

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

Regular Features

August Devotion	2-3
Calls and Vacancies	3
Worker News	4-6
Prayer Requests	8
Upcoming Events	10
District Ministry News	11-12
Synod & Partners,	15
Friendly Reminders	
Around the District	16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:16-17



Dr. Mary Manz Simon was the keynote presenter.



Rev. Mark Boxman, senior pastor of Trinity, Salina, was the Bible study leader.



2023 Saints Alive After 55 Highlights

“I Love to Tell the Story – Leaving a Faith Legacy”

Over 50 were in attendance for the annual “Saints Alive After 55” gathering for older adults held July 16-17, 2023, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina.

The presentations included a focus on older adults as storytellers and introduced the concept of a spiritual autobiography. Dr. Mary Manz Simon was the keynote presenter, and the Bible study leader was Rev. Mark Boxman, senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina. **Special thanks to all who helped lead and organize the event!**



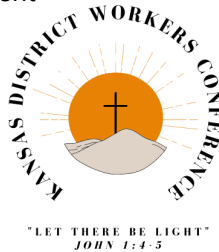
Our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

In This Issue

- ❖ 2023 Joint Church Workers Fall Conference / p. 2
- ❖ Kansas District Summer Highlights / p. 7
- ❖ LLL/LHM State Fair Booth, Worship Service / p. 10



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President



Church Workers Fall Conference

The 2023 Joint Church Workers Fall Conference will be held **October 8-10, 2023**, at Holy Cross Lutheran, Wichita. The theme for this year's conference is "Let There Be Light," based on John 1:4-5.

Registration opens August 1.

Visit kslcms.org/church-workers-conference to register and find program and schedule details, hotel/lodging information, and keynote speaker information.

Offering Designation: Church Worker Care Fund

Your congregation and/or school is highly encouraged to designate September's chapel/Sunday school offerings for the continued funding of the Districtwide Church Worker Care support fund. This District discretionary fund has historically assisted pastors, educators, and their families in addressing a variety of unforeseen emergency worker needs. Schools/congregations are invited to raise a minimum of \$50 each. Visit the [Donate webpage](#) and choose "Church Worker Care" from the donate drop-down menu.

President's Office

August Devotion

"Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." (Matthew 15:28)

Children don't wait for scraps. Children sit at the table with the Father. A Canaanite woman came to Jesus to ask Him a request, "Heal my demon possessed daughter." But instead of granting her simple request, He ignored her by not even speaking a word! We hear the cry of the Canaanite woman as she continued to issue her plea for mercy from the Lord. She kept up her persistence until Jesus finally replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Jesus repeated that He was sent to the Jews for earthly ministry. The woman understood Jesus' response and replied, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table" (v. 27). At this response, Jesus commended her faith and granted her request to heal her demon-possessed daughter.

Jesus' mission is clear and focused. He is to seek and save the lost sheep of Israel, but this does not deter the woman. She persists, asking for the crumbs that fall from the master's table. A "crumb" from the mouth of Jesus contained the promise of healing. By faith, this woman knew that only a "crumb" from Jesus would be needed to restore her daughter to complete health. **Jesus granted this woman's request because of her faith — faith granted to her by grace through the Holy Spirit.**

It's a matter of fact that when a need presses, we persist. But when life is okay, we often times forget the Lord. Sadly, there are times in our spiritual lives when it takes things such as cancer, surgery, death, divorce, or a heart attack to wake us back up. A prayer in *The Lutheran Study Bible* says this, "Lord, sometimes I have not because I ask not. Move me to pray with confidence. Amen." We are not persistent in seeking the Lord's help when the daily routine isn't as pressing as an emergency. Nor are we so persistent when we live in a land where Jesus isn't seen as needed for every breath.

We would do well to learn from this woman. How impatient we are with the Lord when we do not think that He answers our cries for mercy soon enough. Why isn't my ache going away? Why am I still in this hospital bed? Why didn't I get that job promotion at work or the call that I interviewed for?

Through this act of healing to a foreigner, Christ provided for all people a foretaste of divine healing to come. When the risen Lord commanded His disciples to spread His word to all nations (Matthew 28:19), we are included in this very promise.

Jesus was persistent in seeking the lost, which includes us. On the Cross, Jesus was our substitute, exchanging His perfect life for our sinful ones. On the Third Day, He was bodily raised from the dead. He calls all to repentance and to bow the knee only to Him. Without Him and without His forgiveness, there is only eternal hell and damnation.

