

In This Issue

Message from Rev. Daniel Galchutt / p. 4

Life Conference photos / p. 11

Light of the World Mission in De Soto / p. 14

Regular Features

February Devotion	2-3
Calls and Vacancies	3
Worker News	5-6
Prayer Requests	7
Upcoming Events	8-9
District Ministry News	12-13
Synod & Partners,	15
Friendly Reminders	
Around the District	16

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2



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

FEBRUARY 2023 | www.kslcms.org

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District



Rev. Michael Salemink, the Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, presents at the 2023 Life Conference.



Rally for Life at the State Capitol in downtown Topeka.

2023 Life Conference a Great Success!

Around 75 participants attended the Fifth Annual Kansas District Life Conference, January 23-24, 2023, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka. **Rev. Michael Salemink**, the Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, was the keynote presenter. Other conference activities included a service project, Matins and Vespers, and networking opportunities.

Attendees also joined several hundred participants in the March/Rally for Life to the State Capitol in downtown Topeka, on January 24. See **Page 11** for more photos. *Special thanks to all who helped organize the Life Conference!*



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

President's Office

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning” (Joel 2:12).

February Devotion

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

2023 Fall Church Workers Conference: Call for Pastor's Papers

The 2023 Fall Church Workers Conference will be a joint conference, combining both educators and pastors. The conference will take place Oct. 8-10, 2023, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita. Save the date, and be on the lookout for more details to come!

There are 12 slots available for pastors to present breakout sessions on a variety of theological topics to the conference participants. The Church Workers Conference Planning Committee is now accepting abstracts for presentations to be given on Monday and Tuesday of the conference, 60 minutes in duration.

Please submit a brief abstract and title for your presentation to Rev. Mark Lovett, pastor.mdlovett@gmail.com, and copy Heather Williams, heather@kslcms.org, no later than **May 1, 2023**.

“Return to me,” the Lord invites through His prophet. Not just with your lip service, but with your whole heart and life — with fasting, weeping and mourning. **Come all the way back to Me.**

“Fasting and weeping”— these are signs of heartfelt sorrow over sin. Joel is calling His people to mourn because they have abandoned the Lord their God.

“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord **Your God” (v. 13)**. God’s people are not to just go through the motions of repentance. The prophet expects that they will let the Word sink into their hearts and consciences. He expects that the visible signs, fasting and weeping and mourning, will follow.

Joel takes the very core of our self-idolatry and throws it away. The Lord calls His wandering people home through the Word. Let the Law of your holy God humble your pride and lead you to contrition, even though your broken heart may hurt. True repentance is appalled at sin because sin separates us from the Lord. And true repentance includes faith in the promised forgiveness of sins.

When Joel speaks God’s Word, he describes the God who has compassion and love for His people. “**He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (v. 13)**. This is how God describes Himself. He is jealous for His people yet full of compassion, not wanting anyone to perish.

The mark of the ashes and the sign of the cross is placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Ashes remind us of our mortality in this life and of why we need a Savior — to rescue us from this present evil age, and to bring us life and light forever. Through the cross, God has sent His Son to save all people. The blessings of His death and resurrection are given through the gift of faith.

Just like last year, we invite the people of the LCMS Kansas District to join together on Ash Wednesday for a district wide “**Day of Repentance.**” We encourage you to pray the Litany (found on pages 288-289 in *Lutheran Service Book*), worship, fast, and give a financial contribution to your local congregation.

What is a fast? How does it fit in with what the Lord is trying to teach us as He calls us to repentance? If you have access to *The Lutheran Study Bible*, turn to page 189, where you’ll find a helpful article called, “When You Fast” (also available online at firstthings.com/blogs).

(Continued on Page 3)

February Devotion Cont.

Note especially these words under the subhead “Fasting For You”:

During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke against fasting as a means of salvation. Instead, He commended fasting as a private, voluntary act of humility before God (Matt. 6:16-18). Take a few moments now to read His words and reflect on your own devotion. If you are like most people, you have thought more about dieting than fasting. It is hard to imagine a daylong fast. No doubt fasting for 40 days like Jesus did after His Baptism is out of the question. Yet our Lord’s words clearly reveal that fasting should be part of a Christian’s life: He said, “When you fast” (Matt. 6:16), not “If you fast” (cf. Matt. 9:14-15). The early Christians fasted (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23). Why shouldn’t a twenty-first-century Christian do likewise?

