



WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly Newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District | kslcms.org

JULY 2021

Summer is a time for ...

Ordinations and commissionings! We wish these new church workers well in their vocation and look forward to marking milestone anniversaries of our rostered workers at the October church worker conferences.

Photo from the ordination service of Rev. Christian Schultz at St. John, Alma, taken by Dr. Bruce Schultz

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

President's Office

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Timmothy Heath – St. John, Aliceville to Hobe Sound, FL – accepted
- Rev. Timmothy Heath – St. John, Aliceville to Bethlehem, Ravenna, NE – declined
- Rev. Brent Horne – Immanuel, Canton to St. Paul, Delaware, IA – declined
- Rev. Luke Jacob – Pentecost, Racine, WI to Trinity, Mission and Shawnee – accepted
- Rev. Greg Zillinger – Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, CO to Immanuel, Lawrence – declined

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

- Candidate Sean Baker to Bethany, Overland Park; ordination and installation July 11
- Rev. Caleb Stoeber to Immanuel Hepler and Good Shepherd, Erie; installation July 18
- Rev. Christian Schultz to First, Paola; installation July 25

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL

A FULL-TIME PASTOR

- Aliceville, St. John (sole)
- Basehor, Risen Savior (associate)
- Colby, Trinity (sole)
- Herington, Our Redeemer (sole)
- Herington, Immanuel (Shady Brook) and Herington, St. John's (Lyon's Creek; sole)
- Humboldt, St. Peter (senior)
- Lawrence, Immanuel (sole)
- Linn, Zion (sole)
- Olathe, Redeemer (sole)
- Pratt, Ascension (sole)
- Scott City, Holy Cross (sole)
- Shawnee, Hope (senior)
- Topeka, Prince of Peace (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED

MINISTER

- Emporia, Messiah – DCE
- Junction City, Immanuel – EC Director
- Overland Park, Bethany – DCE
- Overland Park, Christ – DCEs
- Winfield, Trinity – Teacher

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

- Teacher Kathy Bartels – Candidate status to Topeka Lutheran School – accepted
- Teacher Laisa Segrist – Loving Savior, Chino Hills, CA to Trinity, Winfield – declined
- DCE Charity Smith – St. Luke's, Manhattan to Holy Cross, O'Fallon, MO – pending
- Teacher Molly Baker – St. John, Arnold, MO to Bethany, Overland Park accepted; installation Aug. 22
- Teacher Heather Croucher – Candidate status to Bethany, Overland Park – accepted; installation Aug. 22
- Teacher Molly-Ann Wells – Lamb of God, Las Vegas to Holy Cross, Wichita – accepted; installation Aug. 15
- Candidate Morgan Dunst to Holy Cross, Wichita (Music Teacher) – accepted; installation Aug. 15
- Teacher Shannon Manley – Bethany, Overland Park to St. Paul, Leavenworth – accepted; installation Aug. 15
- Principal Chris Dehning – Trinity, Hoyleton to Trinity, Winfield – accepted; installation July 18
- Candidate Melissa Wolf – Missouri District to Trinity, Atchison – accepted

For weekly call updates, visit the [Calls and Vacancies](#) page.

Prayer Requests



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

- ❖ **Those grieving the loss of loved ones**, including
 - Rev. Eddie Hosch and family at the death of Pastor Hosch's brother, David, July 5
 - Rev. Daniel and Tiffany Harders and family at the death of Pastor Harder's mother, JoAnne Harders, June 27
 - The Rev. Frank Eberhart and family at the death of Arline Eberhart, who was called to glory June 11
 - The family of Rev. Wendell Haubein (former pastor at Trinity, Salina), who entered his heavenly rest May 17

- ❖ **Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues**, including Rev. Roland Boehnke, Barb Jahnke, Jan Borst, Carrie Meyers, New England District President Timothy Yeadon, Marty Brooks, Dennis Hintz, Karen Boettcher, Philip Wolf, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke, Diane Harries, Rev. Richard Andrus, Rev. Dave Meier, and Judy May

- ❖ **Those celebrating births**, including Rev. Joshua and Brianna Woelmer (Zion, Vassar), who welcomed a daughter June 20

- ❖ **Our Synod, congregations, schools, and organizations**, as they continue to move forward out of the pandemic

- ❖ **Congregations and schools on our [Facebook](#) prayer list in July:**
 - Churches named Ascension (Pratt; Wichita), July 5
 - Churches named Augsburg (Shawnee), July 12
 - Churches named Beautiful Savior (Olathe), July 19
 - Churches named Bethany (Overland Park and Stilwell; Wichita)

If you have a prayer request, please contact Tami Lierz at tami@kslcms.org or 785-357-4441, ext. 5001.

