

**In
This
Issue**

- ❖ Pre-Lent Conference / p. 2
- ❖ Church Workers Conference highlights and photos / p. 5
- ❖ Kansas District Youth Gathering, Nov. 17-19 / p. 7

Regular Features

November Devotion	2
Calls and Vacancies	3
Worker News	4-5
Prayer Requests	6
November Events	7-8
Upcoming Events	8
District Ministry News	9-10
Friendly Reminders, Synod & Partners	13
Around the District	14

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2: 6-7



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

NOVEMBER 2023 | www.kslcms.org

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District



Church Workers Conference

October 8-10, 2023

The 2023 Joint Church Workers Conference was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita, Oct. 8-10. The theme was “Let There Be Light” based on John 1:4-5. The keynote speaker was **Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger**, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. See page 5 for more highlights and photos. *Special thanks to all who helped plan and organize the Church Workers Conference!*





Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

PRE-LENT CONFERENCE

The Kansas District Pre-Lent Conference for pastors will be held **Jan. 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.

Visit the [homepage](#) of the Kansas District website to register and find a schedule. The registration deadline is January 2, 2024.

President's Office

November Devotion

"Jesus also said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'" Luke 16:1-2

You are a manager of the things that God entrusts to your care. By virtue of your Baptism into the Name of Christ, you are His own with "response-abilities" as a child in His Kingdom.

We are all managers, not owners. To use the term we might be more familiar with, we are all stewards, and everything that fills our lives, all the things which we call ours, are not really ours, they are God's. God owns everything. He puts things in our care for a time, but they are His.

What does it mean to be a good steward of the things that God has entrusted to your care? It could be anything, from how you take care of your toys or clothes, to how you take care of your house or car, to what it is that you generously give back to God because of what He has first given to you.

If everything is a gift from God, then it matters what you do with that gift. In the parable, the dishonest manager uses his potential profit shrewdly. Knowing that he would not be around to collect his commission, he forgave that debt to all his master's debtors, and in that way, when he lost his job, there would be many people who owed him a favor. The master couldn't complain. Because the debtors had received this partial forgiveness as a gift, they were grateful for the generosity of both the master and the manager.

This is the only mercy that we have to cling to. It's not that we deserve to be forgiven, but that God sent His Son to die for our sin and be raised for our salvation on the Third Day. The message of Good News is that God does have mercy on us for Jesus' sake. This Good News is poured out abundantly upon us in the waters of Baptism. Christ gives you His body and blood to eat and drink where the forgiveness of sins is granted personally to you and me.

But it doesn't stop there! Not only does God forgive us, He also gives us grace to change our old ways. He gives each and every one of us new and fresh starts in our Baptisms. As we hear His Word through worship, devotion, and Bible study; as we feast on His Sacrament, He gives Himself to us in such a way that we begin to live in a new way — His way — following the Savior on the way to heaven. By paying the price for us — not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death — Jesus has freed us from sin and death and liberated us from the idolatries of life.

As God has blessed us in so many ways, everywhere we look there are needs to respond to with God's gifts. Think of how your generosity impacts the sharing of the Gospel of Christ. It provides for the preaching and administration of the Sacraments. It funds the Lutheran education of our children. It supports the work of local, national, and international mission opportunities. It provides for the education of future church workers. Your gifts also enable the Kansas District to continue our support of you in the mission that Christ has given us to do.

We live only by the mercies of God. We love and give only because He first loved and gave to us. Redeemed by Jesus, we belong to Him — body and soul — forever. **As forgiven sinners, we respond to the Word of the Lord with joy, knowing that only He is our source of life.**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

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

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

Rev. Caleb Schewe, St. John's, Monticello, IA to St. Peter's, Barnes & Bethlehem, Greenleaf – pending

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

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Ryan Ankersen, Good Shepherd, Fremont, NE to Holy Cross, Wichita – accepted, installation pending

Rev. Dr. Jerry Brownlee, Emeritus to Trinity, Holton – accepted, installation Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

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, Ascension (associate)
Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)	Leavenworth, Trinity (associate,	Wichita, Risen Savior (associate,
Downs, Zion (sole)	seminary)	seminary)
Greenleaf, Bethlehem &	Medicine Lodge, Trinity & Nashville,	
St. Peter's, 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 William Prann, Candidate, Phoenix, AZ to St. Luke's, Manhattan – pending



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



Rev. Daniel Grams was installed as district executive assistant to the president for Congregational and School Services during the Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross, Wichita, on Oct. 8, 2023. Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District president, performed the installation.



