

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalm 46:10



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



Campfire activities during the Middle School Huddle.



DCE Rebekah Freed was the keynote presenter at the Middle School Huddle.



2023 Middle School Huddle!

The 2023 Middle School Huddle was a great success, with 140 Kansas District youth and adults in attendance! The event took place Friday, April 21-Saturday, April 22, at the Rock Springs 4H Ranch south of Junction City.

DCE Rebekah Freed, Director of Student Development at Concordia University, Nebraska, presented on the theme, “I Can Do All Things Through Christ,” based on Philippians 4:13. Students from Concordia, Nebraska led the music.

Visit the [Middle School Events page](#) to see more photos. *Special thanks to all who helped to lead and organize this year’s Huddle!*



President's Office

Call for Nominations

The LCMS Kansas District, by the grace of God, is striving to fulfill our calling as the Royal Priesthood. Our Four Aims include:

- 1) Abiding in the Word; 2) Connecting in Christ; 3) Equipping the Saints; and 4) Engaging in Christ's Mission.

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

Guided by our Triune God who can do abundantly more than we ask or think (Eph. 3:20), **we are ready to receive nominations for the position of Executive to the District President for Congregational & School Services.** This divine call shall be for three (3) years and shall be subject to annual review and reappointment or release every three (3) years. This position shall work from the District Office in Topeka. It is expected that the man fulfilling this position will be visiting congregations and schools at least 1-2 Sundays per month.

A complete position description is available on the Kansas District website:

<https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/call-for-nominations/>

We pray, "O God, You already know the man whom You will call to this position. Guide our nominations during this time. Hear our prayers and give answer in Your time and way, that in these gray and latter days You continue to breathe upon Your Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Call for nominations: The LCMS Kansas District is seeking qualified candidates for the position of **Executive to the District President for Congregational & School Services.** Applicants shall be on the ordained clergy roster of Synod, having had a minimum of five years' experience (10 preferred) in professional church work; a major portion of this experience having been in the parish. Preferred candidates have been a pastor in a congregation with a school. Knowledge, skills, and abilities required shall be determined at the time of call. The man called to this position shall be required to enroll in the *School Leadership Development Project (SLED)* over two summers if he does not have a school background.

He shall be accountable to the District President and the Board of Directors. He shall serve and assist the various service boards of the District as assigned by the District President. He shall coordinate staff under the supervision of the District President to serve the Board of Directors in implementing the overall program of the District in an efficient, cohesive, and timely manner.

Primary job responsibilities include, but are not limited to: being a student of best practices for congregations and schools in the current context and consulting with congregations and schools of the District to benefit ministries; helping to conduct meetings of service boards and various committees of the District; assisting the District President with the call process, especially with commissioned calls and helping to maintain a roster of commissioned ministers; worker visitation through winkels, DCE clusters, school visits, worker conferences, and other events; congregational visitation through Mission, Education, Stewardship, and other special Sundays as able.

Candidates must demonstrate a strong desire and ability to serve the District as liaison to the LCMS Offices of National and International Mission. He must also be willing to live in or near Topeka, KS, and work out of the District Office.

Nominations must be submitted by June 9, 2023. The position description, as well as the nomination form and preliminary questions are available on the District website, on the [Call for Nominations](#) webpage. Nomination form and preliminary questions should be returned to the Office of the District President at: officeofpresident@kslcms.org.

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Candidate Nicholas Belcher to St. John's, Topeka

Candidate Mark Gaschler to Immanuel, Linn

Rev. Aaron Hannemann, Ascension, Wichita to Peace, Grand Island, NE – pending

Rev. Mark Mozeik, St. John's, Newkirk and St. John's, Blackwell, OK to St. John, Meade – pending

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

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

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

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

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Zion, Vassar to Trinity Block, Paola – accepted, installation Sunday June 4, 2023

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Burlington, Trinity (sole)

Herington partnership: Immanuel, Our Redeemer, and

Fairview, St. Paul and Zion, Hiawatha (sole)

St. John's (sole)

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

Leavenworth, Trinity (associate)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Meade, St. John (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

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

Overland Park, Christ (DCE)

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)

