

# WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

*1 Peter 2:24-25*



## Building Dedication in Olathe

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe dedicated a new building addition at a special single service Sunday, May 1. Kansas District President Justin Panzer preached at the service, which was held in the new building. The 30,000-square-foot addition was completed with the help of funding from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and work from Laborers for Christ. Thanks be to God!

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**Rev. Justin Panzer**, District President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

### Appointments

Rev. Ian Kinney has been appointed to serve as District Life Coordinator. Rev. Sean Kilgo has been appointed to serve as circuit visitor for Circuit 6 (Lawrence-Topeka).

### June/July *Workers Together*

We're trying something new this summer: The June and July issues of *Workers Together* will be combined (following the pattern of *The Lutheran Witness*). If you have news to share that you'd like people to see in June or July, send it by May 20 to Kris Bruss at [kbruss@kslcms.org](mailto:kbruss@kslcms.org).

### Workbook Update

The Workbook Update for the District convention June 9-10 will be available online at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) later this month. The publication will include a detailed convention schedule and resolutions prepared by convention floor committees.

### Celebrate the Guinea/West Africa Partnership!

We'll be celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Guinea/West Africa Partnership June 9 at the President's Reception at the District convention. Please join us the evening of June 9, right after the convention worship service, for this special celebration.



# President's Office

## May Devotion

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Salvation is found in Christ alone. Acts 4 reminds us that the living God is with us as we live out our everyday lives to His glory. It is to this picture of salvation that we must forever cling.

Let's start with that picture of the cross where Jesus hung in our rightful place. There He was the worst sinner—thief, cheater, liar, parent, student—ever to live. Let's go to the empty tomb. Jesus is risen! The empty tomb means that all who believe in Him, their tombs shall be empty on the Last Day as well.

Let's go to Baptism. Water joined together with the name of the triune God creates faith, forgives sins, and makes us the very heirs of life eternal. Christ Jesus is our cornerstone through the gift of faith given to us in our Baptisms. We are given the charge by God to now live in our baptismal faith. Along with Peter and John, Martin Luther, and countless others who have gone before us in the Faith, we profess through our lives, words, and deeds a living Savior who has brought us forgiveness and salvation. Our very lives now in fact testify to the Savior living in us.

Let's go to the Lord's altar. A taste of bread; a sip of wine. Here Jesus feeds us with His true body and blood in the unleavened bread and wine to forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and give us a foretaste of the eternal banquet yet to come.

Christ is risen and so shall we! The Lord abundantly bless you as you live out that Easter faith each and every day!

## Calls and Vacancies

### PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. Brian Holle**, Zion, Bunker Hill, IL to St. Paul, Haven – pending

**Rev. Troy Slater**, Faith, Richmond, MO to Immanuel, Canton – accepted

### PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

**Candidate Matthew Goehring** at Immanuel, Norton, TBA

**Rev. Andrew Wehling** at Immanuel, Lawrence – May 8

**Rev. Rocky Mease** to University Lutheran Ministry Association, Wichita (Transitional Executive Director) – May 22 at 2 p.m. at Fairmount Coffee Co.

**Rev. Jon Franson** at St. Paul, Coffeyville – June 5

**Rev. Troy Slater** at Immanuel, Canton – late June

**Rev. Matthew Schultz** at Ascension, Pratt – July 17

### CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Haven, St. Paul (sole)

Liberal, Grace (sole)

Herington partnership: Immanuel,

Shawnee, Hope (senior)

Our Redeemer, and St. John's (sole)

Topeka, St. John's (senior)

Leavenworth, Trinity (associate)

Wichita, Risen Savior (associate)

### CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Atchison, Trinity (teacher)

Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)

Shawnee, Hope (teachers)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (teacher)

Linn Lutheran (teacher)

### COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

**Teacher Kristi Schkade**, Trinity, Fremont, NE to Hope, Shawnee – accepted

**Candidate Judith Mellecke**, Ohio District to Trinity, Atchison – declined

**Candidate Kayla Ernstmeyer** to Hope, Shawnee – accepted

**CUNE Colloquy Candidate Abigail Meyer** to Good Shepherd, Marysville – pending

## Worker News

One call candidate and four vicarage students are coming to the Kansas District this summer. From Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (Call Day image below, left to right) **Paul Hammes** (vicar, Bethany, Overland Park); **Avery Hjulberg** (vicar, Beautiful Savior).

From Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (group photo below, from left): **John Kastner** (vicar, St. John's, Topeka), Beatrice Kastner, **Christopher Warneke** (vicar, Trinity, Winfield), Sarah Warneke, President Justin Panzer, Meghan Goehring, and **Matthew Goehring** (call candidate, Immanuel, Norton).

### LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

CALL DAY APRIL 26, 2022



PAUL HAMMES



AVERY HJULBERG

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS



### Kansans Called and Placed

*Seminary students with ties to Kansas congregations*

**Joshua Brandmahl** (St. John's, Topeka, CTSFW): Candidate, St. Bartholomew Ev. Lutheran Church, Brillion, WI

**Matthew Goltl** (Ascension, Wichita, CSL): Vicar, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

**Kyle Nelson** (Trinity, Wichita, CTSFW): Candidate, First Lutheran Church, Chickasha, OK

**David Schotte** (St. Paul, Preston; CTSFW): Vicar, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

**Jonah Schultz** (Beautiful Savior, Olathe; CSL): Vicar, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**Josiah Schultz** (Beautiful Savior, Olathe; CSL): Vicar, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Canton, OH

**Caleb Wehling** (Grace, Liberal; CSL): Vicar, St. John Lutheran Church, Mansfield, TX



The **Rev. Timothy Koch** was installed as pastor at Zion, Linn, May 1. From left: Revs. Rick Rikli, Gene Holtorf, Joshua Hayes, Michael Hofmann, Timothy Koch, Joel Hiesterman, Aaron Fenker, Philip Miller, Rodney Fritz, Matthew Durance, Michael Schmidt, and Justin Panzer.

# In Jesus' name we pray ...

## SPECIAL MAY PRAYERS

**For those in Andover** and other areas who were affected by the April 29 tornadoes, we pray: Kind and loving Father, remember in mercy all those who suffered loss in the recent storms. Help all disaster responders to serve with courage and compassion. Guide civic leaders as they direct government services in affected areas. Above all, amid the tumult of these days, help us to trust in Your unfailing love, through Him whose love triumphed over all, even Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from [\*Spiritual Care Companion for Times of Disaster\*](#), LCMS (2019)

**For confirmands and graduates**, we pray: Gracious Father, bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from *Lutheran Service Book*

**For CLET-Guinea**, we pray that the proposed seminary is constructed soon, that it would grow, and that our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Guinea and West Africa would grow in knowledge and faith.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

### **Those grieving the loss of loved ones**, including

Family and friends of Doug Wolters, former BOD member and brother of current BOD member Mark Wolters, who entered his heavenly rest April 23

Family and friends of Joan Schnelle, mother of Rev. Aaron Schnelle, who entered her heavenly rest April 21

Family and friends of Kathryn Grimm, sister of Rev. Dennis Kootz, who entered her heavenly rest April 18

Family and friends of Darrell Schepmann, brother of Rev. Roger Schepmann, who was called home April 3

Family and friends of Bruce Pierson, father-in-law/father of Dave and Shawn Bruns, who was called home March 28

Family and friends of Steven Harmon, brother of Rev. Tom Harmon, who entered his heavenly rest March 5

Family and friends of Evelyn Goll, mother-in-law/mother of Rev. Joel and Michela Hiesterman, who was called home March 4

**Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues**, including Tim Lavrenz, Rev. Lee Hovel, Jeremy Pera, Makayla Rikli, Rev. Robert Ziegler, Steve Bremer, Paul Schmidt, Rev. Dale Dumperth, Rev. Matthew Schneider, Rev. Roland Boehnke, Carrie Meyers, Philip Wolf, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Rev. Richard Andrus, and Judy May

**Those celebrating the gift of new life**, including Rev. Thomas and Tori Pressley (daughter April 14) and Rev. Timothy and Emily Koch (daughter April 14)

### **Congregations and schools on our Facebook prayer list in May:**

Churches named **Trinity** (Leavenworth, McFarland, Medicine Lodge, Mission and Shawnee), this week

Churches named **Trinity** (Paola, Parsons, Ramona, Salina, Wichita, Winfield), May 9

Churches named **Zion** (Argonia, Chanute, Claflin, Concordia plant, Downs), May 16

Churches named **Zion** (Hiawatha, Hillsboro, Independence, Latimer, Linn), May 23

[CLICK HERE for the full calendar](#)

# Events Calendar

## Out and About in Kansas: May Staff Travel Schedule

- 1 Preaching at Beautiful Savior, **Olathe** (Panzer)  
Installation at Zion, **Linn** (Panzer)  
Mission Sunday, St. Paul's, **Haven** (Galchutt)
- 2 Partnership Meeting, St. Paul's, **Alta Vista** (Galchutt)
- 8 Installation at Immanuel, **Lawrence** (Panzer)
- 14 Older Adult Symposium, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, **Mission Campus** (Bradshaw)
- 15 Preaching at St. John's, **Topeka** (Panzer)  
Teacher Retirement, Hope, **Shawnee** (Bradshaw)
- 17 Topeka DCE Cluster, The Pennant, **Topeka** (Bradshaw)
- 18 Graduation Service, Trinity, **Atchison** (Bradshaw)
- 22 Installation at Fairmount Coffee Co., **Wichita** (Panzer)  
Partnership Service, St. John's, **Topeka** (Galchutt)
- 29 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Panzer)

