

# WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

## Regular Features

January Devotion	2-3
Calls and Vacancies	3
Prayer Requests	4
Upcoming Events	5-7
District Ministry News	9
Synod & Partners,	12
Friendly Reminders	
Around the District	13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

*Romans 15:13*



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



Colonel Dave Johnson teaches fifth-grade students at Hope, Shawnee, how to fold and hoist the American flag.



Students at Zion, Independence, enjoyed visitors from the fire department during fire safety week.



Headmaster Dan Snyder addresses the Mathematics class at Concordia Academy, Wichita.

## 2023 National Lutheran Schools Week!

We celebrate our Lutheran schools with **National Lutheran Schools Week, which will be held January 22-28, 2023.** The theme is "Making Disciples for Life," based on Matt. 28:18-20.

Here in the Kansas District we are blessed to have 13 K-8 schools, three classical schools, and 44 preschools. Visit the [National Lutheran Schools Week](#) page on the LCMS website for resources and information.

### In This Issue

Linn Lutheran School Fundraiser a Great Success! / p. 10  
Herren Fund Matching Facility Improvement Grants / p. 11



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS



The Kansas District Pre-Lent Conference for pastors is **January 9-10, 2023**, at the Spiritual Life Retreat Center in Wichita. 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*.

The District website has a new page which provides educational resources to bring awareness to human trafficking. Included is the National Human Trafficking Hotline information, a link to the LCMS Synod Human Trafficking page, and additional resources. Visit the [Human Trafficking page](#) (a subpage found under "Life Ministry," under the "Caring Ministry" section) on the District website to access these resources.

# President's Office

**"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10).**

## January Devotion

**We are the baptized children of Christ. Our identity is in Him.** We are His holy possession, His royal priests. His death on the Cross and bodily resurrection from the dead changes us now and eternally. The power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word and Sacraments redeems us to live as God's children, strengthens our faith, and causes us to increase in fervent love for one another in daily living.

**With lives centered in Christ, we take up the mission of the Church.** To be faithful in our worship of Christ. To be faithful in our words and actions. To always endeavor to build one another up. The harvest is ripe right before our eyes. This hurting and dying world desperately needs what we have to give them—the crucified and risen Savior!

As the baptized, we want to do all things in the Name of Jesus to the glory of God. Keep in mind these four words: **Abide, Connect, Equip, and Engage.**

**ABIDE** We gather to hear God's Word (*John 8:31-32*), receive His grace, offer Him our prayers and thanks, and encourage one another. This happens in our homes, congregations, and schools.

**CONNECT** God's Church is a fellowship of believers, gathered together to encourage and care for one another and work for the good of His Kingdom (*Romans 12:5*). We don't live isolated—we live in community with one another.

**EQUIP** As God's baptized, we study His Word, training ourselves for godliness (*Ephesians 4:11-12*). We want to grow in our Christian faith and life.

**ENGAGE** The royal priesthood has been given a charge—to show God's love to others, help our neighbor in need, and share the Good News (*Matt. 28:19-20a*). Be looking for opportunities that exist to impact your community with the love of God in Christ. Be intentional in inviting others to your places of worship.

(continued on Page 3)

## January Devotion, Cont.

**So, what does that look like across Kansas?** Our churches need to be known as the places of truth and grace and mercy in our communities. Our pastors are to be shepherds known for their ability to preach and teach, to visit and be present in the lives of those they serve and those still in need of a church home. Our education centers need to be known as the flagship places where Christ is taught and “woke” ideals have no room. Our educators and commissioned workers are to take up their tasks with a good and joyful conscience knowing that their labor in the Lord is never in vain. We need to reinvigorate the men of our District to meet together for study and fellowship and mentorship (Proverbs 27:17). Our ladies need to be encouraged in their fruitful efforts and continue to recruit the younger women to be involved. Youth need to be encouraged to gather together, to pursue careers in church work, and must be connected to our congregations while attending college.