Shawnee, Hope (Three Teachers - Preschool, Grade 5, and Grade 7)

Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker)

Winfield, Trinity (Teacher)

Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)

Overland Park, Bethany (Teachers)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Paige Buchholz, Bethany, Overland Park to Martin Luther Academy, Kansas City, MO – accepted

Candidate Hannah Elsey, Concordia, Irvine to Faith Lutheran, Topeka – pending

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

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



Rev. Christopher Gerdes was installed as pastor of Immanuel, Netawaka on April 16, 2023. From left (front row) Revs. Sean Kilgo (*Redeemer, Lawrence, KS*), Christopher Gerdes (*Immanuel, Netawaka, KS*), Timothy Heath (*Trinity, Holton, KS*) and Timothy Brisbois (*Zion, Powhattan, KS*); (back row) Revs. Scott Porath (*Immanuel, Eagle, NE*), Philip Wolf (*Christ, Wathena, KS*), Marcel Kohlmeyer (*Immanuel, Sterling, NE and St. John's, Tecumseh, NE*) and William Cornelius (*St. Peter's, Elk Creek, NE*).

Worker News



Welcome to the Kansas District!



2023 Call Day services were held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) in late April. The Kansas District was blessed to receive **two candidates** and **two vicars** (pictured below). **God's blessings to these church workers and their families as they pursue their vocations here in Kansas!**



Two Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) candidates were called, and one CTSFW vicar was assigned to the Kansas District. From left: **Mark Gaschler** (pastor-elect, Immanuel, Linn), Olivia Gaschler, Colleen Ringquist, **Nash Ringquist** (vicar, Trinity, Winfield), President Justin Panzer, **Nicholas Belcher** (associate pastor-elect, St. John's, Topeka) and Lauren Belcher.

LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

CALL DAY APRIL 26, 2023



NATHAN HARKINS

Nathan Harkins

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL)

Vicar (wife Tiffany, not pictured) assigned to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS



Worker News Cont.



James P. Bradshaw,
Executive Assistant to the
President for Education and
Youth

Master Educator Award Concordia University, Nebraska

The Master Educator Award is presented to teachers, Directors of Christian Education,

school administrators, or deaconesses who have distinguished themselves through prolonged superior service in Lutheran educational ministry.

On Friday, May 5, 2023, Concordia University, Nebraska, is conferring the title of Master Educator to James P. Bradshaw.

Bradshaw CO '82 GR '01 has served as the assistant to the president for education and youth for The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) Kansas District since March 2005. He provides support for the commissioned workers, Lutheran schools, and early childhood centers across the district. He also serves as a resource for children’s and family ministry, adult education, youth ministry for congregations, and interfaces with disaster response and caring ministry teams for the Kansas District.

Bradshaw has served in Director of Christian Education (DCE) and minister of youth roles since 1982. He holds a Master of Science degree in family life from Concordia University, Nebraska, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in education and DCE certification from Concordia University, Nebraska. Bradshaw completed a three-month sabbatical in 2013 and has spoken at various district conferences on his sabbatical topic: “Wellbeing as a Christ-Like Servant Leader.” Prior to his work with the LCMS Kansas District, he served as a Director of Christian Education for 23 1/2 years in three districts: Texas, Minnesota South and Kansas. Bradshaw was also conferred the title of Master DCE by the Lutheran Education Association in 2003.

He is a founding member of the Concordia Center for the Family at Ann Arbor and a founding member of the National Association of Directors of Christian Education. He is a member of KINDLE’s Board of Directors. He has led youth and adult service events in Chihuahua, Mexico and serves in other civic and humanitarian involvements such as National Night Out and Safe Streets of Topeka.

Bradshaw and his wife Joanna D. (Gehrt) Bradshaw '81 have three children: Drew GR '19 and Nicole Bradshaw, Mike and Megan (Bradshaw) Brassel, and Emily Bradshaw. They also have six grandchildren. Bradshaw and his wife are active members of Faith Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas.

