serve if elected. In the event of death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate. In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be included as candidates.

(c) Regional Lay Members of the Board of Directors – Each congregation shall be entitled to nominate two lay members who are members of a congregation in the respective region as a candidate for regional lay member of the Board of Directors. All nominees for lay members of the Board of Directors shall hold residency within the respective region from which they are nominated. Candidates shall be at least the two lay members in the region who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve if elected. All candidates not elected shall be on the ballot for the at large lay positions on the Board of Directors.

(d) Circuit Visitor – The selection of Circuit Visitor will follow the process detailed in the Synod Handbook.

(e) District Secretary – Each congregation or individuals (rostered workers and individual members of congregations) may nominate one pastor who is on the clergy roster of the District and holds membership in a voting congregation of the District.

(f) At-Large Lay Members of the Board of Directors – Lay members not designated by region may be nominated by congregations, rostered workers, or individual members of congregations.

### 32. Elections:

- (a) The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates except for the slate for President. A floor nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief biographical description of the nominee. Material should be provided in digital format when possible.
- (b) During the Convention, the order of elections will be: (1) President, (2) Vice-Presidents and (3) All other elective positions.
- (c) A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.
- (d) The election of the President will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- (e) The election of the Vice-Presidents will take place by ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- (f) Upon the election of the regional Vice-Presidents, a final election will take place ranking the Vice-Presidents by separate ballots with a simple majority determining the first, second, third and fourth Vice-Presidents in line of succession.
- (g) Except on the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the following regulations will apply: Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot will be declared elected. When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15% of the votes cast will be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15% or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates will constitute the ballot.



## Article V - Conventions and Conferences

### 1. District Conventions:

(a) The regular Convention of the District is held in the year immediately preceding the general ~~C~~eonvention of the Synod. Only the Synod has the right to make an exception to this rule. Each of the parishes/congregations of the District (a multi-congregation parish being considered as a congregational unit) shall be represented by one (1) pastor and one (1) lay delegate duly elected by the congregation at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Convention. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory representative delegate, with voice but no vote (Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.1e) according to the Synod Bylaws.

(b) The vote at all District Conventions shall be restricted to the duly elected and certified voting pastors and lay delegates of the congregations. Multi-congregation parishes shall determine the voting lay delegate who shall represent all congregations of that parish. If a congregation or parish has more than one called pastor who is eligible to vote, the congregation shall designate which pastor will cast a vote on behalf of the congregation.

(c) The District Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the Synod Handbook. Matters for consideration by the Convention shall be presented by overture submitted by a member congregation of the District, the District Board of Directors, an official District conference of ordained and/or commissioned ministers, a committee established by a prior convention, or a forum of a circuit. Resolutions for consideration by the Convention shall be brought to the floor of the Convention by appointed Floor Committees.

### 2. District Ordained and Commissioned Minister Conferences:

#### (a) Official Conferences:

- I. District-wide Ordained Ministers<sup>2</sup> Conferences shall be held at least once each year.
- II. District-wide Commissioned Ministers<sup>2</sup> Conferences shall be held at least once each year.
- III. In the odd numbered years the Ordained Ministers<sup>2</sup> Conference and Commissioned Ministers<sup>2</sup> Conference shall be held at the same time and in the same city so that both Conferences shall be enabled to meet together in joint session at least part of the time. Exceptions may be made by the District President in consultation with the President's Council.

#### (b) General Regulations:

- I. Travel, meals, housing and other expenses for professional workers attending official conferences shall be borne by the congregations of the Ordained ~~M~~ministers and Commissioned ~~M~~ministers involved.
- II. All Ordained Ministers<sup>2</sup> and Commissioned Ministers<sup>2</sup> Conferences shall be governed by the regulations stated in the Bylaws of the Synod.
- III. All Ordained and Commissioned ~~M~~ministers on the District rosters are expected to attend the meeting of their official conference or present a valid excuse.