The church has been struggling numerically. By God’s grace and the power of His Spirit, we can reverse that. **“Living as the Baptized”** in our various vocations as His royal priests, we will shine the light of Christ in such a way that the darkness cannot overcome it. **The Lord’s blessings to you now and always!**

---

## Calls and Vacancies

### PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. Dan Galchutt**, Kansas District to LCMS ONM (Executive Director) – pending

**Rev. Michael Hofmann**, St. Paul, Clay Center, Assoc. to Trinity, Girard – pending

### PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

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

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

Girard, Trinity (sole)	Liberal, Grace & Beaver, Peace, OK (sole)
Hays, Messiah (sole)	Meade, St. John (sole)
Herington partnership: Immanuel,	Paola, Trinity, Block (sole)
Our Redeemer, and St. John’s (sole)	Topeka, St. John’s, & Trinity, McFarland (partnership)
Leavenworth, Trinity	Wichita, Bethany (sole)
(associate, seminary)	Wichita, Risen Savior (associate)

### CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Atchison, Trinity (Teacher)  
Emporia, Messiah (DCE) - spring graduate  
Marysville, Good Shepherd (Principal)  
Overland Park, Bethany (DCE) - spring graduate  
Shawnee, Hope (Teacher)

### COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

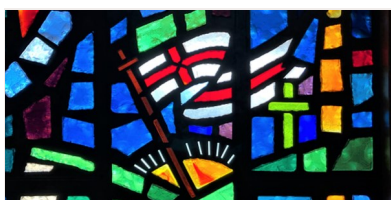
**Bradley Erickson**, Trinity, Greeley, CO to Good Shepherd, Marysville (Principal) – pending





# In Jesus' name we pray...

## JANUARY PRAYER REQUESTS



### SPECIAL PRAYERS

**As the new year begins,** we pray for God to abundantly bless all congregations and schools in the Kansas District, as we live as the Baptized and share the Good News with others around us. In His Name, Amen.

**For the gift of life,** we thank the Lord for the value of life and pray for wisdom and compassion when discussing the sanctity of life with others. May God bring opportunities for us to lovingly share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ. In His Name, Amen.

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

- ❖ Family and friends of Tom Kleber, husband of Sue Kleber, who is a Kansas District Board member. Tom entered his heavenly rest Dec. 12, 2022.
- ❖ Family and friends of William Henry Van Duzer, the father of Rev. Tom Van Duzer. William entered his heavenly rest Dec. 7, 2022.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. John Ryding, Pastor Emeritus in the LCMS Nebraska District living in the Hillsboro, KS area and a member at Zion Lutheran, Hillsboro. Rev. Ryding entered his heavenly rest Nov. 22, 2022.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Roland Boehnke, Pastor Emeritus at Trinity Lutheran, Mission. Rev. Boehnke entered his heavenly rest Nov. 17, 2022.
- ❖ Family and friends of Roland Wagner, uncle of Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship. Roland entered his heavenly rest Nov. 16, 2022.
- ❖ Family and friends of Edna Meyer, wife of Rev. Eldor Meyer, a former pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Girard, KS, who preceded her in death. Edna entered her heavenly rest Nov. 12, 2022.

**Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues,** including Cindy Hammons, former Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke, Eric Pralle, Ken Tingle, Rev. Neil Buono, Claire Soeken, Ben and Michelle Venteicher and son Ezra Aaron, Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, Tim Lavrenz, Steve Bremer, Carrie Meyers, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Rev. Richard Andrus, and Judy May.

**Those celebrating the gift of new life,** including Vicar John and Beatrice Kastner (son Emmett Shepherd, Dec. 1), Rev. Chris and Shelby Craig (daughter Zoey Nicole, Nov. 26), Rev. Cody and Katie Norton (daughter Rosalind Esther, Nov. 21), Rev. Michael and Stacy Hofmann (son Luke Allen and daughter Eden Hope, Oct. 28), and DCE Ben and Michelle Venteicher (son Ezra Aaron, Oct. 26).

