

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25



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



Attendees from Kansas enjoyed the **Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education Conference** in Seward, Neb., July 18-21. Pictured left to right, Julia Voss, Cheryl Voss, Deb Doesken, Ian Synder, Dan Synder, Kathy Wright, Rev. Joshua Hayes, Diane Hayes, Bethany Johnson, Kara Titus, Andrea Kosmicki, Rev. Michael Schmidt, Ian Hartsook and Gretchen Hartsook.

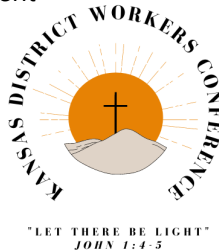
The Kansas District Represented!



2023 Kansas District Delegates gathered at the **68th Regular LCMS Convention** in Milwaukee, Wis., July 29-August 3.



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 is open.

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

September Devotion

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

I have been a regular subscriber of the monthly LCMS *StewardCAST* e-newsletter for many years. The stewardship messages are always focused on Christ and in Christ. Everything that we do as "stewards or managers" of God's gifts flows from our baptism as His children. **"Living as the Baptized" calls us to be good stewards of the gifts that God entrusts to us in this earthly life.**

The July 2023 newsletter really "hit home" with me. Read these words from the newsletter:

Most, if not all, congregations have developed a mission statement, vision, values and goals. Some are better than others. Some are more detailed. Others are more generic. However they look, they serve as a skeletal structure which connects the work of the congregation to the work of the Gospel. The business meetings of committees, boards and even congregations are often relegated to the status of necessary evils. They are things that have to be done as the process of leading a congregation is carried out. But when this is allowed to happen, a disconnect takes place. When there is a disconnect between the work of ministry and the workings of the congregation, it gives the enemies of the Gospel a toe hold. The devil loves a toe hold!

Instead, everything that is done in the local congregation should flow from and be directed back to the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. There really should not be anything superfluous to the work of the Gospel. Even reporting back to the congregation should have an intentional connection to the work of the Gospel in that place. Facts and figures, new members and transfers, building and grounds, catechesis and education, should all flow from and return to the central work of the congregation: the stewardship of the greatest treasure in all creation that is the Gospel!

How can this be done? One possible option would be for the congregation to develop a report structure that flows from the congregational mission statement, values and vision. This kind of report would describe how completed events, finances and other activities flow from the mission. It might sound something like "Because the Lord has this congregation in this place, the board of stewardship did these events and activities this month. It allowed for God's people in this place to make these connections and make this ministry possible." This connects dry facts and figures to the central work of the congregation.

[https://resources.lcms.org/newsletters/stewardship-ministry-newsletter-july-2023/?ct=t\(email-stewardship-newsletter-july-2023\)](https://resources.lcms.org/newsletters/stewardship-ministry-newsletter-july-2023/?ct=t(email-stewardship-newsletter-july-2023))

So, how does this impact our work as the congregations and schools of the Kansas District? Our messaging must always point to the crucified and risen Savior. Christ alone is "our focus." He is the reflection of all that we do to proclaim the Savior in word and deed to this hurting and dying world. Consider using our **"Narrative Budget Guide"** that we have developed if you haven't already done so; <https://kslcms.org/kansas-district-stewardship/congregational-stewardship/>. Connect what you do with a purpose. **God abundantly bless your efforts to faithfully steward His gifts!**

~ President Panzer



Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services

Welcome to Kansas, Rev. Daniel Grams and Family!

Dear fellow workers in God's kingdom and fellow servants of Jesus Christ in the LCMS Kansas District:

By now you have learned that I accepted the call from the Board of Directors to serve as the Assistant to President Panzer for Congregational & School Services. I am really looking forward to learning from and serving together with the Kansas District staff to help strengthen and encourage the congregations and church workers of the Kansas District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

Accepting the call required me to give up serving as the pastor of a congregation, something I dearly love and to which I have devoted over 20 years of my life. I've served congregations in New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Michigan in urban, rural, and suburban settings. My vicarage took place in a campus ministry setting. Please know how strongly I believe that the ministry of the local congregation is where Christ's mission happens in this world.

