

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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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 has 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.

1 Peter 2:9–10



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



LCMS Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison (right) installs Rev. Justin Panzer (left) for his second term as Kansas District President. Rev. Paul Tessaro serves as the Celebrant (center).

Convention speaker/Essayist Rev. Roy Askins, managing editor for *The Lutheran Witness*.

74th Kansas District Convention

41

leadership positions
filled

17

resolutions passed
(not including
omnibus)

\$2,559

given for the convention
offering, for Church
Worker Care

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Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



2022 Pastors Conference October 3-4

Registration opened **August 1** for the **2022 Pastors Conference**, being held **October 3-4** at the Holiday Inn at the Campus in Manhattan. Visit our website kslcms.org to access conference information and to register.

This year's conference will focus on "**Confession & Absolution: The Sacrament of Reconciliation**," based on the passage from Romans 5:11.

There will be three main (plenary) sessions led by **Rev. Ed Keinath**. We will also have three breakout sessions with four different options for each session. Rev. Keinath is the Director of CrossLife Ministries, the counseling center of Ambassadors of Reconciliation in Seymour, IN.

Pastors are invited to arrive on Sunday night, October 2. **The conference begins on Monday, Oct. 3 at 8 a.m.** This year, the conference offering will support the construction of a seminary in Guinea/West Africa.

President's Office

August Devotion

On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of *Dobbs*, thus overturning both *Roe* and *Casey*. It would be an understatement for me to say that it was a monumental decision.

This is also the day that the Church celebrates the "Nativity of St. John the Baptist." St. John the Baptizer, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was born into a priestly family. Six months before he was born, St. John "leaped in the womb" in the presence of the Almighty God, who was also a tiny fetal human being, in the womb of the virgin Mother (cf. Luke 1:41-45). Is it any small coincidence, dare I say even a miracle of God, that this Supreme Court decision came on the same day that the Church celebrates the birth of St. John? I think not!

Mollie Hemingway, Editor-in-Chief of *The Federalist* writes, "The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, despite the media disinformation, simply returns abortion law to the states, enabling citizens and their elected representatives to debate and set abortion laws and policies. *Roe* had falsely decreed that a right to abortion was in the Constitution, and therefore beyond public debate, a view the court flatly and finally rejected last week. Abortion is a hotly debated topic, and neither those who oppose or support it are likely to be fully happy about public opinion. Most Americans strongly oppose abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy, but most Americans also support some allowances for abortion at earlier stages in pregnancy. In May, [a Gallup poll](#) found that 63 percent of Americans support making abortion illegal or legal only in certain circumstances."

More than likely by the time you read this, the state of Kansas will have already voted on the "Value Them Both" amendment. We are fervently praying for a favorable outcome.

No matter the outcome of "Value Them Both," the work of the Church continues, and, in some cases, it needs to begin in earnest. We value all human life from conception to natural death. Multitudes upon multitudes of Scripture passages speak to this. Pastors and commissioned workers—use them when giving a defense of life. Don't just say, "I'm pro-life." Lead people to the Scriptures to understand this, and to give witness to it as well. Pastors must speak to life issues from the pulpit and in Bible study. Commissioned workers must speak to life issues in their classrooms and other settings.

(Continued on Page 3)

August Devotion, Cont.

People of the LCMS Kansas District, if we confess that we value human life from conception to natural death, then we must daily live it out in our own lives and in our congregations. Support your local pregnancy centers. Ramp up your diaper drives, battle bottle campaigns, and food drives among other things. Men's groups need to be reformed where they have been cast off. Mentorship is a must not only for the youth of our congregations, but also for fathers. You've seen the percentages—where the father is present in the life of the family good things happen. Ladies, continue the good work that you have been doing for decades through LWML. Yes, I encourage all of our congregations to be active in both LLL (Lutheran Laymen's League) and LWML. A wealth of "pro-life" resources are available to you through CPH and Lutheran Hour Ministries. Youth groups are also wonderful places for service and teaching.

