



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

May 2023

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

First Quarter Meetings and Events. Events over the first quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, service boards, and various committees; Zoom meetings and the Fort Wayne and St. Louis in-person meetings with the Council of Presidents; Six-Pack COP meeting in Kansas City; Mission Advocates meeting in Salina; attended Rev. Vic Streufert and Rev. Robert Ziegler funerals; and multiple Circuit Winkel visits.

Ordinations and Installations. There were four pastoral installations in the first quarter (Revs. Nick Cordt, Bethany, Wichita; Calvin "CJ" Luttinen, Risen Savior, Wichita; Michael Hofmann, Trinity, Girard; and Christopher Gerdes, Immanuel, Netawaka).

Visits/Travel. In the first quarter President Panzer drove 10,874 miles as he traveled to installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the first quarter there were eight calling congregations in the Kansas District, with seven churches seeking a sole pastor and one an associate/assistant. Eight call lists were completed in the past quarter.

Education & Youth

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

Early Childhood Education Conferences. 105 early educators attended the KAIRS 12th Annual Early Childhood Education Workshop, March 25, 2023, at Trinity, Mission. Registration is now open for the District Early Childhood Summer Workshop that will be held Saturday, July 22 at Open Arms Child Development Center in Wichita. Beth Reeder is the keynote presenter.

Lutheran Schools. Seven congregations/schools are currently involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion: Emporia, Messiah (DCE); Overland Park, Bethany (DCE); Overland Park, Christ (DCE); Garden City, Trinity (DCE); Shawnee, Hope (Teachers); Alma, St. John (Teacher); and Winfield, Trinity (Teacher). Five congregations are exploring the possibility of starting a Lutheran school in their community. A LCMS *Genesis Project* consultant is working with one congregation (Faith, Ottawa), Jim is meeting with two congregations, and two more have begun initial steps.

Youth Ministry. The Middle School Huddle was held April 21-22 in Junction City, and Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) will be June 4-9 in Colorado. The Middle School Confirmation Retreat will be Sept. 29-30 in Augusta, and the 2023 District Youth Gathering will be Nov. 17-19 in Topeka. *Higher Things*, a RSO of the Synod, will be offering conferences and retreats this summer in Illinois (July 18-21) and Texas (July 25-28). The LCMS Youth Gathering will be held July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans. Debbie Dennett (Winfield) will be the lead District Coordinator and Karen Thurnau (Wichita) will assist. DCE Brian Amey (Holy Cross, Wichita) has formed a *YouthLead* team of five youth and two adult leaders. Applications are being accepted for new leaders.

Older Adult Ministry. On Saturday, May 6, an Older Adult Fair was held at Beautiful Savior, Olathe. Saints Alive After 55 will be having their event July 16-17 at Christ the King in Salina, and a third older adult event will take place at Messiah, Hays on Saturday, August 26.

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

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Financial Update

- Through March 2023, LCEF Kansas District has **26** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$17,076,387**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **1,699** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$58,963,957**
- **5.0%** of LCMS Kansas District members are investors.

Activity in the Kansas District. Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor, paid off their loan March 24, 2023. The loan for Zion Lutheran Church, Linn, was approved in 2022 and closed on Jan. 25, 2023.

LCEF Business Notes. LCEF Operating Revenue - funding received from 2022 LCEF Fiscal Year of \$81,478 has been processed and paid to the District. LCEF loan rates are increasing slightly with the increase in investment rates. 6-month fixed-rate term note is at 4.5%.

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

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

Property. District Office – No current known issues. The new copier and replacement server were both installed. Retreat Center – there is cracking in the walls and could indicate a foundation issue. One repair bid that came in was beyond budget for the Retreat Center. There is also some rotting window and door frames, but these items likely be resolved by the Trustees or a volunteer work group.

Accounting/Finances. Financial results for the first quarter end are positive. Congregational giving is beyond year-to-date commitments and came in at 28.43% of budget. Expenses are reported at 25.56% of budget. The January 15, 2023 financial audit is ongoing. Synod Convention assessments have already been received in full from 105 congregations. They are due June 30.

Planned Giving. Planned giving presentations are scheduled at St. Andrews, Wichita, and Zion, Linn.

Herren Fund Grants. The window to apply is now closed. 34 applications were received, with total requests of \$1,114,708. Awards will be announced by the end of May.