## COMING EVENTS

### May 14 | Older Adult Ministry Symposium

Members and staff of Kansas District congregations are invited to an **Older Adult Symposium May 14, starting at 9:00 a.m.** at the Mission campus of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission and Shawnee. Featured speakers include **Dr. Richard Bimler**, who will address the ministry and involvement of older adults in the church today, and **Jim Bradshaw** of the Kansas District, who will speak about encouraging and enhancing Older Adult Ministry in our Kansas congregations. A panel discussion, lunch, and a service project will follow. The cost, including lunch, is only \$10.00 per person. Visit the Older Adult Ministry page at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) for a [brochure](#) and registration form ([print](#) or [online](#)).

### 25th Anniversary Pentecost Offering



### Help Build a Seminary in Guinea!

For 25 years, LCMS Kansas District congregations have supported the growth of God's kingdom in Guinea and West Africa. Now, we have an opportunity to help build up the kingdom even more by raising funds and offering prayers for a new seminary in Guinea. **Our goal: Raise \$25,000 for "CLET-Guinea" on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership.** To learn more or make a gift, visit our [Guinea/West Africa webpage](#).

## **CLICK HERE for the full calendar**

Find details about committee meetings, service board meetings, and other events of interest.



**LAST CALL!**  
**Church work scholarships** are available from the Kansas District, LWML Kansas District, Kansas District LLL, and St. John's Alumni Association. Apply by June 1.

**[INFORMATION](#)**

## **CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Kansas District Board of Directors Meeting**

**May 5-6**

District Office, Topeka

**NOTE:** This is the final meeting of the (extended) triennium.

### **Older Adult Ministry Events**

**May 14**, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee (Mission Campus)

**July 18-19**, Saints Alive After 55

**August 13-14**, Messiah, Hays

### **Lutheran Valley Retreat Summer Camp**

**June 3-8**

Woodland Park, CO

*Registration for this event closed May 1.*

### **Kansas District Pentecost Offering**

**June 5**

Special Focus: 25th anniversary of our partnership with Guinea.

Goal of this year's offering: Raise funds to help build a seminary in Guinea.

### **Kansas District Convention**

**June 9-10**

Hotel Topeka at City Center (formerly the Capitol Plaza Hotel)

### **LCMS Youth Gathering**

**July 9-13, 2022**

Houston, TX

*Registration closes May 4. Forty-four Kansas District churches and around 600 students have registered to attend this event.*

### **New Worker Orientation**

**July 22**

District Office, Topeka

### **District Early Childhood Workshop**

**July 23**

Faith, Ottawa

### **Circuit Visitor & Region Vice-President Orientation**

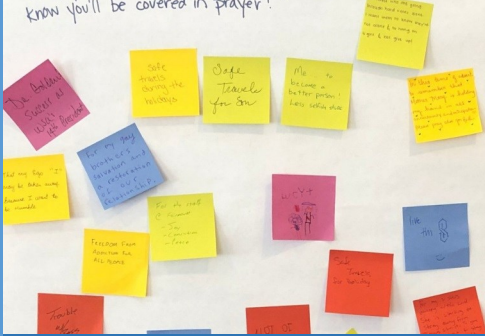
**July 28**

District Office, Topeka



# -PRAYERS-

How can our community pray for you during the finals + holiday season? Write your prayer requests on a post it + know you'll be covered in prayer!



## DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in  
God's Mission

### Helping Students Stay Connected to the Church through Times of Transition

*Rev. Mark Boxman, Senior Pastor, Trinity, Salina & District Campus Ministry Coordinator*

The Apostle Paul writes: "My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, **welcome him**" (Col. 4:10 NIV).

In a similar way, summer is a good time for us to send letters to congregations who will be receiving college students into their community from our congregations. Our "instruction" will help the receiving church to "welcome him."

We pray: Lord of the Church, guide our college students as they make the transitions to new communities this fall. Prepare receiving congregations to welcome our young people into their fellowship and provide faithful Word and Sacrament ministry that they may be strengthened and preserved in the true faith unto life everlasting. Grant it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

### Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

*Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator*

#### LERT TRAINING EVENTS

##### BASIC CHAINSAW SAFETY AND OPERATION

**May 21, 2022**

First Lutheran Church, Paola, KS

Registration: \$35

More information and [register online](https://lcms.org/register) at LCMS-LERT.org

Contact: Brian Mead – [brian.t.mead2@gmail.com](mailto:brian.t.mead2@gmail.com)

Visit the Kansas District [Disaster Response webpage](https://lcms.org/disaster-response) and our Facebook pages for current information and updates.