*(I fully realize that I'm going to miss something here, so please forgive me in advance. That's not my intention. My intention is simply for you to be active in life issues. Opportunities abound in all of our communities to treasure and support life. Let's go!
~ Colossians 3:12-17)*

Pro-Life Lutheran Resources Links

- ❖ [Kansas District Life Ministry](#)
- ❖ [Lutherans for Life of Kansas](#)
- ❖ [Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries](#)
- ❖ [Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](#)
- ❖ [LCMS Life Ministry](#)
- ❖ [LCMS Life Ministry Million Dollar Life Match](#)
- ❖ [Concordia Publishing House](#)

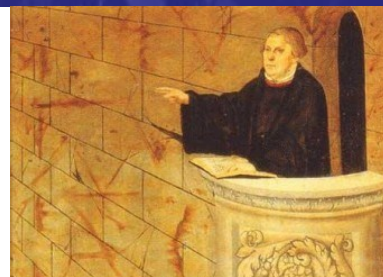
Save the Date

Circuit Reformation Festival 2022

- Sunday, Oct. 30
- Immanuel Lutheran, Wichita

Join us in worship, fellowship and growth in wisdom and virtue as Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, chairman of Department of Historical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, will preach and deliver the banquet lecture. Banquet tickets are \$15, while children 10 and under eat for free. Childcare is provided during the lecture.

RSVP by Oct. 24 at 316-264-0639 or secretary@ilchurch.org. Clergy wishing to participate should contact Rev. Mark Lovett at pastor.mdlovett@gmail.com.



Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Aaron M. Filipek, Zion, Gwinner, ND to Trinity, Wichita, and Grace, Wichita – accepted

Rev. Joel Heckmann, St. John, Okarche, OK to St. Paul, Haven – declined

Rev. Michael Henrichs, Our Savior, Whitefish Bay, WI to St. John's, Topeka – declined

Rev. Tim McCall, Immanuel, Junction City to St. Paul, Minden, NE – declined

Rev. Ben Siebert, St. John, Lincoln and St. Paul, Lincoln to Zion, Hastings, NE – accepted

Rev. Daniel Wehmeier, King of Kings, Gardner to Lamb of God, Lake Havasu City, AZ – declined

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Candidate Matthew Goehring at Immanuel, Norton – August 14

Rev. Aaron M. Filipek, Zion, Gwinner, ND to Trinity, Wichita, and Grace, Wichita – Sept. 3

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Alta Vista, St. Paul, Lake Wabaunsee,	Leavenworth, Trinity (associate)
Redeemer and Clarks Creek, St. Paul	Liberal, Grace (sole)
(SPRC partnership; sole)	Lincoln, St. Paul & St. John (sole)
Girard, Trinity (sole)	Meade, St. John and Beaver, OK,
Haven, St. Paul (sole)	Peace (sole)
Herington partnership: Immanuel,	Topeka, St. John's (senior)
Our Redeemer, and St. John's (sole)	Wichita, Risen Savior (associate)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)	Leavenworth, St. Paul (teacher)
	Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Candidate Kim Burke, Rocky Mountain District to Linn Lutheran, Linn – accepted; installation August 14

Candidate Kayla Ernstmeyer to Hope, Shawnee – accepted; commissioning and installation August 21

Candidate TCHR Jan Maxson, RM District to Holy Cross, Wichita – accepted; installation August 14

CUNE Colloquy Candidate Abigail Meyer to Good Shepherd, Marysville – accepted; commissioning and installation August 14

Teacher Kristi Schkade, Trinity, Fremont, NE to Hope, Shawnee – accepted; installation August 21

Teacher Sarah Warneke, New Haven, IN to Trinity, Winfield – accepted; installation August 14



74th Convention of the LCMS Kansas District

June 9-10, 2022 | Topeka, KS | kslcms.org

ELECTION RESULTS

❖ PRESIDENT

Rev. Justin A. Panzer – Mt. Calvary,
Wamego

❖ VICE-PRESIDENTS

First Vice-President

Rev. Alan Stahlecker – St. John,
Lincolnville (Region 2)

Second Vice-President

Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz – Trinity,
Mission and Shawnee (Region 1)

Third Vice-President

Rev. Michael Schotte – St. Paul,
Preston (Region 3)

Fourth Vice-President

Rev. Michael Hageman – Trinity,
Garden City (Region 4)

❖ SECRETARY

Rev. Joshua Woelmer – Zion, Vassar

❖ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (one from each region)

Region 1

David Bruns – Christ, Overland Park

Region 2

Bruce Schultz – St. John, Alma

Region 3

Curtis Engelbrecht – Trinity, Wichita

Region 4

Mark Wolters – Redeemer, Atwood

LAY MEMBER AT LARGE (3)

Kevin Fredrickson – Redeemer,
Lawrence

Marvin Schulteis – Redeemer,
Lawrence

Dan Thalmann – St. John, Palmer

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Rick Hanebutt – Hope, Shawnee

Sue Kleber – Holy Cross, Wichita

Benjamin Venteicher – Messiah, Hays

❖ DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

CLERGY (no two from same region)

Rev. Sean Kilgo (Reg. 1) –
Redeemer, Lawrence

Rev. Jonathan Scheck (Reg. 3) –
St. Paul, Oswego and Trinity, Parsons
Rev. Michael Hageman (Reg. 4) –
Trinity, Garden City

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Benjamin Venteicher – Messiah, Hays

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (one from each region)

Region 1

Kevin Fredrickson – Redeemer,
Lawrence

Region 2

Phil Friedrichs – Bethlehem, Bremen

Region 3

Ken Wabel – Immanuel, Wichita

Region 4

Brad Persinger – Immanuel, Norton

❖ CHAIR, CIRCUIT VISITORS

Elected by circuit visitors.