3. **Visitation Circuit Forums:** The congregations of a visitation circuit, represented by a pastor and one lay ~~person member~~ of each ~~member~~ congregation or one layperson from a multi-congregation parish as designated by the congregation or parish. ~~Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory representative, with voice but no vote (Synod Bylaw 5.3.2),~~ shall meet in circuit forums at least once triennially to select Circuit Visitors ~~(Synod Bylaw 5.2.2),~~ to participate in the triennial process of suggesting mission and ministry emphases to the District Convention ~~(Synod Bylaws 5.3.4, 5.3.1[b], 4.2.1[b]),~~ and to consider submitting other overtures to the District or Synod Convention ~~(Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2)~~ as described in the Synod Bylaws. In addition, the forum is encouraged to meet at least two times a year to carry out other functions as described in the Synod Bylaws 5.3.1 and to pursue other interests deemed important such as lay leadership development, teacher training, and participation under existing District policy in future local mission development. Congregations of a multi-congregation parish not contributing a lay voter may send an advisory representative delegate with voice but no vote, according to the Synod Bylaws.

4. **Electoral Circuit Meetings:** The congregations of a visitation circuit or two adjacent visitation circuits ~~(Synod Bylaw 3.1.2 [a])~~ shall meet once triennially to carry out the responsibility of electing delegates to the general convention of the Synod and to consider sending overtures to the Synod convention, according to the Synod Bylaws (Synod Bylaw 3.1.6.2).

5. **Circuit Convocations:** Circuits of The Kansas District may hold Circuit Convocations in the year following the Synod~~ieal~~ convention. Joint convocations of Circuits may be held among Circuits. The purpose of the Circuit Convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members may review and discuss the work of the Circuit Forum, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through Districts and the Synod. Its emphasis will be on inspiration, education and motivation.

## **Article VI – Property**

This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grants, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise, property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with, or dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives of the corporation; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Kansas or the laws of any state in which said property is located.

## **Article VII - Amendments and Changes**

Changes in these Bylaws and additions thereto may be made provided they are not contrary to the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, have received prior approval of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters, are presented to the congregations of the District at least thirty (30) days prior to the time they are presented for vote, are separately considered and acted upon, and are passed by a majority of the voting delegates at a District ~~C~~onvention.

The District in ~~C~~onvention may vote to amend its Articles or Bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended Articles or Bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

## **Article VIII - District Operations Manual**

Changes to the District Operations Manual which do not affect the Bylaws of the District shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may not adopt any proposed cChanges to the District Operations Manual that are contrary ~~which require changes~~ to the Bylaws of the District, ~~shall require approval of the Board of Directors and adoption by the District Convention.~~

**To Encourage Daily Family Prayer and  
Use of District Resources Provided by the Kansas District Adult Education Committee**

1       **WHEREAS**, Our Lord blesses those who hear His Word and keep it (Luke 11:28), instructing us  
2 to “teach them [His words] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,  
3 and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deut. 6:7); and  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, The faith that comes as a gift (Eph. 2:8) through the hearing of the word (Rom.  
6 10:17) is entrusted to fathers and mothers for the salvation of their children (Is. 38:19); and  
7

8       **WHEREAS**, Families today are bombarded with numerous demands on their time and find their  
9 attention pulled from the regular rhythm of morning and evening prayer and instruction in the Word of  
10 God (Ps. 42:8); and  
11

12       **WHEREAS**, Due to our sinful nature, habits and rhythms of prayer sometimes tend toward  
13 atrophy and loss of direction; and  
14

15       **WHEREAS**, A recent survey by the Adult Education Committee of the Kansas District showed  
16 that the main impediments to regular home prayer and Scripture reading are 1) a lack of sufficient time; 2)  
17 a lack of direction or guidance; and 3) an absence of habitual prayer; and  
18

19       **WHEREAS**, The Adult Education Committee provides resources to address these three  
20 impediments on the Kansas District website; therefore be it  
21

22       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District in convention encourage the use of devotional and prayer  
23 resources (including those online) among congregations, families, and individuals of the District; and be it  
24 further  
25

26       **Resolved**, That circuit visitors publicize these resources to the pastors in their circuits; and be it  
27 finally  
28

29       **Resolved**, That these resources be updated regularly with suggestions from pastors, educators,  
30 and congregations of the District.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOEY*



**To Exhort the Congregations of the LCMS  
to Actively Encourage Future Lutheran School Teachers**

1       **WHEREAS**, Only 26 percent of teachers serving in Lutheran schools are on the active  
2 commissioned minister roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) (2020–2021 Early  
3 Childhood and School Statistical Report; [www.luthed.org](http://www.luthed.org)); and  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS in the 2016 Synod convention adopted Resolution 8-01A, “To Encourage  
6 and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High  
7 Schools”; and  
8

