



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

## LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

February 2023

### DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

#### President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

**Fourth Quarter Meetings and Events.** President Panzer highlighted the 2022-2025 triennium theme “Living as the Baptized” and our calling as the royal priesthood in the Kansas District. Events over the fourth quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President’s Council, service boards, and various committees; Zoom meetings and the St. Louis in-person meeting with the Council of Presidents; school chapels; the Pre-Lent Retreat and CV/VP meeting in early January; the Kansas District Life Conference/March for Life in January; Pre-Seminary Interview, and multiple Circuit Winkel visits.

**Ordinations and Installations.** There were four pastoral installations in the fourth quarter (Revs. Nathan Dudley, St. Paul, Haven; John Fries, SPR Partnership; Don Haselhuhn, St. John/St. Paul, Lincoln/Westfall, and Mike Carney, Ordination & Installation, Trinity, Atchison).

**Visits/Travel.** In the fourth quarter, President Panzer drove 9,501 miles as he traveled to installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

**Congregational Activity.** In the fourth quarter there were twelve calling congregations in the Kansas District, with nine churches seeking a sole pastor and three an associate/assistant. Eight call lists were completed in the past quarter.

#### Missions and Stewardship

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

**Visitation & Strategic Planning.** Rev. Galchutt visited Immanuel, Canton for a Stewardship Sunday and led a school chapel at Christ, Overland Park. He also had a wonderful visit to St. John, Ellinwood. He has been working with Immanuel, Lawrence and Messiah, Emporia on strategic planning.

**Church Planting.** Rev. Bert Tegtmeier continues to lead the core group for Bible study in De Soto. He and others have done some canvassing in the community. LCEF is working with the Foundry and the former mayor of De Soto to explore options for potential purchase of land for the De Soto church plant.

**Hispanic Ministry.** The development of Daniel Jordan continues in the area of Hispanic Ministry in Kansas City. It looks like Daniel will be called as a bi-vocational or convocational pastor to this ministry in the months ahead. The Missouri District continues to look for candidates to serve as senior pastor for the ministry.

**District Events.** The Pre-Lent Retreat in Wichita and the Life Conference in Topeka both took place in January. There is planning being done now for the 2023 Fall Church Worker Conference and the Kansas District Youth Gathering.

**Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Oklahoma and Kansas.** The Annual meeting took place on January 11 in Wichita. Rev. Galchutt and Rev. Dean Christ serve on this board on behalf of the Kansas District. There was a vote to increase the annual distribution due to LSS having received two larger gifts in the past year. The Kansas District received \$14,560.86.

#### Education & Youth

James Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth

**2023 Fall Church Worker Conference.** The 2023 Joint Church Worker Conference will be held October 8-10 at Holy Cross in Wichita. The theme will be “Let There Be Light” based on John 1:4-5. The keynote presenter will be Dr. Thomas J. Egger, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

**Lutheran Schools.** Six congregations/schools are currently involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion: Emporia, Messiah (DCE); Overland Park, Bethany (DCE); Atchison, Trinity (Teacher); Shawnee, Hope (Teacher); Topeka Lutheran School (Teacher), and Garden City, Trinity. The KAIRS Annual 2023 Administrators Conference will be February 6-7 at the Ramada in Topeka. Mr. Joshua Grass (Teacher at Topeka Lutheran School) has been selected as the 2023 KAIRS Lutheran Teacher of the Year!

**Youth Ministry Updates.** The Middle School Huddle will be April 21-22 in Junction City, and Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) will be June 4-9 in Colorado. The Middle School Confirmation Retreat will be Sept. 29-30 in Augusta, and the 2023 District Youth Gathering will be Nov. 17-19 in Topeka. *Higher Things*, a RSO of the Synod, will be offering conferences and retreats this summer in Illinois and Texas.

**2024 Districtwide Service Projects.** A task force is coordinating plans to launch service projects in April 2024. More details will follow. This is to fulfill **Resolution 22-03-02: To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service.**

### Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

#### **Financial Update**

- Through December 31, 2022, LCEF Kansas District has **26** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$14,904,494**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **1,718** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$57,557,366**
- **5.0%** of LCMS Kansas District members are investors.

**Activity in the Kansas District.** Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor, paid off one loan in October. The second loan will also be an early payoff in this quarter.

**LCEF Business Notes.** LCEF Operating Revenue - funding received from 2022 LCEF Fiscal Year is \$81,478. LCEF loan rates are increasing slightly due to the increase in investment rates. One-year term note is at 4.0%. LCEF Real Estate Solutions (RES) is working with the Kansas District on the De Soto project.

### Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

**Human Resources.** The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for nine call documents and planning scenarios this quarter.

**Property.** There is a fire alarm deficiency with the Fire Marshall that we are working through at the District office. Once repairs are made, the deficiency should be cleared.

**Accounting/Finances.** Financial results for the year-end were positive. Congregational giving is beyond commitments and came in at 114.36% of budget for year end. Expenses are reported at 107.38% of budget. We had several non-budgeted expenses, including colloquy support, LCEF enhanced earnings grants, increased utilities, repairs to the Retreat Center deck, and a personnel change. Even with these unanticipated costs, net assets still experienced an increase.

Mission commitment gifts were received by 89% of congregations. 70 congregations increased their giving to the District from 2021 to 2022. Synod Convention assessments have already been received in full from 74 congregations. They are due June 30. There is a new resource on the Business Office page of our website to help our congregations, schools and RSOs navigate their sales tax exemptions.

