



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

August 2023

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

Second Quarter Meetings and Events. Events over the second quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, service boards, and various committees; assigned as Vice-Chair of Floor Committee #6 – Pastoral Formation for 68th Regular Synod Convention; Kansas Delegate Zoom, Floor Committee weekend, and Synod Convention; De Soto church plant meeting/Foundry meeting; Salary Review, KSD Audit meetings, and multiple Circuit Winkel visits.

Ordinations and Installations. There were six pastoral installations in the second quarter (Revs. Joshua Woelmer, Trinity, Paola; Mark Gaschler ordination/installation, Immanuel, Linn; Jason Toombs, Grace, Liberal & Peace, Beaver, OK; Mark Mozeik, St. John's, Meade; Daniel Jordan Martinez ordination/installation, associate, Trinity, Mission & Shawnee – deployed to Jesus el Buen Pastor, Kansas City, MO; Nicholas Belcher ordination/installation, associate, St. John's, Topeka).

Visits/Travel. In the second quarter President Panzer drove 8,778 miles as he traveled to installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the second quarter there were 10 calling congregations in the Kansas District, with eight churches seeking a sole pastor and two an associate/assistant. Eight call lists were completed in the past quarter.

Education & Youth

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

Lutheran Schools. Six congregations/schools are currently involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion: Emporia, Messiah (DCE); Overland Park, Bethany (DCE); Overland Park, Christ (DCE); Garden City, Trinity (DCS); Atchison, Trinity (Principal for 2024-25), and Manhattan, St. Luke's (DCE). Five congregations are exploring the possibility of starting a Lutheran school in their community. A LCMS *Genesis Project* consultant is working with one congregation (Faith, Ottawa), Jim is working with two congregations, and three more have begun initial steps. Topeka Lutheran School Association officially ceased operations on June 30. The St. John's, Topeka voter's assembly voted on June 11 to authorize their church council to take final steps in creating the St. John's Classical Lutheran School. The voter's assembly also approved pursuing hiring one full-time and two part-time teachers. The school will open on Sept. 6.

Youth Ministry. 104 youth and 12 adults attended Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR), June 4-9 in Colorado. The Middle School Confirmation Retreat will be Sept. 29-30 in Augusta, and the 2023 District Youth Gathering will be Nov. 17-19 in Topeka. *Higher Things*, a RSO of the Synod, held conferences and retreats this summer in Illinois (July 18-21) and Texas (July 25-28). The LCMS Youth Gathering will be held July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans. Debbie Dennett (Winfield) will be the lead District Coordinator and Karen Thurnau (Wichita) will assist. DCE Brian Amey (Holy Cross, Wichita) has formed a *YouthLead* team of five youth and two adult leaders. Applications are being accepted for new leaders.

Older Adult Ministry. Over 50 attended the Saints Alive After 55 event, July 16-17 at Christ the King in Salina. A third older adult event will take place at Messiah, Hays on Saturday, August 26.

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

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Financial Update

- Through June 2023, LCEF Kansas District has **25** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$17,539,605**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **1,686** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$59,712,720**
- **4.5%** of LCMS Kansas District members are investors.

Activity in the Kansas District. Loans approved this quarter include Bethlehem, Bremen (\$60,000 for new church siding) and Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove (\$34,000 for new AC installation in two buildings).

LCEF Business Notes. LCEF Operating Revenue - funding received from 2022 LCEF Fiscal Year is \$81,478. LCEF has approved a full payout again in 2023. LCEF loan rates are increasing slightly with the increase in investment rates. 18-month fixed-rate term note is at 5.0%.

Church Worker Loan Pool. Generate a pool of funds to offer below-market interest rates for all loan products that LCEF offers exclusively to rostered church workers (commissioned and ordained) which presently includes residential mortgage, home equity, debt consolidation and education consolidation loans. LCEF intends to raise a total of \$250 million. Investment rates: 5 years – 0.500%; 8 years – 1.000%; 10 years – 1.250%.

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

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

Property. District Office – The lease contract with St. John’s Lutheran Classical School for use of the first-floor space at the District Office is being worked through. The fire code was passed with the replacement of one fire door in the basement and some sheetrock reinforcement, which St. John’s is completing at their expense. Both the District Office and St. John’s are having their insurance policies adjusted to meet the necessary requirements of the school meeting at the office. School will begin Sept. 6. Students will begin their day at St. John’s for drop-off and chapel, eat lunch and have recess at St. John’s, and conclude their day at St. John’s for pick-up and after-school care. Students and teachers will use the first-floor restroom facilities at the District Office when having their classes, and basement plumbing has been worked on to make the restrooms available for District staff use, and meetings in the basement.

Retreat Center – There is cracking in the walls and could indicate a foundation issue. This will be looked over in the next couple of months. There is a steady stream of reservations during the summer, and many nights booked in the fall.

