

OCTOBER 2023 | [www.kslcms.org](http://www.kslcms.org)

# WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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*“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”*

*Ephesians 5: 8-10*



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



Rev. Luke Brown, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran in Ellsworth, with Comfort Dog Keren at the LLL/LHM booth.



Volunteers from Immanuel, Ellsworth, help out at the LLL/LHM booth.

## LLL/LHM at the Kansas State Fair!

The 2023 Lutheran Laymen’s League/Lutheran Hour Ministries State Fair booth was a success as volunteers interacted with many visitors and shared Bibles and Christian-themed materials for youth and adults. Many churches from across the Kansas District provided these materials, as well as volunteers to help with the booth.

The Sunday worship service was led by **President Rev. Justin Panzer**, on September 10. Music was provided by the choir from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. The Kansas State Fair was held Sept. 8-17. *We give praise and thanks to the Lord for the LLL/LHM presence at the fair!*



President Justin Panzer and the choir from Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, at the LLL Sunday worship service.



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

# PRE-LENT CONFERENCE

The Kansas District Pre-Lent Conference for pastors will be held **January 8-9, 2024**, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina (111 W. Magnolia Rd., Salina, KS 67401). The theme for the conference will be "The Relationship Between God and Nature, Helping Us to Understand Our Church's Response to it." The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz**, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo. Participants can arrive Sunday evening, January 7. There will be a Circuit Visitors and Region Vice-Presidents meeting on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. Please bring your copy of the *Lutheran Service Book*. Check the [homepage](#) of the Kansas District website for registration and a schedule coming soon. The registration deadline is January 2, 2024.

## President's Office

### October Devotion

**God speaks.** And in this speaking, He gives us instruction. He tells us what to do and what not to do. This "instruction" is none other than the commands of God. So, do we keep the commands of God? Our natural reason probably says something like this, "I tried my best."

But the truth of the matter of this; we are all lawbreakers. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:23). We simply can't dance around that little word "all." It goes all the way back to the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden. We inherited this natural sin when the moment our lives began at conception. To put it plainly, we are all guilty, and because we are all guilty, we deserve nothing but God's wrath, anger, and punishment.

Just about every error in the Christian church comes down to this — that we have a part to play in our salvation. Imagine for a moment you, yourself as a miserable rotten sinner before the eyes of God; you, with all of the filth and nastiness coming out of your heart and mind playing a part in your salvation before God. How wrong and Biblically untrue!

You see, the law exposes our sin. *"Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."* (Rom. 3:19-20). It silences our prideful, boastful mouth before God.

All of this means that you cannot save yourself. You cannot start, add to, or finish your salvation. What are we to do? This is the whole point — there's nothing to do. **Jesus did the saving.** He does **all** of the work. *"... justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation (atoning sacrifice) by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins"* (Rom. 3:24-25).

**Christ alone is good and perfect.** In His death, in His resurrection, He gives all of His perfection, righteousness, and innocence to you through the means of His Word and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ"* (Rom. 10:17). *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him"* (Rom. 6:3-9).

What a joy and gift this is as you are accepted by God without any merit or grace or work done on your own! He has done it all for you and gives it all to you by grace through faith. Jesus loves you that much. **All of our faith is in the One man, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** Lord, keep us steadfast in this saving Word and come soon! Amen.

# Calls and Vacancies

## PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. Steven Braun**, Risen Christ, Fairport, NY to Trinity, Leavenworth – declined

**Rev. Phil Cook**, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee to Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls, TX – declined

**Rev. Phil Cook**, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee to Trinity, Amarillo, TX – declined

**Rev. Simeon Cornwell**, Terre Haute, IN to Trinity, Burlington – declined

**Rev. Aaron Fenker**, Bethlehem and Immanuel, Bremen to St. Johns and St. Mark, Rushford, MN – pending

**Rev. James Kirschenmann**, Immanuel, Glenview, IL to Zion, Vassar – pending

**Rev. Eric Nelson**, St. Paul, Lester Prairie, MN to Messiah, Hays – declined

**Rev. Stephen Sweyko**, Christ Our Savior, Louisburg (associate) to Williamstown, Williamstown, VT – pending

## 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

## 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)
Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)	Leavenworth, Trinity (associate, seminary)	
Downs, Zion (sole)	Medicine Lodge, Trinity & Nashville, St. John (sole)	
Greenleaf, Bethlehem & St. Peter, Barnes (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)



**Rev. Brian Holle** was installed as pastor of St. Paul, Fairview and Zion, Hiawatha on Oct. 1, 2023. From left, Revs. Philip Wolf, Justin Panzer, Dr. Mark Schulz, Brian Holle, Christopher Gerdes, Michael Carney and Daniel Grams.