#### **Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in January:**

Christ Lutheran, Augusta; Grace Lutheran, El Dorado, January 9

Redeemer Lutheran, Arkansas City, January 17

St. Paul's Lutheran, Haven, January 23

Immanuel Lutheran, Ellsworth, January 30

# JANUARY EVENTS

## Out and About in Kansas

### JANUARY Staff Travel Schedule

- 1 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Galchutt)
- Preaching at Messiah, **Emporia** (100th Anniversary) (Panzer)
- 3 School chapel at St. Paul, **Leavenworth** (Panzer)
- Circuit 2 Winkel at St. Luke's Disciple Garden, **Kansas City** (Panzer)
- 8 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Panzer)
- 8 Circuit Visitors meeting, **Wichita** (Panzer, Galchutt, Bradshaw)
- 9-10 Pre-Lent Conference, **Wichita** (Panzer, Galchutt)
- 9 Wichita DCE Cluster, **Newton** (Bradshaw)
- 11 LSS meeting, **Wichita** (Galchutt)
- 11 School visit at Bethany, **Overland Park** (Bradshaw)
- 14 Strategic planning at Messiah, **Emporia** (Galchutt)
- 15 Preaching at Trinity, **Atchison** for Mike Carney Ordination/ Installation (Panzer)
- 16 St. Paul, **Fairview** (Panzer)
- 17 Circuit 6 Winkel at Redeemer, **Lawrence** (Galchutt)
- Circuit 3N/3S Winkel at Christ Our Savior, **Louisburg** (Panzer)
- 20 KDYG planning meeting at Christ, **Topeka** (Bradshaw, Galchutt)
- 22 Stewardship Sunday at St. Paul's, **Cheney** (Galchutt)
- 23-24 Kansas District Life Conference at St. John's, **Topeka** (Panzer, Galchutt)

(Continued on next page)



## 2023 Life Conference

The Kansas District Life Conference will be held **Monday, January 23, 2023 – Tuesday, January 24, 2023**, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka. The conference will begin Monday, Jan. 23 at 3:30 p.m. and concludes Tuesday, Jan. 24, following the "March For Life" to the State Capitol in downtown Topeka. The keynote presenter will be **Rev. Michael Salemink**, executive director of Lutherans For Life.

Visit the [Life Conference page](#) on the District website to register, get a schedule, and find more information. Registration to attend the conference closes January 18.

### **Center for Biblical Studies: Concordia University, St. Paul** **Places of the Passion: Lent & Holy Week Preaching Workshop**

This workshop provides exegetical teaching on the book of Matthew for the "Places of the Passion" Lent & Holy Week Kits (*published by Creative Communications and written by Dr. Reed Lessing*).

**The workshop will take place Jan. 16, 2023, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (CST)**, and is offered onsite or online. The cost is **\$50** each for the Lent & Holy Week Kits, plus **\$10** for the workshop.

Participants are asked to purchase the Lent & Holy Week Digital Kits (\$50 for both), and register for the workshop, for which you will receive Dr. Lessing's teaching and insight, a recording of the seminar, and a bonus Easter series called "Following Jesus: Discipleship in the Gospel of Matthew."

The Lent & Holy Week Kits include Monolog sermons, .pdf and .rtf text files, children's message, music for the accompanist, suggested contemporary song list, sample worship bulletins, and PowerPoint documents of all services with text (with copyright release).

The Digital Lent & Holy Week Kits can be purchased [here](#), and participants can register for the workshop by following this [link](#).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY Staff Travel Schedule Cont.

- 25 School visit at Topeka Lutheran, **Topeka** (Bradshaw)
- 29 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Galchutt)
- 30 Strategic planning meeting at Immanuel, **Lawrence** (Galchutt)

[Click Here](#) to see the full Kansas District calendar!

