

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly Newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District | kslcms.org

SEPTEMBER 2021

Lift High the Cross

HOLY CROSS DAY, SEPTEMBER 14

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Gal. 6:14 | Photo: St. Matthew, Nortonville, KS

In This Issue

President's Office

- Calls and Vacancies
- We Pray: Be Strong, Church!
- “Living as the Baptized” Tour
- Pastors Conference: Registration Open
- Prayer Requests
- District Calendar
- September Staff Travel Schedule

Missions & Stewardship

- LAST CALL: Mission Grant Applications
- In October: District Reformation Offering
- Coming Soon: Congregational Commitments
- Reminder: Life Tour

Education & Youth

- Register Now! Educators Conference
- KDYG Registration Now Open
- LCMS Youth Gathering Update
- From the Adult Education Committee: Prayer
- CFLC Recommends: *Finding Hope*

Caring Ministry

- LERT News
- Book Review: *Reclaiming the Joy of Ministry*

Business Office

- Free Health Resources from Concordia Plan Services
- 2022 Salary Guidelines Now Available

Communications

- Survey Says: Keep the Monthly PDF!
- Invitation: Share Your Reformation Images

LCEF

- A Note from Your DVP

Around the District

- Installations
- A Closer Look at Concordia Academy
- Next Month: Reformation Events

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. Russell Bonine, St. Paul, Haven to Bethlehem, Ravenna, NE – accepted
- Rev. Stanley Palmer, Our Redeemer, Kinsley and Zion, Offerle to St. John, Aliceville – pending
- Rev. Kevin DeHope, Grace, Bakersfield, CA to Prince of Peace, Topeka – pending
- Rev. Jared Nies, St. John, Perham, MN to Immanuel, Lawrence – pending
- Rev. Matthew Jennings, Good Shepherd, Yucca Valley, CA to St. Peter, Humboldt – pending
- Rev. Matthew Jennings, Good Shepherd, Yucca Valley, CA to Holy Cross, Scott City – pending
- Rev. Karl Gibbs, Immanuel, Carrollton, MO to Trinity, Colby – pending
- Rev. Karl Gibbs, Immanuel, Carrollton, MO to Redeemer, Olathe – declined
- Rev. Jim Bender, Trinity, Hudson, WI to Immanuel, Lawrence – declined
- Rev. Robert Sundquist, Las Vegas, NV to Prince of Peace, Topeka – declined

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Kurt Cockran at Risen Savior, Basehor – September 12
- Rev. Kent Peck at Peace, Beaver (new partner congregation with St. John, Meade) – September 19

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

- Aliceville, St. John (sole)
- Colby, Trinity (sole)
- Haven, St. Paul (sole)
- Herington, Our Redeemer; Herington, Immanuel (Shady Brook); and Herington, St. John's (Lyon's Creek; triple parish partnership (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
- Overland Park, Bethany – DCE
- Overland Park, Christ – DCE
- Salina, Christ the King – DCE

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

- None at this time.

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

For weekly call updates, visit the [Calls and Vacancies](#) page of the Kansas District website. The list is updated every Tuesday (typically by 10 a.m.).

We Pray: Be Strong, Church!

You've no doubt noticed the trends: COVID-19 activity has increased in many areas, and that's prompted a new round of recommendations and responses. As we move forward in uncertain times, please know that we're keeping all our congregations, schools, and workers in our prayers.

Speaking of prayers: Last year at this time, we launched our first "Together We Pray" 90-day prayer campaign. Those prayers from 2020 are just as applicable now. Here are a few from September to encourage you this month.

*You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay! — Psalm 70:5*

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. — Hebrews 10:24-25

Heavenly Father, just as I am encouraged by the presence of my brothers and sisters in Christ when we gather around the holy Word and blessed Sacrament, grant that my presence in their midst may encourage them, as well; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own
understanding. — Proverbs 3:5*

Lord God, heavenly Father, with Your divine wisdom You have created the heavens and the earth and ordered all things in accordance with Your will. During this time of pandemic, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may trust in You and Your wisdom rather than our own understanding. Keep far from us all fear and worry and help us trust in You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

"Living as the Baptized" Tour

Living as the Baptized

2021 DISTRICT TOUR

Manhattan

Saturday, November 6
St. Luke's | 9-11 a.m.

