

In
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“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives for God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 6: 8-11



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

APRIL 2023 | www.kslcms.org

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District



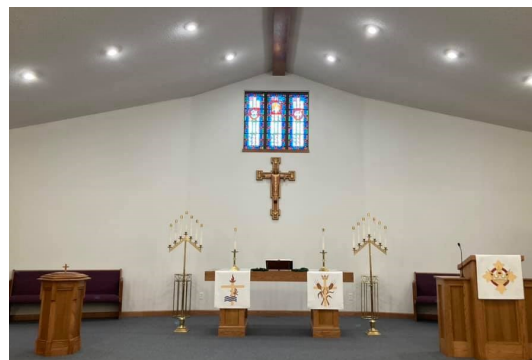
The sanctuary prepared for Easter at Redeemer Lutheran, Olathe, in April 2022.



King of Kings Lutheran, Gardner, during the Easter season in May 2021.



The sanctuary prepared for Easter at Christ the King Lutheran, Salina, in April 2021.



Trinity Lutheran, Girard, during the Easter season in May 2021.

**He is Risen
Indeed!
Alleluia!**

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:18-20).



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Clergy Candidate Report

2016 LCMS Convention Resolution 12-02A "To Encourage Calling Church Workers on Candidate Status" requires annual public reporting of the names of church workers on candidate status.

Per that requirement, we hereby report that we have one rostered worker, Rev. Mark Croucher, on candidate status who is currently eligible for a call.

Last Call for Pastor's Papers

There are 12 slots available for pastors to present breakout sessions on a variety of theological topics at the 2023 Fall Church Workers Conference, Oct. 8-10 at Holy Cross, Wichita. Abstracts for presentations will 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.

President's Office

April Devotion

Every Sunday is Easter Sunday. It is a time that we celebrate not only the death of Christ, but also His bodily resurrection from the dead. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

How does the death and resurrection of Christ shape us as Christians? Paul says that Christ "is the firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18). He is such "that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of the Godhead is pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross" (Col. 1:18-20).

The Bible continually portrays Jesus Christ as **the Crucified One**. That's His name: "Crucified." But isn't there a better term we can use? Can't we call Him the Resurrected One instead? I don't mean to say that He's not raised. I just can't find the title or name, "the Resurrected One," attributed to Jesus in the Bible, as much as it is entirely appropriate on the lips of the faithful. However, I can find the name "the Crucified One" throughout the New Testament.

We've got a God that pours out His blood for us on the cross. He's the Crucified One. He wants us to see that we have been sent there to the cross with Him, that we share in His death and that we do it through Baptism. If we have been united with Him in a death like His, shall we not also be united with Him in a resurrection like His (Romans 6:5)? The answer is, of course! **Talking about Christ as the Crucified One is a word of triumph, as well as a word of suffering.**

Are we ready to be shaped like the Crucified One? The answer has to be "Yes!" Haven't we been baptized into His death? Are we not shaped like Him in His crucifixion? We live in days of persecution. The devil is prowling about seeking whom he can devour. Only under the cross of Christ will we be kept safe. There will be suffering, as there is now in our lives. But it will be given sense and meaning because the One that is called the Crucified One has suffered for us. **We know who He is because He revealed Himself to us.**

This is our God: Christ raised for us; Christ the One who has been crucified for us poor sinners. **In Him we have life.** It is an abundant life that we joyously live out in word and deed, day by day and Sunday after Sunday as His baptized!



Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth

A Time of Transition...Shifting Responsibilities

In the spring of 2021, I announced to the Kansas District Board of Directors that 2021-24 would serve as my final three-year term of service to the District. I left the door open to accepting an additional one year appointment that would allow me to serve through my 65th birthday in early 2025.

The official announcement of my retirement would have been delayed until the spring of 2024, however, Rev. Dan Galchutt's acceptance of the Call to serve as the new Executive Director for the LCMS Office of National Mission, prompted the District Board of Directors to take action in addressing a future staffing model for the Kansas District.

On March 20, the District Board of Directors approved a new three-executive collaborative staff model from the current four-executive staff model. The three-executive model would essentially combine the work of missions, stewardship, education, and youth, thus creating the new position of the **Executive Assistant for Congregational & School Services**. This new Executive position would be assisted by various specialized Coordinators, including the adoption of a new School Ministry Coordinator and a new Youth Ministry Coordinator.

