

# WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

## Regular Features

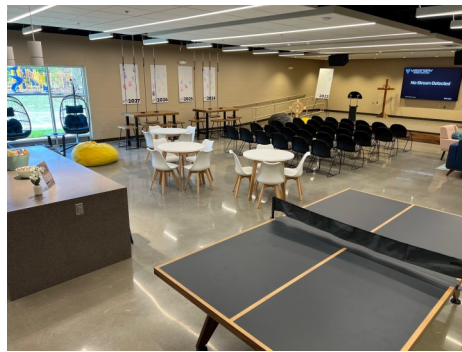
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*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”*

*Psalm 100:1-3*



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



## Blessings at Christ Lutheran Church and School, Overland Park

Christ Lutheran Church and School in Overland Park dedicated their \$8.7M Phase V addition on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The new space includes a gymnasium, a multi-ministry room, and a youth room (all pictured above). Additionally, there is an athletic director's office, a kitchen, concessions, and rest rooms. 84 percent of this phase has already received financial commitments. **To God be the glory!**

### In This Issue

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Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

### New District Coordinator Positions

The Kansas District Board of Directors has approved position descriptions for two new District ministry coordinators: [School Ministry Coordinator](#) and [Youth Ministry Coordinator](#). Each position description can be viewed by clicking on the provided links, or by visiting [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) under "Quick Links."

Names submitted should include a brief summary of why individual(s) are being recommended for the specific role.

Information should be emailed to the Office Of The District President, [officeofpresident@kslcms.org](mailto:officeofpresident@kslcms.org) no later than **Monday, July 31, 2023**.

These stipend positions have recommended start dates, as follows: **School Ministry Coordinator** – September 5, 2023; **Youth Ministry Coordinator** – January 2, 2024.

### Workers Together Devotions Available

President Panzer's devotions, in addition to appearing monthly in the *Workers Together* newsletters, are also available as individual pdf documents on the District website. These devotions can be downloaded and shared with LCMS congregations and schools around the Kansas District. You can find the individual devotions under the [Communications](#) section on the website.

# President's Office

## June/July Devotion

**We are the "royal priests of Christ."** That's not my own made-up term. Christ calls you that in 1 Peter 2:9. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood..." Baptism brings us into a salvation relationship with God. We now "share in a heavenly calling" with Him to the priesthood in Baptism.

What does a royal priest of God do? We sacrifice. We pray. We are taught. We worship. We are connected together in a common confession and faith. Our efforts have meaning and value because of Christ. His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross prompts all the sacrifices of the royal priesthood. And we certainly have a great charge in front of us – to be His salt and light in this world. It is the privilege and joy of every believer to faithfully share Christ with others through our own words and deeds. We are eager to be in worship and Bible study and devotion, so that we might be ready to give an answer to those who ask the reason for the hope that lives within us. As long as God allows us to live on this earth, there will be service that is needed, and there will be people who need to be served.

**We take up the mission of the Church – to baptize and teach all nations.** We rejoice in passing on what we have first received from Him. What we do can't be helped. It is as natural as breathing, as life itself. It is impossible to be a believer, that is, to be in the royal priesthood, and not to be involved in this mission together. It is impossible for us to not look around our neighborhoods and communities and see those who need the same love of God in Christ Jesus that we already possess. We come into contact with these people every day – at work, at school, at the coffee shop. Yes, even within our own families there are people who need to be reconnected with the Savior.

The world needs the message that we possess now more than ever. Let us be those people who invite others to "come and see" Jesus with us in our churches, schools, and preschools. And let us do it joyfully. Rejoice not in anything that you might bring to Christ, but rather rejoice in passing on what you have first received from Him. Filled with the Word and Sacraments of Christ, we as His priests and believers "show forth the excellencies of God."