## Concordia University, NE: Guest Speaker for Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

Concordia University, Nebraska invites the community to join students, faculty and staff for a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling on **Tuesday, January 24 at 7 p.m.** in the Cattle Conference Room of the Janzow Campus Center.

Dr. Bolling's presentation is titled, "By Our Love—How We Communicate as Christians in a Diverse Age." He is the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance speaker for Concordia.

Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling is a full-time Assistant Professor of Leadership and Theology at Concordia University Texas, and also serves as the full-time Lead Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Louis.

## Concordia Seminary, St. Louis: 2023 Pre-Lenten Workshop

### One-day workshop for pastors, January 20, 2023

The workshop is called "Honest Repentance," and will take place Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The presenter will be Dr. David Maxwell, the Seminary's Louis A. Fincke and Anna B. Shine Professor of Systematic Theology.

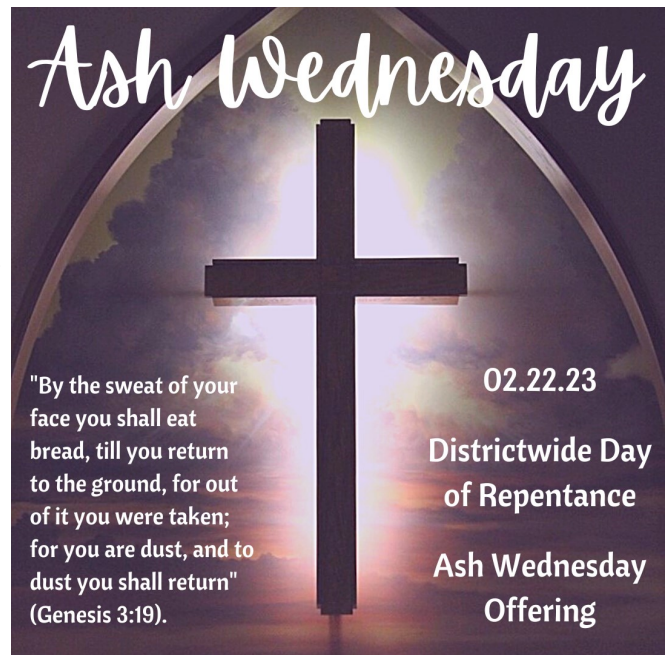
This annual Pre-Lenten workshop is designed to help pastors develop their worship resources for Lent. Participants will receive six sermons designed for the mid-week Lenten services before Holy Week.

The workshop will be held in the President's Room on the Seminary's campus. **Registration is \$50 and includes lunch. The deadline for registration is Jan. 6.** For more information, please call Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or email [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).

## This Ash Wednesday,

**Feb. 22, 2023**, we encourage the Kansas District to participate in the annual Ash Wednesday Offering. We will also be observing a districtwide "Day of Repentance" on Ash Wednesday. We encourage you to pray the Litany (found in *Lutheran Service Book*, pp. 288-289), worship, consider fasting, and to give to someone in need, whether to the Ash Wednesday Offering or another worthy cause.

The annual Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering supports scholarships for future church workers and grants to help active church workers pay off education loans. Last year, we were able to award over \$80,000 in scholarships and repayment grants, with nearly \$28,000 of which was raised in the Ash Wednesday Offering. **Thank you!**





# UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



## Save the Date!

### 2023 Middle School Huddle

The 2023 Middle School Huddle will take place **Friday, April 21, 2023 – Saturday, April 22, 2023**. The location will be at Rock Springs 4H Ranch, in Junction City. The event will be for grades 5-8, and the cost will be \$80 per participant.

Registration will open in February. Visit the [Middle School Events page](#) on the District website for more details to come!