(Continued on Page 3)

This Good News is now ours as it has been showered upon us in Baptism — the very place where we were granted faith and the forgiveness of our sins. At His Table, when we receive His true body and blood in the bread and

August Devotion Cont.

wine of Holy Communion, we are given the forgiveness of our sins, the strength to live a God-pleasing life and a foretaste of the eternal banquet yet to come. These means of grace are not mere “crumbs” that fall from the Master’s

table. Again, children don’t wait for scraps. **Children sit at the table with the Father.**

Don’t wait for an emergency or some other event in your life to shake you up that causes you to seek the Lord’s help. **You are His child.** He spreads out His banquet table before you now. Be diligent in worship and devotion on a daily and weekly basis to receive the Lord’s gifts. Filled with those gifts, tell others of what He has done for you. Invite them to your houses of worship and to your Bible study groups. **The Savior is for all!**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Keith Emshoff, St. Paul’s, Ellsworth to Our Savior, Albuquerque, NM – declined

Rev. Aaron Fenker, Immanuel, Bethlehem, Bremen to Trinity, Bemidji, MN – declined

Rev. Aaron Hannemann, Ascension, Wichita to Trinity, Schuyler, NE – accepted

Rev. Brian Holle, Zion, Bunker Hill, IL to St. Paul, Fairview & Zion, Hiawatha – pending

Rev. Robert Mundahl, Custer, SD to Trinity, McFarland – pending

Rev. Chet Scherbarth, St. Paul’s, Cheney to St. John, Hattiesburg, MS – accepted

Rev. Jason Shaw, St. Paul, Jackson, MO to Messiah, Hays – declined

Rev. Michael Suelzle, Tri Parish in NE to St. Peter, Barnes & Bethlehem, Greenleaf – pending

Rev. Timothy Wilcoxon, Zion, Carlinville, IL to Herington partnership – declined

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Magdiel Fajardo, Our Savior, Pacifica, CA to TIG Partnership (associate pastor) – installation Saturday, August 19, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran, Ulysses

Rev. Michael Brockman, Immanuel, Hoxie & Immanuel, Oakley to Immanuel, Wichita & Concordia Academy – installation Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023

Rev. Rocky Mease, IIM to Trinity, Hanover – accepted, installation pending

Rev. James Woelmer, Faith, Plano, TX to Christ, Manhattan – accepted, installation pending

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Burlington, Trinity (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

McFarland, Trinity (sole)

Downs, Zion (sole)

Herington partnership: Immanuel,

Vassar, Zion (sole)

Fairview, St. Paul & Zion, Hiawatha (sole) Our Redeemer, & St. John’s (sole)

Wichita, Holy Cross (associate)

Greenleaf, Bethlehem & St. Peter, Barnes (sole) Leavenworth, Trinity (associate)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)

Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)

Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker) Overland Park, Christ (DCE)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Janet Begley, Calvary, Kansas City, MO to Hope, Shawnee – accepted, installation Sunday, August 20, 2023

Candidate Renae Bott to Linn Lutheran – pending

DCE Paige Edgington, Fairmount Ministries to Beautiful Savior, La Vista, NE – accepted

Principal Bradley (Kyle) Erickson, Trinity, Greeley, CO to Good Shepherd, Marysville – installation Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023

Dcs. Amanda Hahn, Candidate, IDE to Trinity, Garden City – declined

CUNE Candidate Allison Klipp to Good Shepherd, Marysville (Gr 7-8) – commissioning/installation Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023

TCHR Jane Limback, Candidate to Bethany, Overland Park – accepted, installation Sunday, August 13, 2023

DCE Leslie Sullivan, St. John, Cypress, TX to Bethany, Overland Park – pending

DCE Heather McCormick, Faith, Topeka to Christ, Overland Park – pending

TCHR Heather Meyer, Candidate status to Trinity, Winfield – accepted

Katie Nelson, Candidate to Holy Cross, Wichita – accepted, installation Sunday, August 13, 2023

Worker News



Rev. Mark Gaschler was ordained and installed as pastor of Immanuel, Linn on June 25, 2023. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Aaron Fenker, Timothy Koch, Mark Gaschler, Paul Gaschler (Mark's brother), Rodney Fritz; (back row) Revs. David Kahle, Paul Tessaro, Joshua Hayes, Philip Miller, Dr. Larry Oetting and Michael Neidow.