Hays

Saturday, November 6
Messiah | 5-7 p.m.

Dodge City

Sunday, November 7
Holy Cross | 3-5 p.m.

Wichita

Tuesday, November 9
Holy Cross | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Iola

Thursday, November 11
Grace | 6-8 p.m.

Mission

Saturday, November 13
Trinity | 9-11 a.m.

What does it mean to "Live as the Baptized?" You're invited to join the conversation at one of the locations listed above in November. Congregations can expect to receive more information about these events in a few weeks.

Pastors Conference: Registration Open



2021 PASTORS CONFERENCE

**WALKING
TOGETHER**

IN A DIGITAL AGE

PSALM 133:1

Registration is now open for the 2021 Pastors Conference, being held October 10-12 in Junction City. We hope to see many of our pastors at the conference, where we'll resume our work with the Koinonia Project in a discussion of technology and its impact on the church's worship and community. **Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy**, president emeritus of the LCMS Minnesota South District, will give the opening keynote on Monday, October 11.

Pastors, please join us on Sunday night, October 10, for an evening of fellowship to start the conference. We encourage you to take the time to refresh yourselves for Monday morning, relax, and converse with one another about matters of casuistry that you have encountered over the past year. There is no set agenda for the evening; feel free to use it as you see fit.

Prayer Requests



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

- ❖ **Those grieving the loss of loved ones**, including
 - Teacher Kathy Bartels and family at the death of her father, Arwin Bauman, September 2
 - Shannon Fender and family at the death of her mother, Donna Oldham, August 17
 - Rev. Ed and Rebecca Mease at the death of Rebecca's mother, Char Underwood
 - Rev. Gary Wolf and family at the death of his brother, Norman Wolf, July 22
- ❖ **Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues**, including Rev. David and Jac E Lu Erslund, Clayton and Deaconess Linda Kinnett, Rev. Michael Schotte, Paul Schmidt, Rev. Dale Dumperth, Rev. Matthew Schneider, Rev. Roland Boehnke, Carrie Meyers, New England District President Rev. Timothy Yeadon, Philip Wolf, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Diane Harries, Rev. Richard Andrus, and Judy May
- ❖ **Those celebrating births**, including
 - Rev. Cody and Katie Norton (LCMS Army Chaplain) at the birth of a daughter August 4
- **LCMS early childhood centers** in Kansas, several of which are facing staffing challenges
- **Those affected by Hurricane Ida**
- ❖ **Congregations and schools on our [Facebook](#) prayer list in September:**
 - Christ the King (Salina), this week
 - Concordia (Hoisington), September 13
 - Churches named Faith (Derby, Emporia, Abilene, Kansas City, Ottawa, Topeka), September 20
 - Churches named First (Hiawatha, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Paola), September 27

SEPTEMBER

- 2** Educators Conference Planning Committee, Zoom, 1-3 p.m.
- 6** **LABOR DAY**; District Office closed
- 7-11** LCMS Council of Presidents Meeting
- 9** Koinonia Facilitators Training, District Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 15** Lutheran Schools Committee, District Office, 5:30 p.m.
- 16-17** Kansas District Principals Conference
- 17** LERT Meeting, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.
- 21-22** [Theological Symposium](#), "Whatever Is Lovely," Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- 21** Saints Alive Committee, Zoom, 9-10 a.m.
- 21** Older Adult Committee, Zoom, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 22** Education Loan Committee, District Office, 2-3 p.m.
- 25** District Youth Ministry Team, Retreat Center, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 30** KDYG Planning Meeting, Zoom, 10 a.m.-noon