Opportunities abound each day to "proclaim, teach, and share" the Savior who has come and who will come again! Don't be or get distracted by the outside world and other voices telling you to do "other things." We hear and know the voice of the Shepherd. We follow Him along the way because it is the only way to go. We live in His grace and love, giving thanks to God that we have been set apart to be His people. **We share in His heavenly calling, now and forever!**

## Herren Grant Funds Distributed

The Kansas District was blessed to receive monies from the Herren Family designated towards “brick and mortar” projects totaling \$200,000. The Kansas District Board of Directors used unrestricted dollars to match the amount. Congregations, schools, and RSOs of the LCMS Kansas District were eligible to apply. **Thirty-four (34) total applications for over \$1.1 million dollars were received.**

The committee considered all the grant applications, the funding requested, as well as the available funding. We would have liked to have fully funded, or at least, partially funded, all of the requests. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to do this. Eight projects were left unfunded. Maximum grants of up to \$25,000 were awarded, along with minimum grant amounts of \$15,000 per the LCMS Foundation guidelines. **May God continue to bless the work of our congregations, schools, and RSOs of the LCMS Kansas District!**

In the service of Christ,

**Rev. Justin Panzer**

LCMS Kansas District President

**Listed below are the Kansas congregations, schools, and RSOs receiving Herren Grant funds**

- ❖ **Christ Lutheran Church – Overland Park:** “The Master’s Plan Phase V”
- ❖ **Trinity Lutheran Church – Shawnee campus:** elevator installation
- ❖ **Hope Lutheran Church & School – Shawnee:** capital improvements/HVAC systems
- ❖ **Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Grove:** new concrete parking lot
- ❖ **First Lutheran Church – Paola:** main building repair/mission house remodel
- ❖ **Zion Lutheran – Linn:** new parsonage
- ❖ **Ascension Lutheran – Pratt:** “For Generations to Come Building Project”
- ❖ **Fairmount Ministries – Wichita:** parking lot expansion/storage/interior remodel
- ❖ **Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Louisburg:** pavement project
- ❖ **Immanuel Lutheran – Lawrence:** roof remodel/signage
- ❖ **Faith Lutheran – Derby:** parking lot/security lighting upgrades
- ❖ **St. Paul Lutheran – Clay Center:** fellowship hall
- ❖ **Immanuel Community Outreach Association – Kansas City:** bathroom remodel
- ❖ **Immanuel Lutheran – Ellsworth:** building updates
- ❖ **St. Paul’s Lutheran – Ellsworth:** fellowship hall
- ❖ **Calvary Lutheran – Topeka:** updates for ADA accessibility
- ❖ **Trinity Lutheran – Atchison:** restroom remodel/addition of second restroom
- ❖ **Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School – Wichita:** outdoor education & learning pavilion
- ❖ **Faith Lutheran – Abilene:** basement renovation
- ❖ **Trinity Lutheran – Burlington:** church & pre-school building improvements
- ❖ **Mt. Calvary Lutheran – Marysville:** sanctuary renovations
- ❖ **Risen Savior Lutheran – Wichita:** church kitchen updates
- ❖ **St. John’s Lutheran – Topeka:** building enhancements & repairs
- ❖ **Prince of Peace Lutheran – Topeka:** replacement of sanctuary HVAC system
- ❖ **St. John Lutheran School – Alma:** roof replacement
- ❖ **Bethany Lutheran School – Overland Park:** gym lighting improvements

# Calls and Vacancies

## PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Keith Emshoff**, St. Paul's, Ellsworth to Our Savior, Albuquerque, NM – pending  
**Rev. Aaron Hannemann**, Ascension, Wichita to Peace, Grand Island, NE – declined  
**Rev. Matthew Mau**, St. John's, Waco, NE to Bethlehem, Greenleaf & St. Peter, Barnes – declined  
**Rev. Timothy Wilcoxon**, Zion, Carlinville, IL to Herington Partnership – pending

## PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Magdiel Fajardo**, Our Savior, Pacifica, CA to TIG Partnership (associate) – accepted  
**Candidate Mark Gaschler** to Immanuel, Linn – ordination/installation Sunday, June 25, 2023  
**Rev. Jason Toombs**, Zion, Downs to Grace, Liberal, KS & Peace, Beaver, OK – installation Saturday, July 1, 2023  
**Rev. Mark Mozeik**, St. John's, Newkirk and St. John's, Blackwell, OK to St. John, Meade – installation Sunday, July 2, 2023  
**Candidate Nicholas Belcher** to St. John's, Topeka – ordination/installation Sunday, July 23, 2023

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

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Burlington, Trinity (sole)   | Leavenworth, Trinity (associate) |
| Fairview, St. Paul and Zion, Hiawatha (sole)                         | Manhattan, Christ (sole)         |
| Greenleaf, Bethlehem & St. Peter, Barnes (sole)                      | McFarland, Trinity (sole)        |
| Hays, Messiah (sole)   | Vassar, Zion (sole)              |
| Herington Partnership: Immanuel, Our Redeemer, and St. John's (sole) | Wichita, Holy Cross (associate)  |

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Emporia, Messiah (DCE)                     | Overland Park, Christ (DCE) |
| Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker) | Shawnee, Hope (Teachers)    |
| Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)               | Winfield, Trinity (Teacher) |
| Overland Park, Bethany (Teacher)           |                             |

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

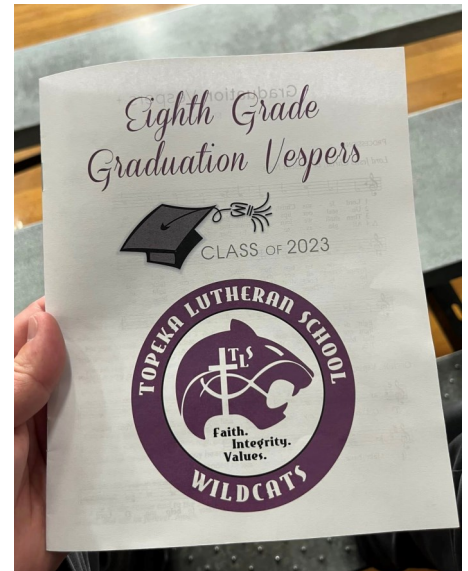
- DCE Paige Edgington**, Fairmount Ministries to Beautiful Savior, La Vista, NE – pending  
**Candidate Hannah Elsey**, Concordia, Irvine to Faith Lutheran, Topeka – pending designation  
**Principal Bradley (Kyle) Erickson**, Trinity, Greeley, CO to Good Shepherd, Marysville – accepted, installation Sunday, August 13, 2023  
**Dcs. Amanda Hahn**, Candidate, IDE to Trinity, Garden City – pending  
**Dr. David Rindt**, Christ, Overland Park to Concordia University, NE – accepted  
**Susan Schotte**, candidate status to St. Paul's, Beatrice, NE – accepted



**Rev. Joshua Woelmer** was installed as pastor of Trinity, Block (Paola) on June 4, 2023. From left, Revs. Luke Jacob, Robert Grimm, Justin Panzer, Christian Schultz, Jerry Peck, Robert Leiste, Joshua Woelmer, Mark Schulz, Jacob Tuma, Sean Kilgo, Andy Keltner, Jim Woelmer and Pastor-elect David Woelmer.

# Worker News

## Topeka Lutheran School: Graduation and Closing Services



## Farewell and Godspeed!



▲ Having completed 72 years as the **Lutheran School Association of Topeka**, the final graduation service was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Following the service, a brief school closure ceremony was conducted outside the building led by the pastors of the three Association congregations and District President Rev. Justin Panzer. Operations at Topeka Lutheran School will officially close on June 30.

LCMS missionaries **Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte**, after 22 years of mission work in West and Central Africa, are retiring. Rev. Schulte has served as a theological educator for francophone Africa through teaching and curriculum development in the formation of Lutheran pastors. Stephanie has served through providing mercy medical work, and facilitating Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training classes.

We give thanks to God for the Schulte's dedication and service in West and Central Africa, and may the Lord continue to bless His faithful servants in their future endeavors!