A simple fast might involve going without one or two meals before receiving the Lord’s Supper and using the time to focus on God’s Word. If skipping a meal isn’t an option, think about taking a break from something else, like social media or web surfing. **Whatever form it takes, fasting is a powerful reminder of Christ’s own obedience and sacrifice for us all.**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Kurt Cockran, Risen Savior, Basehor to Prince of Peace, Buffalo, WY – pending

Rev. Kurt Cockran, Risen Savior, Basehor to Immanuel, Macomb, IL – pending

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

Rev. Jared Hartman, St. Paul, Wisner, NE to Grace, Liberal & Peace, Beaver, OK – pending

Rev. Calvin (CJ) Luttinen, Holy Cross, Mobile, AL to Risen Savior, Wichita – pending

Rev. Carl Wendorff, Faith, Warsaw, MO to St. John’s, Topeka and Trinity, McFarland (partnership) – pending

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Michael Hofmann, St. Paul, Clay Center, Assoc. to Trinity, Girard – installation Sunday, April 2, 2023

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

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

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Atchison, Trinity (Teacher)
Emporia, Messiah (DCE) - spring graduate
Garden City, Trinity
Overland Park, Bethany (DCE) - spring graduate

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Principal Bradley (Kyle) Erickson, Trinity, Greeley, CO to Good Shepherd, Marysville – accepted

DCE Lisa Hellyer, LeadaChild to Lutheran Hour Ministries – accepted

Thank You, Kansas District

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

Dear members of the Kansas District,

Greetings in Christ Jesus, the Light of the world!

After prayerful consideration, I have decided to accept the call to serve as the Executive Director for our Synod's Office of National Mission. This decision came after much prayer and discussion with my family, coworkers, members of the Kansas District Board of Directors, church workers across Kansas, my counterparts in other districts, and people at the Synod. Thank you to all who offered prayers for me and my family, and also to those who gave me wise counsel. Through this counsel and prayer, the Lord has made it clear He is calling me to this work at the Synod. This in spite of the fact that, in many ways, I wanted to continue my work in Kansas as the Lord has blessed me so abundantly over the last six years.

It has been a joy to work with President Panzer and other great members of the district staff. I have also been blessed and grown over the years through the many connections I have made across Kansas, and it has been a joy to serve alongside so many wonderful people on the Kansas District Board of Directors.

There are many details to work out in the days ahead. However, I know that some will wonder about the time of transition ahead. Here's what I can say. I, after visiting with President Panzer, plan to wrap up my work with the Kansas District in the middle of March. This will allow me to keep some commitments already on my calendar, as well as hand things off to the appropriate people so that the important work of the district can continue. President Panzer will address what comes next after that.

While I am saddened by the fact that I will not be able to continue my work among you all, I take comfort in God's Word from Philippians 1. "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace" (vv. 3-7a).

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Rev. Daniel Galchutt

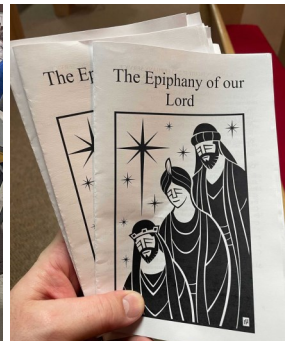
Worker News

Rev. Don Haselhuhn was installed as pastor of St. John, Lincoln, and St. Paul's, Westfall, on Jan. 7. The installation was held at St. Paul's. From left: Revs. Matt Schneider, Chris Craig, Keith Emshoff, Don Haselhuhn, Jason Toombs, Justin Panzer, Luke Brown and Gary Wolf.



Rev. Mike Carney was ordained and installed as assistant pastor of Trinity, Atchison, on Jan. 15. From left: Revs. Justin Panzer, Philip Wolf, Marty Reed, Ian Kinney, Mike Carney, Chris Gerdes, Robert Ziegler and Michael Dunaway.