End Date Set: Coronavirus Resources



On March 17, we launched the Coronavirus Resources page on our website. According to the pandemic journal we've been keeping, that happened during Week 2 ("First Full Week in Crisis Mode").

We're now at the beginning of Week 70. The **state of emergency in Kansas expired June 15**. Other headlines are now grabbing attention. It's a good time to retire the Coronavirus Resources page (and these updates).

On July 30, at the end of Week 73, the **Coronavirus page will be removed** from our website. If you'd like to check anything in July, you can find the page in the dropdown menu under the President's Office.

This Month: New Worker Orientation

We're looking forward to welcoming our new workers and their spouses at the 2021 Kansas District New Worker Orientation, scheduled for Friday, July 23 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the District Office in Topeka. **The preferred registration deadline for the event is July 6**, but if you're reading this July 15 and still want to attend, contact District Office assistant Tami Lierz at 785-357-4441 ext. 5001 or tami@ksclcms.org.

The annual New Worker Orientation provides an opportunity for workers to get acquainted, learn about the District and its services, and ask questions. The event will include a general information session from 9 a.m. to noon and will resume after lunch at 1:00 with sessions that are specific to ordained and commissioned workers.



Convention News



Congregations, circuit forums, and workers attending a district workers conference in October are eligible to submit overtures (recommendations for proposed action) for consideration at next year's convention. You'll find an **overture template** on our convention webpage that walks you through the process of creating an overture in proper resolution form.

In other news: **Our convention email address has changed.** The new account, KSDconvention@ksclcms.org, has replaced our old gmail account. We can now say with certainty that you will NEVER receive any official email from our office from a gmail account. (If you've received an email from "President Panzer" in recent months from a gmail account requesting your help with a secret mission, you know why this is important.)

July Staff Travel Schedule

President Justin Panzer

- July 4** Preach at Trinity, McFarland
- July 11** Retirement of Deacon Tom Eckard, Jesus El Buen, Kansas City
Ordination/installation of Pastor-Elect Sean Baker, Bethany, Overland Park
- July 18** Installation of Rev. Caleb Stoeber, Immanuel, Hepler
- July 23** New Worker Orientation, District Office, Topeka
- July 25** Installation of Rev. Christian Schultz, First, Paola
- July 29** President's Council, District Office, Topeka
- July 30** Board of Directors Meeting, District Office, Topeka

Rev. Dan Galchutt

- July 11** Retirement of Deacon Tom Eckard, Jesus El Buen, Kansas City
- July 20** Stewardship Consultation, St. John's, Topeka
- July 25** Stewardship Sunday, First, Phillipsburg

Jim Bradshaw

- July 6** Preschool Visit, Faith, Ottawa
- July 18** Principal/Teacher Installation, Trinity, Winfield
- July 24** Early Childhood Summer Workshop, Faith, Topeka

ON THE ROAD IN JUNE



A memorial commemorates friends, neighbors, and relatives who died in the 2007 tornado in Greensburg, Kansas (snapped June 27 by President Panzer at Pastor David McCloskey's installation at Peace, Greensburg).