The new Executive will be an ordained person identified through a Call process. This individual will continue to make visits to our congregations and schools and will preserve our dedicated and consistent level of support to our members. The desire is to have the new Executive on staff this summer 2023. It is hopeful that this person will have experience working with Lutheran schools and embrace a strong team ministry background. We also anticipate that this individual will participate in Synod's School Leadership Development (SLED) program over the course of a two-summer training cycle.

Regarding the shifting responsibilities, the 2023-24 school year will be my final year in serving in a lead role with our schools and District ministries. Much of this coming year will be extensive onboarding and equipping the new Executive and the new School Ministry Coordinator. Should the District Board of Directors extend my service into 2025, responsibilities will focus on the training and equipping of a Youth Ministry Coordinator throughout 2024. The role of providing support and serving as a consultant will round out the duties.

In sum, this action is consistent with the right-sizing of staffing models being experienced in other Districts across the Synod. It is largely due to the declining membership in the Synod and its Districts, including Kansas, and a need to be forward thinking in Christian leadership and stewardship by creating efficiencies and saving dollars.

To be clear, the work with our schools and Commissioned workers requires the collaborative efforts of others. To that end, the Board of Directors will be putting the finishing touches on the job descriptions for the Coordinator positions. It is also anticipated that the success of this model will require continued service from the various District subcommittees.

There will certainly be more information shared as this transition unfolds. The next two years will also allow for adjustments to be made along the way. We covet your prayers throughout the days ahead. I am reminded of God's promises for us, as recorded in **Jeremiah 29:11**: ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."***

Jim Bradshaw

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Paul Flo, Hope, Sioux City, NE to TIG Partnership – declined

Rev. Jonathan Scheck, St. Paul's, Oswego & Trinity, Parsons to Bethlehem, Richmond, VA – pending

Rev. Jason Toombs, Zion, Downs to Grace, Liberal, KS & Peace, Beaver, OK – pending

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Zion, Vassar to Trinity, Paola – pending

Rev. Greg Zillinger, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, CO to Messiah, Hays – pending

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Dan Galchutt, Kansas District to LCMS ONM (Executive Director) – installation Thursday, April 13, 2023

Rev. Chris Gerdes, Candidate, NE to Immanuel, Netawaka – installation Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Burlington, Trinity (sole)

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

Greenleaf, Bethlehem & St. Peter, Barnes (sole)

Meade, St. John (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Paola, Trinity, Block (sole)

Herington partnership: Immanuel,

Topeka, St. John's, & Trinity, McFarland (partnership)

Our Redeemer, and St. John's (sole)

Topeka, St. John's (associate, seminary)

Leavenworth, Trinity (associate, seminary)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Alma, St. John (Kindergarten/Grade 1 Teacher)

Overland Park, Christ (DCE)

Emporia, Messiah (DCE) - spring graduate

Shawnee, Hope (Teacher)

Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker)

Winfield, Trinity (Teacher)

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 Michelle McMullen, Candidate, Livingston, TX to Trinity, Garden City – pending

DCE Ben Venteicher, Messiah, Hays to Zion, Hampton, NE – pending



Hannah Christian (left) was commissioned and installed as a teacher on April 2, 2023, at Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee. Pictured with Hannah is Principal Nancy Jankowski.



Worker News



Rev. Nick Cordt was installed as pastor of Bethany, Wichita, on March 12, 2023. From left: Revs. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer, Michael Schotte, Dean Von Stroh, Justin Panzer, Tim Meyer, Keith Kohlmeier, Matthew Schultz, Terry Wiechman, Mark Lovett, Tom Johnson, Nick Cordt, Tom Thierfelder, Dan Metzger, Dean Christ, Tom Harmon, John Einem, Rocky Mease, David Herald, Dan Myers, Cliff Winter and Aaron Hannemann.



Rev. CJ Luttinen was installed as lead pastor of Risen Savior, Wichita, on March 26, 2023. From left: Revs. Rocky Mease, Matthew Schultz, Nick Cordt, Dan Myers, Aaron Hannemann, Dean Von Stroh, Scott Snow, CJ Luttinen, Terry Wiechman, Michael Bingenheimer, David Ersland, Keith Kohlmeier, Mark Lovett, Tom Harmon, Cliff Winter and Justin Panzer.

