

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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*Let the word of Christ
dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonish-
ing one another in all
wisdom, singing psalms
and hymns and spiritual
songs, with thankfulness
in your hearts to God.*

Colossians 3:16



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



Pastors Conference
Oct. 3-4, 2022

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Zion, Vassar, leads a breakout session at the Pastors Conference.



Educators Conference
Oct. 9-11, 2022

Will Ochs, Christ, Overland Park, leads the opening songs at the Educators Conference.

The Pastors and Educators Conferences were held in Manhattan, with the Pastors Conference taking place Oct. 3-4, and the Educators Conference meeting Oct. 9-11. The theme for the Pastors Conference focused on "Confession & Absolution: The Sacrament of Reconciliation." The keynote speaker was Rev. Ed Keinath, Director of CrossLife Ministries.

The Educators Conference theme was "Finding Hope" (based on 1 Thess. 1:2-3). The keynote speaker was author and mental health care provider Heidi Goehmann. Included at both conferences were breakout sessions, anniversary awards, business meetings, a worship service and fellowship.

Special thanks to all who helped plan and organize the fall conferences!

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Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



The Kansas District Pre-Lent Conference for pastors will be held **January 9-10, 2023**, at the Spiritual Life Retreat Center in Wichita. The theme for the conference will be “Christians in a Woke World: A Call to Confession, Courage, and Love.” The keynote speaker is **Rev. Paul Dare**, senior pastor at Zion Lutheran in Alexandria, MN.

Participants can arrive Sunday, Jan. 8. There will be a Circuit Visitors and Region Vice-Presidents meeting on Sunday evening.

Please bring your copy of the *Lutheran Service Book*.

Visit the [homepage](#) of the Kansas District website to register, and find a schedule. The registration deadline is Dec. 21.

President's Office

November Devotion

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?...But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:25, 33).

Do you believe that God is providing adequately to meet all of your needs? (*Pause for a moment to think about this.*) So, what was your answer? Lord willing, you answered “yes!” Yes, you believe without a shadow of a doubt that God **is** providing adequately to meet all of your needs.

Listen to what Luther says in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer; “Give us this day our daily bread.” *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The list is endless of the ways that God has provided and still provides for us. Now, could things be a little better, a little easier? Sure, they always could. But for as much as our sinful selves like to think that God **isn't** providing adequately, we have many more reasons that He **is** providing adequately. Reasons that Luther lists in the Fourth Petition that we have just heard. Reasons that remind us of the way that God continually shows blessing after blessing upon His people.

Our bodies and breath, our families and friends, our time and talents, and our personalities and possessions are all gifts from God. We have nothing of our own to offer. As God has given us everything, He also gives us means to offer thanksgiving. In worship, we sing praises and say prayers of thanks. We offer monetary gifts representing our first fruits. We use the talents God has given us to glorify Him in our daily vocations as His baptized, royal priests.

Yes, baptized into His Name, we are currently under the Father's care. What does that mean? It means that we are *free* from worry about physical life, about food and clothing. As Jesus says, “We are worth more to our Father than birds and flowers” (ref. Matt. 6:26-30).

So, what do we seek and where do we look? We seek first the Kingdom of God, and we fix our eyes upon Jesus—the One who has come to save us, who provides for our daily needs and who will finally restore us. We fix our eyes upon the One who comes to give Himself to us in worship through Word and Sacrament.

God calls His people to worship Him with a pure heart. And from hearts that love and trust Him above all things, everything else flows in our lives. **To Him be the glory forever and ever!**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. John Fries, Grace/Deadwood and Blessed Emmanuel/Sturgis, SD to SPR Partnership – pending

Rev. Don Haselhuhn, Trinity, Burlington to St. John and St. Paul, Lincoln – accepted, installation January 7, 2023

Rev. Tim McCall, Immanuel, Junction City to Trinity, Ortonville, MN – pending

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Nathan Dudley, St. Paul, Clarinda, IA to St. Paul, Haven – installation Saturday, Nov. 12

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Alta Vista, St. Paul, Lake Wabaunsee,
Redeemer and Clarks Creek, St. Paul
(SPR partnership; sole)

Girard, Trinity (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Herington partnership: Immanuel,
Our Redeemer, and St. John's (sole)

Leavenworth, Trinity (associate, seminary)

Liberal, Grace & Beaver, OK, Peace (sole)

Meade, St. John (sole)

Wichita, Bethany (sole)

Wichita, Risen Savior (associate)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)

Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)

Marysville, Good Shepherd (Principal)

October Installations



Rev. Andrew Wright was installed as senior pastor at St. John's Topeka, on Oct. 2. From left, Revs. Larry Boye, Ben Micheel, Justin Panzer, Vicar John Kastner, Andrew Wright (center), Ben Ockree, Sean Kilgo, Andrew Wehling, and Kevin DeHope.