Lutheran schools are part of my DNA. Growing up in Detroit, it's through the ministry of a Lutheran school that my family was drawn to the LCMS. It is faithful teachers and pastors whose constant example and encouragement led me to prepare for full-time church work. My wife is an LCMS teacher. Our children have been blessed by their education in Lutheran schools. I've served as a pastor in a congregation with a 4K-8 school. I led my most recent congregation through the process of establishing an early child care center which has grown, thrived, and helped revitalize the congregation.

My wife, Susan, and I are married 25 years this New Year's Eve. We are both graduates of Concordia Ann Arbor, where I was a pre-seminary student and Sue majored in Elementary Education and Music. We moved to Fort Wayne while I studied at Concordia Theological Seminary, graduating in 2002. Sue has since received an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia Irvine, and she loves teaching children in grades K-2. I am continuing my studies for a Master's in Non-Profit Administration at Notre Dame.

The Lord has blessed us with four children: Mitchell (21), Kate (19), Nicholas (15), and Nathan (12). Mitchell serves in the Air National Guard and is employed full-time at the base, while taking classes on the side. Kate works part-time and is enrolled in college. Nick is a sophomore at our local Lutheran high school, and Nathan is in 7th grade. Both of our boys are participants in multiple sports. We also count our 16-month old Alaskan Klee Kai, Juneau, as part of the family. Please pray for us all during this year as we make the transition to life and ministry in Kansas.

In closing, I am eager to begin serving the congregations, schools, and church workers of the Kansas District, and I am looking forward to getting out and visiting and meeting many of you soon.

To God alone be all the glory!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Daniel Grams

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Steven Braun**, Risen Christ, Fairport, NY to Trinity, Leavenworth – pending
- Rev. Phil Cook**, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee to Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls, TX – pending
- Rev. Phil Cook**, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee to Trinity, Amarillo, TX – pending
- Rev. Zachary Courie**, Our Redeemer, Wahoo, NE to Trinity, Burlington – declined
- Rev. Daniel Grimmer**, Zion, Mitchell, SD to Herington Partnership – declined
- Rev. David Herald**, Redeemer, Arkansas City to St. Paul, Clarinda, IA – accepted
- Rev. Eddie Hosch**, Messiah, Emporia to Emmanuel, Maui, HI – declined
- Rev. Robert Mundahl**, Custer, SD to Trinity, McFarland – declined
- Rev. Eric Nelson**, St. Paul, Lester Prairie, MN to Messiah, Hays – pending
- Rev. Michael Suelzle**, Tri Parish in Nebraska to St. Peter, Barnes & Bethlehem, Greenleaf – declined

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Daniel Grams, Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills, MI to LCMS Kansas District – installation Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m. during the opening Divine Service at the Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wichita

Rev. Brian Holle, Zion, Bunker Hill, IL to St. Paul, Fairview and Zion, Hiawatha – installation Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Arkansas City, Redeemer (sole)	Hays, Messiah (sole)	Mission & Shawnee, Trinity (senior)
Burlington, Trinity (sole)	Herington Partnership: Immanuel,	Vassar, Zion (sole)
Cheney, St. Paul's (sole)	Our Redeemer & St. John's (sole)	Wichita, Holy Cross (associate)
Downs, Zion (sole)	Leavenworth, Trinity (associate)	
Greenleaf, Bethlehem & St. Peter,	Medicine Lodge, Trinity & Nashville,	
Barnes (sole)	St. John (sole)	

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Atchison, Trinity (Principal)	Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker)	Overland Park, Bethany (DCE)
Emporia, Messiah (DCE)	Manhattan, St. Luke's (DCE)	Overland Park, Christ (DCE and Principal)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

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

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



Rev. Magdiel Fajardo was installed as associate pastor of the TIG Partnership on August 19, 2023. From left, (front row) Revs. Michael Hageman, Abiut Fajardo-Ruiz (Magdiel's father), Magdiel Fajardo, Dennis Mason, Justin Panzer; (back row) Revs. Randall Jahnke, Jason Toombs and Stanley Palmer.