**Planned Giving.** Planned giving presentations are scheduled at Hope, Shawnee and St. Andrews, Wichita.

## Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

**Kansas District Website.** Website projects for this quarter included creating a new Human Trafficking page under the “Caring Ministry” section, creating a registration page for the 2023 Life Conference, including Ash Wednesday Offering materials under “Grants and Scholarships,” updating KDYG, Middle School Huddle, and LVR youth pages, placing the Pre-Lent and Pastor’s Wives Retreat registration links and schedules on the homepage, and making modifications to department sections.

**Strategic plan document, for congregations.** The “Living as the Baptized” strategic plan document was sent out in late January to church leadership in the district, with a fillable “Congregational Action” column included, as a way for individual congregations to integrate the new triennium aims and objectives into the life of their church. Congregations are encouraged to share with us their ideas, stories, and photos of how their church is “living as the baptized.”

**Workers Together.** The high email bounce-back rate was resolved in early November, and the rate of newsletter emails being opened and click through has been increasing.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

**Quarterly Mission Grant Reports.** The Board of Missions reviewed the fourth quarter mission grant reports. Some highlights included the Hispanic Ministry work being done in Kansas City, the college ministry at Redeemer, Lawrence, Concordia Academy-Wichita, and the Older Adult Ministry *Senior Moments* newsletter.

**Pentecost Offering.** Since the start of the Pentecost Offering in early June, over \$55,000 has been collected for the CLET-Guinea seminary. The West Africa Committee will meet at the end of February to start preparing for this year’s Pentecost Offering.

**De Soto area church plant.** Rev. Bert Tegtmeier continues to meet with the Light of the World Lutheran Mission core group for Bible study. Options are being explored for potential purchase of land for the De Soto church plant.

### Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

**Reports.** Numerous schools are scheduled to have the Kansas State Department of Education (KESA) Outside Visitation Team (OVT) visits in the spring of 2023. The KAIRS Administrators Conference will be held Feb. 6-7 at Ramada in Topeka. Mr. Joshua Grass, a teacher at Topeka Lutheran School, has been selected as the 2023 KAIRS Lutheran Teacher of the Year. There was discussion on the pros and cons of both KESA and NLSA from the perspectives of students, parents, teachers, and schools. This discussion incorporated the pros and cons of a classical curriculum as compared to a contemporary curriculum. Reports were reviewed from the Parish Education Committee, the Lutheran Schools Coordinators and Committees, and the Youth Ministry Committee.

**Business.** The 2022 District Convention Resolution Tracker was viewed. Bruce Schultz will review minutes and post in the tracker actions that have been taken to address each of the resolutions assigned to the Board of Education & Youth.

### Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

**Reports Review.** The Saints Alive After 55 event will be held July 17, 2023, at Christ the King, Salina. The Pastor’s Wives Retreat will be held April 21-22, 2023, at the Retreat Center in Herington. The Life Conference will take place January 23-24, 2023, in Topeka. The Kansas District will participate in the March for Life at the State Capitol. Regarding previous discussion about District Disaster Response Coordinator Donna Williams receiving reimbursement for certain expenses when specifically requested by the DDRC, the Board of Caring Ministry agreed by consensus with her expense reimbursement proposal for limited reimbursement for DDRC directed and specific expenses for deployed individuals the DDRC has specifically requested for a defined period. The BOCM will continue to monitor the development of this reimbursement practice.

**2024 Districtwide Service Projects.** Elaine Whiteneck has agreed to lead the Districtwide service project, with Rick Hanebutt assisting. The proposed timeframe for service projects will be April 2024. The goal is to put together an initial promotional package by this summer for schools to incorporate into 2023-204 calendar planning.

### Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

**Business.** The 2022 Fiscal Year End Budget was reviewed. Overall, it was a great year with congregational receipts being up from the projected amount for the year, and total income up to 117%.

The following resolutions were proposed, seconded, and approved to advance to the Board of Directors meeting:

#### **Resolution 23A-05-01 – To Establish a Board Designated Fund for Mission Project Support using Excess Unrestricted Reserve Funds**

Whereas, the unrestricted funds of the LCMS Kansas District have grown substantially due to accumulated additions to unrestricted net assets in the past few years; and  
Whereas, The Lord has especially blessed the LCMS Kansas District throughout this past year; and  
Whereas, there are significant opportunities for mission work in Kansas, including, but not limited to a potential church plant in De Soto, therefore, be it  
Resolved, that \$150,000 from the overage funds received in 2022 be board designated to a general Kansas mission fund so that these funds would be available to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the opportunities that the Lord gives us in the days ahead.

#### **Resolution 23A-05-02 – To offer \$10,000 in support of the St. John’s Topeka and Trinity McFarland Partnership**

Resolved, that \$10,000 be designated from unrestricted funds in acknowledgement of the Faith, Hugoton 2018 closure and their desire to benefit church partnerships in the KS district to be used by St. John’s, Topeka and Trinity, McFarland in support of partnership work, once a partnership pastor has been installed.

### Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

The following resolutions were proposed, seconded, and approved to advance to the Board of Directors meeting:

#### **Resolution 23A-01-01 - Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts**

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from October 16, 2022, to January 15, 2023, in the amount of **\$3,134.48**.

#### **Resolution 23A-01-02 – Recommend Investment Strategy Guidelines for Asset Planning**

Resolved, that the Doris Meyer General Endowment account be moved into the Foreign Mission Fund Endowment; and be it finally  
Resolved, that the Board of Directors approve the Investment Strategy Guidelines for discussion with the LCEF, LCMS Foundation, or similar entities.

#### **Resolution 23A-01-03 – Replacement of the District Office Server**

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors authorize the use of unrestricted funds to replace the District Office server not to exceed \$16,000.00.