Educators celebrating service milestones were recognized at the Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross, Wichita, on Oct. 9, 2023. From left (years in parentheses), Kristi Schkade (25), Tina Davis (5), Whitney Howard (10), Shannon Manley (5), Jacob Kelly (5) and Janet Begley (35).



Pastors celebrating ordination anniversaries were recognized at the Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross, Wichita, on Oct. 9, 2023. From left (years in parentheses), (front row) Revs. Kevin DeHope (15), Matthew Jennings (15), Andrew Wehling (30), Marty Reed (30), Timothy Gordish (25), David Meier (45), Dr. Jerome Brownlee (50), Troy Slater (20), Aaron Fenker (10), Alan Stahlecker (30), Justin Panzer (20); (back row) Revs. Michael Apfel (5), Michael Hofmann (5), Philip Hoppe (20), Luke Jacob (15), Thomas Thierfelder (30), Scott Snow (40), Stanley Palmer (10), Benjamin Ockree (10), David Ersland (40) and Adam Reichart (20).

Worker News Cont.

Church Workers Conference October 8-10, 2023

Highlights and Photos



Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District president, leads the Morning Prayer.



Over 250 church workers attended the 2023 Joint Church Workers Conference at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wichita.



From left, Jim Bradshaw (district executive assistant, Education and Youth), Elaine Whiteneck and Jenn Eickman at the *Faith at Work* vendor table.



Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was the conference keynote speaker.



Educator Tina Lenz gives a presentation on the joy in learning.



Rev. Michael Schmidt, pastor of Peace Lutheran, Natoma, and First Lutheran, Plainville, gives a presentation over preaching 1 Thessalonians. There were 38 breakout sessions during the conference.

In Jesus' Name we pray...



SPECIAL PRAYERS

For the raising up of future church workers, we pray for the Holy Spirit to stir hearts for ministry and prayerfully consider a vocation in church work, whether it be young people or those considering a second career. May the Lord equip those going into church work to boldly share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. In His Name, Amen.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks to the Lord for the loved ones in our lives. We also give thanks for the work of our congregations, schools and RSOs in the Kansas District. May we give thanks and praise to God everyday for His abundant blessings. In His Name, Amen.

NOVEMBER PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Wayne Bottemuller, the husband of Donna Bottemuller. Donna is the preschool director at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Kan. Wayne entered his heavenly rest Oct. 30, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Donald Schwark, the father of Lynnette Boxman. Lynnette is the wife of Rev. Mark Boxman, senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina. Donald entered his heavenly rest Oct. 9, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. John Pool, pastor emeritus. Rev. Pool entered his heavenly rest Sept. 29, 2023.
- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. John Niermann, pastor emeritus. Rev. Niermann entered his heavenly rest Sept. 28, 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.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including Melody Maki, Rev. Dale Dumperth, Barbara Mozeik, Rev. Jim Mayes, 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. Philip and Jaimee Hoppe (son Ezekiel William, Oct. 31), and Rev. CJ and Katie Luttinen (daughter Lyla Grace, July 27).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in November:

Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson – Nov. 6

St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln & St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lincoln – Nov. 13

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton – Nov. 20

Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle & Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley – Nov. 27

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

NOVEMBER Staff Travel Schedule

- Nov. 1 School visit at Good Shepherd, **Marysville** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 2 2024 EC Summer Conference planning at Our Saviour, **Kansas City** (Jim Bradshaw)
KDYG planning at **Hotel Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 2-3 President's Council, Board of Directors, **Topeka** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Nov. 4 83rd LLL Convention presentation at Risen Savior, **Wichita** (President Panzer)
- Nov. 5 Official Visitation at Immanuel, **Norton** (President Panzer)
Planned Giving presentation at Trinity, **Garden City** (Heather Williams)
- Nov. 7 DCE Cluster at Christ, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 8 School visit at Hope, **Shawnee** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 9 2024 Church Worker Conference planning at the District Office, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 11 Professional Development Committee training at the District Office, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 12-16 Council of Presidents at Concordia University Irvine, **CA** (President Panzer)

(Continued on Next Page)

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](#) for more information.

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.

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 nsynodical 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!

Beginning Nov. 1 late registration increases 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.