Circuit 7 Epiphany Service and Soup Supper



Zion Lutheran, Linn, hosted the first annual Circuit 7 Epiphany Service and Soup Supper on January 6. Rev. Timothy Koch preached a sermon titled "Starry Eyed" based on Matthew 2:10. In keeping with the themes of light and darkness that are common to Epiphany, the worshipers sang the opening and closing hymn by candlelight. The Sacrament was celebrated.

There were 95 worshipers, representing five LCMS congregations. An offering of \$1,004 was collected and given to the church plant in Concordia, KS. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Worker News Cont.



Rev. Paul Dare, the keynote presenter at the Pre-Lent Conference in Wichita.



LCMS Kansas District pastors were in attendance at the January 9-10, 2023 Pre-Lent Conference at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. **Rev. Paul Dare**, senior pastor of Zion Lutheran in Alexandria, Minn., served as the keynote presenter. His topic was "Christians in a Woke World: A Call to Confession, Courage and Love."

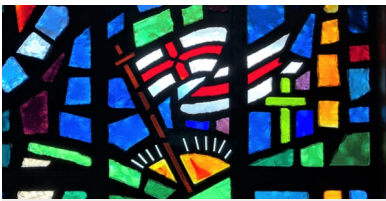


The 2023 Kansas District High School Youth Gathering (KDYG) will be held **November 17-19** at Hotel Topeka. The planning committee is as follows: (from left, front row) DCE Amanda Adams, Miriam Wehling, DCE Heather McCormick and Heather Smith; (from left, back row) Rev. Ben Micheel, Rev. Jacob Heine, Vicar Jeff Lane, Jim Bradshaw and Rev. Dan Galchutt.



In Jesus' name we pray...

FEBRUARY PRAYER REQUESTS



SPECIAL PRAYERS

As the season of Lent begins, we pray for God to help us remember His love and forgiveness during this time of reflecting on our sins. May we turn to Him with heartfelt repentance, with the knowledge that when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (ref. 1 John 1:9). In His Name, Amen.

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Bill Ciocchetti, the father of Jaimee Hoppe. Bill entered his heavenly rest Jan. 21, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Kevin Crawford, the brother of Rev. King Crawford. Kevin entered his heavenly rest Jan. 19, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Roy Bingenheimer, the father of Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer. Rev. Roy entered his heavenly rest Jan. 17, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Ruben Bauck, the father of James Bauck. Ruben entered his heavenly rest Jan. 11, 2023.
- ❖ 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.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including Rev. Ben Ockree, Gerald Jahnke, Cindy Hammons, former Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke, 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 February:

Trinity Lutheran, Colby, February 6

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Preschool, Fairview; Zion Lutheran, Hiawatha; First Lutheran Church and Preschool, Sabetha (NEK Partnership), February 13

Lord of Life Lutheran Church and Early Education Center, Leawood, February 20

Messiah Lutheran, Emporia, February 27

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

FEBRUARY Staff Travel Schedule

- 1 Strategic Planning at Immanuel, **Lawrence** (Galchutt)
- 5 Stewardship Sunday at Hope, **Shawnee** (Galchutt)
- 5-9 Council of Presidents, **St. Louis** (Panzer)
- 6-7 KAIRS Administrators Conference, Ramada Hotel, **Topeka** (Bradshaw)
- 8 School Visit, **Linn** (Bradshaw)
- 10-11 District Youth Ministry Committee Retreat, **Herington** (Bradshaw)
- 12 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (Panzer)
- 14 Circuit 6 Winkel at Prince of Peace, **Topeka** (Panzer)
- 15 School Visit, **Independence** (Bradshaw)
- 16 Circuit 7 Winkel at Zion, **Linn** (Panzer)
- 16 LAKC Administrators, Bethany, **Overland Park** (Bradshaw)
- 21 DCE Cluster, **Topeka** (Bradshaw)
- 21 Theology on Tap, **Manhattan** (Bradshaw)
- 21 Circuits 3 N&S at First, **Paola** (Galchutt)
- 22 School Visit, St. John, **Alma** (Bradshaw)
- 26 Kansas Missions Bible study at Zion, **Hillsboro** (Galchutt)

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

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.