In recognizing James P. Bradshaw as a master educator, Concordia University, Nebraska praises God for providing all who dedicate themselves to education. **CUNE is pleased to bestow upon James P. Bradshaw the Master Educator Award.**

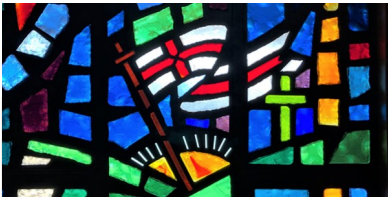


Twenty participants attended the **2023 Kansas District DCE Retreat** in Herington, April 16-18. Rev. Jacob Heine (Faith, Topeka) presented on the topic, “Covered.”



In Jesus' name we pray...

MAY PRAYER REQUESTS



SPECIAL PRAYERS

For confirmands and graduates, we pray for God to bless and guide our young people as they begin the next step in their lives. May they look to our Lord for wisdom and guidance, and joyfully share the Good News with those around them. In His Name, Amen.

For the mission work in Guinea and West Africa, we pray that God will continue to provide for the CLET-Guinea seminary and abundantly bless the efforts of all who are involved in this important mission. We pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Guinea and West Africa will grow in knowledge and faith. In His Name, Amen.

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Mildred Willems, mother of Kerri Lynne Brown, wife of Rev. Luke Brown. Mildred entered her heavenly rest April 9, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Frank Eberhart, the former pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Kansas City, KS. Rev. Eberhart entered his heavenly rest April 4, 2023.
- ❖ 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.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including 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 May:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellsworth – May 1

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hoxie & Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oakley – May 8

Grace Lutheran Church, Liberal, KS & Peace Lutheran Church, Beaver, OK – May 15

Trinity Lutheran Church, Holton – May 22

Our Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool, Kansas City, KS – May 30

MAY EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

MAY Staff Travel Schedule

- 4-5 Board of Directors, District Office, **Topeka** (President Panzer)
- 5-6 Master Educator Award, Concordia University, **Nebraska** (Jim Bradshaw)
- 7 Preaching at First Lutheran, **Sabetha** (President Panzer)
Planned Giving presentation at St. Andrews, **Wichita** (Heather Williams)
- 9 Circuit 1 Winkel at Trinity Lutheran, **Holton** (President Panzer)
- 12 Circuit 7 Winkel at St. Paul Lutheran, **Clay Center** (President Panzer)
- 14 Preaching at Our Redeemer Lutheran, **Herington** and St. John's Lutheran, **Lincolnvile** (President Panzer)
- 21 Preaching at Immanuel Lutheran, **Linn** (President Panzer)
Dedication at Christ Lutheran, **Overland Park** (Jim Bradshaw)
- 24 Meeting at Trinity Lutheran, **Mission** (President Panzer)
- 25 Kansas District Synod Convention Delegates Zoom Orientation (President Panzer)
- 28 Preaching at Trinity Lutheran, **McFarland** (President Panzer)

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



Rev. Gary Schulte and Rev. Tim Heiney with the pastors at the Lutheran church in Guéckédou, Guinea.



Stephanie Schulte with the women from the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training class.



Kansas District Pentecost Offering

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

Much was accomplished last year in Guinea and West Africa, which included six parcels of land being purchased for the CLET-Guinea seminary, the improvement of drinking wells and latrine construction in local villages around the region, and five students who successfully completed the academic cycle of basic Theological Formation. **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 consider participating in the Pentecost Offering!

Here is how you can help!

- ❖ Pray that God will continue to provide strength and guidance for the Guinea and West Africa students, pastors, families, missionaries, and church planters, and may He abundantly bless their efforts.
- ❖ Donate online by visiting the [Guinea/West Africa page](#) on the District website. You can also find for more information, photos and videos on the Guinea/West Africa webpage, as well as a downloadable bulletin insert.
- ❖ Contribute during your church's offering on Pentecost Sunday, or mail a check with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Older Adult Fair!

May 6, 2023

Beautiful Savior Lutheran

(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.

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

CTSFW Continuing Education Opportunity

June 15-17, 2023

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

Join **Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss** as he discusses the Seven Ecumenical Councils and why they still matter for us today. The event will take place **June 15-17**, 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.