##### ANDOVER TORNADO RESPONSE

[An intense tornado ripped through Andover](https://www.ksl.com/story/news/nation/2022/04/29/andover-tornado-response/), Kansas, April 29, causing widespread damage. There will be many weeks, even months, of ongoing cleanup in the area. Disaster response efforts are now underway. We've learned about a few families in need but expect requests for help to increase after insurance adjusters get caught up with demand. Please watch our Facebook page and the Disaster Response page at [kslcms.org](https://kslcms.org) for opportunities to help with the recovery.

##### ONGOING RESPONSES

**Kentucky Tornado Recovery:** Volunteer signup: <https://mid-southlcms.org/we-need-volunteers/> There is still great need in this part of the country for volunteers. Please monitor the LCMS-LERT.org website for updates on current responses nationwide as well as training and deployment opportunities.

**Are you searching for ways to engage your LERT team** during the "off-season?" Look for needs and projects within your congregations and communities that your team can be involved in. Get together and brainstorm. Even the smallest of projects will matter greatly to someone who has a need. Don't want to organize or facilitate an event? Look for events that your LERT team can help with as part of a larger community of volunteers. Remember, LERT isn't only about disasters, it's about being the hands and feet of Jesus for those in need every day, regardless of the circumstances.

## Synod & Partners

### Doxology Respite Retreats

You are invited to be reenergized for your service during a “Take Heart! Renewed to Be a Blessing” respite retreat. The retreats are being offered to LCMS teachers and commissioned ministers by DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, with financial support provided by the LCMS Office of National Mission.

**DOXOLOGY is offering one of these FREE respite retreats in Wichita, Kansas, July 19-21.** Get all the details on the [event page](#). Register by July 4!



### 2022 LCEF Outreach Ministry Grants

The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** is blessed by strong investors and faithful borrowers. The partnership is working, and it's been blessed by our Lord. Part of that blessing is being able to use fiscal year-end operating results to offer **\$32,000 in Outreach Ministry Grants** to congregations, schools, and other LCMS organizations within the Kansas & Oklahoma Districts. **Completed applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2022.** Grant recipients will be selected by June 20, 2022. All applicants will be notified as to whether or not they receive a grant. For more information and application materials, visit the [Outreach Ministry Grant webpage](#) at [kslcms.org](#).

## INVEST WITH THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR LUTHERAN FAITH

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you not only earn a competitive interest rate — your investment also goes to work for the church.



**VISIT [LCEF.ORG/WHY-INVEST](#) OR CALL 800-843-5233 TODAY!**



#### JEFFREY MALTZ

LCEF District Vice President | Kansas and Oklahoma  
785-230-4112 | [Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org)

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular which more fully describes associated risks.

## Staff Directory

**Rev. Justin Panzer**  
District President

**Rev. Dan Galchutt**  
Assistant to the President for  
Missions and Stewardship

**Jim Bradshaw**  
Assistant to the President for  
Education and Youth

**Jeffrey Maltz**  
DVP, LCEF Kansas and Oklahoma

**Heather Williams**  
Business Manager

**Kris Bruss**  
Communications Specialist

**Tami Lierz**  
Administrative Assistant  
President's Office/Event Registrar

**Shannon Fender**  
Administrative Assistant  
Business Office/Stewardship

**Janet Powell**  
Administrative Assistant  
Schools/Missions/LCEF

**Mike Grau**  
Archivist

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

## Submitted News & Announcements



### Seminar in Wamego

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, will present "Life, Received and Shared as God's Gift, Always Wins" at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego, Kansas, June 26 at 2:00 p.m. The special presentation follows the annual Lutherans for Life of Kansas dinner and meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.



### Hope, Shawnee Hosts Value Them Both Event

On April 23, Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee hosted an informational event in support of the sanctity of human life and the Value Them Both Amendment, which will come before Kansas voters August 2. Brittany Jones of Kansas Family Voice, pictured above, was one of the featured speakers at the event. Visit the [Value Them Both website](http://ValueThemBoth.org) to learn more about the proposed amendment.

### Job Opening in Topeka

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka, is still accepting applications for the position of Business Administrator. This is a full-time, salaried, exempt position; excellent benefits. A [job description](#) is available on the St. John's website in the News and Events section of the homepage.

### Prof Insights Workshop Coming to Kansas

Dr. Kevin Golden of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be leading a summer workshop at Messiah, Hays June 20-22 entitled "What Can 8th Century BC teach 21st Century AD?" Registration is through Concordia Seminary. For more information, visit the [event page](#) or contact Rev. Michael Schmidt at [revschmidt@yahoo.com](mailto:revschmidt@yahoo.com).