Worker News



Kyle Erickson and Allison Klipp were installed as educators of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Marysville, on August 13, 2023. Rev. Philip Miller (center), senior pastor of Mt. Calvary, Marysville, led the installations. Erickson serves as principal and Klipp teaches seventh- and eighth-grade. Good Shepherd is a Kansas District Association School.

Rev. Mark Croucher and Jane Limback were installed as teachers at Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Overland Park, on August 13, 2023. Pictured left to right, Jim Bradshaw (*District Executive Assistant for Education and Youth*), Jane Limback, Rev. Mark Croucher and Rev. Sean Baker, pastor of Bethany. Pastor Baker performed the installations. Croucher is the director of Student Services and Limback is the middle school language arts teacher.



Heather Meyer was installed as a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Winfield, on August 13, 2023. Rev. Seth Meyer, pastor of Trinity, led the installation. Pictured left to right, Trinity principal Chris Dehning, Heather Meyer and Pastor Meyer.

Worker News Cont.



Katie Nelson was installed as a second-grade teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, on August 13, 2023. Rev. Scott Snow, senior pastor of Holy Cross, led the installation.

Renaë Bott was commissioned and installed as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher of Linn Lutheran School, Linn, on August 13, 2023. Pictured with Bott (left to right) are Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor of Zion, Linn; and Rev. Joshua Hayes, pastor of St. John, Palmer. Pastor Hayes led the commissioning and installation. Linn Lutheran is a Kansas District Association School.



Rev. Michael Brockman was installed as chaplain of Concordia Academy – Wichita (CAW) on August 20, 2023. From left, (front row) Rev. Dean Christ, Ian Snyder (CAW teacher), Rev. Mark Lovett, Rev. Michael Brockman, Rev. Justin Panzer; (back row) Rev. Aaron Filipek, Rev. William Wingfield, Dan Snyder (CAW headmaster), Rev. Timothy Meyer, Rev. Timothy Gordish and Rev. Daniel Metzger.

Worker News Cont.



Rev. James Woelmer was installed as pastor of Christ, Manhattan, on August 26, 2023. From left, (front row) Revs. Larry Boye, David Gruoner, Andrew Wright, Justin Panzer, James Woelmer, John Fries, Terry De Giovanni, Michael Schmidt; (back row) Revs. Jacob Tuma, Ian Kinney, Alan Stahlecker, David Woelmer (James' son), Robert Grimm, David Meier, James Price, Joshua Woelmer (James' son) and Mark Boxman.

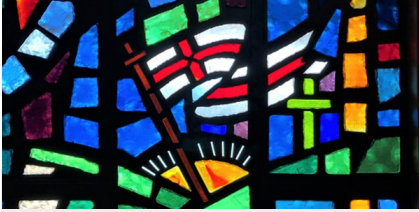


Rev. Rocky Mease was installed as Intentional Interim pastor of Trinity, Hanover, on September 3, 2023. President Justin Panzer performed the installation.



Janet Begley was installed as a fifth-grade teacher at Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee, on August 20, 2023. Rev. Robert Leiste, Intentional Interim pastor of Hope, Shawnee, led the installation. Jim Bradshaw, Executive Assistant to the President for Education and Youth, assisted in the service.

In Jesus' Name we pray...



SPECIAL PRAYERS

For all the workers in the Kansas District, we pray for our heavenly Father to bring abundant blessings to their work. May the Holy Spirit shine through our Lutheran brothers and sisters as they share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around them. In His Name, Amen.

For students and families starting the new school year, we pray for God to bring forth a fruitful academic year. We ask for Him to be present with our Lutheran schools, students and faculty. 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.