District Calendar

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 **Independence Day observed; District Office closed**
- 7 KDYG Planning Meeting, Zoom, 1-3 p.m.
- 9 KAIRS Executive Committee, District Office, 10 a.m.
- 11 NLSA District Commission Meeting, Zoom, 10 a.m.-noon
- 12 Board of Education and Youth, Zoom, 2 p.m.
- 13 Older Adult Committee Meeting, Zoom, 10 a.m.-noon
- 16 Board of Caring Ministry, Zoom, 1-3 p.m.
- 18-23 Lutheran Valley Retreat Summer Camp (Camp 2)
- 20 Board of Missions, Zoom, 2 p.m.
- 21 Partnership Meeting, 2 p.m.
- 23 New Worker Orientation, District Office, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 24 Early Childhood Workshop, Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 26 Board of Administration, Zoom, 12:30 p.m.
Board of Stewardship, Zoom, 7 p.m.
- 27 Circuit Visitors Meeting, Zoom, 10-11 a.m.
Executive Council, noon-1 p.m.
- 29 President's Council, 1-5 p.m.
Professional Development Committee, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 30 Board of Directors Meeting, District Office, Topeka
- 31 LERT Meeting, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.



**LCMS KANSAS
DISTRICT CONVENTION**

June 9-10, 2022

AUGUST

- 3 Church Worker Care Committee, District Office, noon-3 p.m.
- 5 PDP Toolbox Teacher Inservice Zoom – 1-3 p.m.
- 14 Middle School Retreat Planning Committee, Camp Webster, Salina, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 16 Convention Planning Meeting, District Office, noon-3 p.m.
- 21 Adult Education Committee, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.
- 24 Circuit Visitors Meeting, Zoom, 10-11 a.m.
Topeka DCE Meeting, District Office, 10 a.m.-noon
Children's and Family Life Committee, Zoom, 1-2:30 p.m.
- 28 Adult Education Committee, Zoom, 8-10 a.m.
CV Zoom, 10-11 a.m.

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

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations and many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give to those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lutheran Service Book, 313

Missions and Stewardship

Next Month: 2022 Mission Grants



Surprised to see a photo of a child with chickens on this page? You might be, unless you're familiar with the Disciple Garden in Kansas City. The Disciple Garden, a project of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, is supported in part by a Kansas District Mission Grant. (Read more about the project [HERE](#).)

Your chance to apply for a grant is coming soon! Invitations to apply will be sent in mid-August, with an application deadline of September 17. If you've been thinking about a mission project, this is a great opportunity to get it rolling!

Questions? Contact Rev. Dan Galchutt, dangalchutt@kslcms.org or Janet Powell, janet@kslcms.org.

West Africa News

Missionary Rev. Jacob Gaugert, theological educator in West and Central Africa, provides an interesting recap of his pandemic-year activities in his [April/May newsletter](#). At the end of the newsletter, Rev. Gaugert shares his plans for the fall:

Lord willing, I will be back on the African continent in early September to attend the annual CAU meeting of the Francophone Union, which is to be held in Congo-Brazzaville. This will be a very important meeting for these church leaders as they give further consideration to their subscription to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and what that means for the practices of their churches in caring for the souls entrusted to their care. There will also be discussion and clarifications on the administrative aspect of their partnership among their own church bodies and with LCMS OIM (Office of International Mission). **I ask for your prayers for these leaders** as they will need to dedicate themselves to much prayer, study, and communication in preparation for this meeting so that the discussions and decisions that take place would be fruitful for the work of Christ in His Kingdom among them.

We pray that Rev. Gaugert has a safe return to Africa!

Reminder: Help Graduates Connect

Who are the college-bound students in your congregation? Where are they headed next year? If they are off to college in another town (or relocating for other reasons), they'll need to find a new church home.

This transition time is critical! You can help students maintain a strong connection to the Church by connecting them to a new congregation.

If you're a **pastor**, you can recommend a new church home and introduce your student to a new pastor. If you're a **congregation member** and know a recent graduate, ask what's next for them. Maybe you have a story or some encouragement to share. If you're a **parent**, consider attending a church service with your student in the new location.

The Kansas District can help with connections, too. The [Campus Ministry page](#) on our website includes a student contact form. Just fill out the form, and we'll get the information where it needs to go.



Education & Youth

Church Worker Conferences: Registration Opens Next Month

Details about our October worker conferences in Junction City will be available next month at kslcms.org, with registration opening August 2 at 10 a.m. We're looking forward to seeing many of you in person at the conferences. If you have burning questions before then, contact Tami Lierz at tami@kslcms.org.

Educators Conference, October 3-5



Pastors Conference, October 10-12



KDYG: Faithful



"He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it."