9       **WHEREAS**, Res. 8-01A specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a  
10 strong Lutheran ethos is having “LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers ... who know and are committed to the  
11 truths of the Scriptures as declared in our Lutheran Confessions”; and  
12

13       **WHEREAS**, The number of new commissioned teachers has declined steadily since 2005  
14 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE] statistics); and  
15

16       **WHEREAS**, The fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling  
17 entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-  
18 trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics); and  
19

20       **WHEREAS**, “The Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools” (2019 Synod  
21 convention *Workbook*, 343–48) recommended that congregations equip and encourage young Lutherans  
22 to become strong Lutheran teachers in academics and in the Christian faith; and  
23

24       **WHEREAS**, One of the top factors tied to likelihood to recommend teaching to a young person is  
25 support from school administration and Synod (“What’s Happening in our Schools?”, Concordia Plan  
26 Services research); therefore be it  
27

28       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to aggressively,  
29 financially, and publicly support Lutheran administrators and teachers; and be it further  
30

31       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District and their pastors and teachers, being  
32 led by the Holy Spirit, actively encourage future Lutheran school teachers; and be it further  
33

34       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District and its congregations strongly consider providing  
35 financial support for students who are being trained at CUS schools to be Synod-rostered teachers,  
36 including at the early education, elementary and secondary levels; and be it finally  
37

38       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District increase the Lutheran identity of our schools by  
39 continuing to provide scholarships to enable non-rostered teachers to complete teacher colloquy through  
40 the CUENet program.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOEY*

**To Commend and Give Thanks for Our  
Lutheran Early Childhood Centers and Elementary Schools**

1       **WHEREAS**, The establishment of Lutheran schools has been a priority of faithful Lutherans since  
2 even before they joined to form the Synod; and  
3

4       **WHEREAS**, In The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 2020–2021 there were 1,741  
5 early childhood centers, 828 elementary schools, and 97 high schools (2020–2021 *The Early Childhood*  
6 *and School Statistical Report*; [www.luthed.org](http://www.luthed.org)); and  
7

8       **WHEREAS**, As of September 2021, members of the Kansas District are operating 43 early  
9 childhood centers with a 2021-22 enrollment of 2,212, and District congregations and associations are  
10 operating 14 K-8 schools with a total enrollment of 1,170; and  
11

12       **WHEREAS**, Early childhood centers, elementary schools, and high schools shared the Gospel  
13 with over 200,000 students in 2020–2021 (*ibid.*); and  
14

15       **WHEREAS**, The Office of National Mission (ONM) has identified planting schools as a priority for  
16 this triennium (2019 Resolution 4-03A); and  
17

18       **WHEREAS**, The 2017 *LCMS Study of Young Adults* found that a typical congregation with higher  
19 retention rates operated or was associated with a Lutheran school (*Retention of Lutheran Millennials:*  
20 *LCMS Study of Young Adults*, 2017); therefore be it  
21

22       **Resolved**, That all congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to support and  
23 uplift Lutheran schools in prayer and encourage these schools to continue to be faithful to God's Word  
24 and strive for excellence in catechizing and educating the students in their care; and be it further  
25

26       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District, its circuits, and congregations investigate the  
27 possibility of planting schools and early childhood centers; and be it finally  
28

29       **Resolved** that the LCMS Kansas District in convention rise and give thanks to God for our  
30 Lutheran early childhood centers and elementary schools by singing the doxology.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOEY*

**To Recruit and Equip Lutheran Administrators for  
Service in Early Childhood Centers and Schools**

1       **WHEREAS**, God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is  
2 old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6); and

3  
4       **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church, we must have and maintain  
5 Christian schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain  
6 Christian Schools,” 1524) and that “the schools will prove the very gates of hell, unless they diligently  
7 labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures and engraving them on the hearts of the youth”; and

8  
9       **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has always supported Christian  
10 parents in their God-given vocation, including the education of children; and

11  
12       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has a distinguished history of over 175 years of assisting parents in this  
13 task through Lutheran schools; and

14  
15       **WHEREAS**, Competent and faithful administrators are necessary to continue this task; and

16  
17       **WHEREAS**, 40 percent of the current Lutheran school administrators are anticipated to retire  
18 within the next five years; and