SEPTEMBER PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. Timmothy Warren Heath, Sr., pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Holton. Rev. Heath entered his heavenly rest Aug. 28, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Curt Loupe, a former Kansas District employee. Curt entered his heavenly rest July 11, 2023.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including Rev. Robert Grimm, Rev. Matthew Schneider, Diana Moreski, South Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. John Einem, Rev. Kevin Peterson, Rev. Clark Davis, Cindy Hammons, 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 Stoever (son Gideon Timothy, May 18).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in September:

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, KS – Sept. 5

Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe – Sept. 11

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett – Sept. 18

Trinity Lutheran Church and Precious Lambs Preschool, Fort Scott – Sept. 25

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

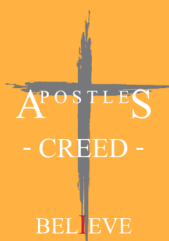
SEPTEMBER Staff Travel Schedule

- Sept. 6 St. John's Classical Academy Opening Divine Service, **Topeka** (President Panzer, Jim Bradshaw)
- Sept. 7 KDYG meeting at Faith, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Sept. 9 DYMC meeting at Kansas District Retreat Center, **Herington** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Sept. 10 Preaching at the LLL Worship Service at Kansas State Fair, **Hutchinson** (President Panzer)
- Sept. 12 Circuit 15 Winkel at Trinity, **Colby** (President Panzer)
- Sept. 14-15 Principals Conference at the District Office, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Sept. 16-19 Council of Presidents, **St. Louis** (President Panzer)
- Sept. 21 Circuit 16 Winkel at Peace, **Greensburg** (President Panzer)
- Sept. 21 LAKC Principals at Bethany, **Overland Park** (Jim Bradshaw, Heather Williams)
- Sept. 24 Rev. Tom and Arleata Harmon's ministry celebration at Risen Savior, **Wichita** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Sept. 28 Fairmount Ministries "The Gathering," **Wichita** (President Panzer)
- Sept. 28-29 New Executive training, **St. Louis** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)

LLL/LHM State Fair Booth, Worship Service!

The Kansas State Fair takes place **Sept. 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.

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, Kan., for 5th-8th grade youth.

Visit the [Middle School Events](#) webpage on the District website to register, and find more details!



Heather Ruesch, a Life Coach, National Speaker and Founder of The Cure™ Teen Coaching & Life-Skills Workshop will be giving a special presentation on **Saturday, 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.



Saturday, September 16, 2023

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

St. John Lutheran Church (919 N. Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434) & **Concordia University Nebraska** (800 N. Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434; Music Building).

This friendly and practical workshop is designed to connect, enrich, and encourage church musicians, clergy, assisting ministers, worship planners, and directors from congregations of all sizes and contexts, each with their own challenges and opportunities. **To register and find more details:** <https://alcm.org/event/seward-ne/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Circuit 8 Reformation Service



Circuit 8 (Manhattan) will host 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), Ind.

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.

2023 Reformation Offering

The annual Kansas

District Reformation Offering supports mission work right here in Kansas. Here are ways you can get involved:

Prayers. Pray for congregations, workers and fellow LCMS Kansans as they are actively engaged in mission work, and for God to bless their efforts.

Gifts. Contributions to the Reformation Offering will support mission projects in Kansas (e.g., church planting, campus ministry, specialized ministries). Gifts may be mailed to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104) or given online on our [Kansas District Offerings](#) page (under the "Business Office" tab.)

Reformation Offering materials will be available by mid-September on the [Mission Funding](#) page (under the "Missions" tab.)



2023 KDYG, Nov. 17-19!

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, Kan. 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 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, a Pre-Gathering Bible Study, and a schedule.

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

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

- September 7 - KDYG meeting**, Faith Lutheran, Topeka, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- September 9 - District Youth Ministry Committee**, Herington Retreat Center, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- September 13 - Lutheran Schools Committee**, District Office, Topeka, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- September 14-15 - Principals Conference**, District Office, Topeka
- September 16-19 - Council of Presidents**, St. Louis, MO
- September 23 - Parish Education Committee**, Zoom, 8:30 a.m.
- September 29-30 - Kansas District Confirmation Retreat**, Wheat State Retreat Center, Augusta
- October 7 - LERT Leaders**, Zoom, 9:00 a.m.
- October 8-10 - Church Workers Conference**, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wichita (*District Office will be closed Oct. 9-10 for the conference*)
- October 10 - Board of Missions**, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wichita, 11:00 a.m.
- October 12 - Board of Caring Ministry**, Zoom, 1:00 p.m.
- October 12 - Board of Education & Youth**, Zoom, 9:00 a.m.
- October 20 - KDYG planning**, Christ Lutheran, Topeka, 11:00 a.m.
- October 25 - Board of Administration**, Zoom, 12:00 p.m.
- October 30 - Board of Stewardship**, Zoom, 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023: LERT Community Awareness Event, Paola Town Square, Paola, KS

- Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- This event will share the LERT story, raise awareness of LERT teams and how they function and respond in Disasters and Critical incidents locally, state-wide and nationally.
- [Click here](#) to visit the Registration page.

OCTOBER 21, 2023: "Stop the Bleed" Training, AED/CPR, Basic First Aid Training

- Time: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- This class will provide basic instruction for "Stop the Bleed," AED/CPR and First Aid. Certification for these skills will not be offered, however this class will serve as the first step in achieving certification in any or all skills covered. Information on how to pursue certification will be shared at the event. Personal "Stop the Bleed" kits will be given to each LERT Chainsaw operator in attendance.
- This event will be located at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (5 S. 8th St., Louisburg, KS 66053)
- Registration: \$10 (send to Donna Williams, 5400 N. Ridge Rd., Halstead, KS 67056)
- The facilitator is Rev. Andy Keltner with local Fire/EMS personnel.
- [Click here](#) to visit the Registration page (deadline to register is Oct. 14).
- Contact: Donna Williams at ksddrc@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 28, 2023: Basic Chainsaw Safety & Operations, Olathe, KS

- Time: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Registration: \$25 (lcms-lert.org)
- Class limit is 10 participants.
- This event will take place at 14200 S. Pflumm Road, Olathe, KS 66062. Classroom, fieldwork and lunch will all take place at this residential site.
- [Click here](#) to visit the Registration page (deadline to register is Oct. 21).

NOVEMBER 12, 2023: Disaster Awareness for Individuals and Families of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

- Time: 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- This event will be located at King of Kings Lutheran Church (306 E. Madison, Gardner, KS 66030)
- Participants register by texting or calling Mark Trivilino, 913-209-9324.
- [Click here](#) to visit the Registration page.

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](#)).

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in
Christ's Mission





DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission

Connecting Students to Campus Ministries!

Our college students are now developing habits they may follow their entire college career. September is a great time to make a phone call or send a text to see if our students are taking care of their faith, and have connected with a local LCMS congregation. If not, a gentle, loving nudge from a concerned pastor or former teacher might just be a soul saving experience.

One Kansas congregation includes college students in their new member welcome banquet in September. This is a great way to introduce students to other church members, and integrate them into the life of the church!

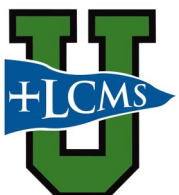
A Kansas college ministry leader recently heard this from a former Bible study attendee:

"I know I disappeared without a trace, but I wanted to see how you are doing and give you an update. The university I was attending was the right calling for me to start my journey, but it is no longer my path; I have transferred schools. I want to thank you for everything you did for me. You really helped me when I had no one, and I thank you for that...I love what you are doing. It really does make an impact!"

Our labor in the Lord is never in vain. Enjoy every conversation and moment you have with these dearly loved children of God!

Rev. Mark Boxman

Campus Ministry Coordinator, and senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina



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. Students: 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-wide Service Event, April 2024!

The LCMS Kansas District invites our congregations, schools, and RSOs to save the date for April 7, 2024, for the first annual **Faith at Work kick-off Sunday!** *Faith at Work (FAW)* 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.

Congregations, Schools, and RSOs: Watch your mail for a *Faith at Work* promotional packet coming your way in early September! Be sure to also check out the [Faith at Work page](#) on the District website for more details!