# Worker News



The opening Divine Service and teacher installations to begin the school year at **St. John's Classical Lutheran School, in Topeka.**

From left, (front row) Erin Grass, Andrea Kosmicki and Bethany Johnson were installed as teachers of St. John's Classical Lutheran School. From left, (back row) Rev. Nicholas Belcher, associate pastor of St. John's; Rev. Andrew Wright, senior pastor of St. John's and President Rev. Justin Panzer. Pastor Wright performed the installations, and Pastor Belcher assisted in the Divine Service. St. John's Classical Lutheran School began classes on September 6, 2023.



**The Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee** gathered at the Retreat Center in Herington on September 9, 2023, for their semi-annual planning meeting. Representatives include pastors, youth workers and adult & youth lay leaders from across the Kansas District.

# Worker News Cont.



The annual **Kansas District Principals Conference** was held Sept. 14-15, 2023, at the District Office in Topeka.



From left, (front row) Rev. Daniel Grams, Dr. Patti Hoffman, Dr. Alan Freeman, Becky Hillman, Karen Boettcher, Jim Bradshaw; (second row) Nancy Jankowski, Cindy Hammons, Amy Schultz, Julia Voss, Jane Limback; (third row) Harmon Butler, Chris Dehning, Dr. Steven Hobus; (back row) Kyle Erickson, Dan Snyder, Eric Pralle, Ben Lausman and David Beikmann.

## 2024 *Higher Things* Conferences for Youth!



Kansas District youth at the *Higher Things* Conference in San Antonio, Texas, July 2023.

Imagine walking into a chapel with 700+ youth, and there being silence. Reverent silence, waiting with those who believe in the same Lord, who will commune together in the Divine Service. Then the organ starts, and it is silent no more. Together your voices are raised, praising the God who died for you. You sing the liturgy and hymns of our church confessing the one faith in your Lord Jesus. In those young voices, you can hear the echoes of heavenly worship that last unto eternity.

What is *Higher Things*? It's a youth conference focused on worship and catechesis, consisting daily of 3-4 worship services, a plenary speaker, and breakout sessions where speakers talk about faith, life here on earth, and most importantly, Jesus. Also included are meals and fun activities.

*Higher Things* is a gathering where youth are catechized and connected with others who are like-minded. Young people learn during this time that they are not alone. There are others the same age as them who trust in Jesus, worship the same way, and confess the one true faith. Visit the *Higher Things* website <https://higherthings.org/events/who-am-i-2024> to learn more details about the conferences in 2024.

May God bless you all,

Rev. Christopher Craig

Kansas District *Higher Things* Coordinator, and pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove

### 2024 *Higher Things* Conference Dates & Locations

June 25-28 – Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI

July 16-19 – University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, AR

July 23-26 – Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR

# In Jesus' Name we pray...



## SPECIAL PRAYERS

**For Church Worker Appreciation Month**, we give thanks and praise to the Lord for all the LCMS church workers He has placed across the country, and around the world. We especially give thanks for the church workers who diligently serve in our Kansas congregations, schools, and RSOs. May God bring abundant blessings to their work, and give them strength and joy in serving others. In His Name, Amen.

**For all attending the Church Workers Conference**, we pray for a fruitful time of learning, worship, and fellowship with those from around the Kansas District. May the Lord grant safe travels to all attending, and through the conference provide insight in sharing the Good News with others. In His Name, Amen.

## OCTOBER PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. John Pool, pastor emeritus. Rev. Pool entered his heavenly rest Sept. 29, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Delmar Uffman, the father of Vickie Wingfield. Vickie is the wife of Rev. William Wingfield, pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Wellington. Delmar entered his heavenly rest Sept. 25, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Diana Maresko, the mother of Sharon Fries. Sharon is the principal of Bethany Lutheran School in Overland Park. Diana entered her heavenly rest Sept. 14, 2023.
- ❖ 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.

**Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues**, including Linda Grams, Rev. King Crawford, Evelyn Komm, Dr. Steven Hobus, Rev. Robert Grimm, Rev. Matthew Schneider, South Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. John Einem, 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 October:**

Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka – Oct. 2

Zion Lutheran Church, Linn; Linn Lutheran School Association – Oct. 9

St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincolville – Oct. 16

St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Wichita – Oct. 23

Calvary Lutheran Church, Wellington – Oct. 30

# OCTOBER EVENTS

## Out and About in Kansas

### OCTOBER Staff Travel Schedule

- Oct. 1 Preaching at Trinity Lutheran, **McFarland** (President Panzer)  
Preaching and Installation of Rev. Brian Holle (St. Paul, Fairview and Zion, Hiawatha), **Hiawatha** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Oct. 3-4 Rocky Mountain District Circuit Visitors presentation, **Colorado** (President Panzer)
- Oct. 7 Fairmount Ministries Pre-Call meeting, **Wichita** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Oct. 8-10 Kansas District Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross Lutheran, **Wichita** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Oct. 12 Sabbatical Presentation at Faith Lutheran, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Oct. 15 140th anniversary at Zion Lutheran, **Hillsboro** (President Panzer)
- Oct. 20 KDYG planning at Christ Lutheran, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Oct. 23-25 Seven Up Education Executives Conference, **Jacksonville, FL** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Oct. 27 School visit at Trinity Lutheran School, **Winfield** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Oct. 29 Circuit 8 Reformation Service at St. John Lutheran, **Alma** (President Panzer)

## Church Worker Appreciation Month!

According to the LCMS Synod website, there are over **11,000 church workers** serving in LCMS congregations and schools. During the **month of October** we thank all the dedicated workers who do so much to advance the Gospel! Here are just a few ways to thank pastors, teachers, deaconesses, DCEs, and other church workers:

- **Special notes** • **Video message** • **Support on social media** • **Pray**

Visit the [LCMS website](#) to learn more ways to show church workers how much they are appreciated. Also visit the [Church Worker Care Team](#) page on the District website for resources, such as the *Church Worker Care Team Manual*.

## 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 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 are available on the District website, under the [Mission Funding](#) page (under the "Missions" tab.)

## 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](mailto:larryboye@hotmail.com).

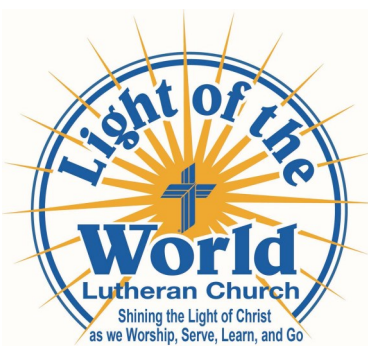
# OCTOBER EVENTS CONT.



Pictured are Rev. John Werner and Vicar Dr. Frank Johnson.

## Congratulations!

Zion Lutheran Church in Hillsboro will celebrate its 140th anniversary on **Sunday, October 15, 2023**. Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, president of Concordia University, St. Paul, will be the guest preacher at the 10:30 a.m. service. A catered meal will follow the service.



## Light of the World Lutheran Church Worship Services begin Sunday, Oct. 29!

worship services on **Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023**, at Cedar Crest Memorial Chapel (32665 Lexington Ave., De Soto, KS 66018). Fellowship time will be held from 9:15-9:45 a.m., followed by Bible study from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday worship will begin at 11:00 a.m.

To learn more about Light of the World Lutheran Church, visit their website at <https://lightoftheworldcms.org> or the Light of the World [Facebook page](#).

Spread the word! Light of the World Lutheran Church, a church plant in De Soto, will be starting

## LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

**October 5 - Middle School Committee**, Zoom, 1:00 p.m.

**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 meeting**, Christ Lutheran Church, 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.

**October 30 - Executive Committee meeting**, Zoom, 1:00 p.m.

**October 31 - 2024 District Service Projects meeting**, Zoom, 1:00 p.m.

**November 2 - KDYG meeting**, Hotel Topeka, 10:00 a.m.

**November 2 - President's Council**, District Office, Topeka, 1:00 p.m.

**November 3 - Board of Directors**, District Office, Topeka

**November 3-4 - LLL/LHM District Convention**, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## 2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering, 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 the praise team from Bethany, Overland Park will perform. There will also be a special Saturday after-hours concert featuring **FLAME** (*the concert is open only to Gathering participants.*)

This year’s KDYG offering will go towards *Set Apart to Serve*, the synodical initiative supporting students who will be entering church work programs at the university level. The KDYG offering will be going specifically towards students entering church work at Concordia University, Nebraska. The first \$1,000 of offerings received will be matched by an anonymous donor!

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 registration packet, pre-Gathering Bible studies, and a schedule.

## 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 at 7 p.m. Registration will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, with the convention beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. The convention hotel is Comfort Inn (7856 E. 36th St. N, Wichita, KS 67226). Visit the [Kansas District LLL website](#) to register.

## Concordia Academy - Wichita Concert Series



Concordia Academy - Wichita (CAW) will host the Concordia Concert Series on **Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** at the CAW campus (Immanuel Lutheran Church, 909 S. Market St., Wichita, KS 67211).