19  
20       **WHEREAS**, LCMS School Ministry has a School Leadership Development (SLED) program that  
21 recruits and equips administrators for LCMS schools; and

22  
23       **WHEREAS**, It is essential to recruit and equip a new generation of faithful Lutheran  
24 administrators; therefore be it

25  
26       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District, its circuits, and congregations be encouraged to  
27 identify and recruit Synod-trained and/or colloquized administrators; and be it finally

28  
29       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District, its circuits, and congregations pray for the current  
30 administrators of schools and early childhood centers.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOEY*

**To Develop Biblically Faithful Textbooks/Curricula  
for Our Day Schools, High Schools, and Home Schools  
(Modified from Wyoming District RESOLUTION 1-03-2021)**

1       **WHEREAS**, Education in all subject areas is first and foremost about what is taught, namely that  
2 which is good, true, and beautiful; and  
3

4       **WHEREAS**, Secular education in all subject areas is increasingly subject to forces from anti-God,  
5 anti-Christ, anti-family, pro-death, amoral, anti-truth, and even anti-beauty perspectives; and  
6

7       **WHEREAS**, The Holy Scriptures provide the norm and framework for knowledge in all subject areas,  
8 all being interwoven in significant ways with right theology, ethics, history, and human nature as revealed  
9 by God therein; and  
10

11       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has the second-largest system of parochial schools in America, but too often  
12 they are using secular textbooks/curricula or publications from non-Lutheran traditions; and  
13

14       **WHEREAS**, Many Lutheran parents who homeschool their children find good, biblically faithful  
15 textbook/curricula options to be sorely lacking; and  
16

17       **WHEREAS**, Christian schools and home schools in general would benefit greatly from having more  
18 biblically faithful Christian textbook/curricula options; and  
19

20       **WHEREAS**, The natural sciences, especially biology and earth sciences, are prone to the grievous  
21 errors of Darwinism and Deep Time, which directly undermine the integrity of the Scriptures and the Gospel  
22 itself by putting death before the Fall; and  
23

24       **WHEREAS**, The Discovery Works science textbooks available from Concordia Publishing House,  
25 the only day school curricula available from CPH besides religion curriculum and some lesson plans, are  
26 outdated (© 1999) and rather limited (grades 1-6); and  
27

28       **WHEREAS**, It was resolved by the Synod in convention in 2019 “that pastors and other church  
29 workers be encouraged to confess, witness to, and uphold in their teaching the Synod’s publicly stated  
30 positions as set forth in A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, Article 5 (adopted  
31 1932):

32       We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time  
33 recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and  
34 in six days. We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture.  
35 In our days it is denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the  
36 world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in immense periods of  
37 time, developed more or less of itself. Since no man was present when it pleased God to create the  
38 world, we must look for a reliable account of creation to God’s own record, found in God’s own book,  
39 the Bible. We accept God’s own record with full confidence and confess with Luther’s Catechism: “I  
40 believe that God has made me and all creatures.”  
41 which certainly should include writings as presented to students by their teachers via textbooks/curricula;  
42 and  
43

44       **WHEREAS**, The need is urgent, as common experience shows many young adults rejecting their  
45 baptismal vows, their doubts arising in middle school and high school when Darwinism and its many related  
46 false “-isms” are proclaimed by secular textbooks, while either no counter arguments for biblical truth are  
47 available or those presented are inadequate; and  
48

49       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has a university system and two seminaries housing expertise across all  
50 subject areas, for producing excellent curricula and textbooks for grades K-12 as well as providing  
51 theologically sound editorial oversight to ensure that content is biblically faithful in its Christian apologetic  
52 (such as Gen. 1-11); and

53           **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has its own publishing house; therefore, be it  
54

55           **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District in conjunction with the LCMS Wyoming District  
56 **(RESOLUTION 1-03-2021)** memorialize the Synod in convention to direct and coordinate the systematic  
57 preparation and production of biblically faithful curricula and textbooks across all subject areas, prioritizing  
58 biological and earth sciences, for grades K-12 day schools, high schools, and home schools; and be it  
59 finally  
60

61           **Resolved**, That this curriculum be ready for market by 2026.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOEY*