Summer Faculty-Led Workshops

This summer there will be Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop opportunities in Kansas, through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL). The annual series, designed for pastors, church workers and laypeople, offers in-depth study on contemporary topics that influence the practice of ministry and worship.

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, CSL associate professor of Systematic Theology

The registration deadline is June 12. For more information and to register, visit the [event page](#).

Questions? Contact Rev. Timothy Roth, pastor of Faith, Ottawa, pastor@faithottawa.org.

June 27-29, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church
(702 S. 9th St. Salina, KS 67401)

"On Using Worldly Wealth"

Dr. Vilson Scholz, CSL visiting professor of Exegetical Theology

The registration deadline is June 13. For more information and to register, visit the [event page](#).

Questions? Contact Rev. Dennis Kootz, associate pastor of Trinity, Salina, dennis.kootz@gmail.com.

July 17-19, 2023

Messiah Lutheran Church
(2000 Main Street Hays, KS 67601)

"Sharpening the Sword of the Spirit"

Rev. Dr. David Schmitt, CSL professor of Practical Theology

The registration deadline is July 3. For more information and to register, visit the [event page](#).

Questions? Contact Rev. Michael Schmidt, pastor of Peace, Natoma, and First Lutheran, Plainville, revschmidt@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Lutherans For Life of Kansas Announcements!

Essay Contest Results

Lutherans For Life of Kansas recently concluded its essay contest, with a total of 28 entries! First-place winners are **Sarah L.** (9th grade, Concordia Academy in Wichita) and **Jamie S.** (6th grade, Hope Lutheran in Shawnee). The second-place winners are **Ethan G.** (10th grade, Faith Lutheran in Abilene) and **Walter S.** (8th grade, Seven Trees Academy). The winners' essays have been forwarded to the national Lutherans For Life essay contest. **Congratulations!**



Annual Meeting

Lutherans For Life of Kansas will host its Annual Meeting from **10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays.** Rev. Ian Kinney will present on the topic of fatherhood. There will also be board elections during the meeting. All are welcome to attend. Voting is limited to LFL-KS members.

Lutherans For Life of Kansas Newsletter

Lutherans For Life of Kansas has a monthly newsletter with upcoming life events, resources, pastoral articles, and more! You're invited to subscribe by contacting us at info@lflforkansas.org. We also invite guest authors to share reflections on life topics or stories. Upcoming topics include motherhood/fatherhood, with fostering and adoption features (for the months of May and June); medical ethics (August); and surrogacy (September).

LOOKING AHEAD - FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

May 4 - President's Council, District Office, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

May 5 - Board of Directors, District Office, Topeka, KS

May 6 - Older Adult Fair, Beautiful Savior, Olathe, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

May 11 - Church Worker Conference (Zoom), 10:00-11:00 a.m.

May 16 - Early Childhood Planning Meeting (Zoom), 3:00-4:00 p.m.

May 20 - Parish Education Committee (Zoom), 8:30-10:00 a.m.

May 20 - LERT Meeting (Zoom), 9:00-10:00 a.m.

May 22 - Church Worker Care Meeting (Zoom), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

May 23 - Faith at Work Meeting, District Office, Topeka, KS, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

May 24 - KSDE KIDS Training (Zoom), 1:00-2:00 p.m.

May 25 - KSD Synod Convention Delegates Orientation (Zoom), 6:00-8:00 p.m.

May 29 - Memorial Day (District Office closed)

June 1 - Professional Development Committee (Zoom), 9:00-11:00 a.m.

June 1 - NLSA District Commission (Zoom), 1:00-2:00 p.m.

June 4-9 - Lutheran Valley Retreat, Woodland Park, Colo.

June 9 - Call for Nominations for Executive to DP closes

June 9 - KDYG Planning Meeting, location TBD, 10:00 a.m.-12 p.m.

June 9-12 - Synod Convention Floor Committees

June 16 - Lutheran Schools meeting (Zoom), 10:00-11:00 a.m.

June 22-25 - LWML 40th Biennial Convention, Milwaukee, Wis.