Accounting/Finances. Congregational giving is beyond year-to-date commitments and came in at 53.76% of budget. Expenses are reported at 49.29% of budget. There is a positive gain in net assets despite it being a Synod Convention year. \$240,000 was awarded from the Herren Fund Grant Committee and \$200,000 from the Kansas District Board Designated Fund to KSD congregations, schools, and RSO recipients. The January 15, 2023, audited financial statements are now available under Business Resources on the District website. The Kansas District received an unqualified (clean) audit opinion and no management comments.

Planned Giving. Planned Giving presentations are scheduled for the Older Adult Ministry event on Aug. 26 at Messiah, Hays, and Zion, Linn, on Aug. 27. There will also be Planned Giving presentations at the Joint Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross, Wichita, Oct. 8-10.

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Kansas District Website. Website projects for this quarter included adding the new *Faith at Work* video and promotional materials to the *Faith at Work* District-wide service project page; creating a new page for the Joint Church Workers Conference, Oct. 8-10 with registration materials; updating the KDYG and Confirmation Retreat pages with registration materials; adding a new section “Calling a Commissioned Worker” with documents under “President’s Office, Congregation Resources”; creating a new section under “Missions, Evangelism/Outreach” for Jesus Door-2-Door events, and creating a new section under Communications for President Panzer’s *Workers Together* monthly devotions.

Social Media. The Kansas District Social Media Policy, approved by the Kansas District Board of Directors in May, was posted on the website under “Communications,” along with a social media guidelines document highlighting key points from the Social Media Policy for those using the District social media platforms to keep in mind. These guidelines were also added to the information section of the Kansas District Facebook page.

Lutheran Witness Kansas Insert. An e-blast was sent out to the Kansas District in early July to promote and encourage individuals to subscribe to the *Lutheran Witness* through their congregations in order to receive the Kansas LW insert. This announcement was also posted on the District Facebook page and in the August WT.

Workers Together. Highlights from this quarter (the months of June and July were combined) included ongoing worker installations, events/conferences around the District, a Herren Grant fund distributed page, Campus Ministry highlights, and *Faith at Work* articles.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The Board of Missions reviewed the second quarter mission grant reports. Some highlights included Hispanic ministry with Immanuel, Kansas City, college ministry, Lord of Life, Leawood launching their new website, and Redeemer, Olathe partnering with KansaSEED to continue reaching out to the deaf community and having a once-a-month church service for deaf residents at the Good Samaritan Center.

Mission Grant Materials. The Board of Missions reviewed the initial Mission Grant letter, the 2024 Mission Grant Application, and the Award and Denial letters. Materials will be mailed out in early August, and the deadline to return Mission Grant Applications to the District Office is Sept. 22, 2023.

Church Planting/Revitalization. There was a report on the Light of the World church plant in De Soto, and their website will be going live soon. The goal is to begin worship services starting Oct. 15. There will be an upcoming meeting with those LCMS congregations in Linn, Kan., to discuss becoming a support to the Zion, Concordia church plant.

Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

Reports. Eight of nine District schools are fully KESA accredited. Topeka Lutheran School officially closed June 30, and St. John’s Classical Lutheran School is scheduled to begin classes Sept. 6. Over 100 attended Lutheran Valley Retreat. Faith, Ottawa is working with a consultant for a potential school start-up; St. Luke’s, Manhattan, and Trinity, Salina, are looking to start the *Genesis Project* to assess demographics and opportunities. Three other congregations are engaged in discussions about potential school start-ups.

Business. Approve the School Ministry and Youth Ministry Coordinator position descriptions, and position descriptions for the District National Lutheran School Accreditation Commissioner and the District Early Childhood Consultant. There was also discussion over investigating scholarship opportunities available to students in District schools through the State of Kansas Tax credit for low-income students’ scholarship program. A number of resolutions regarding these topics were passed by the Board of Education & Youth, to go before the Board of Directors.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Reports. The Church Worker Care Committee is working to increase awareness. The Older Adult Ministry has three regional events – Kansas City area event; Saints Alive After 55, July 16-17; Older Adult event, Aug. 26. The 2024 Kansas District Life Conference and March for Life will be Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

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

Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

Business. Congregational giving has been good so far this year, with 53.76% having been received of the annual budget. It was noted that *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions have been decreasing, and this year there was a 60% price increase. The Board of Stewardship reviewed the 2024 draft budget, to be presented to the Board of Directors the Aug. 11 meeting. Beautiful Savior, Olathe, has developed a task force for the De Soto church plant, with representatives from seven LCMS congregations. Planned Giving presentations continue around the District, with two presentations scheduled in August and the Joint Church Workers Conference in October. The Scholarship and Education Loan Committee met in June and awarded \$45,194 to 19 students. The committee will meet again in September for the Education Loan Repayment.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

The Board of Administration moved, seconded, and passed the following resolution to go before the Board of Directors:

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

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from April 16, 2023, to July 15, 2023, in the amount of **\$5,392.17**.

Reports. The financial results are positive for this year, even with it being a Synod Convention year. \$240,000 was awarded from the Herren Grant fund, plus \$200,000 from the Kansas District Board Designated Fund. The Kansas District audit report from the Internal Audit Department of the LCMS was positive, and no problems were found.