Rev. Jason Toombs was installed as pastor of Grace, Liberal, KS and Peace, Beaver, Okla., on July 1, 2023. From left, (front row) Revs. Dennis Mason, Justin Panzer, Jason Toombs, Michael Brockman, Michael Hageman; (back row) Revs. Matthew Koterba and Randall Jahnke.

Worker News Cont.



Rev. Mark Mozeik was installed as pastor of St. John, Meade on July 2, 2023. From left, (front row) Revs. Richard Mayer, Mark Mozeik, Dennis Mason, Justin Panzer; (back row) Revs. Matthew Koterba, Randall Jahnke and Michael Hageman.



Rev. Daniel Jordan Martinez was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, on July 22, 2023. Rev. Jordan will be deployed to serve at Jesus el Buen Pastor Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Mo. He will also work with Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) in Kansas City, Kan. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Daniel Jordan Martinez, Vicente Sanchez, Gary Stolle; (back row) Revs. William Geis (*Missouri District Mission Executive*), Dr. Mark Schulz, David Loza and Juan Zamora.



Rev. Nicholas Belcher was ordained and installed as associate pastor of St. John's, Topeka on July 23, 2023. From left, (front row) Revs. Jacob Heine, Justin Panzer, Nicholas Belcher, Andrew Wright, Benjamin Micheel; (back row) Revs. Kevin DeHope, Benjamin Ockree, Andrew Wehling and Kurt Letcher.



Hannah Elsey was commissioned and installed as DCE of Mission and Outreach of Faith, Topeka on July 30, 2023. From left, Vicar Jeff Lane, Rev. Jacob Heine (*senior pastor of Faith*), Hannah Elsey, Rev. Martin Albrecht, DCE Heather McCormick and James Bradshaw (*District staff*).



Welcome, New Workers!

New Worker Orientation was held on July 25, 2023 at the District Office in Topeka.

Kansas District Summer Highlights



Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) June 4-9, 2023

Kansas District youth and their adult leaders attended **Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR)** June 4-9, 2023, at Woodland Park, Colo. The theme for the 2023 camp was "Rooted," based on Ephesians 3:17-18.

"It was a gift as an adult leader to see students from 17 different churches come together for a week of Bible study, team building, mountain activities, and meals," said DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission-Shawnee). "These students started off the bus ride as mostly strangers but ended the week with new friends and memories!"

Visit the [LVR](#) page on the District website to see more photos and a video. *Special thanks to Beth and the adult leaders for their planning and leadership!*



Kansas District Summer Early Childhood Conference July 22, 2023

More than 70 Kansas District early childhood educators gathered at the Open Arms Child Development Center in Wichita on Saturday, July 22, for their annual district summer conference. **Beth Reeder**, the keynote presenter, shared strategies to address child behaviors. **Rev. Aaron Hannemann**, associate pastor of Ascension, Wichita, led a devotion on the theme, "Be Strong and Courageous," based on Joshua 1:9.

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 students and families preparing for the new school year, we pray for a smooth transition from summer to fall, and for God to bring forth a fruitful academic year. We ask for Him to be present with our Lutheran schools and faculty as students return. May God also watch over those attending college, and provide opportunities for students to get connected with a Lutheran campus ministry. In His Name, Amen.

AUGUST PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Curt Loupe, a former Kansas District employee. Curt entered his heavenly rest July 11, 2023.
- ❖ 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.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including South Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. John Einem, Rev. Kevin Peterson, Rev. Clark Davis, Cindy Hammons, Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, Tim Lavrenz, Carrie Meyers, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Rev. Richard Andrus, and Judy May.

Those celebrating the gift of new life, including Rev. CJ and Katie Luttinen (daughter Lyla Grace, July 27), and Rev. Caleb and Bethany Stoeber (son Gideon Timothy, May 18).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in August:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hunter – August 7

First St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool, Kensington – August 14

St. John Lutheran Church, Meade – August 21

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Netawaka – August 28

AUGUST EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

AUGUST Staff Travel Schedule

- Aug. 1-3 LCMS Synod Convention, **Milwaukee, WI** (President Panzer)
- Aug. 6 Preaching at Christ Lutheran, **Manhattan** (President Panzer)
- Aug. 7 Lutheran Educators Day, St. Paul Lutheran, **Saint Joseph, MO** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Aug. 10-11 President's Council, Board of Directors, **Topeka** (President Panzer)
- Aug. 13 Commissioned Worker Installations; Bethany Lutheran, **Overland Park**; Good Shepherd, **Marysville**; Linn Lutheran, **Linn** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Aug. 15 Middle School Huddle planning, Rock Springs 4H Center, **Junction City** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Aug. 16 KDYG planning, Faith Lutheran, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Aug. 19 Official Visitation at Trinity Lutheran, **Garden City** (President Panzer)
Rev. Magdiel Fajardo Installation at Grace Lutheran, **Ulysses (TIG Partnership)** (President Panzer)