# Worker News Cont.

## Congratulations!



**Mr. Gregg Wolgast**, a middle school teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Wichita, received the KAKE Golden Apple Award on May 5, 2023. This program gives local teachers recognition for the many ways they support, motivate and encourage students in education and learning.

Mr. Wolgast serves as the Middle School Social Studies and Physical Education teacher and also the Athletic Director for Holy Cross Lutheran School. He has been a teacher and coach for over 40 years, and has taught at Holy Cross for 13 years.

[Click here](#) to watch the video interview with Mr. Wolgast receiving the Golden Apple Award!



**Shelly Schwalm**, DCE, MFA is the new Director of the DCE (Director of Christian Education) Program and Assistant Professor of Christian Ministry at Concordia University St. Paul, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Shelly is an alum of Concordia St. Paul and has served with campus ministry at CSP for nine years and now moved into this full-time faculty role as the Director of the DCE Program.

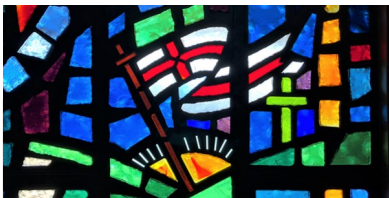
Shelly has served in parish ministry, and also served the larger church body of the LCMS as a planner for the 2019 and 2022 LCMS Youth Gatherings. Her roles have included being on the theological advisory team and the Bible study team. Shelly's home congregation is **St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Nortonville, Kansas.**



Dr. Bernard Bull, President of Concordia University, Nebraska, conferred the title of Master Educator to **Jim Bradshaw** at the Honors Dinner on May 5, 2023. **Congratulations!**



In Jesus' name we pray...



### SPECIAL PRAYERS

**For the 68th LCMS Synod Convention**, we pray for God to abundantly bless the convention, and bring fruit from the gathering of believers. May He grant wisdom and discernment in decision making, and bless the continued ministries of the LCMS Synod. 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.

## JUNE/JULY PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- ❖ Rev. Jon and Bethany Franson and family, at the death of Bethany's father Duane Jay Garbers. Duane entered his heavenly rest June 3, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Garry Dassow, former pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Hoisington, KS. Rev. Dassow entered his heavenly rest May 17, 2023.
- ❖ Rev. Luke and Kerri Lynne Brown and family, at the death of Kerri Lynne's mother Mildred Willems. Mildred entered her heavenly rest April 9, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Frank Eberhart, 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.

**Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues**, including Rev. Kevin Peterson, Rev. Clark Davis, Cindy Hammons, 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 Rev. Caleb and Bethany Stoever (son Gideon Timothy, May 18).

### **Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in June/July:**

Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool, Mission and Shawnee – June 6  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Erie & Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hepler – June 12  
Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka – June 19  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn – June 26  
Immanuel Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center, Junction City – July 3  
Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro & Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion – July 10  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita – July 17  
Faith Lutheran Church and School, Derby – July 24

# JUNE/JULY EVENTS

## Out and About in Kansas

### JUNE/JULY Staff Travel Schedule

#### JUNE

- 4 Preaching at Immanuel, **Linn**  
(President Panzer)  
  
Installation of Rev. Joshua Woelmer at Trinity, **Paola**  
(President Panzer)
- 5-8 KINDLE Board of Directors,  
**Farmington, MN**  
(Jim Bradshaw)
- 9-12 2023 Synod Convention Floor  
Committee, **St. Louis** (President  
Panzer)
- 13-15 IRE Conference, **Seward, NE**  
(Jim Bradshaw)
- 18 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland**  
(President Panzer)
- 19 Meeting at Trinity, **Atchison**  
(President Panzer)
- 25 Meeting at St. Paul, **Clay Center**  
(President Panzer)  
  
Ordination/Installation of Pastor  
-elect Mark Gaschler at  
Immanuel, **Linn** (President  
Panzer)
- 27-29 GOSPEL Conference,  
**Portland, ME** (Jim Bradshaw)