Rev. James (Andy) Keltner – Christ
Our Savior, Louisburg

❖ CIRCUIT VISITORS

*Circuit Visitors list ratified by the
convention June 9, 2022.*

Region 1

Circuit 1	Rev. Michael Dunaway
Circuit 2	Rev. Ed Mease
Circuit 3N	Rev. Joel Schultz
Circuit 3S	Rev. James (Andy) Keltner
Circuit 4	Rev. Don Haselhuhn
Circuit 6	Rev. Sean Kilgo

Region 2

Circuit 7	Rev. Philip Miller
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. Randall Jahnke

Check out the Kansas District website for the latest convention
news, and videos! [2022 Convention | LCMS Kansas District](http://kslcms.org)

Worker News

New Workers Orientation – Welcome!

The District welcomed a new crew of workers and spouses on July 22. The agenda included opening devotions, a snapshot of the Kansas District presented by President Panzer, staff presentations highlighting resources offered by the District, ministry specific talks, and a parting gift for each participant.



(Front row, seated, left to right) Rev. Tim Koch, Sulena Koterba and children, Beatrice Kastner, Alicia DeHope. (Second row, left to right) Rev. Matthew Koterba, Rev. Jon Franson, Lisa Booth, Rev. Timothy Booth, Jennifer Jennings, Teacher Tina Lenz, Jaimee Hoppe, Teacher Taryn Clark, Teacher Kayla Ernstmeyer, Donna Meyer, Rev. Kevin DeHope, Sarah Warneke. (Third row, left to right) Rev. Matthew Schultz, Rev. Matthew Jennings, Teacher Rodney Lenz, Rev. Philip Hoppe, Vicar John Kastner, Rev. Tim Meyer, Principal Kyle Johnson, Bethany Johnson, and Vicar Christopher Warneke.

2022 Early Childhood Conference Highlights

The Kansas District Early Childhood Conference took place on Saturday, July 23 at Faith Lutheran in Ottawa. The theme for this year's conference was "Let the Little Children Come to Me" based on the passage from Mark 10:13–16.

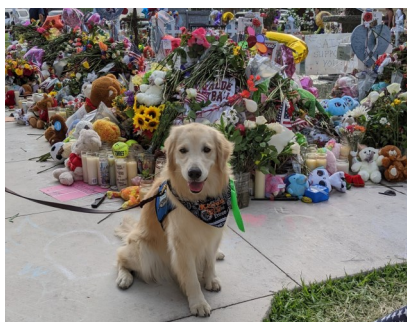


LCMS Kansas District Early Childhood Directors in attendance on Saturday, July 23, 2022 at the annual summer conference.



Rev. Timothy Roth (Faith, Ottawa) led the opening devotion for the 2022 Early Childhood Conference on the theme, "Let the Little Children Come to Me."

Keren Comfort Dog at the Uvalde Town Square memorial.



Keren Comfort Dog was one of five Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs who traveled to Uvalde, TX in early June to provide the handlers opportunities to bring the comfort of the Gospel to be shared with victims and their families affected by the school shooting.

Worker News, Cont.



Teacher Miranda Mondary (front row, first on the left) participated in the LCMS School Ministry's School Leadership Development (SLED) Project #22, June 16-18, in St. Louis. Since 1996, LCMS School Ministry has prepared more than 400 future administrators for leadership in Lutheran learning communities through the School Leadership Development (SLED) Project.

Mondary is the fourth grade teacher at Hope Lutheran School in Shawnee and will complete her training in June 2023.

Congratulations!



Rev. Paul Tessaro, St. Paul, Clay Center, celebrated 30 years in the ministry on July 31.



Rev. Steven Frank celebrated his 15-year ordination anniversary at Redeemer, Atwood on June 19.

Thank You!



Rev. Kurt Letcher (Zion, Newton) presided over the Farewell and Godspeed for youth coordinator, **Donna Williams**, who has served in this role over the past three decades. She formally retired on July 31. Williams will continue in her service as the District Disaster Response Coordinator.