**To Recommend and Implement a Rigorous Program of Study  
(Continuing Education) in Circuit Winkels**

1       **WHEREAS**, While it is a blessed fruit of faith of all Christians to “meditate upon [God’s] Law day  
2 and night” (Ps. 1), it is especially incumbent upon those who serve in the pastoral office to take up this  
3 charge, as those given by God to His Bride, the Church, to proclaim and teach His Word and exercise  
4 doctrinal oversight in the congregations committed to them; and  
5

6       **WHEREAS**, All Christians, but especially the pastors of Christ’s Church, should “be always ready  
7 to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15); and  
8

9       **WHEREAS**, Christ’s promise of the Holy Spirit’s work to “teach you all things and bring all things  
10 to your remembrance” (John 14:26) is fulfilled in no other way than through His Word; and  
11

12       **WHEREAS**, Paul, providing an example for all called servants of the Word, averred to the  
13 Ephesian elders, “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27); and  
14

15       **WHEREAS**, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead,”  
16 Paul charged Timothy—and all pastors—“preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season;  
17 correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Tim. 4:2); and  
18

19       **WHEREAS**, St. Gregory the Great in the foundational pastoral theology of the Western Church  
20 asserts: “It is certainly necessary that those who execute the office of preaching do not regress in their  
21 study of sacred writ;” and “when a pastor is asked about a spiritual matter by a layperson, it would be  
22 disgraceful for him to have to learn the answer, when he should have been prepared to solve the  
23 question” (Gregory the Great, *The Book of Pastoral Rule* (Crestwood; St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press,  
24 2007), pp. 84-85); and  
25

26       **WHEREAS**, At the 67<sup>th</sup> National Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on  
27 Wednesday, 24 July 2019, the Synod in convention passed Resolution 6-04 nearly unanimously and by  
28 voice vote, “To Support, Encourage, and Expect Continuing Education for all Lutheran Church—Missouri  
29 Synod Pastors” (*Proceedings of the 2019 (67<sup>th</sup>) LCMS Convention*, p. 45); and  
30

31       **WHEREAS**, 2019 Res. 6-04 recognizes that the Synod’s desire for enhancing continuing  
32 education amongst our pastors has been expressed continuously, though without real fruit, since 1998;  
33 and  
34

35       **WHEREAS**, 2019 Res. 6-04 resolves that “the Synod fully support, encourage and expect all  
36 LCMS pastors to be engaged in continuing education throughout their pastoral ministry from the time of  
37 their first call”; and  
38

39       **WHEREAS**, 2019 Res. 6-04 furthermore resolves that “district presidents encourage, prompt, and  
40 expect all their pastors to be engaged in continuing education”; and  
41

42       **WHEREAS**, 2019 Res. 6-04 furthermore resolves that “congregations be encouraged to support  
43 their pastors’ continuing education financially and provide the time needed for continuing education”; and  
44

45       **WHEREAS**, In the press of pastoral life pastors often find it difficult to maintain a robust study of  
46 God’s Word and the teachings of Scripture, along with the necessary tools for that study, the use of the  
47 biblical languages; and  
48

**WHEREAS**, In the heyday of the Synodical Conference the pastoral winkels (“Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model”) provided for:

- the regular, formal study of the Scriptures, led by pastors for pastors;
- the regular, formal study of the Confessions and the Lutheran dogmatic tradition, led by pastors for pastors;
- the regular, formal study of illuminating historical issues and contemporary threats to the teaching of God’s Word and our blessed Confession, led by pastors for pastors;
- the regular, formal critique of the teaching and proclamation of the pastors in the winkel;

and

**WHEREAS**, Although the demise of the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model may be attributed to many factors, it has inevitably led to the backgrounding of sound doctrine in the pastoral mind and to a dearth of regularized and formal continuing education; and

**WHEREAS**, The contemporary, largely unstructured “9 to 12” model of the circuit winkel provides, anecdotally, little professional gain and is often bereft of serious study of God’s Word and our blessed Confession; and

**WHEREAS**, *The Circuit Visitors Manual* of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2020) notes that the two primary goals and purposes of the circuit winkel are “Spiritual Development and Enrichment” and “Continuing Education Experiences” (pp. 200-201); and

**WHEREAS**, Many circuit winkels have become increasingly irrelevant and ineffective in achieving those goals and purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, The observation in *The Circuit Visitors Manual* of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2020) that “the brethren respond with a higher sense of responsibility when a program is structured rather than casual” (p. 202) is borne out by experience; and