Rev. Timothy Heath (left) was installed as pastor at Trinity, Holton, on Oct. 23.

Worker News

Celebrating Ordination Anniversaries!



Pastors celebrating ordination anniversaries were recognized on Oct. 3 at the Kansas District Pastors Conference, in Manhattan. From left, (front row) Revs. Donald Miller (55), King Crawford (10), Theodore Cook (35), Thomas Presley (5), Kurt Letcher (25), Dennis Fangmeyer (20); (back row) Revs. Kurt Cockran (5), Mark Boxman (35), Dale Dumperth (30), Kevin Wyssmann (40), Paul Tessaro (30), Michael Schmidt (15), Jim Price (25), and Matthew Koterba (5).



Meghan Willeford, Early Education Center director at Lord of Life, Leawood, received the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) certificate from Kansas District Education Executive James Bradshaw on Oct. 16. NLSA is a five-year period of accreditation.

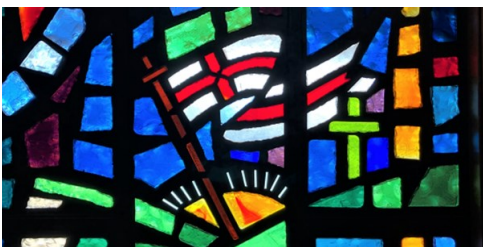
Congrats on Service Milestones!



Educators celebrated service milestones on Oct. 9 at the Kansas District Educators Conference, in Manhattan. From left, (front row) Terry Harries (20+), Susan Wells (35), Arlene Cook (10), Molly Baker (5), Suzy Whitson (25), Rhonda Beethe (35); (back row) Jim Bradshaw (40), Elaine Whiteneck (40), Korey Danley (15), Andrea Kosmicki (15), Amanda Adams (10), Angela Achong (15), Eric Pralle (30), and Kevin Kuske (40).



In Jesus' name we pray...



SPECIAL PRAYERS

For all the congregations, church members, and workers who have been affected by Hurricane Ian, we pray for our merciful Lord to bring healing and comfort. We give thanks for the countless churches and volunteers from around the Synod who have assisted our brothers and sisters in the wake of the storm's aftermath. May our gracious Heavenly Father continue to provide the necessary resources as the process of rebuilding and healing begins. In His Name, Amen.

For young people growing up in the faith as baptized children of God, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir their hearts for ministry, and to prayerfully consider a vocation in church work as they continue to mature and grow. May the Lord equip today's youth to boldly share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. In His Name, Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For **November**, we ask you to keep in your prayers:

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

Family and friends of Karen Kohlmeier, wife of former Kansas District Mission Awareness Coordinator Marvin Kohlmeier, who entered her heavenly rest August 15

Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues, including Eric Pralle, Ken Tingle, Rev. Neil Buono, Claire Soeken, Ben and Michelle Venteicher and son Ezra, Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, Tom Kleber, Tim Lavrenz, 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. Michael and Stacy Hofmann (son Luke and daughter Eden, Oct. 28), Ben and Michelle Venteicher (son Ezra, Oct. 26), Rev. Jonathan and Cari Scheck (twins Rhoda and Talitha, Aug. 22), Rev. Aaron and Samantha Wagner (daughter Hannah Lynne, Aug. 22), Joe and Jenn Eickmann (adopted daughter Evelyn Joe), Rev. Joshua and Diane Hayes (son Micah, Aug. 3).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in November:

Christ, Overland Park and Christ Lutheran School, November 7

Trinity, Burlington and Trinity Lutheran Preschool, November 14

Zion, Chanute and Son Shine Lutheran Preschool, November 21

Redeemer, Lawrence, November 28

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

NOVEMBER Staff Travel Schedule

- 1 Circuit 9 Winkel at Immanuel, **Shadybrook** (Panzer)
- 2 School visit at Trinity, **Atchison** (Bradshaw)
- 3-4 President's Council & Board of Directors, **Topeka** (Panzer)
- 5 Kansas District LLL Convention at Trinity, **Salina** (Panzer)
- 6 Preaching at Redeemer, **Lake Wabaunsee**, and St. Paul's, **Alta Vista** (Panzer)
Stewardship Sunday at Immanuel, **Canton** (Galchutt)
- 8 Circuit 15 Winkel at Redeemer, **Atwood** (Panzer)
Circuit 4 Winkel at Zion, **Vassar** (Galchutt)
- 9 Circuit 16 Winkel at Trinity, **Garden City** (Panzer)
School visit at Hope, **Shawnee** (Bradshaw)
- 10 2023 Church Worker Conference meeting at Holy Cross, **Wichita** (Panzer, Galchutt, Bradshaw)
- 12 Installation of Rev. Nathan Dudley at St. Paul, **Haven** (Panzer)
- 13-17 Council of Presidents, **St. Louis, MO** (Panzer)
- 15 2023 KDYG Planning meeting, **Hotel Topeka** (Bradshaw, Galchutt)
- 16 School Chapel at Christ, **Overland Park** (Galchutt)
School visit at Faith, **Derby** (Bradshaw)
- 17 Early Childhood Summer Workshop at Open Arms, **Wichita** (Bradshaw)
- 18-19 KDYG Regional Events, **Olathe & Wichita** (Bradshaw)

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Concordia Academy - Wichita "An Evening of Music"

Concordia Academy - Wichita will be hosting their second annual "An Evening of Music" on **Friday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church** (909 S Market St, Wichita, KS 67211).

This is a free will donation event. All funds raised will go towards the purchase of student lockers, rolling tables and chairs, and to build the scholarship fund. Please join us as we celebrate the musical talents God has gifted us!

For more information, contact the Administrative Assistant, Amanda Carter, at a.carter@concordiaacademywichita.org.

LLL Kansas District Convention



The 82nd LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention will be **Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, 10:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina (702 S 9th St. Salina, KS 67401). Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. There will also be a fellowship time on **Friday, Nov. 4, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at Trinity in Salina. The theme will be "Kansas LLL History and Nostalgia."

Visit the [Kansas District LLL/LHM website](#) to find more information about lodging, fees, and directions.



Kansas District Youth Gathering Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022

Register now for the 2022 Kansas District Regional Youth Gathering! One location will be at **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church** (13145 S. Blackbob Rd., Olathe, KS 66062), and the other location will be at **Risen Savior Lutheran Church** (6770 E. 34th St. N, Wichita, KS 67226).

The cost is \$50 per person. **As of November 2, late registration will increase to \$60.** Visit the [KDYG](#) page (under the "Education & Youth, Youth Ministry" tab) on the Kansas District website to register, print off consent forms, and find more KDYG information for both locations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER Travel Schedule Cont.

- 20 Preaching at Redeemer, **Lake Wabaunsee**, and St. Paul's, **Alta Vista** (Panzer)
Preaching at NEK Partnership (Thanksgiving evening service), **Hiawatha** (Panzer)
- 22 School visit at Holy Cross, **Wichita** (Bradshaw)
- 27 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Panzer)
- 30 School visit at Christ, **Overland Park** (Bradshaw)



Save the Date! 2023 Life Conference

The Kansas District Life Conference will take place in conjunction with the Rally for Life on **Tuesday, January 24, 2023**. Optional activities will take place on Monday, January 23. This year the guest presenter will be Rev. Michael Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life. The conference will take place at St. John's Lutheran, in Topeka.

Visit the [Life Ministry page](#) on the District website for information about Life Ministry, and be on the lookout for more details to come!

See the full Kansas District calendar!



Holy Cross LWML Women's Retreat Saturday, March 4, 2023

Love Rules: A Study of the Ten Commandments

The Holy Cross, Wichita, LWML will host its annual Women's Retreat on **Saturday, March 4, 2023, at Holy Cross** (600 N. Greenwich Rd. Wichita, KS 67206). Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for registration and breakfast. The retreat begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

The retreat theme is "Love Rules: A Study of the Ten Commandments" (based on John 15:10-12) and the presenter will be Christina Hergenrader.

Early bird tickets are \$25 (\$30 after February 17). Registration is open at HolyCrossLutheran.net/LWMLretreat.



Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) June 4-9, 2023

LVR is a great place for youth to make friends from all across Kansas that share their same beliefs and have intentional time every day to grow closer to God!

Registration will open in February 2023. Check back at the [LVR](#) page (under the "Education & Youth, Youth Ministry" tab) on the Kansas District website for details to come. For additional information, please contact DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission/Shawnee), Beth@tlcms.org.

ON THE RADAR

Board of Directors, Nov. 4, District Office, Topeka, KS

Kansas LLL District Convention, Nov. 4-5, Trinity Lutheran, Salina, KS

Council of Presidents, Nov. 14-17, St. Louis, MO

Kansas District Youth Gathering, Nov. 19, Olathe and Wichita, KS

Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 23 (District office closes at 2:00 p.m.)

Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 24-25 (District office closed)



DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in God's Mission



Connecting Students to Campus Ministry

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

Visit the [Campus Ministry](#) page (under the "Missions, Specialized Ministries" tab) at the Kansas District website to learn more!

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator



BASIC CHAINSAW SAFETY AND OPERATION

November 12, 2022

King of Kings Lutheran Church, Gardner, KS

Registration is \$25. [Register online](#) by Oct. 29, 2022. The class size limit is 10. Contact Mark Trivilino, tma41@yahoo.com or Brian Mead, brian.t.mead2@gmail.com.

(participants must complete a Basic LERT Training course before attending a chainsaw class.)

If you are interested in scheduling a LERT Basic Training OR if you are interested in having a LERT representative visit your church, please contact Donna Williams ksddrc@gmail.com. Visit the [Kansas District website](#) and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](#), and [Lutheran Early Response Team – Northeast Kansas](#)) for updates.

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

Many of our college students will be home for Christmas break. I might suggest that pastors schedule a lunch with returning students after a Sunday service in early January. The goal would be to foster pastoral relationships, listen to the challenges students face in college, and to provide words of encouragement. Simply meeting for an hour can foster a healthy and on-going conversation between pastors and students, which may continue for years to come.

As students return home, I invite you to keep the following prayer in your hearts:

Faithful Lord, if it be Your will, give us opportunity to fellowship with our college students over Christmas break. May they encourage us with reports of a growing faith in Jesus Christ. Give us wisdom to speak helpful words to them. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Pastor Mark Boxman, Senior Pastor at Trinity, Salina

Senior Moments

Older Adult Ministry, *Senior Moments* 2022 Fall Issue, and Feedback Survey

As part of a District-wide effort to encourage and establish dedicated ministry to older adults, the LCMS

Kansas District Older Adult Committee has sponsored a quarterly newsletter, *Senior Moments*, to district congregations. *Senior Moments* has had articles written by district and synod-wide leaders, encouraging the forming and maintaining of an effective Older Adult ministry. It has included tips on organization, samples of effective programs, and events taking place across

the Kansas District. **Special thanks** to Tom Perry, Gretchen Hollman and the members at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission-Shawnee, for leading this effort!

You can find the latest [Senior Moments 2022 Fall Issue](#) by clicking on the link provided, or by going to the District website, under "Caring Ministry, Older Adult Ministry."

Please also give us feedback on the value of this newsletter by taking a few minutes to complete the [Quarterly Newsletter Feedback Survey](#). The survey deadline is Monday, Nov. 14. **Thank you!**

Concordia University, NE: Faith, Family, Fertility: How the American Way of Life Is Changing

Concordia University, Nebraska, invites you to join students, faculty, and staff on **Monday, Nov. 14, at 7:00 p.m.** for a presentation over the topic "Faith, Family, Fertility: How the American Way of Life Is Changing."

The presenter is Lyman Stone, Director of Research at the consulting firm Demographic Intelligence; <https://www.demographicintel.com>. The presentation and question-and-answer session will occur in the Thom Leadership Education Center Auditorium on Concordia's campus. **Visit the [Concordia University, Nebraska](#) website to learn more!**

Student Art Contest

sponsored by



Create an art piece that shows what
"Only Jesus—No Other Name" means to you!

Terms and Conditions

The winners of the contest will be notified by Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Artwork is subject to being displayed at the 2023 synodical convention and/or the LCMS International Center and/or LCEF headquarters.

Shipping of artwork is the responsibility of the participant. LCEF is not responsible for loss or damage during mailing. You also will not receive your art piece back. LCEF reserves the right to keep and distribute artwork as necessary for display.

If the contestant misrepresents any information, LCEF reserves the right to revoke the submission.

TYPES OF ENTRIES:

- drawings, paintings, collages, graphic designs, posters, banners, sculptures, pottery, leather crafts, metal art, beads, baskets, etc.

SUBMISSION LEVELS:

- **Kindergarten–5th Grade:** \$50 LCEF gift card
- **6th–12th Grade:** \$100 LCEF gift card
- **College:** \$200 LCEF gift card

All submissions must be postmarked by **December 1, 2022**. For more information, visit lcef.org/art-contest.

For more information about LCEF options, contact Jeffrey Maltz by email jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org, or phone 785-230-4112.

Announcements

Congregational Commitments

Congregational commitment forms and packets were mailed to congregations at the end of September. **We appreciate your prayerful consideration of your 2023 commitment!**

Please submit your 2023 form by **November 30 (January 15, 2023 at the latest)** in any of the following ways:

- Email/scan your form to Shannon Fender at shannon@kslcms.org, or call 785-357-4441, ext. 1001. You can also fax your form to 785-357-5071.
- Mail your form to: LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604.