All high school students of the Kansas District are invited to join us for this year's Kansas District Youth Gathering November 19-21 at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Topeka! Our theme for this year's Gathering is "Faithful," based on 1 Thessalonians 5:24. Down through the generations God has proved Himself faithful, and He has been working towards His perfect plan and purpose for humanity, which is that Christ is all and in all.

We are preparing to make this year's Gathering a safe and Christ-centered experience including Bible studies, service projects, music, fellowship and worship! Join us in November!

Registration opens September 1. Watch for registration details next month.

LAST CALL: Early Childhood Conference

Close to 50 early childhood educators have registered for the 2021 Kansas District Early Childhood Conference, "Don't Worry, Be Happy," which will be held in person Saturday, July 24 at Faith Lutheran Church in Topeka. The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Kim Marxhausen, along with conference sessions including "Building Stronger Brains with the Arts," "The Best of Early Childhood Literature," and "Conscientious Child Care." The event will run from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For a [registration form](#), check the Quick Links section of kslcms.org. **The registration deadline is July 16.**



Early Childhood Education

CFLC Recommends: 7 Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry

Jim Bradshaw, Children's and Family Life Committee



One year ago, we were well into the pandemic. One year from now, LCMS youth and adults will be gathering at the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Whether your congregation plans to attend or not, it's critical that we all embrace the young people that our Lord has entrusted to us for care and keeping.

As the Children's and Family Life Committee begins a second round of resource recommendations focusing on ministry impact across the life span, I would like to recommend **7 Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry – An Introduction**. This timely article from LCMS Youth Ministry addresses how congregations might proactively address post-youth confirmation ministry or teaching in their church's context as they support, direct, and inspire youth and their families today and into the future. A brief excerpt follows:

*This is not a program. We will not present you with a curriculum, schedule, or plan of events. There is no single right path to produce healthy youth ministry. Instead, the focus is on relationships: God's relationship with us, parents' relationships with their children, the congregational relationship to youth, and the youth's relationship with key adults. **We believe that when you seek to build and sustain Christ centered relationships, the right programs for your congregation will become clear.***

I encourage you to read the [full article](#) on the Youth ESource website.

LVR: Camp 1 Highlights

DCE Beth Stephens, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee

On June 6, 56 students and six adults traveled to Lutheran Valley Retreat in Colorado. Adult leaders included Debbie Dillon (Bethany Overland Park), Erika Troester and Pastor Jon Gruen (Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit), Angel Gillespie (First, Paola), and Nurse Julie Clobes (Trinity, Mission and Shawnee). Students came from Kansas City, Wichita, Newton, and Colby.



Highlights:

- Watching students from across the state of Kansas grow together over the course of a week.
- Singing together around a campfire and students leading devotions.
- Sunrise hike to Cedar Mountain.
- Students challenging themselves on high ropes, rock climbing, and ziplining.

Students and adults communicated how thankful they were to be gathering at camp again after not being able to do so last year. The adults witnessed students meeting new people and forming friendships united in faith. As always, the LVR staff facilitated the camp experience with professionalism and fun. It is a gift in ministry to be involved in taking students to Lutheran Valley Retreat with the Kansas District.

LVR Camp 2 runs from July 18-23.

Caring Ministry

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

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

LERT Flood Response Natoma, KS | May 16-22, 2021

The latest report from Bob Warfel (Messiah, Hays) states that the community has their cleanup under control, and no further help is needed at this time. Thank you, Bob, Jean and the entire Messiah LERT team and Pastor Michael Schmidt (Peace, Natoma & First, Plainville) for your timely response and the work you completed for families on Saturday, May 22!



LERT Tornado Response Selden, KS

An EF1 tornado set down in the town of Selden, Kansas in the northwest part of the state on May 24, 2021. Most of the damage was in the downtown area, but several homes were affected as well. Once again, Bob Warfel (Messiah, Hays) traveled to Selden with Pastor Schmidt to assess the damage and offer assistance. The residents and city officials had already begun the cleanup process and felt that they were equipped to take care of the required work. Thank you, Pastor Michael Schmidt, for traveling with Bob to assess the needs in Selden.