**WHEREAS**, *The Circuit Visitors Manual* of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2020) recommends a 9:00 to 3:00 or 9:30 to 3:30 schedule to provide time for pastors to “present theological papers, do exegesis on a text, prepare sermon studies, and the like” (p. 202); and

**WHEREAS**, Over against many other forms of continuing education, the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model proves cost-effective by not only involving pastors in the passive reception of the teaching of God’s Word and our blessed Confession on a monthly basis, but also in regularly providing pastors with the opportunity actively to mine the sources and in turn teach what they have learned, along with the ability to lay their gleanings before the brothers to verify whether “these things be so” (Acts 17:11); and

**WHEREAS**, LCMS Kansas District Circuit 6 pastors gathered in winkel have profitably and approvingly used the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model since September of 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District pastors of Circuit 6 have been edified by the use of the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model, both in their personal study and in participating in and receiving the teaching and brotherly critique of their peers; and

**WHEREAS**, The Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model generates *κοινωνία* around the only thing that in Christ’s Church can create it—His holy Word and our blessed Confession—but the absence of serious study of that Word and our Confession leads to the rupture of *κοινωνία*; therefore be it

**Resolved**, That the District President provide to all circuit visitors and pastors of the LCMS Kansas District a template for the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model which provides, on a

monthly basis, for significant and adequate time devoted to: (a) the regular, formal study of God's Word in the original languages led by a circuit pastor; (b) the regular, formal study of our blessed Confession and/or the Lutheran dogmatic tradition led by a circuit pastor; (c) the regular, formal study of an historical, pastoral-theological, or polemical topic led by a circuit pastor; and (d) regular, formal pastor-led critique of the winkel preacher's sermon; and be it further

**Resolved,** That this convention and the District President provide strong encouragement to circuit visitors and pastors to adopt the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model described above as the regular practice in all circuits; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the pastors of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to embrace the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model and readily, gladly, and energetically to participate in it, for their own theological growth, to maintain the tools of theology in their midst, and to foster *κοινωνία* in their midst; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the congregations of the LCMS Kansas District encourage their pastors' robust participation in the study of God's Word and our blessed Confession in their circuit winkels using the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model by providing them with adequate time (for, e.g., personal study and preparation and additional time spent with the circuit pastors in winkel) and sufficient resources (for, e.g., book purchases, travel to winkel); and be it further

**Resolved,** That the District President report back to this convention in 2025 on the implementation of the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model in the circuits of our district and its reception by and benefit to pastors and congregations alike; and be it finally

**Resolved,** That this convention memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the 2023 convention to urge and encourage:

- the district presidents, the executive director of Pastoral Education, the circuit visitors and pastors to adopt the Traditional Synodical Conference Winkel Model in all circuits of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- the pastors to embrace and readily, gladly, and energetically to use the Model; and
- the congregations to encourage their pastors' use of the Model by providing them with adequate time and sufficient resources to do the same.

*Submitted by Circuit Forum of LCMS Kansas District Circuit 6, Topeka-Lawrence*



**To Support Church Workers**

1       **WHEREAS**, The Lord of the Church “gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the  
2 shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph.  
3 4:11–12); therefore be it

4  
5       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to give thanks to the  
6 Lord of the Harvest for His gift of ordained and commissioned workers in His harvest field; and be it further

7  
8       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to pray for the general  
9 wellbeing of their church workers and their families; and be it further

10  
11       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to provide  
12 compensation for church workers that meets or exceeds established guidelines in the LCMS Kansas  
13 District; and be it further

14  
15       **Resolved**, That each congregation of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to support the  
16 continued efforts of the District Church Worker Care Committee and present the 2021 District-approved  
17 “Church Worker Care Manual” to its congregational leaders; and be it further

18  
19       **Resolved**, That each congregation of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to implement a  
20 church worker care team that would have as its primary focus on the well-being of the congregation’s church  
21 workers and their families; and be it further

22  
23       **Resolved**, That each congregation of the LCMS Kansas District consider providing a sabbatical  
24 opportunity for their church workers; and be it further

25  
26       **Resolved**, That each congregation of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to provide retreat  
27 opportunities (e.g., Doxology, Grace Place); and be it further

28  
29       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District be encouraged to promote and support  
30 financially the continuing education of their called workers; and be it finally