OCTOBER

- 1** Professional Development Committee, Zoom, 1-3 p.m.
- 3-5** Educators Conference, Junction City, KS
- 10-12** Pastors Conference, Junction City, KS
- 12** Board of Missions Meeting, Junction City, KS, 2-4 p.m.
- 14** KDYG Planning Meeting, Hotel Topeka, noon-3 p.m.
- 15** Board of Caring Ministry Meeting, Zoom, 10 a.m.-noon
- 18** Board of Education and Youth Meeting, Zoom, 1-3 p.m.
- 19** Middle School Event Planning, Zoom, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- 25** Board of Stewardship Meeting, Zoom, 7 p.m.
- 26** Executive Council Meeting, Zoom, noon
- 28-29** Kansas District Board of Directors Meeting



LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT CONVENTION

June 9-10, 2022

Deadline for nominations
Nov. 30, 2021

Deadline for overtures
February 19, 2022

September Staff Travel Schedule

President Justin Panzer

- Sept. 5** Preaching, St. Matthew, Nortonville and Trinity, Holton
- Sept. 7-11** LCMS Council of Presidents, St. Louis
- Sept. 12** Rev. Kurt Cockran Installation, Risen Savior, Basehor
- Sept. 14** Circuit 6 Winkel, Calvary, Topeka
Partnership Meeting, Trinity, Holton and St. Matthew,
Nortonville
- Sept. 19** Preaching, St. John, Meade
Preaching and Installation of Rev. Kent Peck (St. John,
Meade) at Peace Lutheran, Beaver, OK
- Sept. 21** Circuit 5 Winkel, Zion, Chanute

Rev. Dan Galchutt

- Sept. 5** Preaching, Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor
- Sept. 11** Partnership Meeting, St. John's, Topeka
- Sept. 12** Rev. Kurt Cockran Installation, Risen Savior, Basehor
- Sept. 14** Circuit Meeting, Trinity, Burlington
- Sept. 15** Hispanic Ministry Meetings, Kansas City
- Sept. 18** Strategic Planning, St. Matthew, Nortonville
- Sept. 19** Preaching, Trinity, McFarland

Jim Bradshaw

- Sept. 1** School Visit, St. Paul, Leavenworth
- Sept. 25** District Youth Ministry Committee, Herington
- Sept. 26** Retirement Celebration, Elaine Whiteneck, Messiah, Emporia

ON THE ROAD IN AUGUST



People gather at Mt. Calvary, Marysville, August 15 for the ordination of Pastor Jay Williamson.

Missions and Stewardship

LAST CALL: Mission Grant Applications

Mission Grant Insights

“One aspect that wasn’t expected is that the youth have brought their friends from school. The children seem to be the greatest or most enthusiastic evangelists in the church. They only needed an opportunity to bring their friends.”

IMMANUEL, JUNCTION CITY
2021 Mission Grant Recipient
Project: Youth Group Revitalization

What opportunities do YOU see to share the Gospel with those around you? If you have an idea and could use some financial support, we encourage you to consider applying for a Kansas District Mission grant. **The deadline for 2022 grant applications is September 17.**

The Board of Missions is particularly interested in projects that focus on spreading the Gospel, planting churches, and demonstrating Christ’s love and mercy outside the walls of the church.

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

In October: District Reformation Offering



“The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.”

MARTIN LUTHER
Thesis 62 of the 95 Theses

Our annual Kansas District Reformation Offering supports sharing “the true treasure of the church”—God’s Holy Gospel—with people right here in Kansas. A few ways to get involved:

Prayers. Please pray for congregations, workers and fellow LCMS Kansans who are actively engaged in mission work, that God would bless their efforts to share the love of Christ.

Gifts. Contributions to the Reformation Offering will support mission projects in Kansas (e.g., church planting, evangelism training, specialized ministries). Gifts may be mailed to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kansas 66604-1104 or given online on our [Donate](#) page.

Ideas. If you have an idea for mission outreach in Kansas, contact Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, at dangalchutt@kslcms.org or 785-357-4441.

Pastors/Congregations: Materials for promoting the offering will be available by mid-September at kslcms.org on the [Kansas District Offerings](#) page (under the Business Office tab). Thank you for your help in getting the word out!

Coming Soon: 2022 Congregational Commitments

Every fall, congregations are given the opportunity to make a commitment to support our joint work in the Kansas District and the Synod for the upcoming year. This information is beneficial to the District Board of Directors as they finalize the ministry plan and budget for the upcoming fiscal year. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of your 2022 commitment!