Donna Williams pictured with District Education Executive **Jim Bradshaw**.

Installations

Frank Johnson (left) was installed as vicar at Zion, Hillsboro Feb. 20. Pictured with Vicar Johnson is Rev. John Werner, senior pastor at Zion, who performed the Rite of Installation. Vicar Johnson is part of the Specific Ministry Pastor program.



Rev. Troy Slater was installed as pastor at Immanuel, Canton June 25. From left: Revs. Benjamin Theiss, Dale Dumperth, Mark Boxman, Troy Slater, Alan Stahlecker, Dennis Kootz, and Kenton Abbott.



Rod Stewart, Jr. (right) has been serving as a vicar for the summer at St. John, Alma, and Trinity, McFarland. Rev. Robert Grimm (left) performed the installation.



Rev. Robert Leiste was installed as pastor (Intentional Interim Ministry) at Hope, Shawnee, on July 3. From left: Revs. Joel Schultz, Michael Penikis, Robert Leiste, and Dr. Edward Kettner.

Rev. Matthew Schultz was installed as pastor at Ascension, Pratt, on July 17. From left: Revs. Justin Panzer, Nick Cordt, Tom Harmon, Matthew Schultz, Dennis Fangmeyer, Chet Scherbarth, Cliff Winter, and Scott Goltl.





In Jesus' name we pray ...

SPECIAL PRAYERS

For the outcome of the "Value Them Both" amendment vote, we pray for the Holy Spirit to move the hearts of Kansans to embrace and celebrate the gift of precious life. May our loving Father give us Lutherans wisdom and compassion when discussing the value of life with others, even in the face of disagreement, and seek opportunities to share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ. Amen.

For the families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones in the July 4 parade shooting in Highland Park, IL, we pray: kind and loving Father, comfort those who are grieving right now. Help us all to lean into You, and look to Your Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions in the midst of this horrific tragedy. Help us to trust in Your unfailing love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For the 25th Anniversary celebration in partnership with Guinea/West Africa, we praise God for the many generous gifts made during the Pentecost offering for the construction of the seminary in Guinea! May the Lord grow our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Guinea and West Africa in knowledge and faith. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For August, we ask you to keep in your prayers::

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

Family and friends of Harold Wagner, uncle of Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, who entered his heavenly rest July 7

Family and friends of Rev. Dr. Art Graudin, father-in-law of current Circuit Visitors Chair Rev. Andy Keltner, who entered his heavenly rest June 18

Family and friends of Fred Lindsey, stepfather of Rev. Eddie Hosch, who entered his heavenly rest June 4

Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues, including Neil and Carolyn Buono, Rev. Mark Schulz, Rusty Lala, Tom Kleber, Tim Lavrenz, Rev. Lee Hovel, Steve Bremer, Rev. Roland Boehnke, Carrie Meyers, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Rev. Richard Andrus, and Judy May.

Those celebrating the gift of new life, including Rev. Aaron and Sarah Fenker (son James July 15), Rev. Joe and Amanda Barlau (daughter Rebekah June 22), Rev. Christian and Magdalena Schultz (son Matthew June 13), and Rev. Ian and Hannah Kinney (daughter Anastasia June 9).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in August:

Trinity, Caney, August 8

Immanuel, Lawrence, August 15

Bethlehem, Bremen and Immanuel, Bremen; Good Shepherd Lutheran School Association, August 22

St. John, Alma; St. John Lutheran School, August 29

EVENTS CALENDAR

Out and About in Kansas

AUGUST Staff Travel Schedule

- 2 Middle School Huddle planning meeting, **Junction City** (Bradshaw)
- 2-4 LCMS Hispanic Ministry Convention, **Orlando, FL** (Galchutt)
- 3 Circuit 10 visitor meeting at Ascension, **Wichita** (Panzer)
- 7 Preaching at Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee and St. Paul's, **Alta Vista** (Panzer)
- 8 Lutheran Educator's Day, **Atchison** (Bradshaw)
- 9 DeSoto church planting meeting, **Olathe** (Panzer, Galchutt)
- 12 Pre-seminary interview at Redeemer, **Olathe** (Panzer)
- 13 Older Adult Ministry Event, **Hays** (Bradshaw)
- 14 Preaching at Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee, and St. Paul's, **Alta Vista** (Panzer)
- Preaching at Immanuel, **Norton** for Pastor-elect Matthew Goehring's ordination and installation (Panzer)
- Planned Giving Presentation, **Independence** (Galchutt)
- Good Shepherd Association meeting, **Marysville** (Bradshaw)
- Linn Lutheran School installation at Zion, **Linn** (Bradshaw)
- 16 Presentation at Rockin' K's Bar – "Theology on Tap", **Manhattan** (Panzer)
- DCE Cluster at Faith, **Topeka** (Bradshaw)
- Board of Elders, **Ottawa** (Bradshaw)

(Continued on next page)

AUGUST EVENTS



Older Adult Ministry Event

Saturday, August 13, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, KS

Pastors and members of all congregations across the District are invited to join us to discuss ministry opportunities for older adults, with emphasis on involvement in all phases of church life.