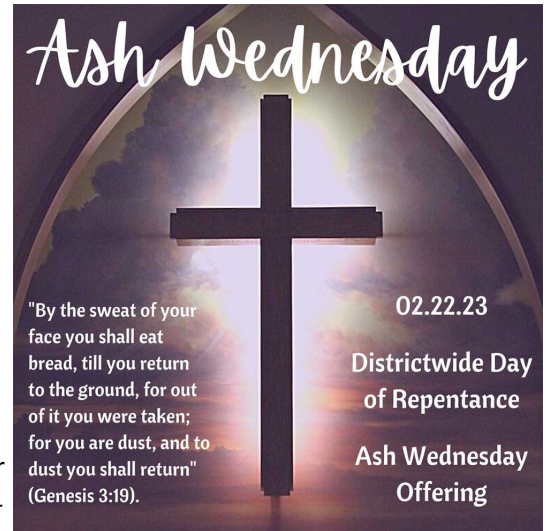
You can participate in this year’s offering either through your congregation or by sending a gift directly to the District. You can donate **online** at kslcms.org/donate or **send a check** to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604, with the designation, “Ash Wednesday Offering.”

The annual Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering supports scholarships for future church workers and grants to help active church workers pay off education loans. For this year’s offering, 25 percent of the proceeds will be allocated to the Kansas District Scholarship Fund, and 75 percent to the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Fund.

Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske will be installed as Executive Director of 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. To book accommodations, contact guest@splhs.org or 660-463-2238 ext. 232 and indicate you are attending the installation.



UPCOMING EVENTS



2023 Pastor's Wives Retreat

Pastors' wives are invited to gather at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington for the annual **Pastors' Wives Retreat, Friday, April 21—Saturday, April 22, 2023**. The guests presenter will be Christian author and speaker, Deb Burma.

Registration is open. Visit the kslcms.org homepage to register, and find a schedule.

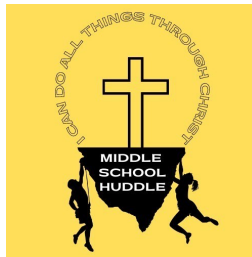


LWML Women's Retreat

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/



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 is \$80 per participant.

Registration is open. Visit the [Middle School Events page](#) (under the "Education & Youth, Youth Ministry" tab) on the District website to register, and find more information. For questions, please contact Rev. Richard Lally (St. Matthew, Nortonville), at pastor@stmatthewlcms.org.



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 is open. Visit the [LVR](#) page (under the "Education & Youth, Youth Ministry" tab) on the Kansas District website to register. Also visit the LVR page to watch a video highlighting last summer! For additional information, please contact DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission/Shawnee), at Beth@tlcms.org.

ON THE RADAR

De Soto Church Plant (Zoom), Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

President's Council (Zoom), Feb. 2, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

SAA55 (Zoom), Feb. 2, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Board of Directors (Zoom), Feb. 3

Lutheran Schools Committee (Zoom), Feb. 5, 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Council of Presidents, Feb. 6-9, St. Louis, MO

KAIRS Annual Conference, Feb. 6-7, Ramada Hotel, Topeka, KS

District Youth Ministry Committee Retreat, Feb. 10-11, Herington, KS

Topeka DCE Cluster, Feb. 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., District Office, Topeka, KS

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

Church Worker Care (Zoom), Feb. 23, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Parish Education Committee (Zoom), Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

LERT Retreat, March 3-4

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. 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)



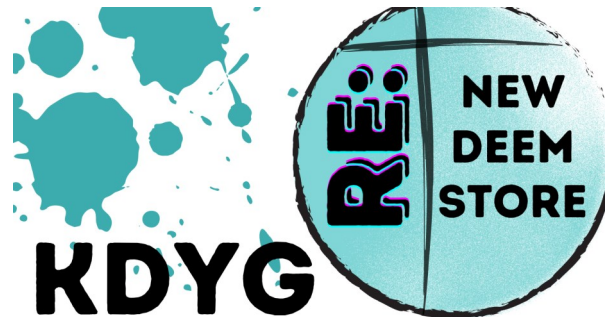
The SAA55 theme will be *"I Love to Tell the Story – Leaving a Faith Legacy."*

"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!



**KDYG
2023**

**SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 17-19
REGISTRATION
OPENS AUGUST 1!**



**WITH SPEAKER
TANNER OLSON!**



Concordia Academy—Wichita students, faculty and staff participated in the March for Life in downtown Topeka.