31  
32       **Resolved**, That congregations of the LCMS Kansas District find ways, informal and formal, of  
33 expressing appreciation to their church workers for the sacrificial service they offer.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOCM*

**To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service**

1       **WHEREAS**, God has commanded us to help one another (2 Corinthians 9:12, Matthew 5:16);  
2    and

3  
4       **WHEREAS**, This command can be facilitated by local churches of the Kansas District of The  
5    Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

6  
7       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District can be a resource for the local churches by initiating  
8    districtwide service projects; and

9  
10       **WHEREAS**, The Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has recently  
11    implemented a statewide “Shine!” servant event (<https://mo.lcms.org/shine>) and has offered to assist the  
12    Kansas District in developing a similar program; therefore be it

13  
14       **Resolved**, That the Office of the District President of the Kansas District of The Lutheran  
15    Church— Missouri Synod give a high priority to create a task force to develop and implement districtwide,  
16    congregation-based service projects for the triennium (2022-2025).

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOCM*

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

1       **WHEREAS**, God abundantly blesses us with His gifts out of His grace (Ps. 24:1; Deut. 8:18); and

2  
3       **WHEREAS**, God calls us to good stewardship of not just our income but our assets (Ex. 35:5);  
4 and

5  
6       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District has entered into a partnership with the LCMS Foundation  
7 in response to a 2018 convention resolution to provide a free resource to LCMS Kansans for gift planning  
8 education and opportunities; and

9  
10       **WHEREAS**, Working with the LCMS Foundation for planned giving expands the ability of LCMS  
11 Kansans to support and bless LCMS ministries like local churches and schools, various mission efforts of  
12 the Kansas District and the Synod including church and school planting, the seminaries and Concordia  
13 University System, as well as other Lutheran agencies and RSOs; and

14  
15       **WHEREAS**, Our world is in the midst of a significant wealth transfer, and it would be wise for the  
16 Church to encourage people to use a share of those resources for the benefit of the Church now and in  
17 the years to come; therefore be it

18  
19       **Resolved**, That congregations of the Kansas District be encouraged to provide gift planning  
20 education by scheduling a gift planning presentation with a trained advocate in the upcoming triennium;  
21 and be it further

22  
23       **Resolved**, That LCMS Kansans be encouraged to give generously to support the work of the  
24 Church, potentially through writing a Lifetime Plan for Giving with LCMS Foundation staff; and be it finally

25  
26       **Resolved**, That we thank God for the LCMS Foundation and the newly established partnership  
27 with the LCMS Kansas District.

*Submitted by LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, BOS*

**To Encourage the Implementation of the Church Worker Care Manual in  
LCMS Kansas District Congregations**

1       **WHEREAS**, one of the seven mission priorities of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to  
2       *“Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church*  
3       *workers;”* and,  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, the LCMS Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee, appointed by the LCMS  
6       Kansas District President in 2018, produced a Church Worker Care Manual to help congregations  
7       address this mission priority; and,  
8

9       **WHEREAS**, four LCMS Kansas District congregations (St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center;  
10       Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City; Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park; and, St. John’s Evangelical  
11       Lutheran Church, Topeka) have been piloting this project since 2020; and,  
12

13       **WHEREAS**, the pilot program at Trinity, Garden City, Grace, Ulysses, and Immanuel, Lakin (TIG  
14       Partnership) has been well-received by lay leadership, church workers and care teams and has been  
15       regarded as beneficial for the well-being of the congregation; and  
16

17       **WHEREAS**, the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors affirmed the use of the Church Worker  
18       Care Manual in Kansas District congregations in 2021; and,  
19

20       **WHEREAS**, LCMS Kansas District pastors and professional church workers were introduced to  
21       the Church Worker Care Manual in the fall of 2021; and,  
22

23       **WHEREAS**, all 2021 LCMS Kansas District congregation presidents were mailed a copy of the  
24       Church Worker Care Manual in October 2021 with encouragement from the LCMS Kansas District  
25       President to begin implementing its use with their pastor(s) and other professional church workers on staff  
26       (if applicable); Therefore, be it  
27

28       **Resolved**, that lay leaders of LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to implement  
29       the Church Worker Care Manual with their pastor(s) and other professional church workers (if applicable)  
30       within this triennium (2022-2025); and, be it finally  
31

32       **Resolved**, that the LCMS Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee stand ready to provide  
33       support to district congregations in the process of implementation.