Congregational commitment forms will be mailed to congregations at the end of September, along with an updated "Mission and Ministry" document and 2021 budget summary.

Please submit your 2022 form by the end of the year (January 15 at the latest) in any of the following ways:

- Email your form to Shannon Fender at shannon@kslcms.org, or call her at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001
- Mail your form to LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604
- Fax your form to 785-357-5071

Reminder: Life Tour

The **Rev. Jeff Duncan**, Director of Mission and Ministry of Lutherans for Life, will be touring Kansas September 11-20 speaking in host churches to share how Lutherans can get involved, be informed about current life issues, and help other Lutherans be "Gospel-oriented Voices for Life." Rev. Duncan is scheduled to visit Vassar, Ottawa, Topeka, Manhattan, Natoma, Oakley, Cheney, and Wichita. The presentation at each location will address Life Teams, Life Chapters, Word of Hope, Y4Life for youth, and other programs and conferences. There will be time for discussion and question and answer. For complete details on church locations, dates, and times of presentations, email jmac14430@gmail.com, write to LFL of Kansas, PO Box 19302, Lenexa, KS, or go to the website www.lflokansas.org to find the information.



Education & Youth

Register Now! Educators Conference



Registration is now open for the 2021 Educators Conference, being held October 3-5 in Junction City, Kansas. Visit our website, kslcms.org, to access conference information and to register online.

The keynote speaker for the conference is the **Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman**, executive director at Grace Place Wellness. Dr. Zimmerman's three presentations will focus on spiritual well-being, vocational well-being, and healthy team ministry.

EDUCATORS CONFERENCE 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 District-wide Church Worker Care support fund. This District discretionary fund has historically assisted pastors and educators, their spouses, and their families in addressing a variety of unforeseen emergency worker needs. The goal for this special appeal is to invite each District school/congregation to raise a minimum of \$50 each. The offerings will be received on Tuesday morning, October 5, at the Educators Conference in Junction City. Please set aside the month of September for this challenge!

KDYG Registration Now Open



We are pleased to announce that the 2021 Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) will be held November 19-21 at Hotel Topeka at City Center (formerly the Topeka Capitol Plaza). The theme for this senior youth event is *Faithful*, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:24. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Bill Yonker, senior pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Dundee, IL. We are excited that our Gathering band is *Remedy Drive*.

This year, we will offer the following sectional topics: *Sexuality* (Rev. Bill Yonker), *Isolation and Mental Health* (Rev. Neil Buono), *Life and Death* (Rev. Matthew Durance), and *Identity* (Rev. Sean & Molly Baker). In addition, students will be able to participate in two to four simple onsite projects within a rotation of sectionals and service.

The registration cost is \$99 plus a hotel room cost of \$97/night (four per room). **Registration is now open.** KDYG information is posted on the LCMS Kansas District website at kslcms.org/kdyg/.

LCMS Youth Gathering Update



"In All Things" is the theme for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering. We will be diving into Colossians 1:15-20 to see how Christ is the Creator of all things, reconciles all things, reigns over all, transforms the lives of all and promises to return to restore all things. More information and thematic development can be found here: lcmsgathering.com.

Registration for Kansas-specific Youth Gathering activities will open November 1. This is also the first day to mail in registration to the national office. (That way you know numbers for Kansas registration!) All info can be found on the [Kansas District page for the National Youth Gathering](#) (Education and Youth > Youth Ministry > NYG).

District Coordinators Debbie Dennett (620-229-1991) and Amanda Adams (785-632-7101) are here to answer any questions, so please feel free to reach out. Our email is nygksdistrict@gmail.com

Prayer

Kathy Blouch, Adult Education Committee

Following is the first of several planned articles from the Adult Education Committee on the topic of prayer.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” is the first line from a favorite hymn of mine. I think it’s also an important fact to remember when we talk about prayer. How do you know you have a good friend? My friends talk to me. I talk to them, spend time with them, and enjoy the person I am while in their presence. Shouldn’t the same hold true for our heavenly Father?