#### JULY

- 1 Installation of Rev. Jason  
Toombs at Grace, **Liberal**  
(President Panzer)
- 2 Installation of Rev. Mark Mozeik  
at St. John, **Meade** (President  
Panzer)
- 17 Saints Alive After 55, Christ the  
King, **Salina** (Jim Bradshaw)

(Continued on Next Page)

## Lutherans For Life of Kansas

### 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, pastor of First Lutheran, Sabetha, 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@lflfokansas.org](mailto:info@lflfokansas.org). We also invite guest authors to share reflections on life topics or stories. Upcoming topics include motherhood/fatherhood, with fostering and adoption features (June); medical ethics (August); and surrogacy (September).



### 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](mailto:kilgosr@gmail.com).

### 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. 62<sup>nd</sup> 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/>



# JUNE/JULY EVENTS CONT.

## JUNE/JULY Staff Travel Schedule Cont.

- 22 District Early Childhood Workshop, Open Arms Child Development Center, **Wichita** (Jim Bradshaw)
- 23 Ordination/Installation of Associate Pastor-elect Nicholas Belcher at St. John's, **Topeka** (President Panzer)
- 25 New Worker Orientation, District Office, **Topeka** (President Panzer, Jim Bradshaw)
- 27-Aug. 3 2023 LCMS Synod Convention, **Milwaukee, WI** (President Panzer)

## 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."

## 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 Burreson**, 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](mailto: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, [pastor-dennis.kootz@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:revschmidt@yahoo.com).



## 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.**

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 closes June 30.** Visit [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) to register, and find a schedule. *Lodging options (at participant's expense): Courtyard by Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, and Holiday Inn, Salina.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## LOOKING AHEAD - FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

**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,** St. Louis. MO

**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 11 - Board of Caring Ministry (Zoom),** 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**July 13 - Board of Education and Youth (Zoom),** 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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

**July 18 - Board of Missions (Zoom),** 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**July 20-21 - KAIRS Teachers Conference,** Wichita State University, Wichita

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

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

**July 29-August 3 - 68th LCMS Synod Convention,** Milwaukee, Wis.

**August 4 - Board of Administration (Zoom),** 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**August 7 - Board of Stewardship (Zoom),** 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**August 7 - Executive Committee (Zoom),** 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**August 10 - President's Council,** District Office, Topeka, 1-5 p.m.

**August 11 - Board of Directors,** District Office, Topeka

**August 12 - Parish Education Committee (Zoom),** 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.

**August 30 - Church Worker Conference Planning (Zoom),** 10-11 a.m.

## 2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering!

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

**KDYG  
2023**

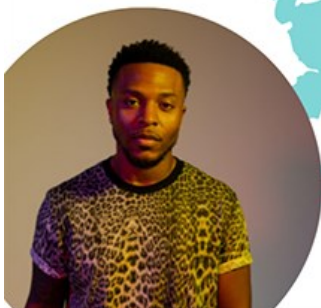
**NOVEMBER 17-19**

**REGISTRATION  
OPENS  
AUGUST 1!**



**SPEAKER  
TANNER OLSON**

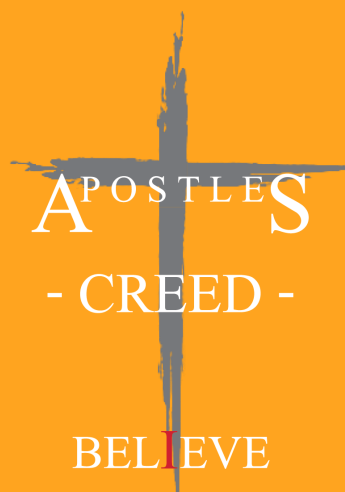
**SATURDAY AFTER HOURS  
CONCERT FEATURING  
FLAME!**



## 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.

## Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator



### ON THE CALENDAR

#### **JUNE 24, 2023: "Train the Trainer," Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, KS**

- Registration: \$20 per person. This class is for individuals who have completed the Basic LERT Training course and are interested in becoming part of the Kansas District Training Team.