### LWML Women's Retreat

The Holy Cross, Wichita, LWML will host its annual Women's Retreat on **Sat., 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](http://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 February 1, 2023.** Check back at the [LVR](#) page (under the "Education & Youth, Youth Ministry" tab) on the Kansas District website for details to come. **Also visit the LVR page to watch a video highlighting last summer!** For additional information, please contact DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission/Shawnee), [Beth@tlcms.org](mailto:Beth@tlcms.org).

## ON THE RADAR

- Circuit Visitors and Region Vice-Presidents meeting**, Jan. 8, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Spiritual Life Center, Bel Aire, KS
- 2023 Pre-Lent Conference**, Jan. 9-10, Spiritual Life Center, Bel Aire, KS
- Professional Development Committee (Zoom)**, Jan. 10, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
- LSS**, Jan. 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Wichita, KS
- Early Childhood Planning (Zoom)**, Jan. 12, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Martin Luther King Day**, Jan. 16 (District Office closed)
- Fort Wayne Symposia**, Jan. 17-20, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, IN
- Church Worker Conference Planning (Zoom)**, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Board of Missions (Zoom)**, Jan. 19, 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.
- Board of Caring Ministry (Zoom)**, Jan. 19, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- KDYG Planning**, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Christ Lutheran, Topeka, KS
- Parish Workers Education Committee (Zoom)**, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Board of Education and Youth (Zoom)**, Jan. 23, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Kansas District Life Conference**, Jan. 23-24, St. John's Lutheran, Topeka, KS
- Older Adult Committee (Zoom)**, Jan. 24, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Middle School Huddle Planning (Zoom)**, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- DYG Executive Team (Zoom)**, Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Early Childhood Directors (Zoom)**, Jan. 26, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Principals (Zoom)**, Jan. 26, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Board of Administration (Zoom)**, Jan. 27, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.
- Board of Stewardship (Zoom)**, Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Executive Committee (Zoom)**, Jan. 30, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- President's Council (Zoom)**, Feb. 2, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- Board of Directors (Zoom)**, Feb. 3

# SAVE THE DATE!

## KAIRS Early Childhood Education Workshop

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church (5601 W. 62nd Street, Mission, KS 66202)

The 12th Annual KAIRS Early Childhood Education Workshop theme is *"From Tinkerer to Engineer, STEAM Concepts for Preschool Students."* This theme will help spotlight how educators can expand their teaching toolbox with STEAM. As early childhood professionals, teachers of children ages three through five are uniquely positioned to be leaders in demonstrating how play-filled experiences for their students are essential to learning. As "tinkerers," participants will explore a variety of loose parts and materials as they discover how to engage children in solving a problem related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math skills.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Annette Anschutz holds a B.A. in social work, an M.A. in family life science, an M.Ed. with an early childhood emphasis, and an Ed.D. in early childhood education. She has taught and directed early childhood programs for a combined service of more than 35 years. Currently she is an associate professor of education and program director for the undergraduate and graduate early childhood programs at Concordia University, Nebraska.

**Attendees of this workshop will receive 5 KDHE approved hours. The registration fee is \$10, which includes lunch. Register online at [www.kairs.org](http://www.kairs.org). Registration ends on March 10.**

## 2023 Saints Alive After 55

Monday, July 17, 2023

Christ the King Lutheran Church (111 West Magnolia Road, Salina, KS 67401)



The SAA55 theme will be *"I Love to Tell the Story – Leaving a Faith Legacy."*

*"What will I leave behind?"* This legacy question becomes a recurring theme as we grow older. Yet the question isn't, *"What is the*

*meaning of my life?"* but rather, *"How do I give my life more meaning?"* Choosing intentional behaviors with a higher purpose helps older adults feel more connected, happier, and healthier. The presentations will include a focus on older adults as storytellers and introduce the concept of a spiritual autobiography.

The keynote presenter will be Dr. Mary Manz Simon, and the Bible study leader will be Rev. Mark Boxman.

## 2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering!

**Save the date for the 2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering!**

Join us in Topeka on November 17-19 for the last hotel-based District Youth Gathering. The theme will be **Re: New, Re: Deem, Re: Store!** based on Isaiah 43:19.