(Continued on Next Page)



2023 SJELC WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 19, 2023

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka

Keynote speaker: **Rev. Roberto Rojas, Zion Ev. Lutheran, Winter Garden, FL**

"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/



OLDER ADULT EVENT

Saturday, August 26, 2023

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church (2000 Main St. Hays, KS 67601)

Bible study presenter: **Rev. William Cornelius, St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Creek, NE**

The Older Adult event will include a Planned Giving presentation led by **Heather Williams**, LCMS Kansas District Business Manager. **Rev. Philip Hoppe** of Trinity Lutheran, Colby will lead devotions.

There is a \$10 cost for lunch. To register, contact Sandi Maier at the Messiah, Hays church office at (785) 625-2057 or messiah-sec@ruraltel.net. Please register by or before Sunday, Aug. 20.

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

August 1 - Older Adult Ministry Committee, District Office, Topeka, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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 26 - Older Adult Event, Messiah Lutheran, Hays

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

August 31 - Professional Development Committee (Zoom), 4-5 p.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

AUGUST Staff Travel Schedule Cont.

Aug. 20 Preaching at Trinity Lutheran, **McFarland** (President Panzer)

Rev. Michael Brockman
Installation at Concordia Academy, **Wichita** (President Panzer)

Commissioned Teacher
Installation, Hope Lutheran, **Shawnee** (Jim Bradshaw)

Aug. 21 Visitation at Concordia Academy, **Wichita** (*opening day of school*) (President Panzer)

Aug. 22 DCE Cluster, Faith Lutheran, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)

Aug. 24 Zion, Concordia Church
Plant meeting at Zion Lutheran, **Linn** (President Panzer)

Aug. 26 Planned Giving presentation at Messiah Lutheran, **Hays** (Heather Williams)

Older Adult Event, Messiah Lutheran, **Hays** (Jim Bradshaw)

Aug. 27 Preaching at Zion Lutheran, **Offerle** (*145th Anniversary*) (President Panzer)

Planned Giving presentation at Zion Lutheran, **Linn** (Jeffrey Maltz)

St. John Lutheran School, **Alma** (*150th Anniversary*) (Jim Bradshaw)



LLL/LHM State Fair Booth, Worship Service!

The Kansas State Fair takes place **September 8-17** in Hutchinson, and the Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries will sponsor a booth and worship service at the fair. The worship service will be held **Sunday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.** at the People's Bank and Trust Arena. Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District President, will lead the worship service. Members of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, and St. Paul's, Haven, will provide music.

The LLL/LHM booth space was doubled and will be located in the northwest part of the Meadowlark Building. Contact **Mike Tonn** at 316-640-3918 or Tonn.mike@yahoo.com if you or your congregation can help by donating Christian-themed materials and/or volunteering at the booth.



2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering!

The 2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering event will take place **Friday, Nov. 17 – Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023**, at Hotel Topeka at City Center in Topeka, KS. The 2023 KDYG theme is "*Re:New, Re:Deem, Re:Store!*" based on Isaiah 43:19. This year's keynote speaker is Tanner Olson, and there will be a special Saturday night concert featuring Flame (*the Saturday night concert is open only to Gathering participants.*)

Registration for the 2023 KDYG event is now open! Early registration cost is \$95 per person (Aug. 1-Oct. 31) and beginning Nov. 1 late registration will increase to \$115 per person. Visit the [KDYG](#) page on the District website to register, and access the KDYG registration packet and schedule.

Kansas District Confirmation Retreat

September 29-30, 2023 "Apostles' Creed: I Believe!"



The Kansas District Confirmation Retreat will be held **Sept. 29-30, 2023**, at the Wheat State Retreat Center in Augusta, KS, for 5th-8th grade youth. Visit the [Middle School Events](#) webpage on the District website to register, and find more information.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator

(POSTPONED) AUGUST 5, 2023: LERT Basic Training course, Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, KS

- Registration: \$25 (lcms-lert.org)
- Time: 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- [Click here](#) to visit the Registration page.