When we think about prayer, it is important to think about how we pray, what we pray about, and when we pray. When we talk about prayer, we might discuss folding our hands, bowing our heads, and closing our eyes. For children, it’s important to remind them to block out things that may distract from our talk with God—distractions that come from people and events around us as well as how we may distract ourselves with activities during prayer. Some people find kneeling to pray helps them focus. I like to remember the origin of the pretzel as a treat for children saying their prayers by crossing their arms and putting their hands on their opposite shoulders. The position itself doesn’t create the prayer, however.

As we consider what we pray about, there are some acronyms that may prove helpful. ACTS is a favorite of mine as I remember elements to include in my prayer.

- ❖ **A... Adoration.** What a loving God we have. It is right to praise our loving, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God.
- ❖ **C... Confession.** As a sinner, I am constantly reminded of my sins and my need to go to God. I acknowledge all my sins (especially those I am unaware of having committed), ask for God’s forgiveness, and trust that He will forgive those sins. I earnestly desire to turn away from my sinful actions and lead a life pleasing to God.
- ❖ **T... Thanksgiving.** I have only to look around myself to be aware of the wonderful gifts God gives me. I am breathing; I have food to eat, a home, family and friends, and whatever degree of health God grants to me.
- ❖ **S... Supplication.** This is the type of prayer I most often find myself carrying to my heavenly Father. I believe God wants to hear all of our requests, no matter the size or significance of the prayer. I believe children have it right when they ask God’s help in all things, large and small.

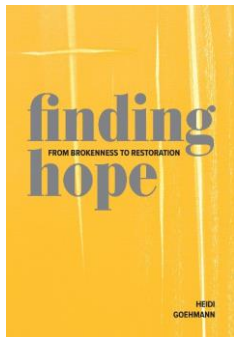
There are so many wonderful Bible verses and hymns that remind us to spend time with God in prayer (e.g., Philippians 4:6, Romans 12:12, I Thessalonians 5:16-18). Those can be great starting points for your prayer. As you consider your personal prayer life, make prayer a routine within your day. Have you considered praying in the shower? In bed before you fall asleep? While doing dishes? As you drive? With a friend on the phone?

Remember, just as you are eager to spend time with friends, God is eager to hear from you. Take time (and make time) to pray.



CFLC Recommends: Finding Hope

Deaconness Heidi Goehmann



Injustice, mental health struggle, COVID, challenging family dynamics ... we see and interact with these things every day. They feel weighty and sometimes seem like blankets hiding hope from the world, from each of us.

[*Finding Hope: From Brokenness to Restoration*](#) helps us give a name and a space for these complications that we see in our world every day. It helps us see hope for ourselves and bring hope to those around us because it invites us to honor both our joys and our hurts and leaves room for complexity with topics like vulnerability, shame, sin, emotions, childhood, the church, health, etc., rather than looking for simple, but incomplete, answers.

If “We are broken people” and “I’m broken” are our only understanding of what is wrong with humanity, with the world, and with myself, there’s a lot of shame in that. When we see those challenges around us listed above, I think the devil uses that shame like a shovel as he tries to bury us in the pit of brokenness. But God hears our groaning. Jesus digs us out but also sits with us in our struggles and wrestling. It is helpful to call brokenness by name, to use this word for a broader understanding of the all-encompassing after-effects of broken trust and broken relationship between God and people long ago. As God sits with us in His Word and in His presence, with the shame of that lifted, we can begin to see Him pointing to the healing of restoration in big ways and tiny day-to-day ways. With the help of one another, we see the hope that there is more going on than only this thing called brokenness. When we are honest about the brokenness, no longer hiding from it, we see it as more than brokenness, as brokenness touched by hope.