March for Life participants gather at the State Capitol in downtown Topeka for the Rally for Life.



LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

Rev. Ian Kinney, the Kansas District Life Coordinator, at the Rally for Life.

Life Conference | January 23-24, 2023

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS



Life Conference attendees put together 100 care packages for expectant mothers, to be distributed by Topeka's LifeLine Pregnancy Center. The care packages were organized by Rev. Ian Kinney, the Kansas District Life Coordinator, and sponsored by Lutherans For Life of Kansas.

Lutherans For Life of Kansas is also sponsoring an essay contest!

This contest is open to 6th-12th grade students in a Lutheran school and/or members of a Lutheran church. Students are to submit their essays by March 22 by emailing secretary@lflfokansas.org.



Visit the [Lutherans For Life of Kansas website](http://lutheransforlifeofkansas.org) for more information about the essay contest!



From left: Rev. Christian Schultz, pastor of First Lutheran, Paola, Kathy Schultz, and Dr. Bruce Schultz, Kansas District Board of Directors member. Dr. Schultz and his wife Kathy are on the Lutherans For Life of Kansas Board of Directors. (photo used with permission)



President Justin Panzer offered a prayer at the end of the Rally for Life. (photo used with permission)



LCMS Lutherans gather at the State Capitol in downtown Topeka for the Rally for Life.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator



Southern District LERT Response– Alabama Tornadoes

Feb. 13-17, 2023

Description: Damage Assessments have begun in the LCMS Southern District in the wake of the January 12, 2023 tornado outbreak. It is still too soon to know the extent of what our entire volunteer need and capacity will be. **Chainsaw Team:** The TEAM LEADER should contact Pastor Ed Brashier at 205-296-3714 **BEFORE** signing up. TEXT is preferred. Then email a list of your team members' names to shepherdsheartministry@yahoo.com.

REGISTER AT [LCMS-LERT.ORG](https://www.lcms-lert.org). Contact Pastor Ed Brashier via email to confirm your arrival. shepherdsheartministry@yahoo.com.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Selma, Alabama will be hosting the LERT Volunteers for this response. More information is listed below. *(Please be aware that the details of this deployment are very fluid. Information is changing on a daily, even hourly, basis. We will try to send updates in a timely fashion, but please check back often as the location may change.)*

Trinity Lutheran Church
1900 Marie Foster St.
Selma, AL 36703

- Background check required.
- Bring your own chainsaws, equipment, and PPE.
- Housing will be at the church. Bring your own twin bedding for bunk beds.
- Bunk beds will be in church classrooms.
- Southern District Shower Trailer will be stationed at the church. Bring your own personal toiletries.
- Meals will be provided and served at the church with a sack lunch.
- WIFI is available at the church.
- Equipment will be stored in the fenced-in back yard of the church.
- We are checking into having security on site from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- *Sunday arrivals with Monday through Friday workdays and a Saturday departure will be the normal schedule. 8 to 4 workdays with breakfast at 7 a.m. and an evening meal at 6 p.m.*
- Power and water have been restored.
- A/C working in sleeping area.
- 2 RV spots available at this time - **you must contact Pastor Ed Brashier for reservations.**
- Any volunteers that show up without registering will be considered spontaneous and will not be permitted to join in our work.
- Local COVID protocols cannot always be followed in a disaster response situation. We ride in trucks together, eat together, and sleeping quarters are not spacious. Each individual can socially distance to his/her own comfort level.

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](https://www.lcms-kansas.org) and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](https://www.facebook.com/LERT-Kansas-District), and [Lutheran Early Response Team – Northeast Kansas](https://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Early-Response-Team-Northeast-Kansas)).

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in
God's Mission



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



February is a wonderful time to connect with our **college seniors** and discuss with them their plans for after graduation. This timely conversation provides the pastor opportunities to discuss how to connect with an LCMS congregation in the communities to which they are relocating. We may even be able to connect our soon-to-be graduate with a new pastor before the hectic events of graduation, moving and starting a new job.