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

- Registration: \$25 (lcms-lert.org)
- Time: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- [Click here](#) to visit the Registration page.

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 kslcms.org or contact DDRC Donna Williams at ksddrc@gmail.com. Registration and updates for all events will appear at LCMS-LERT.org once they are posted. If you 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 **Donna Williams**, ksddrc@gmail.com. Visit the [District website](#) and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](#), and [LERT – Northeast Kansas](#)) for updates.

Save the Date!

Circuit 8 Reformation Service

Circuit 8 (Manhattan) will be hosting a Reformation service and presentation **Sunday, October 29, 2023**, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Alma (218 W. 2nd St. Alma, KS 66401).

The proclaimer and presenter will be **Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss**, associate professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW).

The event schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2:00 p.m. | Worship (with Holy Communion) |
| 3:00 p.m. | Break/Refreshments |
| 3:30 p.m. | Keynote presentation: "The Seal of the Confessional" |
| 4:30 p.m. | Adjournment |

Please contact Rev. Larry Boye if you are interested in learning more, larryboye@hotmail.com.

Heather Ruesch,

a Life Coach, National Speaker and Founder of The Cure™ Teen Coaching & Life-Skills Workshop will be giving a special presentation on **Sat., Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.** at Mt. Calvary in Wamego (17535 Say Rd. Wamego, KS 66547).

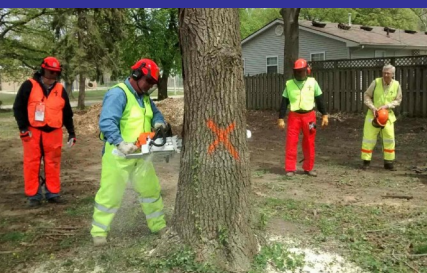
Heather will be addressing the topics of mental health and Christian identity in today's culture.

For more information, visit youmattertour.org.



DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission





DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission

Connecting Students to Campus Ministries!



Young people will soon be off to college, and there are many opportunities for college students to get connected with LCMS Campus Ministry in Kansas!

Below are some upcoming events taking place with the K-State LCMSU Campus Ministry:

Monday, August 28 @ 6:30 p.m. – Welcome Bonfire with food, games, and Bible study. Located at the Blue House (354 N. Delaware, Manhattan, KS 66502).

Starting Monday, August 21, 8:00-9:00 p.m. – Fellowship and Bible Study, at the Blue House in Manhattan.

Table Talk is a free meal! Table Talk is on Sundays at noon, held on the 1st Sunday of the month at Christ Lutheran Church (4592 Green Valley Road, Manhattan, KS 66502) and the 2nd through 5th Sundays of the month at St. Luke's (4801 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66503). **The first Table Talk of this school year will be Sunday, August 27, at noon at St. Luke's.** (Please note that there will be no Table Talk Sunday, September 3, Labor Day Weekend). More information can be found at [St. Luke's Campus Ministry](#) website page or [LCMS U K-State](#) website page.



The Lutheran campus ministries at Kansas colleges and universities provide a "church home away from home" for students. Visit the [Campus Ministry page](#) on the Kansas District website to find Campus Ministry locations and contact information.

Please share with parents the "**Campus Ministry Student Contact**" form at the bottom of the page, so we can connect students with campus pastors. It is important for students to fill out and submit the contact form within the first six weeks of arriving at college to get connected with a local LCMS congregation or campus ministry.

FAITH *at* WORK

“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 completed!
- ❖ **The Northern Illinois District** also hosted their annual *Shine* event: <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.

You can also scan this QR code for quick access to the *Faith at Work* webpage.



Concordia University, Nebraska: Great Plains Lutheran Educators Conference

Concordia University, Nebraska will host the first triennial Great Plains Lutheran Educators Conference (GPLEC) **October 14-16, 2023**. This professional development event is designed for Pre-K through 12th grade Lutheran school colleagues from the Great Plains LCMS Districts, and will include keynote speakers, exhibitor booths, worship and fellowship.

The conference will also include industry experts across many disciplines presenting on education and teaching topics, school advancement, student health and more. Event organizers hope to welcome at least 250 attendees to this year’s event.

The conference registration cost is \$165, and registration closes October 1.

Learn more about the event or register at <https://GPLEconference.eventbrite.com>.

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.