#### **JULY 8, 2023: LERT Basic Training course, Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS**

- Registration: \$25 per person; \$40 for couples
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### **AUGUST 5, 2023: LERT Basic Training course, Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, KS**

- Registration: \$25
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### **AUGUST 25-26, 2023: Basic Chainsaw Safety & Operation, with "Stop the Bleed" training, Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, KS**

- Registration: TBA
- Time: 7:00 p.m. Friday evening through 3:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

#### **SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2023: National Disaster Response Conference, St. Louis, MO**

- If interested in attending, contact Donna Williams.

Watch for the details for these events to be updated on our webpage at [kslclms.org](http://kslclms.org) or you can contact DDRC Donna Williams at [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com). Registration and updates for all events will appear at [LCMS-LERT.org](http://LCMS-LERT.org) once they are posted.

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

## Concordia Academy - Wichita New Residency Programs

Concordia Academy - Wichita (CAW) is offering a new residency program 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](mailto:CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org).



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



## DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission



In Paul's letters, he often instructed congregations to welcome named individuals when they arrived in their city. Summer is an excellent time for us to connect those soon off to college with LCMS congregations in their college towns.

For many, college is brutal and can quickly extinguish the faith in our beloved young adults. They desperately need the sword of the Spirit to remain strong and faithful. We encourage congregations to have summertime conversations about the transition to college life.

Some questions may include the following:

1. **How do I find a church home?**
2. **How can I walk into a strange church all by myself?**
3. **Does my college offer a Bible study and/or fellowship group?**

This is also a good time to communicate with pastors and congregations who will be receiving our students into their midst. Send an email or make a phone call to give them a heads up on who will be heading their way. Being able to greet a student with a friendly "You must be (John). I've been expecting to meet you ever since your pastor told me you would be here this fall!" goes a long way in making college students, especially freshmen, feel welcome!

Check out the [Campus Ministry](#) page on the Kansas District website for a directory of campus ministries active in Kansas, and watch the Campus Ministry video. Be sure to also visit the [LCMS U Campus Ministry](#) page on the Synod website, for a link to campus ministries throughout the nation.

*We pray: Lord, we thank You for the privilege of loving and teaching our young people. As they transition to a new chapter in their lives, grant them the wisdom and courage to make plans for their spiritual health. Strengthen them to stand firm in their faith in Jesus Christ, and to be a blessing on campus and in their new church home. Amen.*

**Rev. Mark Boxman**  
Campus Ministry Coordinator  
and Senior Pastor of Trinity, Salina

*Kansas City Young Adult Lutherans*

# LAWN GAME NIGHT

Join the Kansas City Young Adults for a Lawn Game Night, July 8, 2023, 5-8 p.m. The event will take place at **The Lutheran High School of Kansas City** (12411 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145). Food will be provided. RSVP at this [provided link!](#)



You can also RSVP by scanning the QR code.

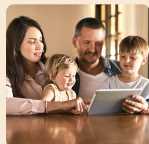
## The Congregation at Prayer Resources Available!