Be on the lookout for more announcements regarding speakers, musicians, and exciting performances by surprise artists!



## Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News



**2022 in Brief: Responses**—Volunteers logged miles and hours responding to the Kentucky Tornado Relief (Dec. 2021 - Jan. 2022), the Natoma, KS, Prairie Fire Recovery (Dec. 2021 - Jan. 2022), and the Andover Tornado Recovery (May 2022).

Some volunteers spent days and even weeks helping to clean up after these natural disasters, not to mention the hours they volunteered for local events in their own congregations and communities. We are eternally grateful to these volunteers for their time spent, miles traveled, and equipment provided to aid in these devastated communities.

**By the numbers: LCMS Kansas District**

Trained LERT volunteers: **430**

Trained LERT Chainsaw Operators: **40**

Advanced Chainsaw Operators/Trainers: **2**

LERT Basic Education Trainers: **6**

As we enter a new year, we will be focused on building teams and expanding our reach across the Kansas District. We have a large portion of Kansas with no LERT representation, making response to a disaster or critical incident in those areas more difficult logistically. In addition, we would like to offer LERT/Disaster Response presentations available to congregations interested in learning more about LERT and how they might fit into this model for Disaster Response. **Remember: It's not about a disaster; it's about the people.**

How do we serve the people in our congregations and communities in the “off season?” How do we equip congregations to respond in a disaster scenario? Either a seasoned representative or I will be happy to schedule a visit to offer your congregation a look inside LERT, and how we apply Mercy Care in a disaster response and/or critical incident setting. We can also offer ideas of how LERT training applies to what is already being done to support those in need.

Blessings,

**Donna Williams, Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator**

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



# DISTRICT MINISTRIES

## Engaging in God's Mission



Savannah Peshek, a current student at Wichita State, discusses the importance of campus ministry.



## Connecting Students to Campus Ministry



**There is a new campus ministry video available on the District website!** It includes interviews with students and local pastors involved with LCMS campus ministry in Kansas, who speak on the importance of high school students getting involved in campus ministry as they transition to college. Please watch and discuss this video with your high school youth groups.

Visit the [Campus Ministry](#) page (under the “Missions, Specialized Ministries” tab) to watch the video!

## Linn Lutheran School Auction Fundraiser a Great Success!



Participants gathered for the annual Linn Lutheran School Endowment Fund auction fundraiser on Nov. 19.

The annual Linn Lutheran School Endowment Fund auction fundraiser raised over a quarter of a million dollars this year, setting another record! The fundraiser was held on Nov. 19 at the Palmer Community Building, and included live and silent auctions and a meal. **The fundraiser raised \$273,281.94 for the endowment fund.**

The Linn Lutheran School Endowment Fund was created in 2007 to provide an avenue for supporters of

the school and Christian education to financially secure the future of the school **“so that your values and legacy of Christian faith will live on and further God’s work for generations to come.”**

“We have a very generous community that supports parochial education,” said Terry Ohlde, who chairs the endowment fund committee. “The support comes from inside and outside our association churches. It is a fun event and people look forward to going to it and supporting it.”

A portion of the auction event proceeds goes to Linn Lutheran School’s annual budget, and the remainder goes to the endowment fund. Linn Lutheran School includes grades 1-8 and two preschool classes. Due to increasing enrollment at the school over the last few years, a fourth teacher was added for the primary grades, and a building addition was constructed for more classroom space. *(Article excerpts were provided by Dan Thalmann, publisher of Washington County News, Washington, KS. To read the full article, visit [www.backroadsnews.com](http://www.backroadsnews.com))*

## THANK YOU!

### **Fellow Baptized into Christ,**

Thank you to the members of the Kansas District who so generously supported our common work together in 2022. Through your support we were able to send workers into the harvest fields of Kansas, support our Lutheran Churches and Schools, provide care for church workers in need, advance a church planting effort in the De Soto area, grow campus ministry, strengthen our multi-cultural outreach efforts, fund a seminary building project in Guinea, and do so much more!