Scheduled speakers include **Rev. Rocky Mease**, Executive Director of Fairmount Ministries, and **Mr. Jim Bradshaw** from the LCMS Kansas District. A panel discussion will follow.

Cost is \$10 (includes a boxed lunch). Please pay at the door. To register, please call the Messiah church office at **785-625-2057** no later than **Monday, August 8.**

Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Orientation (Rev. Rocco Mallardi)
9:15	Topic: Aging is for the Living (Rev. Rocky Mease)
10:00	Coffee Break
10:15	Topic: 50 Ways to Get Seniors More Involved in the Church (Jim Bradshaw)
11:00	Panel Discussion
11:30	Music and Entertainment Activities (Butch and Betty Amey)
12:00 p.m.	Meal Prayer & Lunch, Fellowship
1:00	Adjournment

CTSFW Workshop: Using Catechism in the Congregation

August 25-27, 2022, Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City

Dr. John T. Pless, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)

Thanks to the generosity of Trinity, you can attend this learning opportunity at **no cost**. Everybody who attends will get a certificate of attendance from the Seminary. **Pastors will get 1.5 CEU**, at no cost to them.

Visit the [event page](#) on the CTSFW website to register. Local contact:

Rev. Santi Keinbaum, Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, santikeinbaum@gmail.com or 402-430-8685.

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

AUGUST Staff Travel Schedule, Cont.

- 21 Teacher installations at Hope, **Shawnee** (Bradshaw)
- 22 Preaching at Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee, and St. Paul's, **Alta Vista** (Panzer)
- 28 Mission Festival, **Pittsburg** (Galchutt)
- 29 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Panzer)



Money Matters: A Three-Week Sermon Series (based on 2 Cor. 8-9)

August 23, 2022

2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. (CST)

Cost: \$25 On-Campus, or Online via Zoom

Join this three-week sermon series hosted by Concordia University, St. Paul, and learn about the importance of being a good steward of money, and what the apostle Paul teaches on the subject in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9.

Registrants receive sermons, orders of worship, Bible studies, PowerPoint, and a recording of the sessions.

Sermons include:

1. "The Macedonian Model"

(2 Corinthians 8:1–9)

2. "Hey, Big Spender!"

(2 Corinthians 9:1–7)

3. "Sowing and Harvesting"

(2 Corinthians 9:8–15)

[Click Here](#) to learn more, and to register.

[CLICK HERE for the full calendar](#)

Find details about upcoming events and meetings around the District.



Worship at the State Fair!

The Kansas District of the LLL/LHM will once again be having a booth and a worship service at the 2022 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Sept. 9–18. The worship service will be held on **Sunday, September 11, at 10 a.m.** at the People's Bank and Trust Arena and led by Pastor Dennis Kootz from Trinity Lutheran, Salina.

Contact Mike Tonn at 316-640-3918 or Tonn.mike@yahoo.com if you and/or your congregation can help provide Christian material or serve as a booth volunteer.

Save the Date

**Educator's Conference
October 9–11**



Make plans now to attend the **2022 Educator's Conference October 9–11** in Manhattan, KS.

Registration opened **August 1**. Visit our website kslcms.org to access conference information and to register.

The keynote speaker for the conference is **Heidi Goehmann**, a licensed clinical social worker and mental health care provider, theologian, writer, and advocate. Her three keynote presentations will cover emotional awareness and finding hope, strength in resilience and belonging, and mentoring to youth and families through mental health.

Offering Designation: Church Worker Care Fund

Your congregation and/or school is highly encouraged to designate September's chapel/Sunday school offerings for the continued funding of the Districtwide Church Worker Care support fund. This District discretionary fund has historically assisted pastors and educators, spouses, and their families in addressing a variety of unforeseen emergency worker needs. **Each District school/congregation is invited to raise a minimum of \$50 each.** Visit the District website [Donate | LCMS Kansas District \(kslcms.org\)](#) and choose "Church Worker Care" from the donate drop-down menu.