Rev. Michael Hofmann was installed as pastor of Trinity, Girard, on April 2, 2023. From left: Revs. Justin Panzer, Matthew Jennings, Bruce Kristalyn, Don Copley, Michael Hofmann, Ted Cook, Jonathan Scheck, David Symm, Michael Apfel and Caleb Stoever.



Worker News, Cont.



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe served as the host site for the **March 23-24, 2023 LCMS Early Childhood Consultants Conference**. Over 20 LCMS Districts were represented. We are grateful to **Amy Schultz**, Preschool Director at Beautiful Savior and the Early Childhood Consultant for the LCMS Kansas District for organizing this event!

Highlights from March Early Childhood Conferences!



Over 100 early educators attended the **March 25, 2023 Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Early Childhood Conference**, held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission. **Dr. Annette Anschutz**, Professor of Education and director for the early childhood programs at Concordia University, Nebraska, served as the keynote presenter. The topic was "From Tinkerer to Engineer: STEAM Concepts for Preschool Students."



Trinity, Atchison members participate in the KAIRS Early Childhood Conference activities.



Christ, Overland Park members participate in the KAIRS Early Childhood Conference activities.

In Jesus' name we pray...

APRIL PRAYER REQUESTS



SPECIAL PRAYERS

In this joyous season of Easter, we celebrate the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Crucified One. As His baptized children, we have abundant life. May God bring us opportunities to share the Good News with those around us! In His Name, Amen.

For the raising up of future church workers, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir hearts for ministry and prayerfully consider a vocation in church work, whether it be young people or those considering a second career. May the Lord equip those going into church work to boldly share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. In His Name, Amen.

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Robert Ziegler, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Atchison. Rev. Ziegler entered his heavenly rest April 2, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Grace Polley, wife of Rev. Victor Polley, former pastor of St. Paul Lutheran in Leavenworth, KS, who preceded her in death. Grace entered her heavenly rest March 31, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Delmar Schotte, father of Rev. Michael Schotte and Teacher Mark Schotte. Delmar entered his heavenly rest March 30, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Dr. Victor Streufert, pastor emeritus. Rev. Streufert entered his heavenly rest March 24, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Lairy Goltl, father of Rev. Scott Goltl. Lairy entered his heavenly rest March 16, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Gordon Slater, father of Rev. Troy Slater. Gordon entered his heavenly rest March 15, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of DCE Heather Croucher, teacher at Bethany Lutheran School and wife of Rev. Mark Croucher. Heather entered her heavenly rest March 8, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of former Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke. Rev. Henke entered his heavenly rest March 1, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Gerald Jahnke, father of Rev. Randall Jahnke. Gerald entered his heavenly rest Feb. 15, 2023.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including Rev. Frank Eberhart, Rev. Clark Davis, Cindy Hammons, 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).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in April:

Immanuel Lutheran Church (Shadybrook); Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool; St. John's Lutheran Church (Lyon's Creek) (Herington Partnership), April 3
Ascension Lutheran Church and Preschool and Open Arms Child Development Center, Wichita, April 10

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School and In His Hands Preschool & Childcare Center, Cheney, April 17

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Early Learning Center, Hutchinson, April 24

APRIL EVENTS

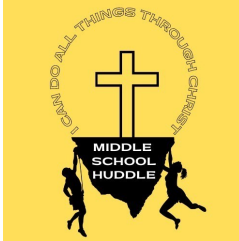
Out and About in Kansas

APRIL Staff Travel Schedule

- 2 Preach at Trinity, **McFarland**;
Preach at Trinity, **Girard** –
Installation of Rev. Michael
Hofmann (Panzer)

Commissioning & Installation of
TCHR Hannah Christian at Hope,
Shawnee (Bradshaw)
- 5 Kansas House Opening Prayer;
Partnership meeting at St. Paul,
Fairview (Panzer)
- 11 Rev. Bob Ziegler Funeral at Trinity,
Atchison (Panzer)
- 12 President's Council Zoom – Circuit
Realignment Discussion (Panzer)
- 16 Preach at St. John's, **Tampa**, and
Trinity, **Ramona**; Kansas District DCE
Retreat, **Herington** (Panzer)
- 16-18 Kansas District DCE Retreat,
Herington (Bradshaw)
- 18 Worker Visit at Bethlehem, **Sylvan
Grove** (Bradshaw)

Genesis Project Consult at Trinity,
Salina (Bradshaw)
- 21-22 Middle School Huddle at Rock
Springs 4H Ranch, **Junction City**
(Bradshaw)
- 21-27 Council of President's, **Fort Wayne,
IN & St. Louis, MO** (Panzer)
- 29-30 Preach at Bethany, **Overland Park**
(Panzer)



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 closes April 5. 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.