Concordia Plan Services: Open Enrollment has Begun!

Open enrollment for 2023 benefits with Concordia Plan Services is **Nov. 1-18**. Workers can enroll in a 403(b) retirement savings plan, supplemental life insurance, and health, dental and vision benefits. Concordia Plan Services also encourages members to log in to their portals to access a variety of wellness solutions and to take advantage of useful retirement calculators.

Benefit enrollment for workers will continue to take place at ConcordiaPlans.org.

The **[2022 Year-End Checklist](#)** for congregational treasurers is now available.

You can access the checklist by clicking on the link above, or visiting the **[District Resources](#)** page on the website.

Synod & Partners

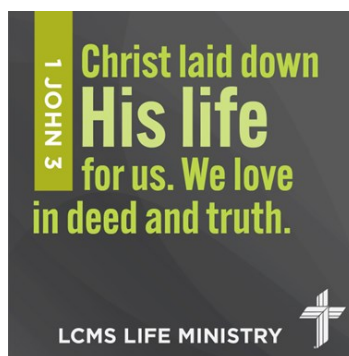
SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



The LCMS is intentionally working to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return. *Set Apart to Serve* (SAS) is an initiative to encourage young people to consider church work vocations.

Visit the **[LCMS website](#)** to learn more about ***Set Apart to Serve***, and find resources.



The LCMS Life Ministry continues to offer 1 John 3 Million Dollar Life Match grants to congregations. The program offers a total of \$1 million in matching grants, and seeks to support LCMS congregations providing beginning-of-life care in their local communities.

Applications will be accepted Nov. 1, 2022, through January 22, 2023.

Visit **[LCMS Life Ministry Million Dollar Life Match](#)** for resources, and to apply for a grant!



Lutheran Witness Billings

Payment is due no later than **December 31, 2022**. Include a **[remittance voucher](#)** with payment, noting the check is for *Lutheran*

Witness subscriptions.

Make checks payable to the LCMS Kansas District and send to:

LCMS Kansas District
Attn: Shannon Fender
1000 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604-1104

**Please note that no additional additions or cancellations will be taken for this subscription year. You can, however, still make address changes.*

If you need to update an address on your subscription list, please contact Shannon Fender at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001 or shannon@kslcms.org for a change form.

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Missions and Stewardship

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Assistant to the President for
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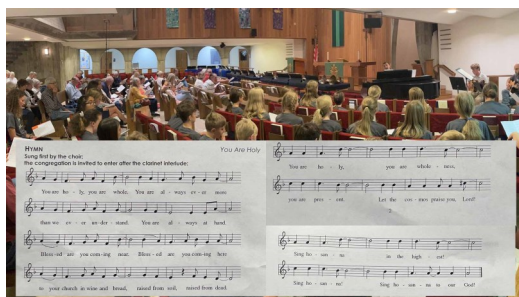
CONTACT US

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1000 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604

Around the District



A junior high youth choir from St. John Lutheran Church and School in Seward, NE, presented a hymn festival *Sing Boldly* at Immanuel Lutheran, Lawrence, on Saturday, Oct. 22. The choir led congregation members in a combination of hymn singing, a choral concert, and handbells. The group also sang during the Sunday morning worship service at Immanuel. Visit SingBoldly.org/tour to learn more about the group.

Special thanks to Paul Soulek, Director of Music, and the St. John, Seward, NE youth for sharing their musical talents!



JD2D participants from St. Luke's, Manhattan, Bethlehem, Greenleaf, and Zion, Linn.

Jesus Door-2-Door Event

Rev. Timothy Koch, Pastor at Zion Lutheran, Linn



On Saturday, Oct. 8, **10 people representing three LCMS congregations** (St. Luke's, Manhattan, Bethlehem, Greenleaf, and Zion, Linn) went canvassing in Manhattan, on behalf of St. Luke's.

The group knocked on 165 doors in the surrounding neighborhoods. 62 people answered the door, and of those, 31 took the canvassing survey. Gospel and congregational literature was left at 103 houses, where no one was home.

When asked, "Are you familiar with St. Luke's Lutheran Church?" 19 participants (61%) answered "No."

When asked, "Do you currently go to church?" 10 people (32%) answered "No."

When asked, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?" 27 participants responded with "heaven" (*although only 13 believed they would get there on account of Jesus Christ.*) Four people responded with various answers not related to heaven. **Two individuals desired a follow-up conversation.**

Rev. Timothy Koch invites all members of the Kansas District to participate in the next JD2D event, at Light of the World Lutheran in De Soto on Saturday, Nov. 12.