ON THE RADAR

LCMS National Hispanic Ministry Convention, Aug. 2–5, Orlando, FL

Lutheran Educator's Day, Aug. 8, Atchison, KS

Labor Day, Sept. 5, District Office closed

Principal's Conference, Sept. 15–16, District Office, Topeka

Circuit Visitor meeting, Oct. 2, Manhattan, KS

Pastors Conference, Oct. 3–4, Manhattan, KS

District Confirmation Retreat, Oct. 7–8, Augusta, KS

Educator's Conference, Oct. 9–11, Manhattan, KS

EVENT SNAPSHOTS

Kansas District Mission Grants: Apply Now!

The 2023 Kansas District Mission grant application is now available on the District website, under "[Mission Funding](#)." Invitations and applications will be sent out this week, so be watching your mail!

The deadline is September 22, 2022.

The Kansas District is committed to helping congregations and organizations pursue mission projects. To encourage these efforts, the District sets aside 10 percent of its congregational receipts each year and makes those funds available in the form of mission grants.

Contact **Rev. Dan Galchutt**, dangalchutt@kslcms.org or **Janet Powell**, janet@kslcms.org with any questions.



25th Anniversary of West Africa/Guinea Partnership

Since the start of the Pentecost offering in early June, numerous gifts have been made, totaling over **\$35,000!** We thank God for your generosity!

We have reached our goal. However, construction costs are on the rise. Additional funds will be used to support increased costs and operations.

Please keep this exciting venture in your prayers, and visit the "[Guinea/West Africa Partnership](#)" page on the Kansas District website for more information, and to make an online donation!

2022-2025 "Living as the Baptized" Board of Directors Meeting



The new Board of Directors for the 2022-2025 triennium conducted their first meeting.

The new Board of Directors for the 2022-2025 triennium had their first meeting July 29–30, 2022, at the LCMS Kansas District office in Topeka. It was an exciting two days, starting with orientation for the new Board on Friday. One highlight was **Mr. Brad Brunkow** (St. Luke's, Manhattan) being appointed as the Kansas District Treasurer. The Board conducted the first meeting of the triennium and accomplished numerous items on the agenda. Be on the lookout for the July board report summary that will be available on the [LCMS Kansas District website](#) in the near future. Updated photos and profiles for the Board's page are coming soon, as well.

We give thanks to God for all those serving on the Board of Directors. May the Lord bring abundant blessings to this new triennium, and to the Kansas District!



Saints Alive After 55, Retreat Highlights

Following a two year hiatus, the **Saints Alive After 55** event was held at the Spiritual Life Center in **Wichita, July 18-19**. Bible study leader, **Rev. Dan Myers** (Associate Pastor at Holy Cross, Wichita), presented on the theme, "Rejoice Always." **Barb Geuy** (Our Redeemer, Hutchinson) served as emcee and chaired the planning committee. **Butch Amey** (Holy Cross, Wichita) assisted with music.

EVENT SNAPSHOTS, CONT.

Education Loan Repayment Grants

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

The 2022 grant application is available on our website. You can access the form under [“Quick Links”](#) on the homepage or on our [Grants and Scholarships page](#).

Applications should be sent to the attention of Heather Williams at the District Office, 1000 SW 10th Ave. Topeka, KS, 66604 or via email at heather@kslcms.org.

The application deadline is August 31, 2022.



Connecting Students to Campus Ministry

The Lutheran campus ministries at Kansas colleges and universities provide a **“church home away from home”** for students.

Help college students connect to a new church home by visiting the [Campus Ministry page](#) at the Kansas District website.

Please share with pastors and parents the **“Campus Ministry Student Contact”** form at the bottom of the page, so we can connect students with campus pastors.

Students: Please fill out and submit the contact form within the **first 6 weeks** of arriving at college, to get connected with a local Lutheran congregation, or campus ministry.

LCMS Youth Gathering “In All Things” July 9-13, 2022



Visit the [Kansas District](#) and [Facebook](#) pages to see more photos!



Kansas District youth and adults receive instructions for the service projects.

Kansas District pre-Gathering event at Stampede Houston, July 9.

The Kansas District had a strong presence at the LCMS Youth Gathering July 9-13 in Houston, TX, with over 600 participants! On the first night of the Gathering, Kansas represented their section in a sea of blue shirts at the Minute Maid Stadium. During the week, the Kansas District also participated in two service projects and had a great district event on Saturday night.

One of the districts Gathering coordinators, DCE Amanda Adams (Christ, Topeka) said, “The Gathering mass events were amazing this year, they were Christ focused with great speakers that touched on the hard stuff youth and adults are facing today. Communion with 20,000 people is always an amazing thing to participate in!”