The annual Pastors' Wives Retreat will be held **Friday, April 21- Saturday, April 22, 2023**, at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington. The guest presenter will be Christian author and speaker, Deb Burma. Visit the kslcms.org homepage to find a schedule.



The Kansas District DCE Retreat will be **April 16-18, 2023**, at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington.

Registration will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 16 and the retreat will conclude at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18. The DCE Retreat theme this year is "Covered," based on Ephesians 6:10-18. Click on the [District DCE Retreat](#) link for more information.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)

April 24-25, 2023

- Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignments **Monday, April 24 at 7 p.m.** (EDT)
Preacher: Rev. David Nehrenz, LCMS Oklahoma District President
- Candidate Call Service - **Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m.** (EDT) *Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, LCMS Northern Illinois District President*

A live stream of Call Day services will be available at the [Chapel Page](#) and [Facebook](#).

Call Day Services, April 2023

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

April 26, 2023

- Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignments **Wednesday, April 26 at 3 p.m.** (CDT)
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Wally Arp, senior pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Fla.
- Candidate Call Service - **Wednesday, April 26 at 7 p.m.** (CDT) *Preacher: Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice-President of the LCMS*

A live stream of Call Day services will be available at csl.edu/callday, [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Older Adult Fair!

May 6, 2023

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (13145 S. Blackbob Road Olathe, KS 66062)

On Saturday, May 6, an **Older Adult Fair** will be held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe. Vendors will include Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, Blessings Abound, Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry, LWML, LUMA, Lutherans For Life, Hollis Renewal Center, and the Johnson County Aging Authority.

Tom Perry will represent the Kansas District Older Adult Committee and the LCMS RSO, Adult Lutherans Organized for Action. The time of the event is from **10 a.m.-1 p.m.** This is a FREE event!

Questions? Contact Tom Perry at perry10029@gmail.com.



Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) will be held **June 4-9** at LVR in Woodland Park, Colo. Visit the [LVR](#) webpage on the Kansas District website to complete the Kansas District registration, and find more instructions.

For questions, please contact DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission/Shawnee), at Beth@tlcms.org.



Kansas District Pentecost Offering—Save the Date!

Pentecost this year is **May 28**, and there will be a district-wide offering to support mission work in Guinea and West Africa.

Since the start of last year's offering, numerous gifts have been made towards the CLET-Guinea seminary, totaling over \$55,000! **We thank and praise God for these blessings, and there is still much to be done!**

This year's Pentecost Offering will be used to continue supporting the seminary, as well as the provision of Lutheran education and resources to the people of Guinea and West Africa. Please mark your calendars and prayerfully consider participating in the Pentecost Offering. Visit the [Guinea/West Africa page](#) on the District website for more information, photos and videos.

CTFSW Continuing Education Opportunity

June 15-17, 2023

Redeemer Lutheran Church (2700 Lawrence Ave. Lawrence, KS 66047)

The Seven Ecumenical Councils

Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, CTSFW

What were the Seven Ecumenical Councils? How and why did they come about? Do they matter for the life of the evangelical Lutheran church today? Join

Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss as he discusses these historic councils and why they still matter for us today. The event will take place **June 15-17, 2023**, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence.

For more information and to register, visit the [event page](#) on the CTSFW website. The local contact is Rev. Sean Kilgo, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, kilgosr@gmail.com.

Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop

June 26-28, 2023

Faith Lutheran Church (1320 W 15th St. Ottawa, KS 66067)

From Font to Table: Welcoming the Stranger into Christ and Congregational Life

Rev. Dr. Kent Bureson, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Join Rev. Dr. Kent Bureson as he presents material on adult faith formation, and introducing this process into congregations. The event will take place **June 26-28, 2023**, at Faith Lutheran Church in Ottawa.