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Kansas District Website. Website projects for this quarter included revamping the Parish Education section and creating a new page for *The Congregation at Prayer (CAP)*. Listed on the page are both the one-year series prepared by Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita, and the three-year series prepared by the Parish Education Committee, as well as promotional materials. The Call for Nominations webpage was also created, as well as the *Faith at Work* District-wide service project page, for April 2024.

Pentecost Offering. This year's Pentecost Offering will continue to support the ongoing operational costs of the CLET-Guinea seminary, as well as Lutheran education and resources for the CLET-Guinea students. The Pentecost Offering bulletin inserts and announcements were prepared for congregations, and the Guinea/West Africa webpage was updated with new photos and information, the electronic version of the bulletin insert, and announcements. The printed bulletin inserts were mailed to congregations requesting them the week of May 1. Pentecost Sunday is May 28.

Workers Together. Highlights from this quarter include a farewell article from Rev. Dan Galchutt, an article from Jim Bradshaw, a Call for Nominations for the Executive Assistant to the District President for Congregational & School Services, and upcoming events/conferences around the District.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The Board of Missions reviewed the first quarter mission grant reports. Some highlights included Hispanic ministry with Immanuel, Kansas City, college ministry, the Saints Alive After 55 event in July, and Calvary, Topeka continuing with the Stephen Ministry program.

Pentecost Offering. The West Africa Mission Committee met in late February and set the game plan for promoting the Pentecost Offering. Jackie is preparing materials (bulletin inserts, announcements) and updated the Guinea/West Africa page on the website. The printed bulletin inserts will be mailed to congregations who requested them the first week in May.

Mission Advocates for the KSD. There have been three Mission Advocates identified, with the hope more will be added. Mission Advocates will present a message of the mission work taking place in Kansas, as well as in West Africa, at Mission Festivals and Sundays around the Kansas District.

Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

Reports. *The Genesis Project* has started at Faith, Ottawa, and a meeting is anticipated at St. Luke's, Manhattan. Three more churches have expressed interest in school start-up. A Professional Development Plan was submitted to KSDE. On-site visits have been completed for KESA accreditation at 10 elementary schools in the Kansas District. The 2023 Middle School Huddle was attended by 140 youth and adult leaders. 75 have registered for Lutheran Valley Retreat. Jim Bradshaw outlined a tentative plan for the transition of responsibilities as the new model for the Executive for Congregational & School Services is implemented.

Business. Approve the School Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Professional Development Coordinator position descriptions; process for securing Coordinators; and recommendation for Coordinator stipends. A number of resolutions regarding these three topics were passed by the Board of Education & Youth, to go before the Board of Directors.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Reports. Kansas District Disaster Response is current with their training and has received positive feedback on their work in the Kansas District. The Church Worker Care Committee is working to increase awareness. The Older Adult Ministry has three regional events planned – Older Adult Fair, May 6; Saints Alive After 55, July 16-17; Older Adult event, Aug. 26. The Pastors' Wives Retreat is April 21-22; as of the report there were 31 wives scheduled to attend.

2024 Districtwide Service Projects. There will be a kick-off Sunday, April 7, 2024. The committee is putting together an initial promotional package by this summer for schools to incorporate into 2023-2024 school calendar planning.

Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

Business. Giving in the first quarter has been good. Income is already at 33.55% of year projected. Thank you notes to congregations for 2023 pledges were received. Planned giving presentations continue around the District, good feedback from churches that have been visited. The Call for Nominations for the Executive for Congregational & School Services is open, and this has been communicated across the District.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

The Board of Administration proposed, seconded, and passed the following resolutions to go before the Board of Directors:

Resolution 23B-01-01 - Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from January 16, 2023, to April 15, 2023, in the amount of **\$49,383.37**.

Resolution 23B-01-02 – Investment of Permanently Restricted Funds

Resolved, in continuance of our Financial Asset Plan, that the Kansas District Board of Directors approve transferring Permanently Restricted Funds to the LCMS Foundation Diversified Fund, which is 75% equities and 25% bonds, as current certificates mature.

Reports. The financial results are positive, and the annual financial statement audit has begun. The application window for the Herren Fund Grants has closed; there were 34 applications with total requests over \$1 million.

Financial Asset Investment and Management Revision. Heather Williams and District Treasurer Brad Brunkow met with representatives from LCEF and the LCMS Foundation to determine what funds and bonds would match the goals for each District asset. There was some updating of the Financial Asset Planning Sheet based on what the Foundation suggests and can provide. Although the assets would be managed by the Foundation, ownership would remain with the District.