Special thanks to Amanda and fellow district coordinator Debbie Dennett (Trinity, Winfield) for their preparation and leadership!



The Kansas District at the first mass Gathering event, at Minute Maid Stadium in Houston.

District Summer Youth Camp



Fifty-three students and seven adults attended the annual Kansas District high school camp, held **June 3-8 at Lutheran Valley Retreat in Divide, CO**. The theme for the 2022 camp was “Finally Free.”

Thanks to DCE Paul White (Mount Calvary, Wamego) and DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission-Shawnee) for their planning and leadership!



DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in
God's Mission

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator

If you are interested in scheduling a LERT Basic Training OR if you are interested in having a LERT representative visit your church and give a brief overview of LERT and Disaster Response in the Kansas District and beyond, please contact Donna Williams ksddrc@gmail.com.

BASIC CHAINSAW SAFETY AND OPERATION

We are learning with each response how important it is to have trained volunteers on our chainsaw team! Whether you want to operate a chainsaw or pull/drag and stack, we need you! You do not need to register as a group; individuals are encouraged to become part of the at-large Kansas District chainsaw team. Contact Donna Williams ksddrc@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in participating in the next class.

Please watch the Kansas District website kslcms.org/caring-ministry/disaster-response/ and our [Facebook page](#) for current information and updates.

LERT TEAMS IN THE ORDINARY TIMES OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

LERT Leadership is having an ongoing discussion on how Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) can remain a vital and helpful resource in the ordinary times of congregational life. Disasters are generally sporadic in nature, and LERT volunteers have asked how they can be useful in-between deployments and responses, or if they are unable to respond as individuals or a team.

Here are some ideas LERT Leadership would like to offer:

- Meet regularly for devotions and prayer. Identify your gifts and passions, and create a culture of service.
- Start by looking within your own congregation for those needing assistance with everyday chores, such as the elderly; a church member who recently had an illness or surgery; a young mom or new parents.
- Are there projects around the church's property your LERT team could address?
- What organizations in your local community are needing volunteers for an event or partners in a long-term project? Become part of the community network for service opportunities.
- Set up displays at local events like craft shows, participate in parades, wear your T-shirts and visit with the locals to help spread the word about your LERT team and church congregation to the community.
- Know that if you are willing, God will use you. Be open to new ideas and opportunities.

The training you received as LERT volunteers is applicable in a variety of ways and settings. While we always hope you never have to use your training in disasters, try not to limit yourself to only those situations. Remaining active in the quiet times prepares you to respond in the trying times when survivors need you. Even in the off-season, **what we do matters!**



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Dear Kansas District Members,

It is my pleasure to represent Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and serve the ministries of the Kansas District LCMS. We are blessed with close relationships with church workers, district congregations, schools and RSO's. When you invest with LCEF, you bless LCMS congregations, ministries and workers, and help to give them an opportunity to grow and connect more people in their communities to Jesus.

NEW INVESTMENT! Church Worker StewardAccount

You are a church worker. You have a mission—a call. **God steered you toward a lifetime of service and sharing the message of living hope in Christ.** LCEF wants to help you focus on your mission by making it easy and worthwhile to put a little money away each month. Believe it or not, this simple act can provide a certain amount of relief, so you can continue faithfully serving our Lord.

The Church Worker StewardAccount is a perfect opportunity to invest with LCEF if you want to:

- Beef up your retirement.
- Start a habit of investing.
- Set aside money to explore new opportunities or passions.
- Prepare for big life events like a wedding.
- Budget for the unexpected.
- Establish a three-to-six month living expense fund.
- Set aside cash for major purchases (car, travel).

But the most important reason is this: Your investment with LCEF allows us to provide funds and solutions to help start, support and sustain LCMS church workers and ministries—today, tomorrow and far into the future.

Benefits & Features

1.5% | On balances up to \$10,000

- \$100 minimum to open (new money only).
- Interest compounded and paid monthly.
- Minimum monthly electronic investment of \$25 recommended.
- Visa® debit card (optional).
 - * Secure access to Visa Checkout, Apple Pay, Samsung Pay and other quick, secure payment solutions.
- Unlimited checks.
- No monthly maintenance or membership fees.
- Funds over \$10,000 will adjust to the Family Emergency StewardAccount rate.
- Free MyAccount online services, including bill pay and e-statements.

Are You Eligible?

If you work for an LCMS church, school or organization in any capacity – the answer is yes! This includes rostered church workers, lay church workers, full or part-time, and retired.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund ministry!

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:33).