Wind damage in Garnett, KS | June 11, 2021

A powerful storm moved through north central to eastern Kansas, snapping power poles, uprooting and damaging trees, and leaving thousands without power. Our call came from the emergency manager in Anderson County. The NE LERT team responded on June 12, 2021, with chainsaws, working on three properties. We are awaiting word of further work needed in the area. Many thanks to the NE LERT Team for your quick response!

LERT Team Spreadsheets

LERT team leaders should have received the LERT team spreadsheets. Please update those as soon as you can and return them to me. If you did not receive your sheet, please let me know and I can send it to you. We want to have our LERT teams finalized before sending the information to St. Louis to be downloaded into the new system.

Please watch the [LCMS Kansas District website](#) and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](#) & [Lutheran Early Response Team - Northeast KS](#)) for current information on responses and training opportunities.

Grace and Peace,
Donna Williams
Isaiah 6:8

"All of the work that we do with LCMS Disaster Response and volunteers is done in the name of Christ and of the local congregation, letting people know that in the midst of tragedy, there are people in the faith that care about them, love them and serve them in the name of Christ."

LCMS Disaster Response Director Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson
Lutherans Engage Online

[READ STORY](#)

Focus on Mental Health: "Truth Be Told"

The article below, written by Principal Sharon Fries of Bethany, Overland Park, showcases a positive step toward the goal of encouraging Kansas District members "to provide Christ-centered, compassionate care to those with mental illnesses and disorders (Convention Resolution 18-02-05).

Matthew West sings a song titled *Truth be Told*. It is worth every bit of the 3:47 it takes to listen to it. I think lie number one ("You're supposed to have it all together") is believed by church workers everywhere, and lie number two ("Everybody's life is perfect except yours") is the story of so many of our youth today. Seriously, you should stop reading right now and [listen to the song](#), then come back.

I have two principals that are my go-to people in the "principal world." Mentors and models in every sense of the word:

- Mr. Brueggemann (Mr. B) was the principal who started Hope Lutheran School in Shawnee in 1983. Milt was an amazing man, and loved by many. I knew him well. He was my youth group leader in high school, my boss when I ran the after-care program at Hope, and someone I talked with a lot during my first 10 years of teaching. What I wouldn't give to talk to him again! Milt passed away from lung disease just a few years after we started our school at Bethany, Overland Park, where I currently serve as principal. His dying wish is that we all continue to tell the kids that Jesus loves them.
- Steve Vandemark was the principal at Christ Lutheran School in Overland Park for several years and also spent many years in local public schools in the area. We've been friends since high school and rarely went more than a day or two without texting about something. He was a tremendous leader, great coach, and my go-to friend in so many ways - principal world and otherwise.

Neither of these principals made it out of their 50s. Lives cut way too short. Two men missed daily by so many people.

On Friday afternoon, September 25, 2020, Steve took his own life. He suffered from mental illness and depression in a way that very few people knew about. He didn't feel he could tell anyone, so he didn't. The first time I heard the *Truth Be Told* song was at his funeral, and it's one of the most powerful services that I have ever attended. That song is Steve's story. We just can't have any more funerals like that.

Some good has to come from this. That is what is happening with a program called *Truth be Told*, started in honor of Milt and Steve, at Bethany. Leaders of this program are focused on the ministry of mental health. Time is spent intentionally talking with each other, getting to know each other, and helping mental health be more understood and accepted, rather than something to avoid. Middle school students eat lunch together and are guided in intentional conversation about how everyone is doing and feeling, how we can help each other, and current events in their lives. In June 2021, the first annual *Truth Be Told* Basketball Camp hosted 40 middle school students for a few days of fun, basketball, and conversations. Biblical reminders were presented on how we can help and support each other.

In front of Bethany Lutheran Church and School is a tree, planted in memory of Mr. B and Mr. V. It's our *Truth Be Told* tree, with an engraved reminder at the base of the tree of the wonderful ministry begun by these two men, and now continued by those impacted by their lives. Mental health is so important. While not as obvious as a broken bone or cancer, it needs the same attention and care. The *Truth Be Told* program is just beginning. Please pray that as it grows, it will continue to help this current generation make a radical difference in the lives of those around them and in the world of mental health.