Caring Ministry

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

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

MOCK DEPLOYMENT

Cleanup Response & Chainsaw Training Event

- Where: Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, KS
- When: Oct. 15-16, 2021 (schedule tentative)
 - Chainsaw Training: October 15-16, 2021. Requirement: Participants must have completed Basic LERT Training prior to attending Chainsaw Training. Friday, 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - Cleanup Response event: Saturday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Requirement: Participants must have completed Basic LERT Training.
- Registration Fee: \$25 for Basic Chainsaw Operation and Safety course. Facilitated by Kansas District Advanced Chainsaw Training Team.
- Registration Deadline: October 3, 2021



Under consideration is holding a portion of the classroom segment of the chainsaw training on Friday evening with the field work on Saturday morning. All of the Cleanup Response event will be completed on Saturday. Limited housing will be available at the Retreat Center on a first-come, first-served basis for those who would like to stay overnight on Friday night. Additional housing will be available at the Herington Inn & Suites. There are four RV spaces with electric hookups only available at the Retreat Center. There are also camping sites at Herington Lake adjacent to the Retreat Center property.

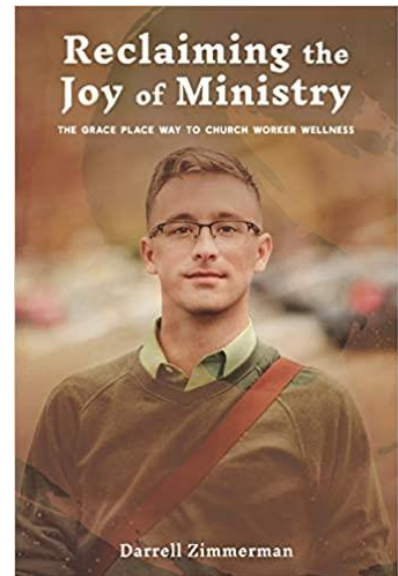
Please see the Kansas District website for registration details. Online registration will be done through the new lcms-lert.org website. Please contact Donna Williams with questions.

Book Review: Reclaiming the Joy of Ministry

Rebeka Garcia Cook, Church Worker Care Committee

Darrell Zimmerman, executive director of Grace Place Wellness Ministries, recently authored a new book, [Reclaiming the Joy of Ministry: The Grace Place Way to Church Worker Wellness](#). *Reclaiming the Joy* guides the reader through ministry hazards with an eye towards proactive prevention and offers a lifeline of hope that ministry hazards do not have to create additional suffering or end ministry. Pastor Zimmerman shares his own ministry experiences—authentic and relatable—connecting to the realities of parish ministry.

Zimmerman begins with the knowledge that church workers are both saint and sinner and addresses the negative reality that church worker sinfulness is often hidden because of their leadership role; hidden does not mean nonexistent. Well versed in Lutheran theology, Pastor Zimmerman addresses common fallacies and assumptions Lutheran church workers experience and points back to God's grace *being for the church worker as well as their congregation*. In addition, he details what God's healing grace looks like in one's life with God, their life in community, and life in ministry. These three headings are now being used by Grace Place to simplify the "Wellness Wheel."



The book is interactive, with several self-assessments church workers can use to help bring awareness to areas of their lives that need God's healing grace. Grace Place offers companion workbooks that can be used to explore an area of struggle or pain (available on their webpage or via Amazon). These resources offer the hope that the joy of participating and leading ministry can be reclaimed, even for those who have been deeply wounded by ministry. *Reclaiming the Joy of Ministry* can also be used proactively as a guide for those who desire a joy-filled ministry experience.

The book and the workbooks can be used by individuals; however, the resource is best used in community, perhaps by a circuit or among several church workers, to fully experience the healing that God brings through the body of Christ. As a companion to the book, Grace Place is currently offering weekly groups for church workers to have this community online. Information is on their webpage under "[Community](#)."

While the book can be used by any church worker, it best fits pastors; Grace Place will be releasing a second version with the larger audience in mind.

The physical book is available from GracePlaceWellness.org for \$15 and \$20 on Amazon. Digital copies are available for \$10 via Amazon. Dr. Zimmerman will be the keynote speaker for the 2021 Educators Conference in Junction City.