NOVEMBER EVENTS CONT.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER Staff Travel Schedule Continued

- Nov. 15 School visit at Concordia Academy, **Wichita** (Jim Bradshaw)
- School visit at Faith, **Derby** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 17 Kansas District Youth Gathering, **Topeka** (President Panzer)
- Nov. 17-19 Kansas District Youth Gathering, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Nov. 19 Preaching at Light of the World worship service, **De Soto** (President Panzer)
- Nov. 21 Circuit 2 Winkel at St. Luke's Disciple Garden, **Kansas City** (President Panzer)
- Nov. 26 Preaching at Trinity, **McFarland** (President Panzer)
- Nov. 27-30 Office of National Mission (ONM) meetings, **St. Louis** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Nov. 29 School visit at Christ, **Overland Park** (Jim Bradshaw)

Organist Workshop Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023

Nov. 11, 2023, at the Sandrock Music Company location (1705 N. 600 Road, Baldwin City, KS 66006).

The workshop will be presented by **Dr. David Pickering**, Professor of Organ and Music Theory and Chair of the Keyboard Division at K-State University. Dr. Pickering will share his knowledge and expertise of playing the organ for worship, from basic stop combinations and playing techniques to easy creative hymn introductions and techniques.

This is a free event, and lunch/refreshments will be provided. RSVP by emailing keith@sandrockmusic.com or call/text 913-940-3766. The deadline to RSVP is November 8th.



Holy Cross LWML Womens Retreat

The Holy Cross LWML will host its annual Womens Retreat from **8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on 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**.

Life MINISTRY 2024 District Life Conference

LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

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 to register and find more details!

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

November 13-16 – Council of Presidents, Irvine, CA

November 14 – Saints Alive After 55, Zoom 10:00 a.m.

November 17-19 – Kansas District Youth Gathering, Hotel Topeka at City Center, Topeka

November 22 – District Office closes at 2:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving

November 23-24 – District Office closed for Thanksgiving

November 28 – Older Adult Ministry, Zoom 10:00 a.m.

November 30 – District Youth Ministry Committee, Zoom 1:00 p.m.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News



Donna Williams, Kansas District Response Disaster Coordinator, at the Disaster Response/LERT vendor table at the Church Workers Conference, Oct. 8-10, 2023.

ON THE CALENDAR

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. Visit the [District website](#) and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](#), and [LERT – Northeast Kansas](#)).

Light of the World – Worship Services Have Begun!

Spread the word! Light of the World Lutheran Church, a church plant in De Soto, is holding Sunday worship services at Cedar Crest Memorial Chapel (32665 Lexington Ave., De Soto, KS 66018).

Fellowship Time – 9:15 a.m.

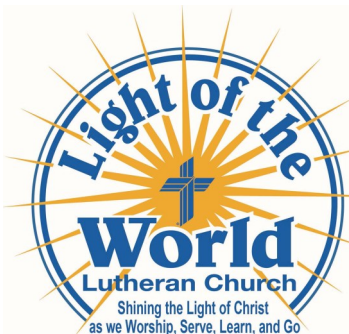
Bible Study – 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

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

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission





DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission



Connecting Students to Campus Ministries!

We have some Kansas congregations doing wonderful campus ministry and serving our young people faithfully, lovingly, sacrificially, and joyfully. Thanks be to God!

While seeking their education many of our dearly loved college students are bombarded with ungodly and worldly philosophies. May the Lord watch over them and make them bold and faithful as were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were enrolled at the "University of Babylon."

We pray: Gracious Lord, we thank You that You have taught our young people what You would have them to believe and do. Help them by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to hold fast Your Word in the hearts You have cleansed that they may be strong in faith, comforted in all trials, and zealous to let Your Light shine. Sustain all campus ministries to Your glory and the benefit of our precious young adults. Have mercy upon us. Amen.

Rev. Mark Boxman

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



Christopher, a college student, discusses Campus Ministry in Kansas:

"Fellowship with other college students has provided me with a strong support system of other like-minded Lutherans who have dealt with many of the same difficulties that exist for Christians at a secular university...[My] friends empathize with my struggles and provide their own perspective. I rejoice that we confess the same washing and forgiveness of sin, joining us together in the family of God which we will see come to its fulfillment on the Last Day."

Check out the Campus Ministry page on the District website: <https://kslcms.org/campus-ministry>.

You can also watch the Campus Ministry video on the [Kansas District YouTube channel!](#)

Concordia Plans

Open Enrollment Nov. 1-17

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 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 to enroll in 2024 benefits.

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](#).