“**Concordia This Week**” is a weekly interactive session offered both virtually and in-person to parents to better work together with homeschooling efforts. Applications can be found on the [CAW website](#), under the “About Us, Admissions” tab. For more information, please contact the CAW office at 316-202-8989 or email CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org.

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, or Heather Williams heather@kslcms.org.



You can feel good investing with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF):
We share your Lutheran beliefs and your love for the church.

We have been the financial arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978. What we do is simple. We invite LCMS Lutherans—whether church workers or lay members—like you to invest with us. We then use those investments to help support the work of LCMS individuals, schools and organizations through low-cost loans and other strategic ministry resources.

LCEF investments run the gamut from easily accessible accounts for everyday financial needs to long-term accounts like individual retirement accounts and term notes. You are making precious financial resources available to those who may not have any other options. Our borrowers tell us all the time how grateful they are for LCEF investors.

Visit lcef.org/investment-rates to view our investment offers and current rates. When you are ready to invest, call our national office at 800-843-5233.



Scan the QR code or visit lcef.org/always
to open an account today!



> where investments build ministry

Jeffrey Maltz
Oklahoma & Kansas
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. Visit lcef.org for details.

CAP 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.

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.

Friendly Reminders!



The 2023-2024 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets for the Kansas District were sent to congregations in July.

Congregations: Check your mail for the renewal packets! The packets will be due back to the District Office no later than **Friday, August 25**.

Individuals: Please contact your church's secretary as soon as possible if you have any additions, changes, or deletions to your subscription.

Every month, the *Lutheran Witness* brings you news, stories, and essays that aim to encourage you in your faith, clarify God's Word, and keep you informed. **As an added bonus, if you subscribe through your congregation your LW issues will also include the Kansas District insert, which brings you LCMS Kansas news, stories, and announcements.**

We also want to inform you of a rate increase this year. Please understand that this year's price increase is due to no increase to subscription rates since 2017. The blanket rate of \$28 applies when the church is paying for the congregation members' annual subscription. The individual rate of \$30 applies when the congregation member pays their subscription fee directly to the church.

We strongly encourage members of the Kansas District to continue subscribing to the *Lutheran Witness* magazine, as there is important LCMS Kansas news and information shared each month in our District's insert. [Click here](#) to view the 2023 Kansas LW May insert, as an example of what you will receive each month along with a *Lutheran Witness* subscription!

If you would like more information, please contact your church's secretary. Thank you!

District Grants: Important Dates

Education Loan Repayment Grants

The LCMS Kansas District provides grants to rostered church workers to help them repay college and/or seminary education loans. All rostered synodical graduates, as well as those who have completed the colloquy program, who are currently working in the Kansas District are eligible for the first 10 years after graduation or ordination to apply for this grant. Application materials are available on the [Grants and Scholarships](#) page on the District website.

Applications should be sent to Heather Williams (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604) or via email at heather@kslcms.org.

Deadline: Thursday, August 31, 2023.

Kansas District Mission Grants

The Kansas District is committed to helping congregations and organizations pursue mission projects. The District sets aside 10 percent of its congregational receipts each year and makes these funds available in the form of mission grants.

Watch your mail! Mission grant application materials will be sent out early this month. Contact Janet Powell at janet@kslcms.org with any questions.

Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2023.

Synod & Partners

Lutheran Bible Translators

"Bible Translation Sunday" Toolkit Available

Lutheran Bible Translators published the **2023 Bible Translation Sunday toolkit** for church leaders interested in hosting a Bible Translation Sunday. Materials in the toolkit include recommendations for service elements, a sermon and children's message, adult Bible study, PowerPoint slides and graphics, bulletins, and children's activity books.

Congregations are invited to celebrate their partnership in God's mission. Register and download the free event toolkit at www.lbt.org/bts.

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

Communications Specialist

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

Rev. Mark Boxman

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

785-357-4441

1000 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604

Around the District



Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, recognized its 75th anniversary on Sunday, June 11, with a festival worship service and celebration meal.

Current and former Faith staff members gathered for a photo. Rev. Jacob Heine (*back row, fifth from the left*) serves as senior pastor of Faith.



The Men's NetWork Work Day tradition was held April 22, 2023, at Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro. Pictured left to right: Ken Bernhardt, Vaughn Matz, Ben, Tom Koslowsky, Ray Remmers, Sam, Jon Meier, Rev. John Werner, Jesse Meier, Charlie and Luke Lindsay.