July 4 - Independence Day (District Office closed)

July 16-17 - Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55), Christ the King, Salina

July 22 - Kansas District Summer Early Childhood Conference, Open Arms Child Development Center, Ascension Lutheran, Wichita

July 25 - New Worker Orientation, District Office, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Vocatio retreat for high school students Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

High school students interested in attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis or who are considering vocational ministry are invited to **Vocatio, June 24 - July 1 on campus.** This free, weeklong retreat, following the Seminary's

academic theme for the year: "Sharing the Gospel — Sharing our Lives" (1 Thess. 2:8), provides prospective students the opportunity to explore God's calling and direction as they experience Seminary life.

Group sessions will focus on thoughtful conversation about the Lutheran faith, aspects of vocation, and the call to pastoral or diaconal ministry. Participants also will walk through the admissions process and learn about the St. Louis area. **Registration is free. The deadline to register is May 27.** Learn more or sign up at csl.edu/vocatio.

SAVE THE DATE!



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.

The SAA55 event will begin **Sunday evening, July 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** It will continue **Monday, July 17, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

"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, senior pastor of Trinity, Salina. Closing devotions will be led by Rev. Aaron Wagner, pastor of Christ the King, Salina.

Registration is open. Visit kslcms.org to register, and find a schedule. *Lodging options (at participant's expense): Courtyard by Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, and Holiday Inn, Salina.*

Kansas District Summer Early Childhood Conference

Saturday, July 22, 2023

Open Arms Child Development Center
(Ascension Lutheran Church, Maple Campus)
12885 W. Maple, Wichita, KS 67235



"Be Strong and Courageous"

- Joshua 1:9

Featured speaker: **Beth Reeder**

Registration is open for the July 22 Summer Early Childhood Conference. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes lunch.

Click on this [Early Childhood Registration Form](#) link to print off the registration form, and find more details. The form is also available on the Kansas District website on the homepage, under "Quick Links."

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. **KDYG registration will open in early August!**



- CREED -

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.

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission



Lutheran Confessions | Series XXVII | June 3-4, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church (611 S. Erie Street Wichita, KS 67211)

Saturday – June 3

- 12:30 p.m. Divine Service
- 2:00 p.m. Session 1 - The Biblical Basis of Fasting
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Session 2 – The Practice of Fasting in the Western Church
- 5:00 p.m. Vespers
- 5:45 p.m. Beer/Brat Supper

Sunday – June 4

- 9:00 a.m. Divine Service (Rev. Ian Kinney - Preaching)
- 10:30 a.m. Catechesis on The Apocrypha (Rev. Ian Kinney - Teaching)

Jesus said “When You Fast”

Fasting was a practice that was commanded by our Lord and practiced by apostles and prophets. It was so important that it was the basis for how the Church year was set up, as well as the basis for the greatest schism the Church has seen. It was utterly central to the life of every Christian, and now almost no one knows about the practice.

Join us at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wichita, June 3-4, as the significance of fasting is discussed in-depth, and why it matters to Christians today. Rev. Ian Kinney, pastor of First Lutheran in Sabetha, KS, will be preaching and teaching.



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



DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission



College ministry gives our Lutheran students the opportunity to grow in their faith. **Thanks be to God!** It also gives them the privilege of inviting others to join them in studying God's Word. Recently, one long-time attendee invited a new student. Our topic was "Forgive us our trespasses."

Afterwards, the young man said, "This is the first Bible study I have ever attended in my life. I'm from California and nobody really thinks about topics like that. I never realized why Jesus matters and why forgiveness is the key to heaven. I am so glad you provided me this opportunity." **Thanks be to God!**

Here is what Aden, a college student in Wichita, says about participating in a college Bible study:

"Attending a weekly Bible study has meant that I have a place where I can talk about my faith not only with a pastor, but also with my peers in a more approachable environment that I would have otherwise found on campus...I have made several connections with other students in similar degree programs that are able to provide me advice about classes and life while I have been transitioning into living on my own. They always make sure that I make it to church and Bible study...My relationship with my local pastor is very positive. He always makes sure to check on us and provides a very welcoming environment...The fellowship we have with Bible study has brought some people back...and they are able to build a deeper connection with God."