### 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.

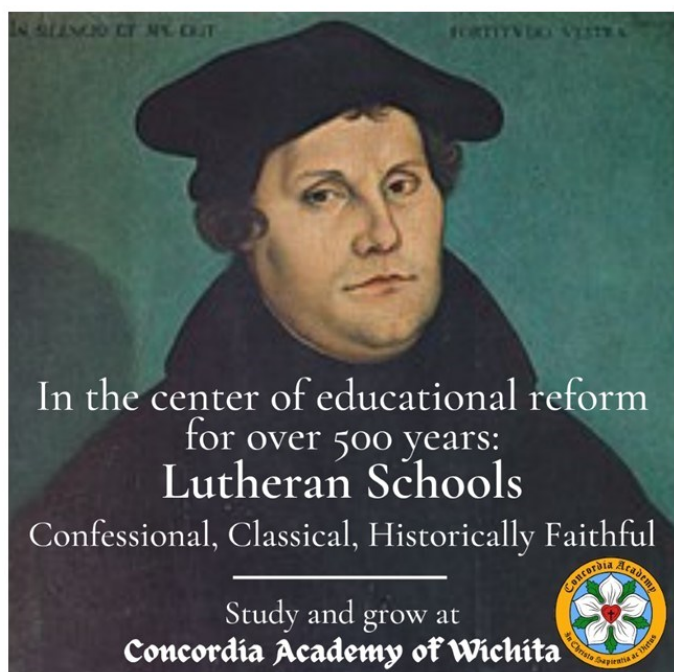


Look for Congregation at Prayer at [kslcms.org/CAP](https://kslcms.org/CAP)



Summer is here! Kids are out of school. Midweek programs have ended, and Sunday school may or may not be in session. The Parish Education Committee of the Kansas District has worked hard to help equip individuals and families with a weekly resource called *The Congregation at Prayer*. This resource is available on the Kansas District website and gives individuals and families a short form for devotions, readings, hymns, prayers, and parts of the Small Catechism to focus on that week.

Visit [kslcms.org/cap](https://kslcms.org/cap) to access *The Congregation at Prayer* devotions, promotional materials, and additional resources. **Please share these resources with your congregation!**



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.

The LCMS has a long and rich tradition of educating our children. The Kansas District itself boasts 14 Lutheran K-8 schools and 1 high school with the first parish school in Kansas being established in 1863, 25 years before the District was formally organized. Let us continue this history through the continued support and education of our children within the Church.

Concordia Academy Wichita is honored to join the faithful Lutheran schools of Kansas. We pray that our tradition continues long into the future.

To learn more about enrolling at CAW and our ability to accept out of area students into our *Orbis Concordiae* program contact us at:

**Concordia Academy Wichita**  
 909 S Market St, Wichita, KS 67211  
 316-202-8989 | [CAW\\_info@concordiaacademywichita.org](mailto:CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org)  
[ConcordiaAcademyWichita.org](https://ConcordiaAcademyWichita.org)

## "Faith at Work" District Service Projects, April 2024!

You may have seen the "Save the Date" information and brief explanation of *Faith at Work* in prior issues of *Workers Together*. Next April, the LCMS Kansas District will embark on a new local mission! *Faith at Work* is a District-wide service event where groups of all ages and skill sets find needs within their local communities to serve throughout the month.

We have gathered inspiration from two LCMS Districts who are hosting similar district service events. We would like to share these events with you so that you and your congregations can start to gather inspiration and begin brainstorming ideas for our own Kansas District service efforts!

- ❖ **The Missouri District** hosted their annual *Shine* event in April: <https://mo.lcms.org/shine/>. Visit their [Facebook page](#) or search [#shinemissouri](#) to see all of the amazing work the Missouri District just completed!
- ❖ **The Northern Illinois District** also hosted their annual *Shine* event last month: <https://www.nidlcms.org/shine/>. Visit their [Facebook page](#) or search [#nidshine2023](#).

Look for more inspiration, ideas, and information in the coming months! Information will be emailed, mailed, and placed on the [April 2024 Faith at Work page](#) on the District website, and also the District's [Facebook page](#) as details develop.

# YOUR INVESTMENT CAN DO MORE THAN JUST EARN INTEREST.

At Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), investments support and strengthen Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod workers, churches, schools and organizations. LCMS ministries use our low-cost loans to expand, renovate and launch new ventures. **Think of it as Lutherans helping Lutherans.**

**Ready to do more with your investments?**  
Applying is fast and easy!

OPEN AN ACCOUNT ONLINE AT [LCEF.ORG/READY](https://lcef.org/ready).



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

**JEFFREY MALTZ**

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

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



## 2023 LCEF Outreach Ministry Grants

The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** is blessed by strong investors and faithful borrowers. LCEF is pleased to make available **\$32,000 in Outreach Ministry Grants** to congregations, schools, and other LCMS organizations within the Kansas and Oklahoma Districts. Grants will be awarded in amounts of \$250, \$500, \$750, and \$1,000. Matching funds and cooperative efforts with other groups are highly desirable in this effort.