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org

785-230-4112

www.lcef.org

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

Synod & Partners

"Chapel Talks for Lutheran Schools" — 2022-23

The 2022–23 "Chapel Talks for Lutheran Schools" centers around Matthew 28: 19-20 and explores the triennium theme of "Making Disciples for Life." Historically and presently, Lutheran schools are integral to "Making Disciples for Life."

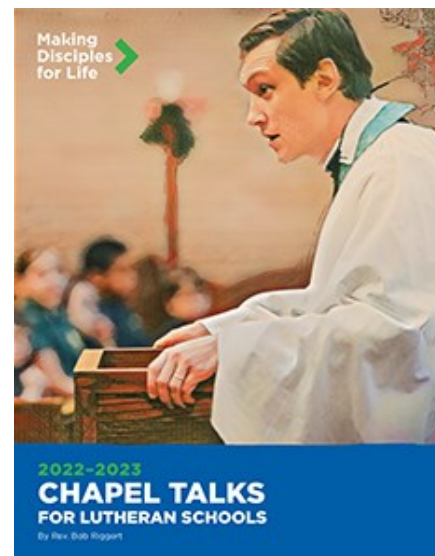
The author, **Rev. Bob Riggert**, offers resources for individuals leading weekly chapel services for students of all ages in Lutheran and Christian schools.

"**Making Disciples for Life**" is available as a free, downloadable PDF. A paperback book will also soon be available for online purchase.

"Chapel Talks" is produced by the LCMS School Ministry. Permission is granted to reproduce "Chapel Talks" for use in LCMS school worship services.

For more information about "Chapel Talks," contact LCMS School Ministry at 888-THE LCMS (843-5267) or by [email](#).

Visit [The LCMS Early Childhood Centers and Elementary Schools page](#) for further information.



LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Planned Giving

The Kansas District is partnered with the [LCMS Foundation](#) to offer planned giving services, to assist LCMS Kansans interested in managing their assets for the good of their families, and also the Church.

Three Kansas District staff members—Missions and Stewardship Executive **Rev. Dan Galchutt**, LCEF DVP **Jeffrey Maltz**, and Business Manager **Heather Williams**—are trained planned giving advocates who would be happy to give a presentation to your congregation. If individuals are interested in pursuing planned giving, our district advocates will connect them with a staff member of the LCMS Foundation, who can help them set up a Lifetime Plan for Giving.

To schedule a presentation, contact Shannon Fender by calling the District office at 785-357-4441, or visit the [Planned Giving page](#) on the Kansas District website.



The 2022-2023 **Lutheran Witness** subscription renewal packets for the Kansas District were sent to congregations on July 1. Check your mail for the packets to make additions, changes, or deletions to your subscriptions.

Renewals must be back to the district office no later than August 22.

Every month, *The Lutheran Witness* brings you news, stories, and essays that aim to encourage you in your faith, clarify God's Word, keep you informed, and spark a question or two. If you subscribe through your congregation, your issue also includes the Kansas District edition, which brings you news about LCMS people and places right here in Kansas.

If you have questions about subscriptions, contact Shannon Fender at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001, or shannon@kslcms.org.

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Around the District

Lutherans for Life of Kansas, June Meeting Highlights



Jeanne Mackay (right) celebrated 18 years of service as president of LFL-KS. Pictured with Jeanne is Shari Weber (left), who is the current president.



Rev. Michael Salemink (left), executive director of Lutherans for Life, pictured with Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz (right), executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.

The annual meeting of Lutherans for Life (LFL) of Kansas met on Sunday, June 26, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego, just two days after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Rev. Michael Salemink, the executive director of the national Lutherans for Life organization, was present. He thanked **Jeanne Mackay** for her 18 years of service as LFL-KS president.

The Board of Directors also elected four new officers; Shari Weber, Vassar, as president; Bruce Schultz, Wamego, as vice-president; Deac. Bethany Stoeve, Hepler, as a director at-large; and Rev. Ronald Rather, Salina, as a director at-large.

After the meeting, the Flint Hills LFL Chapter sponsored a presentation by **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. The presentation, "Life, Received and Shared as God's Gift Always Wins," provided education on the role we play as citizens. When addressing the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Seltz said, "God has given the world another opportunity to cherish life."

[Click here](#) to subscribe to the LFL-KS newsletter. You can also email info@LFLofKansas.org for more information.



2022 Worship Conference

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Topeka
Saturday, August 13
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rev. Sean Daenzer, Keynote Speaker

This conference is for laypeople, musicians, and pastors, so we encourage you to attend! It will conclude with Vespers and an organ recital by Timothy Schreiber.

Follow the link for more information on registration, schedule, and presentations, <https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference/>