This year’s concert features **Dr. Jeffery Blersch**, head organist of Concordia University, Nebraska. Dr. Blersch will perform compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach on the historical pipe organ. A freewill donation will be taken at the door for the Concordia Academy Scholarship Fund.



## Save the Date! 2024 Life Conference

The Kansas District Life Conference will be held in conjunction with the March/Rally for Life on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024**.

The keynote speaker will be **Rev. Dr. Matthew Durance**, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Harbor Beach, Mich. The conference will be held at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka. Visit the [2024 Life Conference](#) page on the District website for more details to come!

## Save the Date!

### Saints Alive After 55 Conference



Mark your calendars for the 2024 Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55) conference **July 21-22, 2024**, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina (111 W. Magnolia Rd., Salina, KS 67401).

The theme for the conference is “What’s Love Got to Do with It” based on Matthew 22:36-39. The keynote speaker is **Rev. Cliff Winter**, and the Bible study leader is **Rev. Mark Boxman**.

## Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator

### **OCTOBER 8-10, 2023: Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS**

- Please stop by the LERT/Disaster Response vendor table at the Church Workers Conference!

### **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](mailto: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](https://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.

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](mailto: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!

The high school seniors who are planning to move away for college in the fall of 2024 have a lot on their minds – choosing a school, figuring out living arrangements, and completing scholarship applications. Making plans for taking care of their faith often gets lost.

Our congregation hosts an annual Sunday lunch for seniors, their parents, and the pastors every November. We discuss what it will be like to move to a new town and walk into a different church for the first time. We study the parable of faith getting choked out by the busyness of life. We interview a college student about their experience of attending a college Bible study.

A good resource for such discussions is the video on the Campus Ministry page, on the District website. Check out <https://kslcms.org/campus-ministry>.

May the Lord bless us as we lead our young people through this important transition in their lives so they may be strengthened and preserved in the true faith unto everlasting life.

### Rev. Mark Boxman

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



### Bethany, a college student, reflects on Campus Ministry in Kansas:

"Attending a weekly college group has been, by far, the most meaningful social group I've attended in college. Between the usual loneliness and homesickness that college students face, I was having bouts of insomnia that made the adjustment to college life all the more difficult. I remember that Sundays were the only day of the week that I looked forward to. In addition to hearing the Word and receiving the Sacrament, I had the chance to hang out with people outside of the classroom. The church has been an incredible blessing, and I highly recommend students connect with a local Lutheran church."

### Kansas District Youth Ministry: 2023-2024 Upcoming Events!

Stay in the loop! The Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee has created a document listing upcoming youth events for the 2023-2024 year.

These youth event listings can be found either on the [Youth Ministry](#) page of the District website, or by clicking [here](#).

### Concordia Plans 2024 Benefits

Don't forget to enroll for 2024 benefits with Concordia Plans. Workers can enroll in a 403(b) retirement savings plan, supplemental life insurance, and health, dental and vision benefits. Concordia Plans also encourages members to log in to their portals to access a variety of wellness solutions and to take advantage of useful retirement calculators.

Visit [ConcordiaPlans.org](https://ConcordiaPlans.org) to enroll in 2024 benefits.

# 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.

Visit the [Faith at Work page](#) on the District website and find the following information:

- ❖ **FAW Video** (produced by JAECreative, [jae-creative.com](http://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.



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.

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.



Pictured left to right, Revs. Joel Hiesterman, David Gruoner, Dean Christ and President Justin Panzer.

## Kansas District Mission Advocates

Three Kansas District Mission Advocates (Revs. Joel Hiesterman, David Gruoner and Dean Christ) are available to give presentations at Mission Festivals and/or Mission Sundays about the mission work being accomplished in the Kansas District, as well as the work in Guinea and West Africa.

Congregations interested in having a Mission Advocate give a presentation should contact Janet Powell at the District Office, [janet@kslcms.org](mailto:janet@kslcms.org) or 785-357-4441, ext. 2001.



Eight people from Zion Lutheran in Linn and Trinity Lutheran in Garden City gathered at Trinity for a Jesus Door-2-Door event on **Sept. 16, 2023**. After Bible study and witness training, participants traveled in three teams to canvass the area with the Gospel. The teams knocked on 76 homes, and 28 people took the survey. 50% of respondents were sure of salvation through Jesus Christ. 21% were unchurched, and one man requested a follow-up visit. **The next JD2D event will be Oct. 14, 2023, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran in Norton.** To learn more and/or schedule a JD2D event, contact **Rev. Timothy Koch**, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Linn, [revtimkoch@gmail.com](mailto:revtimkoch@gmail.com). Visit the [Evangelism and Outreach page](#) on the District website for more information.