Hannah is from California, and attends college here in Kansas. Here is what she says about attending a weekly Bible study in one of our Kansas college communities:

Before attending the college Bible class, I felt alone in my faith and it was hard to be motivated to go to church....But now I have a stronger faith than ever, and a true home away from home. In our weekly gatherings I have been blessed with friendship, community, belonging, a much closer relationship with God, and a support system for any and everything. To anyone thinking about attending a college Bible study: just do it! Don't overthink it or stress over it. Go and see what happens. God will lead you to your people!

Gracious Father, bless, guide, and govern the young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Mark Boxman

Campus Ministry Coordinator, and Senior Pastor of Trinity, Salina

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

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in God's Mission



Scholarships Available!



Our LCMS congregations and schools need church workers, and the Kansas District is ready and willing to help. The district is once again offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at one of the Synod's universities or seminaries. Last year the district awarded over \$54,000 in scholarships to future church workers.

Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of applications received. **The application deadline for 2023-24 scholarships is June 1.** Applications are available on the District website, under [Grants and Scholarships](#) from the "Stewardship" drop-down menu. You can also find links to other organizations offering scholarships to church work stu-

dents, including the [Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](#), [Lutheran Laymen's League \(LLL\)](#) and [St. John's Alumni Association](#).

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis: New Lenten Sermon Series

Maxwell, the Louis A. Fincke and Anna B. Shine Professor of Systematic Theology, provides six sermons to aid pastors in their preparation for Lenten midweek services.

A new Lenten Sermon Series, "**Honest Repentance**," is now available from Concordia Seminary Press, the publishing arm of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The series, authored by **Dr. David**

Each sermon draws from Scripture readings traditionally assigned for the Easter Vigil to explore what repentance is — and what a life of repentance looks like. "Honest Repentance" is available as a PDF download for \$19.95 from Concordia Seminary's [online store](#). For more information, please call Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or email ce@csl.edu.

Light of the World Lutheran Mission, De Soto, KS

Rev. Norbert (Bert) Tegtmeier

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

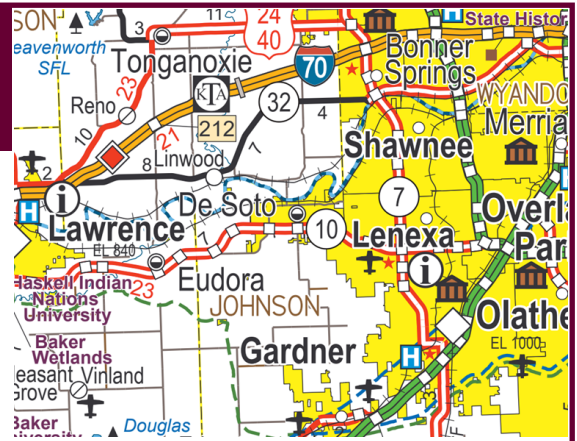
On January 6, 2022, Epiphany, five couples, along with Rev. Dan Galchutt, met in the home of David and Sue Anderson to begin a Bible study and work toward planting a Lutheran Church in the De Soto, Kansas community. This came at the request of Rev. Dan Galchutt, the Missions Executive for the Kansas District. **And so the journey began.** This group decided to meet twice a month, on Sunday evenings, to join together in the study of God's Word and share ideas/possibilities of how we might make this happen. We gather for study and prayer, seeking God's direction for this new church plant.

Over this past year, we have met not only for Bible study and prayer but have also been involved in some service projects in the community, with the hope that we would get to meet new people and share our story with them. We took appreciation bags to the teachers in the De Soto schools, appreciation bags to the fire and police departments in De Soto and Eudora, packed lunch bags for Metro Lutheran Ministries in Kansas City, and attended community events in both De Soto and Eudora.

In November, Rev. Timothy Koch of Zion, Linn, led us in a neighborhood canvass. **We have followed up with five families through that event.** Our group also joined the De Soto Chamber and have shared our mission at those meetings. This resulted in a generous donation from one of the Chamber members, encouraging us to continue our work. Throughout the year we have also received monetary donations from Christ, Overland Park, and Trinity, Hanover, as well as from some individuals. **God continues to work, and we are confident that He will lead us in this mission plant.**

The Kansas District Board of Directors has asked that we begin the process of looking to purchase some land for the future site of Light of the World Lutheran Church. I ask for your continued prayers as we move forward. I would also ask you to consider supporting this mission through your financial gifts. With the new Panasonic plant moving to town there will be countless opportunities to serve the people of this community and share the Light of Jesus with them.