We thank you for all of your prayers, support, and efforts. And we pray that the Lord would help us to move forward in these and other ways in 2023!

**The Lord’s blessings to you all as you live as His Baptized ones where God has placed you in this year ahead!**

*The Kansas District Board of Stewardship*

## Herren Memorial Fund Matching Facility Improvement Grants

There is a unique grant opportunity available to Kansas District congregations, schools, and RSO's to receive matching funds for money raised to support a building project or facility needs. This special grant comes from the Dr. Charles and Vivian Herren Memorial Fund, and the LCMS Kansas District. The funds will be awarded on a matching basis. This means that for every dollar you raise between \$15,000-\$40,000 you could be awarded matching funds for your building improvement or project. Grant requests may be fully funded, partially funded, or denied, based on information available on the grant application as well as availability of funding, which is limited.

This matching grant applies to construction projects in process or completed during 2022 for which new dollars continue to be raised, or projects to begin in 2023. The LCMS Kansas District will accept applications between **January 1, 2023, and April 17, 2023**. Awards will be determined in May 2023.

Visit the [Grants and Scholarships](#) page on the District website to access the grant application.

Please scan and return your completed application via email (*along with all requested attachments*) to Shannon Fender at [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org). If you have questions about your project or application, please contact Shannon Fender at the District Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001 or via email.

Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske will be installed as Executive Director for Lutheran Bible Translators on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia, MO (401 S. Main St. Concordia, MO 64020). Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Hagan, the Missouri District President, will be conducting the installation. Afterwards, Lutheran Bible Translators will host an open house reception from 3:15-5:00 p.m. at their international offices (205 S. Main St., Bldg 5, Concordia, MO 64020). Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

**Please RSVP at [go.lbt.org/openhouse](http://go.lbt.org/openhouse).** To book accommodations, contact [guest@splhs.org](mailto:guest@splhs.org) or 660-463-2238 ext. 232 and indicate you are attending the installation.

# 4%

## ONE-YEAR FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE

### Lutherans Helping Lutherans

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Our investors make it possible for us to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

This limited-time offer is available for  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

INDIVIDUALS  CONGREGATIONS  ORGANIZATIONS

The choice is up to you. LCEF offers a variety of term notes from 1 to 5 years.

At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem. Interest is compounded quarterly (March, June, September and December).



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

**JEFFREY MALTZ**

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

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of December 2022. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) for details.



## Friendly Reminders!

### 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 **January 15, 2023 at the latest** in any of the following ways:

- Email/scan your form to Shannon Fender at [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto: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.

### 2022 Fiscal Year Ends January 13

**The District will close its 2022 fiscal year on Friday, January 13, 2023.** Any receipt received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2023 for your congregation. In order to meet the standards for a not-for-profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2022 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year, so please work to meet this deadline. If you are sending any 2023 gift prior to January 13, please indicate that the gift is for 2023 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

Click on the link here for the [2022 Year-End Checklist](#). You can also find the 2022 year-end checklist on the District website, under the [Business Office](#) tab in the "Frequently Requested" box, or under the [District Resources](#) subheading.

## Synod & Partners



**SET APART TO SERVE**  
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



### KFUO Radio interview with President Justin Panzer

In late October, President Justin Panzer gave an interview on the *Set Apart to Serve* initiative with [KFUO Radio](#) "The Coffee Hour" series. During the interview President Panzer discussed how church workers and members can help young people to consider church work vocations, and ways that the Kansas District is encouraging the building up of church workers through the new triennium theme "Living as the Baptized."