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 Timeline**
- ❖ **FAW Video** (produced by JAEcreative)
- ❖ **FAW Basic Info Sheet**
- ❖ **FAW Project Ideas**
- ❖ **FAW More Info**



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

You can also watch the *Faith at Work* Video on the [Kansas District YouTube channel!](#)

(produced by JAEcreative, jae-creative.com)

Prayer for Service

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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 or 785-357-4441, ext. 2001.

Mission Trip Opportunity: Youth Retreat Team in Peru! February 14-19, or February 14-21, 2024

Help the LCMS Peru mission generate momentum in connecting youth with the church. Our team will assist the local church-planting team put on an offsite weekend retreat for high school aged youth. This will be a fun event, full of fellowship and study of God's word. The option to stay on for an additional two days for tourism is presented to the team.

Team size will be 4-11 people. Team responsibilities include set up/clean up, snack and meal prep, games/crafts/activities, and music. Cost is \$900 per person, plus airfare.

This trip is organized through the LCMS Office of International Mission and coordinated through our partner church pastors and deaconesses.

Interested persons can contact Shanna Hageman from Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City, Kansas, at 407-416-8782.



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**.

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.

DISCOVER A LIMITED-TIME INVESTMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU AND THE LCMS

5%

18-MONTH FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE

The **NEW 5% 18-month fixed-rate term note** is perfect for anyone who loves The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and wants to see its ministries thrive.

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you earn a competitive interest rate, and you can feel good knowing your investment supports LCMS churches, schools, organizations and church workers.

At LCEF, we call that Lutherans helping Lutherans.

Invest today to join thousands of Lutherans honoring their values and commitment to strengthen, sustain and start LCMS ministries. New money only.

Start today at lcef.org/values.



 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
where investments build ministry

JEFFREY MALTZ
LCEF District Vice President | Kansas & Oklahoma
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. Rates as of August 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

Friendly Reminders!



Lutheran Witness Billings

Billing statements for 2023-2024 *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions were mailed to all subscribing congregations the first week in October.

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 for a change form.

Synod & Partners



Media kits are available for congregational use, in reaching out to local communities this Advent season. These free kits may be personalized with a local parish's information about their Advent and Christmas services. Included in the kits are a newspaper opinion editorial and advertisement, a Facebook advertisement, social media shareables, and post/note cards. **Visit the [LCMS Resources](#) webpage to access the media kits!**

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 were mailed 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 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.

As the end of 2023 approaches, the [2023 Year-End Checklist](#) is available for congregational treasurers.

You can click on the provided link to access the checklist or find it on the [District Resources](#) page of the District website.

Please note that the end of the 2023 fiscal year is on January 12, 2024. Anything received in the District office after January 12 will be posted to the 2024 fiscal year.



The LCMS is intentionally working to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return. *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* is an initiative encouraging people to consider church work vocations.

Newly developed resources were launched in September for church work recruitment. Included are promotional resources as well as resources for pastors, church workers, laity and parents. **Visit the [Set Apart to Serve](#) page on the LCMS website to learn more!**

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Justin Panzer
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
Administrative Assistant
Business Office/Stewardship

Janet Powell
Administrative Assistant
Schools/Missions/LCEF

Mike Grau
Archivist

COORDINATORS

Rev. Mark Boxman
Campus Ministry Coordinator

Dr. Patti Hoffman
School Ministry Coordinator

Rev. Ian Kinney
Life Coordinator

Lottie Lee
Professional Development Coordinator

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



Rev. Daniel Grams (fifth from the left) executive assistant to the Kansas District President for Congregational and School Services, attended the New Education Executives Training at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis on September 29, 2023. District education executive James Bradshaw (second from the left) assisted in the training.



Jesus Door-2-Door

20 people representing three LCMS congregations gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton for a JD2D event on **Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023**. After a study on Isaiah 6 and the hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (LSB 621) the group trained in canvassing and gospel witnessing methods. After lunch, six teams comprised of 14 people went canvassing. The teams knocked on 127 doors. 44 people took the survey, 24 of whom were certain of their salvation because of Jesus. 15 of 44 people surveyed (34%) were initially unfamiliar with Immanuel Lutheran Church, but now know of Immanuel! 13 of 44 people (29.5%) were entirely unchurched. One individual desired a follow-up visit. **The next JD2D event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina.**

To learn more and/or schedule a JD2D event, contact **Rev. Timothy Koch**, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Linn, revtimkoch@gmail.com. Visit the [Evangelism and Outreach page](#) on the District website for more information.