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

## Topeka Lutheran School Items for Sale

Topeka Lutheran School will be having a liquidation sale **Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023**, at 701 SW Roosevelt, in Topeka. Items include, but are not limited to: Pre-K-8 curriculum, music, technology, P.E./athletic, classroom/office, furniture, religion, kitchen, preschool/daycare, 1996 Blue Bird 71 passenger school bus, etc. All library books are free. Church workers are invited to come 9-11 a.m. with a public sale 12-2 p.m. If you would like to view inventory prior to sale or have questions, contact Allison [lehmann726@msn.com](mailto:lehmann726@msn.com) (316-651-7795) or Marlene [foundation@topek Lutheran.org](mailto:foundation@topek Lutheran.org) (785-357-1468). Reasonable offers may be accepted and can be made by cash or check.

## LWML Womens Retreat Saturday, March 2, 2024

The Holy Cross LWML will host its annual Womens Retreat from **8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2, 2024**, at Holy Cross, Wichita (600 N. Greenwich Rd., Wichita, KS 67206).

The retreat theme is "Promised Rest" based on Psalm 91:1-2. The keynote presenter will be speaker, podcast host and Concordia Publishing House author **Michelle Diercks**. Be on the lookout for more details to come!

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of August 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](https://lcef.org) for details.

# Friendly Reminders!

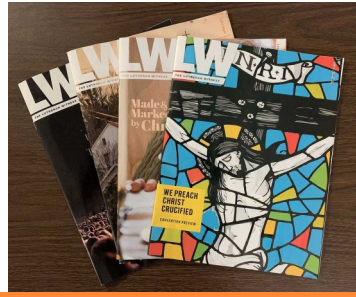
## Congregational Commitments

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!**

Please watch the mail for your congregational commitment form in early October, 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](mailto: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 Office, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104.



## Lutheran Witness Billings

Billing statements for 2023-2024 *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions will be mailed to all subscribing congregations the first week in October. Congregations: Be sure to watch your mail for the statements!

Payment is due to the District Office no later than **December 31, 2023**. Include a [remittance voucher](#) with payment, noting the check is for *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions.

Make checks payable to the LCMS Kansas District and send to **LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104, Attn: Shannon Fender**.

*\*Please note that no additional additions or cancellations will be taken for this subscription year. You can, however, still make address changes.*

If you need to update an address on your subscription list, please contact **Shannon Fender** at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001 or [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org) for a change form.

## 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).

## Kansas District Salary 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](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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District President

**Rev. Daniel Grams**  
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**  
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Business Office/Stewardship

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

**Mike Grau**  
Archivist

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Campus Ministry Coordinator

**Dr. Patti Hoffman**  
School Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Ian Kinney**  
Life Coordinator

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**Jane Limback**  
Accreditation

**Amy Schultz**  
Early Childhood Consultant

**Donna Williams**  
Disaster Response Coordinator

## CONTACT US

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

785-357-4441

1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604

## Around the District



From left, (front row) Rev. Theodore Cook Sr., pastor of Zion, Pittsburg; Ashley Kmiec, Vie Medical Executive Director Francis Oldweiler and Vie Nurse Manager Amanda Lehman, RN. From left, (back row) Rev. Caleb Stoeber, pastor of Immanuel, Hepler, and Good Shepherd, Erie; Debbie Lehman, Joyce Hagemann and Rev. Michael Hofmann, pastor of Trinity, Girard.

Representatives of the three Crawford County LCMS congregations presented a check for \$10,000 to Vie Medical Clinic, a pregnancy resource center in Pittsburg, Kansas, on **August 21, 2023**. The three churches (*Immanuel, Hepler; Trinity, Girard; and Zion, Pittsburg*) raised \$5,000 through the offering at their joint Ascension service in May; freewill offerings after church services and suppers; serving food at auctions; and serving a weekly community lunch. The \$5,000 was matched by the LCMS Million Dollar Life Match.

The funds will go toward supplying paper for the sonogram machine, specialized sanitizing supplies for the machines, pregnancy tests and other services. Vie Medical Clinic has also purchased new banners to use at community events like baby showers and health fairs. Other plans include purchasing updated educational posters of anatomy and babies for use in the clinic.



**36 middle school youth and adult leaders** participated in the annual District Confirmation Retreat at the Wheat State Retreat Center in Augusta, **September 29-30, 2023**. The Confirmation Retreat was led by Rev. Michael Ada (*Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe*), Rev. Michael Hageman (*Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City*) and Rev. Christian Schultz (*First Lutheran Church, Paola*). **Thanks to all for their organization and leadership!**