**Listen to the full interview at "[The Coffee Hour-Set Apart to Serve: Formation and Vocation Culture in Churches.](#)"**

In early November, the Kansas District Board of Directors passed a resolution to contribute **\$20,000** from the Doris Meyer Fund to assist in the *Set Apart to Serve* initiative, in supporting the encouragement of young people in church work vocations!

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

## Planned Giving: Creating Your Legacy

In 2021, the Kansas District launched a partnership with the [LCMS Foundation](#) to offer planned giving services, to assist LCMS Kansans interested in the Godly management of their assets for the good of their families, and also the Church. Planned giving is an excellent way to ensure that family and ministries are provided for and supported after an individual has been called by God to his/her heavenly home.

Three Kansas District staff members—Missions and Stewardship Executive **Rev. Dan Galchutt**, LCEF DVP **Jeffrey Maltz**, and Business Manager **Heather Williams**—are trained planned giving advocates who promote and educate LCMS Kansans on gift planning.

To learn more about planned giving, or to schedule a presentation, contact **Rev. Dan Galchutt** [dangalchutt@kslcms.org](mailto:dangalchutt@kslcms.org), **Jeffrey Maltz** [Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org), or **Heather Williams** [heather@kslcms.org](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Rev. Justin Panzer**  
District President

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

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

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

**Heather Williams**  
Business Manager

**Jackie Schaefer**  
Communications Specialist

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

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

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

**Mike Grau**  
Archivist

## COORDINATORS

**Rev. Mark Boxman**  
Campus Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Ian Kinney**  
Life Coordinator

**Lottie Lee**  
Professional Development

**Jane Limback**  
Accreditation

**Amy Schultz**  
Early Childhood Consultant

**Donna Williams**  
Disaster Response Coordinator

## CONTACT US

[kslcms.org/staff](http://kslcms.org/staff)

785-357-4441

1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604

## Around the District

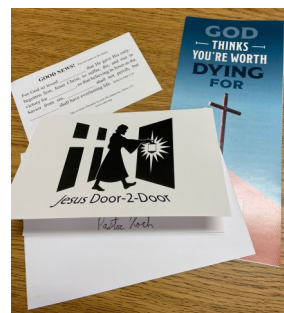


From left: Rev. Paul Helmer, Rev. Kevin Vogts and Greg Windler, Trinity, Paola, chairman.

A retirement celebration was held for **Rev. Kevin Vogts** on Dec. 4, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran in Paola. Rev. Vogts retired after 36 years of active service as a Pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, serving the last nine years at Trinity, Paola. The worship service included the rite of "Farewell and Godspeed for a Pastor Entering Retirement," conducted by Rev. Paul Helmer, King of Kings, Gardner, Pastor Emeritus, who was Rev. Vogt's Greek professor at St. John's College and conducted his ordination in 1986. Rev. Helmer's father, Rev. Martin Helmer, baptized Rev. Vogts in 1960. A catered dinner followed the service. **God bless Rev. Vogts and his family!**



Participants gathered at St. John, Palmer, for the JD2D event on Dec. 10.



Picture of JD2D gospel literature.

## Jesus Door-2-Door Event Rev. Timothy Koch, Pastor at Zion Lutheran, Linn



On Saturday, December 10, seven people representing two LCMS congregations gathered at St. John Lutheran in Palmer and canvassed the town of Clifton. The group knocked on 98 doors. 46 people answered the door, and 23 of them agreed to take the survey. Gospel and congregational literature was left at the 52 houses where no one was home.

When asked, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?" 19 people responded with "heaven," but only 10 believed they would get there because of Jesus Christ.

Three people answered, "I don't know," and one person said, "reincarnation." Nine out of the 23 people (39%) who took the survey said they did not currently attend a church. When asked the question, "What is your favorite Bible story?" there were a variety of responses. Some mentioned the account of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, while others listed Jonah, Ruth, Jesus' conception and resurrection, the Christmas story, Moses and water from the rock, and the book of Psalms.

**The next JD2D event will be Saturday, January 21, 2023, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia, Missouri.**