The registration deadline is June 12. For more information and to register, visit the [event page](#) on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis website. The local contact is Rev. Timothy Roth, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, pastor@faithottawa.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

ON THE RADAR

- Maundy Thursday**, April 6 (District Office closes at 2 p.m.)
- Good Friday**, April 7 (District Office closed)
- Easter Sunday**, April 9
- Easter Monday**, April 10 (District office closed)
- Board of Missions (Zoom)**, April 13, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- Board of Caring Ministry (Zoom)**, April 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- KESA KSDE**, April 14, District Office, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Kansas District DCE Retreat**, April 16-18, Retreat Center, Herington, KS
- Pastor's Wives Retreat**, April 21-22, Retreat Center, Herington, KS
- Middle School Huddle**, April 21-22, Rock Springs 4H Ranch, Junction City, KS
- Council of Presidents**, April 22-27, Fort Wayne, IN and St. Louis, MO
- Board of Education and Youth (Zoom)**, April 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Placement Day**, April 24-25, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
- Placement Day**, April 26, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
- District Service Project Team (Zoom)**, April 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Executive Committee (Zoom)**, May 1, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- President's Council**, May 4, District Office, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Board of Directors**, May 5, District Office, Topeka, KS

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



2023 Saints Alive After 55

July 16-17, 2023

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

"I Love to Tell the Story – Leaving a Faith Legacy – What Will I Leave Behind"

Join us for the 33rd Anniversary of "Saints Alive After 55" **July 16-17** at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina.

"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 is Dr. Mary Manz Simon, and the Bible study leader is Rev. Mark Boxman. **Registration is open.** Visit kslcms.org to register, and find a schedule.

2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering!

KDYG 2023



FLAME



SATURDAY AFTER HOURS CONCERT!

We are excited to announce that this year's Kansas District Youth Gathering will include **FLAME!** Flame will be at the KDYG on Saturday evening, Nov. 18, for an after-hours concert open only to Gathering participants!



2023 Kansas District Confirmation Retreat

September 29-30, 2023

"Apostles' Creed: I Believe!"

Save the date! The Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee is once again offering an opportunity to 5th-8th grade Kansas youth. There will be a Kansas District Confirmation Retreat **September 29-30, 2023**, at the Wheat State Retreat Center in Augusta, KS.

More information to come...

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator



In Kansas, we understand the unpredictability of year-round weather patterns. **“Prepare to Adapt”** is the theme for any type of Disaster Response.

Are you equipped to step into the spring storm season? There are a myriad of resources available to help you assess your current and future preparedness and needs, both personal and within your church buildings.

Here is a list of resources for you to tap into as you prepare for storm season in Kansas:

- [Weather.gov/top/swaw](https://www.weather.gov/top/swaw). Resources include Kansas Weather Spotters Field Guide and the 2023 Kansas Severe Weather Preparedness Packet.
- Connect with your local County, Township and/or City Emergency Management office. Many will be scheduling Storm Spotter classes in the coming weeks. Most are free to attend and do not require an RSVP.
- **National Emergency Preparedness Month: Sept. 2023**

If you do not have a Severe Weather plan at your church, make one. You never know when a storm might develop. Be prepared for all times the church building may be in use.

Not sure where to start? Invite your local Emergency Manager to help you assess your building and the best course of action, including multiple storm shelter options. And, if you don't have a weather radio in your building, you might consider purchasing one.

Equally important is your Severe Weather plan at home. *Do you have a plan and does everyone understand it? Do you practice it?* A few minutes of preparation could matter in the event you must take immediate shelter.

In the event of a destructive storm or critical event, do you have a list of resources to call to request help? Prioritize your list and be intentional in updating and distributing your list to those responsible for taking the lead on any cleanup or recovery effort. Be sure to include the District Office (President Panzer) and your DDRC (Donna Williams) on your list. LERT teams respond through these contacts.

If you have questions and/or would like to schedule a visit (new or established teams) or inquire about scheduling or attending a LERT Basic Training or Basic Chainsaw Safety Class, please contact your Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator, **Donna Williams**, ksddrc@gmail.com or (316) 641-0332.

Visit the [Kansas District website](#) and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](#), and [Lutheran Early Response Team – Northeast Kansas](#)) for updates.

There will be a Basic/Beginner LERT training on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, MO. St. Matthew will be paying for all the costs associated with the training. The hope is to build a community of Lutherans who want to love and serve their neighbors in the Kansas City area.