Business Office

Free Health Resources from Concordia Plan Services

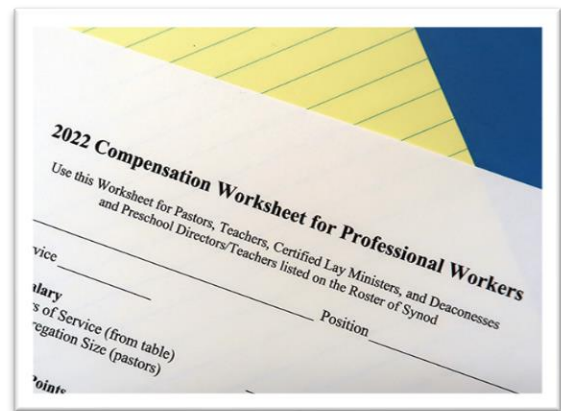


It goes without saying that when the body of Christ is healthy, workers are much more equipped to serve Him! To help workers on the path to better health, Concordia Plan Services has a vast array of free tools. It may seem counterintuitive that accessing free resources also correlates with lower health insurance premiums, but when the body of Christ is healthy, their health insurance premiums aren't as expensive. Please click [HERE](#) to take advantage of all the free health resources offered alongside the Concordia Health Plan (including diabetes management, physical therapy tools and text-based physician care, to name a few).

2022 Salary Guidelines Now Available

The 2022 District Salary Guidelines are now posted on the [District Resources](#) page of our website. (2021 Guidelines will remain available until the end of this calendar year.) The guidelines provide congregations with an objective approach to developing a suitable compensation plan for church workers.

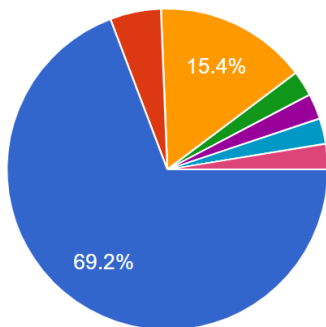
A special note on the 2022 guidelines: The Kansas District Salary Review Committee adjusted the 2022 base salary after considering the Consumer Price Index, which rose 5.9% in the Midwest Region, as well as salary scales in nearby LCMS districts and public schools and the Concordia Compensation Tool. A cover letter with more information about the adjustment is included with the 2022 guidelines.



If you have any questions about the guidelines, please call the Business Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1002, or email Heather Williams at heather@kslcms.org.

Communications

Survey Says: Keep the Monthly PDF!



Over the summer, readers provided input on *Workers Together* through a short survey. Among the findings: 69.2% of respondents favor staying the course with a longer monthly newsletter (with a hybrid "long monthly/short biweekly email newsletter" option coming in a distant second place).

Respondents also shared what interests them most (e.g., call lists and prayer requests), what they skip, and ideas for other potentially useful content (e.g., prayers to "copy/paste" in congregational news; short video messages from the district president; "big" Synod news; doctrinal piece from district pastors.)

We appreciate all the feedback, including the encouraging words about what's working with WT. Your insights will be very helpful as we consider new directions for the newsletter.

Target launch date for the reboot: January 2022.

Invitation: Share Your Reformation Images

For the October *Workers Together*, we expect that the header image will be Reformation-themed. What image, exactly, is another question. Maybe a Luther's Rose window? A carved "VDMA"? Reformation paraments? We have a few images on hand, but we'd love to see Reformation symbols from churches and schools around Kansas (like the one at the right from Risen Savior, Basehor).

If you have an image that fits the bill, we invite you to submit it! We'll find a way to share it—maybe even at the top of the October newsletter.



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](#)

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!

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.

HIRAM AND KAREN GRIMM
LCEF INVESTORS



 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
> where investments build ministry

WHEN YOUR INVESTMENTS DO MORE

Earn a **competitive rate** by opening a Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) PartnerPLUS* term note – an investment perfect for individuals, congregations, organizations and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

“We keep all of our savings at LCEF ... they are very friendly, give a good return, but the best part of the whole thing is sharing those funds with other churches and schools.”

— HIRAM AND KAREN GRIMM | LCEF INVESTORS

**READY TO JOIN 60,000 LCEF INVESTORS WHO SHARE
YOUR LOVE FOR THE CHURCH?
CALL 800-843-5233 OR VISIT LCEF.ORG/TERM-NOTE.**

JEFFREY MALTZ
LCEF District Vice President | Kansas and Oklahoma
785-230-4112 | Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org

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Around the District

Installations

Installed August 15



Teachers **Morgan Dunst** (left photo) and **Molly-Ann Wells** (right photo) were installed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita. They're pictured with Pr. Scott Snow and Kansas District Education Executive Jim Bradshaw.