Mental health is so important. While not as obvious as a broken bone or cancer, it needs the same attention and care.

Business Office

2022 Concordia Plan Services Employer Enrollment Information



Mark your calendar! Concordia Plan Services 2022 **open enrollment for employers will be August 2 – September 3, 2021**. Ministries will have their annual opportunity to select health, dental and vision options for their workers. Look for your enrollment packet in mid-July, which will include updated rates.

District Awards \$43K+ in Scholarships

The District's Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that \$43,500 in scholarships have been awarded this year to two freshmen, four juniors, four seniors, one deaconess and nine seminarians! Students are eligible for general scholarships if they are pursuing a degree in church work at an LCMS college or seminary. Congratulations, 2021/2022 scholarship recipients!

Now Accepting Education Loan Repayment Grant Applications

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 2021 grant application is now available on our website. You can access the form under the "Quick Links" on the [homepage](#) or on our [grants and scholarships page](#).

The application deadline is August 31, 2021. 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. Grants applications will be reviewed and awards announced by the end of September.

The policy of the LCMS Kansas District is for education loan grants to be applied to educational debt that rostered workers have incurred, whether in the form of federally subsidized loans, commercial loans or even credit card debt for books needed to enter ministry. The grant is awarded to help reduce total indebtedness, not to make payments in advance or to reduce the amount of currently scheduled payments.

RELATED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

CPS Student Loan Debt Virtual Workshop



Concordia Plans and Fidelity want to help you create a plan to pay off your student debt. Join them to "Get a Handle on Your Current Student Loan Debt," a live virtual workshop on July 22 at 11:00 a.m. CST. Register [HERE](#) for the workshop.

CPS hosts **monthly webinars** in their Financial Education Series. Past sessions are available to watch on demand and can be found on the CPS website at concordiaplans.org/financialwebinars.

The **Fidelity Student Tool** is available to the LCMS family and can be accessed by going to fidelity.com/studentdebt.

CPS members who would like to take a deeper dive into their personal finances can meet with **certified financial coach** Laura Scheer. To learn more, email laura.scheer@concordiaplans.org or set up a discover session at calendly.com/laura-scheer/financial-coaching.

Subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness*

2021-2022 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets are being sent to congregations in early July. Check your mail for the packets to make additions, changes or deletions to your subscriptions.

Renewals must be back to our office no later than August 23.

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 maybe 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.



Communications

Prayers for Congregations and Schools: Bonus Year



Trivia question: What name is shared by the most LCMS Kansas churches/schools? You'll find out during the upcoming year with our new round of "Prayers for Congregations and Schools," which begins this month.

We launched "Prayers for Congregations and Schools" on the Kansas District Facebook page in 2018, posting prayer requests every Monday morning for a different congregation. Now that we have a "bonus year" in the triennium, we have an opportunity to restart the list.



The goal, once again, will be to cover everyone before the end of the triennium next June, but that will require some reengineering of the original list. Beginning this month, **we'll be praying for churches and schools that share a name**—starting with Ascension and ending with Zion.

So, what's the most popular LCMS church name in Kansas? Here's a hint: We'll be devoting five weeks to these churches next spring (and we'll need to include around five churches each week).

Requesting Three Minutes: *Workers Together* Survey

Fun fact: *Workers Together*, our district newsletter, has retained its basic form since 2012. We've made a few tweaks here and there in the last few years—more photos, different font, revised masthead—but in other respects, the newsletter is the same. That might be fine, but with the rapid changes we've seen in the way readers consume information, **it's time to start asking questions.**

[Take the Survey](#)

If you can spare a few minutes, we'd love to hear your thoughts. We've created a [quick survey](#) with just 10 short questions. If surveys aren't your style, feel free to send your thoughts directly to Kris Bruss at kbruss@kslcms.org.

We want our publications to work for YOU. Your feedback will help us fine-tune our target.

A Note from Your DVP

Dear Kansas District Members,

It is my pleasure to represent Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and serve the ministries of the LCMS Kansas District. We are blessed with close relationships with church workers, district congregations, schools and RSOs.