*Submitted by Circuit Forum of Circuit 16*

**To Encourage the Implementation of the Church Worker Care Manual in LCMS Kansas District Congregations**

1       **WHEREAS**, One of the seven mission priorities of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to  
2       *“Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church*  
3       *workers”*; and

4  
5       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee, appointed by the LCMS  
6       Kansas District President in 2018, produced a Church Worker Care Manual to help congregations  
7       address this mission priority; and

8  
9       **WHEREAS**, Four LCMS Kansas District congregations (St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center;  
10       Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City; Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park; and, St. John’s Evangelical  
11       Lutheran Church, Topeka) have been piloting this project since 2020; and

12  
13       **WHEREAS**, The pilot program at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church has been well-received  
14       by lay leadership, church workers, and care teams and has been regarded as beneficial for the well-being  
15       of the congregation; and

16  
17       **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors affirmed the use of the Church Worker  
18       Care Manual in Kansas District congregations in 2021; and

19  
20       **WHEREAS**, LCMS Kansas District pastors and professional church workers were introduced to  
21       the Church Worker Care Manual in the fall of 2021; and

22  
23       **WHEREAS**, All 2021 LCMS Kansas District congregation presidents were mailed a copy of the  
24       Church Worker Care Manual in October 2021 with encouragement from the LCMS Kansas District  
25       President to begin implementing its use with their pastor(s) and other professional church workers on staff  
26       (if applicable); therefore, be it

27  
28       **Resolved**, That lay leaders of LCMS Kansas District congregations be encouraged to implement  
29       the Church Worker Care Manual with their pastor(s) and other professional church workers (if applicable)  
30       within this triennium (2022-2025); and be it finally

31  
32       **Resolved**, That the LCMS Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee stand ready to  
33       provide support to District congregations in the process of implementation.

*Submitted by St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Topeka*

**To Encourage Communication Regarding Relocating Members**

1       **WHEREAS**, Congregation members, including college students, often relocate to new  
2 communities and need encouragement to connect with LCMS congregations in their new location;  
3 therefore, be it

4  
5       **Resolved**, That all congregations be encouraged to prioritize prompt communication with one  
6 another so that both congregations may make contacts with relocating families or college students to  
7 encourage prompt connection with LCMS congregations in their new locations.

*Submitted by the LCMS Kansas District Pastors Business Meeting*

**To Decrease the Term Limit of the Office of District President from  
4 Terms (12 years) to 3 Terms (9 years)**

1       **WHEREAS**, The Kansas District has had term limits for the District President for many decades;  
2    and

3  
4       **WHEREAS**, Term limits provide a healthy way for the District to guard against long-term physical,  
5    emotional, and spiritual fatigue that can sometimes overwhelm those who serve in the Office of District  
6    President; and

7  
8       **WHEREAS**, Due to anticipated structural changes that were expected to be approved at the 2010  
9    Synod Convention as a result of the Blue-Ribbon Task Force, and due to a desire to have an experienced  
10   District President to guide the District through those changes, the term limit for the Kansas District  
11   President was increased from 3 terms (9 years) to 4 terms (12 years) at the 2009 District Convention; and

12  
13       **WHEREAS**, Other elective offices in the District (Vice-President, Circuit Visitor, Secretary, Board  
14   of Directors, etc.) are limited to 3 terms (9 years); and

15  
16       **WHEREAS**, Longer tenures in the Office of District President may have deleterious effects on the  
17   physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the President and his family; therefore be it

18  
19       **Resolved**, That the Circuit Forum of Circuit 15 of the Kansas District petition the Kansas District  
20   in Convention to continue the "term limits" nature of the office of Kansas District President; and be it  
21   further

22  
23       **Resolved**, That the Circuit Forum of Circuit 15 of the Kansas District petition the Kansas District  
24   in convention to decrease the term limit for the office of District President from the present 4 terms (12  
25   years) to 3 terms (9 years); and be it further

26  
27       **Resolved**, That a partial term of any length due to succession to the office of President mid-term  
28   shall not count toward the term limit; and be it finally

29  
30       **Resolved**, That the Kansas District Board of Directors shall make the appropriate changes to  
31   both the Kansas District Bylaws and to the Kansas District Operations Manual to reflect this resolution.  
32

*Submitted by the LCMS Kansas District Circuit 15 Forum*