Teacher **Shannon Manley**, with Pr. Ed Mease and Principal Cindy Hammons, was installed at St. Paul, Leavenworth.



Rev. Jay Williamson was ordained and installed August 15 as Specific Ministry Pastor at Mt. Calvary, Marysville. From left, Revs. Paul Tessaro, Philip Miller, Jay Williamson, Matthew Durance, Jason Boetcher, Aaron Fenker, and Justin Panzer.

Installed August 22



Teachers **Molly Baker** and **Heather Croucher** were installed at Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Overland Park.



Rev. Luke Jacob was installed as Pastor of Discipleship at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission and Shawnee. From left, Revs. Ron Flentgen, Lee Hovel, Justin Panzer, Dr. Mark Schulz, Luke Jacob, Phil Cook, Carl Krueger, Jerry Peck, and Michael Penikis.

Kathy Bartels and **Brenda Schwartz** are new teachers at Topeka Lutheran School. From left, Rev. Jacob Heine, Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, Kathy Bartels, Brenda Schwartz, Rev. Ben Micheel, Principal Chris Francik, and Jim Bradshaw.



A Closer Look at Concordia Academy



Concordia Academy in Wichita invites you to an informational event Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 3310 E Pawnee, Wichita, KS. Join us for Matins at 9 a.m. and then learn about the curriculum, a day in the life of a student, and how you can support us as a Lutheran classical high school. Contact us at ConcordiaAcademyWichita@gmail.com or 316-685-6781 with any questions.

Next Month: Reformation Events

Manhattan Circuit Reformation Service & Presentation

Sunday, October 24 | 2-4:30 p.m.

**Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford, President, LCMS Minnesota South District
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alta Vista**

- 2 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion (Rev. Dr. Woodford, Preacher)
- 3 p.m. Break/Refreshments
- 3:30 p.m. Presentation (Rev. Dr. Woodford): "What ethic do confessional Lutherans have to offer a conversation and culture wrapped up in endless dialogues and demands for social justice?"

Questions? Circuit Visitor Rev. Larry Boye, larryboye@hotmail.com

Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop Series

The Life of Luther

Saturday, October 30 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Dr. Timothy Dost, Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary
Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina**

Workshop Description: Dr. Tim Dost will lead us through the life of Martin Luther from before the Reformation all the way through the peasant revolt. Our study will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. with a lunch served in between the morning and afternoon sessions.

For more information and to register: Contact Rev. Dennis Kootz, Associate Pastor, Trinity, Salina at pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com or 785-823-7151. **Please let us know that you are coming. Space is limited, and it helps to know how much food to prepare.**

Circuit Reformation Festival (Wichita)

Sunday, October 31 | 4-7:30 p.m.

**Rev. Dr. Scott Stiegemeyer, Concordia University Irvine
Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita**

- 4 p.m. Divine Service
- 5:30 p.m. Banquet
- 6:15 p.m. Lecture, Rev. Scott Stiegemeyer
- 7:30 p.m. Closing Prayer

We rejoice at the opportunity to gather Lutherans from around Kansas to celebrate our Lord's faithfulness to us from generation to generation! Join us in worship, fellowship, and growth in wisdom and virtue as the Rev. Scott Stiegemeyer will both preach and deliver the banquet lecture. Pastor Stiegemeyer is Assistant Professor of Theology at Concordia University Irvine (CA). He is also the director of pre-seminary and pre-deaconess programs for the university.

Banquet tickets are \$15/meal; children 10 and under eat free. Childcare is provided during the banquet lecture. The offering supports the *Joint Seminary Fund*. **RSVP to Trinity by October 25:** 316-685-1571 or office@tlc.kscoxmail.com. Please pay at the door. Clergy wishing to participate are to contact Rev. Dr. Geoff Boyle (pastor.boyle@gmail.com).

Questions? office@tlc.kscoxmail.com

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