Register on the [LERT registration page](#). For questions, please contact Deaconess Sarah Longmire, deaconess@gracefaithlove.org.

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in
God's Mission





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

When our members move away from our churches to attend college, the Lord plants them in places where they can be His witnesses. For our young people to be nourished and strengthened for this important task, they need to connect to a local congregation. An additional benefit is having a college-age Bible study which they can attend and to which they can invite others.

Thalia, a college student from Kansas writes,

These are the benefits I have received through attending a weekly Bible study:

- ❖ I have grown in my understanding of God's Word.
- ❖ I am able to help other students learn more about the Lord.
- ❖ Each week is like a "reset button." I receive peace and the assurance that the Lord is with me.
- ❖ I love being able to ask questions.
- ❖ The fellowship with other Christian students is great. We have lots of fun just being together to talk and study and love each other.

We pray: Lord, give our young people great zeal for the exciting opportunities You give them to bear witness to You, and lead them to know the joy and blessing of working in partnership with congregations and pastors. In Jesus' name. 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 Campus Ministry video!

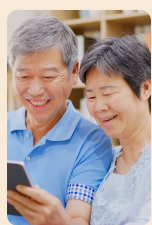
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis: 2023 Multiethnic Symposium

The thematic emphasis of the **2023 Multiethnic Symposium** is "Hope for the Church, Hope for the Future: 1.5 and 2.0 Generation Immigrants," set for **May 2-3** on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Participants will explore the challenges of 1.5 and 2.0 generation neighbors and embrace their contributions to the life of the church today — and for generations to come. The annual symposium brings together missional leaders including pastors, congregational lay leaders and others from across The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The symposium explores what it means and what it will take to become a truly multiethnic church.

Plenary speakers include Dr. Joel Okamoto, the Waldemar and Mary Griesbach Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, and Dr. Tesfai Tesema, pastor of Addis Kidan Lutheran Church in San Francisco, Calif. The symposium also includes the 17th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology and Missions, presented by Dr. Daniel Rodriguez, divisional dean and professor of religion and Hispanic studies at Pepperdine University, Malibu, Calif. Full admission for the Multiethnic Symposium is \$75, which includes meals; students and faculty are free (no meals). **Registration closes April 17.** For more information, visit the [Multiethnic Symposium](#) webpage, or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.edu.

Participants are also encouraged to extend their stay and attend the **Multi Asian Gathering**, set for **May 3-4** on the Seminary campus. Admission is \$25 (includes meals); students and faculty are free (no meals).



The Congregation at Prayer

Together in prayer, the Word, and song!

A free resource based on the Sunday readings for individuals, families, and congregations at all stages.



Look for Congregation at Prayer at kslcms.org/CAP



The Congregation at Prayer Resources Available!

The Parish Education Committee has produced a resource available for free on the Kansas District website called **The Congregation at Prayer** (Three-Year and One-Year Lectionary series available). This resource gives congregation members a short form for devotions, readings, hymns, prayers, and parts of the Small Catechism to focus on that week. Using this resource as a congregation means everyone meditates on the same things each week. It can be used for discussion in small groups, Bible study, or between members.

Visit kslcms.org/cap to access the devotions, promotional materials, and additional resources. **Please share these resources with your congregation!**



Scan this QR code for quick access to *The Congregation at Prayer* webpage.

“Faith at Work” District Service Projects, April 2024!

The LCMS Kansas District invites our congregations, schools, and RSOs to save the date for **April 7, 2024**, for the first annual *Faith at Work* kick-off Sunday! Based on Ephesians 2:10, *Faith at Work* is an annual District-wide service event where groups of all ages and skill sets find needs within their local communities to serve throughout the month. Each spring, beginning in 2024, we would like to encourage every person, young and old, to serve friends and neighbors in their communities in the name of Jesus.

This servant event is a result of **Resolution 22-03-02, “To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service”** passed at the 2022 Kansas District Convention.

Whereas, God has commanded us to help one another (2 Cor. 9:12; Matt. 5:16); and

Whereas, This command can be facilitated by local churches of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District can be a resource for the local churches by initiating districtwide service projects; and

Whereas, The Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has recently implemented a statewide “Shine!” servant event (<https://mo.lcms.org/shine>) and has offered to assist the Kansas District in developing a similar program; and

Whereas, There are LCMS Kansas District board-designated unrestricted funds available to develop and implement the program; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Office of the District President of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give a high priority to create a task force to develop and implement districtwide, congregation-based service projects for the triennium (2022-2025).