**Completed applications, along with a brief narrative, must be submitted by June 16, 2023.** Grants will be awarded by June 30. For more information and application materials, visit the [LCEF Outreach Ministry Grants](#) page on the District website.

## Friendly Reminders!

### 2023-2024 Lutheran Witness Renewal Packets

**2023-2024 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets for the Kansas District will be sent to congregations in July.** Check your mail for the packets to make additions, changes, or deletions to your subscriptions. **Renewals will be due in our office in late August.**

Every month, *The Lutheran Witness* brings you news, stories, and essays that aim to encourage you in your faith, clarify God's Word, keep you informed, and spark a question or two. If you subscribe through your congregation, your issue also includes the Kansas District edition, which brings you news about LCMS people and places right here in Kansas.

### District Grants: Important Dates

#### Education Loan Repayment Grants

Available to all rostered Kansas District church workers who have graduated in the last 10 years and are carrying educational debt. Application materials will be available on the [Grants and Scholarships](#) page later this month. **Deadline: Thursday, August 31, 2023**

#### Kansas District Mission Grants

Watch your mail! Application materials will be sent out in early August. **Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2023**

### Planned Giving: Creating Your Legacy

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

Two Kansas District staff members — LCEF DVP **Jeffrey Maltz** and Business Manager **Heather Williams** — are trained planned giving advocates who promote and educate LCMS Kansans on gift planning. To schedule a presentation, contact Jeffrey Maltz [Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org), or Heather Williams [heather@kslcms.org](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).

## 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.

### Concordia Plans: New Resource Available for LCMS Lay Leaders

Concordia Plans is offering a new resource called **Shareboard** for LCMS ministry lay leaders. This resource is a free online LCMS community platform that connects lay leaders nationwide where they can exchange information, best practices and experiences to help support one another in ministry work.

Lay leaders can learn more and join the Shareboard community by visiting [CPSHareboard.org](http://CPSHareboard.org).

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Rev. Justin Panzer**  
District President

Executive Assistant to the President for  
Congregational & School Services

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

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

**Heather Williams**  
Business Manager

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

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

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

**Mike Grau**  
Archivist

## COORDINATORS

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Campus Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Ian Kinney**  
Life Coordinator

**Lottie Lee**  
Professional Development

**Jane Limback**  
Accreditation

**Amy Schultz**  
Early Childhood Consultant

**Donna Williams**  
Disaster Response Coordinator

## CONTACT US

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

785-357-4441

1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604

## Around the District



### Volunteer with LLL/LHM at the State Fair!

The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries will once again sponsor a booth at the Kansas State Fair in the Meadowlark Building. **The State Fair will be held Sept. 8-17 in Hutchinson.** The Kansas District LLL/LHM will also sponsor the Sunday worship service, to be held at **10 a.m. on Sept. 10** at the People's Bank and Trust Arena.

Volunteers are needed to help out at the booth. Serving as a booth volunteer is a great opportunity to help provide a Lutheran presence at the fair. As volunteers greet the fair visitors, they are able to share Christian materials and conversation. The materials include Bibles, *Portals of Prayer, My Devotions*, LHM resources, Christian-themed gifts for children and more.

Contact **Mike Tonn** at [tonn.mike@yahoo.com](mailto:tonn.mike@yahoo.com) if you and/or your congregation can help provide Christian materials or serve as a booth volunteer. Thank you and blessings to everyone for your support!



## 2023 SJELC WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 19, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

Rev. Roberto Rojas, keynote speaker

**"Faithful Over Little, Set Over Much: Encouragement to Remain Faithful to the End"**

This conference is for lay people, musicians, and pastors, and it will conclude with a Hymn Festival. Registration, schedule, and other information is found at: [stjohnslcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference/](http://stjohnslcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference/)