When you visit the *FAW* page, you will find the following information:

- ❖ **FAW Video** (produced by JAECreative, jae-creative.com)
- ❖ **FAW Basic Info Sheet** (overview of the District-wide service event)
- ❖ **FAW Project Ideas**
- ❖ **FAW More Info**

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



Jesus Door-2-Door

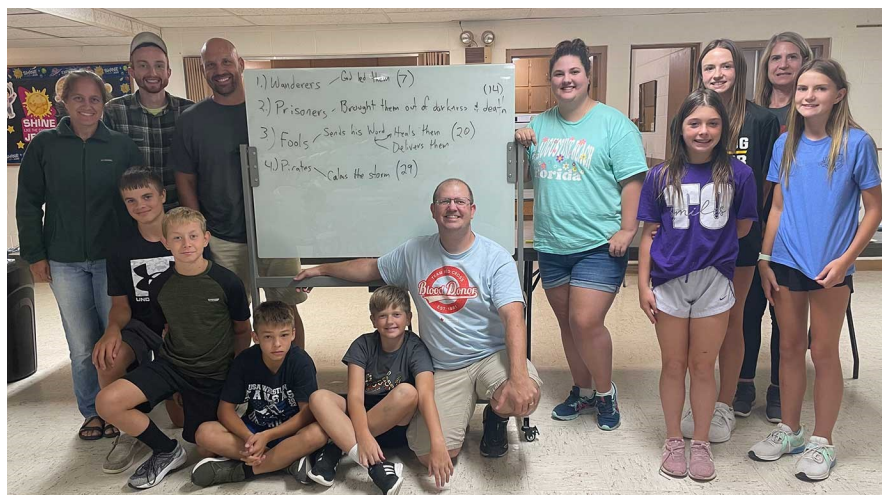
Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) is an evangelism program that teaches people how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and sends them out that same day to canvass the neighborhood (door-to-door) and put what they've learned into practice. Most JD2D events take place over a single day and are open to ALL PEOPLE (youth and adults) 6th grade and older. Activities which take place during a JD2D event include

singing, Bible study, training, food, canvassing, and debriefing. Jesus Door-2-Door events must be organized by only congregations and/or church plants, as Word and Sacrament ministry is utilized to feed, sustain, and strengthen faith through these activities.

If you would like to learn more and/or schedule a JD2D event, contact **Rev.**

Timothy Koch, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Linn, revtimkoch@gmail.com.

You can also visit the [Evangelism and Outreach page](#) on the District website for more information or www.jd2d.org and click on the "How to Plan a JD2D Event (FAQs)" tab.



▲ 14 people representing four different LCMS churches gathered at Zion Lutheran Church in Linn, Kan., for a JD2D event on Aug. 19, 2023. After a Bible study over Psalm 107, participants trained to share the gospel door-to-door. Five teams went out and knocked on 85 homes. 31 people agreed to take the survey, and 17 people were certain of their salvation in Jesus Christ.

Upcoming JD2D Events (2023-2024)

September 16, 2023, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City, KS

October 14, 2023, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, KS

November 11, 2023, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, KS

LCMS Kansas District

WEST
AFRICA
PARTNERSHIP



LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

West Africa Partnership

Supporting theological education
in Guinea and West Africa

So far, over \$25,000 has been received for the 2023 Pentecost Offering! These gifts will be used to continue supporting the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) Guinea seminary, as well as the provision of Lutheran education

and resources to the people of Guinea and West Africa. We thank and praise God for these blessings, and the generosity of Kansas District congregations and members!

Support is still needed for the ongoing operational costs for the Guinea seminary, and the 2023-2024 academic year. Please consider making a donation to the 2023 Pentecost Offering by mailing a check with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604) or making an online donation by visiting the [Guinea/West Africa page](#) on the District website. You will also find on the webpage a West Africa Partnership Updates insert, along with the May 2023 *Lutheran Witness* Kansas insert that highlights the West Africa Partnership.

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83rd LLL/LHM District Convention

The 83rd annual Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) Convention will be held Friday and Saturday, **November 3-4, 2023**. This year's convention will be hosted by LLL Region 3 at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita (6770 E. 34th St. N, Wichita, KS 67226).

A meet-and-greet hour is planned for Friday evening. Registration will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, with the convention beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending mid-afternoon.