The fields are ripe for harvest. We pray that the Lord of the harvest sends forth workers into the harvest fields of De Soto and the surrounding communities.



Concordia Seminary, St. Louis: Second annual Prevallet Hymn Writer's Workshop

Registration is open for the second annual

Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop slated for **Saturday, Feb. 18** on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Aspiring and published hymnwriters, translators and Concordia Seminary students are encouraged to attend.

This workshop is especially designed for equipping Concordia Seminary students to participate in the annual Pamela Ann Prevallet Hymn Competition. Although the competition is open to current first, second and vicarage Master of Divinity students, as well as M.A. Deaconess Studies students, all Concordia Seminary students may participate in this hymn writing workshop to learn or sharpen their skills in hymn writing.

The workshop will be held from **8:30 a.m. to noon**, with an optional individual coaching session in the afternoon. The workshop will be held in the lower level of the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. **The registration deadline is Feb 15.** Cost is \$15 per person and free for Concordia Seminary students and their spouses. Registration includes a copy of *The Anatomy of Hymnody* by Austin C. Lovelace. For more information, contact Vieker at 314-505-7570 or viekerj@csl.edu.

Friendly Reminders!

Congregation Statistical Reports

Synodical Congregation Statistical reports were emailed to congregations the week of January 23. Be sure to submit your congregation's end-of-year statistics for 2022, and update your current list of lay leaders at the following website: <https://lc.lcms.org/>.

The deadline for reporting is March 31, 2023. You may review your congregation's profile and update lay leader information throughout the year to make sure your contact information, service times, and other important data are current. If you do not have your congregation's login information, contact rosters.stats@lcms.org, or the LCMS Church Information Center at **888-843-5267**.

Up-to-date statistical information is essential for the Synod as it plans current and future ministry efforts. Such information is also critical for determining proper voting representation at conventions (see LCMS Bylaw 1.3.4.3). **Your timely completion of the report is appreciated!**

Synod & Partners



The title for the Lutheran Hour Ministries' 2023 Lenten Devotions is "**Man of Sorrows, People of Joy.**" Using Matthew's Gospel as its source, these devotions show Jesus as teacher, healer, comforter, and Savior.

The Lenten devotions begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and end on Easter Monday, April 10. Downloadable versions include large print and booklets, as well as promotional materials such as bulletin inserts. The downloadable versions can also be customized for churches, and directions to customize and print are available with the devotions. Visit lhm.org/lent to access the Lenten devotions, as well as additional resources!

2023 LCMS Life Conference: Register Now!

The 2023 LCMS Life

Conference, which is part of *Making Disciples For Life*, is set for **March 2-3, 2023, in St. Louis and online.** In-person registration cost is \$49 per individual, which includes meals and snacks. The deadline for in-person registration is Feb. 17. The online registration cost is \$29 for an individual, couple, family or group. The deadline for virtual registration is March 2. Visit the [LCMS Life Conference](#) webpage to register!

LCEF is hiring! All open positions can be found on the LCEF website's careers page at <https://lcef.org/careers/>.

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

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 for details.

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Around the District



Kansas LCMS Public Servants



Pictured are Kansas House of Representatives Majority Whip Susan Estes and Appellate Judge David Bruns. Susan is the wife of U.S. Rep. Ron Estes, who serves Kansas' 4th congressional district.

We are blessed to have LCMS members serving in State offices, who gather once a month for Bible study. Above, pictured from left: Sen. Kristen O'Shea, Appellate Judge David and Shawn Bruns, Rep. Tim Johnson, Linda and Rep. Ron Highland (emeritus), Rep. Kenny Titus, and Norene and Sen. Dan Kerschen. State officials not pictured who are also LCMS members are District Judge John Bosch, Rep. Steven Howe and Sen. Jeff Longbine.

Please keep these brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers as they serve in public office.

Planned Giving: Creating Your Legacy

In 2021, the Kansas District launched a partnership with the [LCMS Foundation](http://LCMSFoundation.org) 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, Jeffrey Maltz Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org, or Heather Williams heather@kslcms.org.