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

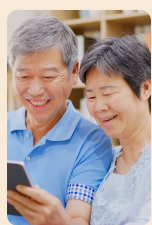
Visit the [Campus Ministry](#) page (under the "Missions, Specialized Ministries" tab) to watch the Campus Ministry video!

IRE Conference: "Authentic Community in the Post-Pandemic Church" June 13-15, 2023 | Concordia University, Nebraska

As the country emerges from the pandemic, are you concerned about the effects that the lockdowns have had on the sense of community in your congregation? Perhaps relationships have been strained by disagreements. Maybe people have been absent from each other long enough to erode some of the trust and care that had been present in your church. While many are returning to in-person worship again, perhaps your small groups ministry or Sunday Bible classes are still in need of rebuilding. Maybe authentic community is something that you longed for in your church, even before the pandemic, but didn't know how to promote it.

The Institute for Religious Education (IRE) at Concordia University, Nebraska is hosting a conference **June 13-15, 2023**. The stated goal for the conference is that "...the attendee will be more effective at enhancing authentic Christian community in their churches." Nationally known keynote speakers will work with us to enhance our capacity to build community in our churches.

Please go to the conference website at www.cune.edu/ireconference for registration information, costs, schedule, and speaker information. You can also email mark.blanke@cune.edu. Registration closes May 31.



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!

A year from now you will have completed your first *Faith at Work*. You may be wondering, what is *Faith at Work*?

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. 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!



Orbis Concordiae
The World of Concordia
Residency Program



Contact Us

Telephone
1-316-202-8989

E-Mail
CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org

Website
ConcordiaAcademyWichita.org

Concordia Academy Wichita

In the tradition of classical Lutheran education, our mission is to form students to serve God and man by instilling Wisdom and Virtue in Christ.

Join Today!

- Out of Area Students**
Students spend one Residency Week on campus staying with a volunteer family. Students then are home for 2-3 weeks participating in our Virtual Campus classes
- Tuition**
Part-time students, 1-4 classes tuition rate of \$4,000/year.
Full-time students, 5 or more classes tuition rate of \$6,000/year.
- Concordia this Week**
Weekly interactive parent session to stay "in the know"

Concordia Academy - Wichita (CAW) is coming to the close of their first year and planning for their second. There is a new program being offered called "Orbis Concordiae, The World of Concordia." The goal of this program is for CAW to reach out to families and students outside the Wichita area, and include other areas of Kansas.

Students participating in the program would attend on campus classes for a week at a time, staying with volunteer families from local LCMS churches. During non-residency weeks (2-3 weeks at a time), students would be at home attending virtual classes; 1 synchronous participation class per subject per week. These virtual classes would allow for assignments to be submitted via email or through an online bulletin board.

"Concordia This Week" is a once weekly interactive session offered both virtually and in-person to parents to better work together with homeschooling efforts. Tuition for five or more classes per student will be \$6,000/year while students enrolled in 1-4 classes will be \$4,000/year per student.

Applications can be found on the [Concordia Academy - Wichita website](#), under the "Admissions" tab. For more information please contact the CAW office at 316-202-8989 or email CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org.

4.5%

6-MONTH FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE

Minimum \$500 to invest. New money only.

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

☑ **INDIVIDUALS** ☑ **CONGREGATIONS** ☑ **ORGANIZATIONS**

Applying is fast and easy. **Invest online today!**

CLICK HERE

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

Jeffrey Maltz
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 May 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

Member of the LCMS Kansas District:

You have options when it comes to LCEF term notes. And for a limited time, we're offering a 6-month fixed-rate term note at 4.5%. You can apply by visiting the [LCEF Investments webpage](#). You can also access the LCEF Investments page by clicking the "Click Here" button on the left. Applying online is fast and easy!

*This offer is available for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod individuals, congregations and organizations. The minimum investment to open an account is \$500. This offer is for new money only.

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 apply!

Friendly Reminders!

Convention Delegates Orientation, May 25

The 68th Synod Convention will be held July 29 - August 3, 2023 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. We will gather together under the theme: "We Preach Christ Crucified" (1 Corinthians 1:18-25).