The convention hotel will be Comfort Inn at 36th Street North and Rock Road (7856 E. 36th St. N, Wichita, KS 67226). Visit the [Kansas District LLL website](#) for more information and details.

Friendly Reminders!

Congregational Commitments

Every fall, congregations are given the opportunity to make a commitment to support our joint work in the Kansas District and the Synod for the upcoming year. **We appreciate your prayerful consideration of your 2024 commitment!**

Congregational commitment forms will be mailed to congregations at the end of September, along with an updated "Mission and Ministry" document and a 2023 Kansas District budget summary.

Please submit your 2024 form by **November 30 (January 15, 2024, at the latest)** in any of the following ways:

- Email/scan your form to **Shannon Fender** at shannon@kslcms.org or call 785-357-4441, ext. 1001. You can also fax your form to 785-357-5071.
- Mail your form to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604.

Kansas District Salary and Benefit Guidelines

The **2024 Kansas District Salary and Benefit Guidelines** are now posted on the [District Resources](#) page of our website. The guidelines provide congregations with an objective approach to developing a suitable compensation plan for church workers.

When using this year's guidelines, please pay special attention to the cover letter accompanying the guidelines, as the multiplier charts have been changed and additional information regarding benefits have been added.

If you have any questions about the guidelines, please call the Business Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1002, or email **Heather Williams** at heather@kslcms.org.

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. Mission grant application materials were mailed out to congregations in early August. The 2024 Mission Grant Application is also available on the District website, under the [Mission Funding](#) webpage. Contact **Janet Powell** at janet@kslcms.org with any questions. **Deadline: Friday, Sept. 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, or Heather Williams heather@kslcms.org.



Heather Williams, LCMS Kansas District Business Manager, shared a Planned Giving presentation at the Older Adult Ministry event on Aug. 26, 2023, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays.

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kslcms.org/staff

785-357-4441

1000 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604

Around the District

Welcome, Mrs. Goodpasture and Dr. Hoffman!



Rachel Goodpasture was installed as a commissioned member of the Kansas District Board of Directors on August 11, 2023. Rachel is a 2009 graduate of Concordia University, Nebraska where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She was called to serve as a teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Atchison, Kansas. In 2014, Rachel graduated from Fort Hays State University with a Master of Science in Education as a Reading Specialist. She served eight years as a teacher and several years as a volleyball coach at Trinity before she was given the opportunity to be a stay-at-home mom. She has served on various floor committees for the Kansas District Conventions and is also a member of the Parish Education Committee for the District. Although not teaching anymore, Rachel stays very involved in the parent/teacher group at Trinity, and she is a member of the Day School Committee. Rachel has been married to Adam for 10 years. They have three daughters.



Dr. Patricia (Patti) Hoffman has been appointed to serve as the School Ministry Coordinator for the Kansas District. Patti earned both her B.A. and M.A. in Education from Concordia University Chicago and a Ph. D. in Family Studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She served Lutheran schools in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and California as well as Concordia University Mequon, Concordia University Irvine, and Concordia University Chicago. Patti has served in positions from early childhood through doctoral students. She has been active at the congregational level serving on the board of directors, as well as the District and Synod levels. She has been a consultant for Concordia Publishing House curriculum and a national and international speaker. She has authored five children's books and numerous articles. Patti lives in Shawnee, Kan., where she is a member of Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park. She is employed part-time in the Early Education Center at Christ. In her spare time, Patti is an avid reader and traveler having visited all seven continents.



Pictured left to right, second- and third-grade teacher Whitney Howard, kindergarten- and first-grade teacher Mindy Sanders-Miller, principal and math/science teacher Harmon Butler and language arts/social studies teacher Rebecca Greene.

St. John Lutheran Church, Alma, celebrated the 150th year of their school on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023. Rev. Robert Grimm, pastor of St. John, baptized four students during the morning worship service. Kansas State Representative Kenny Titus presented a certificate commemorating the 150th anniversary. The faculty were installed for the 2023-24 school year, and St. John students shared in the celebration with singing.