We are encouraging you even now to begin thinking about ways to serve your community, not only on an everyday basis, but especially during the District-wide event to be held April 2024. This may be the very first servant event for the Kansas District, but the effort is being started with the future in mind. It is a wonderful example of what it means to walk and serve together. We hope that this becomes not an event, but a way of life.

Visit the [April 2024 Faith at Work page](#) on the District website for more details to come!



**Concordia Academy
Wichita
Now Enrolling
2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Scholarships Available!

A 9-12th Grade Classical
Lutheran Education

CONTACT US FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Enroll Now! CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org

Concordia Academy - Wichita: NOW ENROLLING!

Enrollment is now open for the 2023-2024 academic year at Concordia Academy - Wichita (CAW) for 9-12 grade. Scholarships are available on a first come, first served basis. Applications and enrollment information can be found on the [CAW website](#), under the "Admissions" tab. Applications are due to the CAW office by April 15, 2023.

If you would like to schedule a tour please contact the office at 316-202-8989, or email CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org.

Virtual Campus enrollment options may be available for LCMS families outside of the Wichita area.

2023 LCEF Take Heart Scholarship!

High school seniors invested with LCEF have the opportunity to earn a \$3,000, \$1,000 or \$500 Take Heart Scholarship! **The window to apply closes May 7, 2023.** Winners will be announced on May 23, 2023.

Visit the [LCEF Take Heart Scholarship](#) page to learn more, and to apply! The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for LCEF Young Investors Club members who are high school seniors, and will soon advance to the next level of higher education.

LCEF is hiring!

All open positions can be found on the LCEF website's careers page at

[https://lcef.org/careers/.](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.






Friendly Reminders!

Scholarships Available!

The Kansas District is offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at a Synod university or seminary. Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and 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](#). You can also find links to other organizations offering scholarships to church work students, including the [Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](#), [Lutheran Laymen's League \(LLL\)](#) and [St. John's Alumni Association](#).

"Living as the Baptized" Strategic Plan Document, Congregational Action

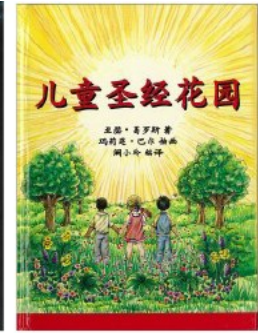
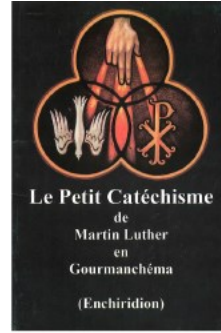
				
The MISSION of the LCMS Kansas District is to support and encourage members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.				
AIMS	OBJECTIVES	CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS	RELATED PRIORITIES	CONGREGATIONAL ACTION
 ABIDING IN THE WORD (John 8:31-32)	In our churches, we gather to hear God's Word, receive His grace, offer Him our prayers and thanks, and encourage one another. Our District works to ensure that Word and Sacrament ministry thrives in Kansas and beyond.	1. To Encourage Daily Prayer in the Home. 2. To Support the "Value Them Both" Amendment. 3. To Reject Bigotry and Advance the Gospel.	♦ Promote "Living as the Baptized" triennium calling. ♦ Encourage faithful stewardship of properties and resources. ♦ Promote "Making Disciples for Life" resources and materials.	
 CONNECTING IN CHRIST (Romans 12:5)	God's Church is a fellowship of believers, gathered together to encourage and care for one another and work for the good of God's kingdom. Strengthening ties with our "partners in the Gospel" is a high priority.	1. To Promote Unity Through Circuit Visitation. 2. To Encourage the Use of the Church Worker Care Manual. 3. To Recommend a Program of Study for Circuit Workers. 4. To Encourage Communication with Members of the District.	♦ Study term limits in the Kansas District. ♦ Strengthen ties between congregations, schools, the District, Synod, and its entities. ♦ Discuss realignment of circuits in the District.	
 EQUIPPING THE SAINTS (Ephesians 4:11-12)	As God's baptized, we study His Word, training ourselves for godliness (see 1 Tim. 4:7). In the Kansas District, we provide our congregations, schools, and affiliated organizations with the resources they need to equip themselves and others—with the help of the Holy Spirit—to stay strong in the faith.	1. To Encourage, Recruit and Equip Future Lutheran Schools, Teachers, Administrators, Pastors and Other Workers. 2. To Educate and Encourage People in Planned Giving Opportunities. 3. To Develop Faithful Materials for Our Lutheran Schools.	♦ Promote "Set Apart To Serve" materials. ♦ Continued improvement to District operations. ♦ Continued assessment of worker and member needs. ♦ Provide resources for youth and young adults.	
 ENGAGING IN CHRIST'S MISSION (Matt. 28:19-20a)	The royal priesthood has been given a charge: show God's love to others, help your neighbor in need, and share the Good News. The District seeks to support these activities in Kansas and abroad.	1. To Encourage Congregations to Work Together. 2. To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service. 3. To Support the Work in Guinea and West Africa.	♦ Develop church and school planting strategies across the District. ♦ Create an Investment Committee. ♦ Increase support for OIM missionaries through the Together in Mission network. ♦ Strengthen and grow multi-ethnic missions across Kansas.	