When you invest with LCEF, you bless LCMS congregations, ministries, and workers, helping to give them an opportunity to grow and connect more people in their communities to Jesus.

NEW INVESTMENT! Church Worker StewardAccount

As 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. Of course, that does not mean you are immune from the stresses of this world. For many church workers, money challenges can distract—and even derail—you from that service.

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.

If that sounds like you, check out LCEF's [Church Worker StewardAccount](#). It's an investment exclusively for LCMS rostered and lay church workers (full or part-time, or retired).

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
- Unlimited checks
- Visa® debit card (optional)
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- 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

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

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matt. 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. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian of the LCEF IRA/HSA programs. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a.



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Around the District

Ordinations and Installations



Ordained in Kansas; Called to Florida

Brendon Moore, son of Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas, was ordained June 13. He was placed as associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida. From left, Rev. Aaron Hannemann, Rev. Charles Reich, Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer, Rev. Brendon Moore, Rev. Scott Goltl, and Rev. John Pool.



Ordained in Iowa; Called to Kansas

Rev. Caleb Stoever was installed at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa, June 13. He will be serving in the Kansas District as pastor of Good Shepherd, Erie, and Immanuel, Hepler. From left, Rev. Richard Milbrandt, Rev. David Simonson, Rev. Christopher Nitzel, Rev. Paul Egger, Rev. Caleb Stoever, Rev. Michael McGinley, Rev. Michael Sharp, and Rev. Duane Jalas. Not pictured: Rev. David Ericksen.



Ordained and Installed in Kansas

Rev. Ian Kinney, who will be serving congregations in the Northeast Kansas Partnership, was ordained and installed at Zion, Hiawatha June 26. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Ian Kinney, Michael Dunaway; (middle row) Eamonn Ferguson, Sawyer Meyers, Devin Kerns, Daniel Broaddus, Mark Lovett, Jay Watson, Paul Schulz; (back row) Gifford Grobien, Gideon Pullmann, Cory Kroonblawd, Philip Wolf, Marty Reed, Jon Bruss, Dan Galchutt, and Geoff Boyle.



Installed in Leawood

Rev Scott Holder was installed as pastor of Lord of Life, Leawood June 13. From left, Revs. Tom Brewer, Andy Keltner, Mark Schulz, Justin Panzer, Scott Holder, Jerry Brownlee, Kevin Wyssmann, Jerome Peck, and John Tape.



Installed in Greensburg

Rev. David McCloskey was installed as pastor at Peace, Greensburg June 27. From left, Rev. Dennis Mason, President Justin Panzer, Rev. David McCloskey, and Rev. Cliff Winter.

Event Reminders



REGISTER BY JULY 19

Confessing Christ and Living His Mission: Pre-Constantinian Theology and Practice for Our Post-Constantinian World | August 2-4, 2021 | Faith, Ottawa

Dr. Benjamin Haupt, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

For more information and to register, visit the [event page](#) on the Concordia Seminary website. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Timothy Roth through the church office at Faith at secretary@faith-lutheran.net



REGISTER BY AUGUST 16

2021 Worship Conference: "That the Holy Gospel May Have Free Course: History and Theology of Lutheran Liturgy" | Saturday, August 21, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. | St. John's, Topeka

Dr. Christopher Boyd Brown, keynote speaker

For more information, including a schedule and registration details, visit the [event page](#) on the St. John's website. Questions? Contact Bethany Johnson (bjohnson@stjlcms.org)

Available: Communion Items



Looking for communion ware? Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka has a few items they'd be happy to donate. Items available include one brass paten with a lid and a base and four brass individual cup trays with a base and lid. If the items need to be shipped, Christ would be happy to work out details with you. If interested, contact the church office at Christ at 785-266-6263, or use this handy [contact form](#).

District Office Directory

President's Office

- Rev. Justin Panzer, President: kspres@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 5001
- Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant: tami@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 5001

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- Kris Bruss, Communications Specialist, kbruss@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 6001

Retreat Center Reservations

- Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant: shannon@kslcms.org, 785-357-4441, ext. 1001

District Archives

- Mike Grau: archives@kslcms.org