All those who have been elected to serve as delegates (pastoral, lay, advisory, alternate, staff) from the Kansas District will meet on **Thursday, May 25, 2023 for a "Synod Convention Delegates Orientation Zoom" to be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

As we get closer to the date, more information will be given to you. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

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

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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Encourage Daily Prayer in the Home. To Support the "Value Them Both" Amendment. To Reject Bigotry and Advance the Gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote "Living as the Baptized" triennial 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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Promote Unity Through Circuit Visitation. To Encourage the Use of the Church Worker Care Manual. To Recommend a Program of Study for Circuit Winkles. To Encourage Communication with Members of the District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study term limits in the Kansas District. Strengthen team ministries. 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 (ref. 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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Encourage, Recruit and Equip Future Lutheran Schools, Teachers, Administrators, Pastors and Other Workers. To Educate and Encourage People in Planned Giving Opportunities. To Develop Faithful Materials for Our Lutheran Schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Encourage Congregations to Work Together. To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service. To Support the Work in Guinea and West Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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!**

Scholarships Available: Final Reminder!

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](#).

Synod & Partners

LWML 40th Biennial Convention June 22-25, 2023

The LWML 40th Biennial Convention will take place **June 22-25**, at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wis. The theme for the convention is "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" (Psalm 33:12-13).

To register and find more details about costs, making hotel reservations, the convention schedule, etc., visit the [2023 LWML Convention website](#).

Million Dollar Life Match Grants Available

There are still Million Dollar Life Match grants available! These grants help to support congregations involved in beginning-of-life care in their local communities. Any LCMS congregation is eligible to apply.

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$50,000. **Applications for the fourth phase are due June 30.** Awards will be made in September. Visit the [Million Dollar Life Match](#) webpage on the LCMS Synod website to learn more.

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District President

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Executive Assistant to the President for
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1000 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604

Around the District



Pictured is Rev. Timothy Koch, his wife Emily, and their five children in the kitchen of the new parsonage.

Zion Lutheran Church in Linn began construction of a new parsonage in May 2022. The new parsonage was dedicated on March 26, 2023, with the rite of Blessing of a Home from the LSB Agenda.

The congregation helped to move Rev. Timothy Koch and his family into the new parsonage on March 28.

This sizeable project was

made possible thanks to the very generous saints of Zion Lutheran Church in Linn. God be praised for such saints and the care they show to their pastors!

Hearts · Hands · Voices

Local workshops for church musicians

sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

Saturday, June 24, 2023

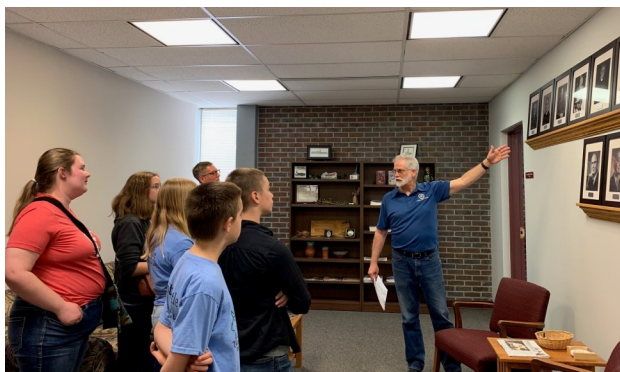
9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

5601 W. 62nd Street Mission, KS 66202

Church musicians, pastors, worship committee members, and volunteer musicians are invited to discover inspiration, resources, practical tips, and fellowship during this workshop day. We will explore the reasons behind our ministry, find ways to engage all ages in hymn and choral singing, and take a careful look at one of our oldest songbooks: the Psalms. The presenters are **Jan Kraybill, Nara Newcomer, Linda Martin, Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, and Lara West.**

The cost for regular registration is \$35. For full-time students the cost is \$10 and includes a one-year ALCM membership. Register and find out more at <https://alcm.org/event/mission-ks/>



A group of students and faculty from Trinity Lutheran School in Winfield visited the District Office in Topeka, on April 14.

Jim Bradshaw, the Executive Assistant for Education and Youth, led the group in a tour and shared information about

the Kansas District with the students. **Thank you for visiting the District Office!**