The "Living as the Baptized" strategic plan document was emailed to congregations in late January, which included a fillable column titled "Congregational Action." Congregations play a strong role in fulfilling convention resolutions, and we encourage you to share this plan with your congregation and brainstorm ways to integrate the triennial aims (*Abiding in the Word, Connecting in Christ, Equipping the Saints, and Engaging in Christ's Mission*) into the life of your church.

We welcome you to share with us your congregation's ideas, as well as stories and photos of how your church is "living as the baptized." Please send back this strategic plan document once the column with your congregational action has been completed by emailing it to **Jackie Schaefer** at jackie@kslcms.org.

We hope to have your completed document back by **May 31. Thank you!**

Synod & Partners



Lutheran Heritage Foundation Free Resources

Do you know someone who doesn't speak English as a first language, and you want to introduce them to the Savior? Check out the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's database of free Lutheran books, translated into more than 140 languages of the world!

Resources include children's Bible story-books (*often also good for adults with lower literacy levels*), Luther's *Small Catechism*, and devotion booklets in languages like Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Swahili – all available at no cost to the ministries, short-term mission teams, and individuals who need them. Search the LHF Publication List at <https://pubsearch.lhfmissions.org>.

New Mental Health page on LCMS Synod website

There is a new page on the Synod website advocating for mental health and wellness. Included are resources that can provide helpful information to those struggling with mental illnesses and disorders.

It is estimated that 1 in 5 adults will experience a diagnosable mental illness in any given year. (*this figure is 1 in 6 children between ages 6 and 17.*) The more prevalent illnesses, which account for 80% of cases, are the anxiety disorders, major depression, the substance use disorders and the trauma-based disorders.

Visit the [Mental Health page](#) on the Synod website for resources and information.

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Around the District



The Kansas District hosted this year's **Six Pack Regional Council of Presidents (COP) event, March 13-15, 2023**. Pictured from the left at the National WWI Museum in Kansas City are: Revs. Dr. Roger Paavola (Mid-South District), Justin Panzer (Kansas District), Michael Newman (Texas District), Eric Johnson (Southern District), Dr. Robert Lee Hagan (Missouri District), and David Nehrenz (Oklahoma District).



Two youth were confirmed on March 26 at St. Andrews, Wichita, on Confirmation Sunday. Pictured are confirmands Brett and Sydney with Rev. Craig Boehlke, pastor of St. Andrews.

God's Blessings!



Jesus Door -2-Door Event

Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Linn

11 people from Zion Lutheran Church in Linn, along with Vicar John Kastner from St. John's Lutheran Church in Topeka gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church in McFarland for a JD2D event on Saturday, April 1.

The group canvassed the town of McFarland and knocked on 87 doors. 33 people answered the door, and 24 took the survey. Gospel and congregational literature was left at the 54 houses where no one was home. 33% of those who took the survey were unchurched. **One individual desired a follow-up visit to learn more about Trinity Lutheran, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is the final JD2D event of the academic year. If your congregation would like to schedule an event for the next academic year, please contact **Rev. Timothy Koch** at (785) 747-7633.