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WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District

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“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

Titus 3:5-6



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



Kansas District Youth Gathering
November 17-19, 2023

The 2023 Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) was held Nov. 17-19 in Topeka. The theme was “Re:New, Re:Deem, Re:Store!” based on Isaiah 43:19. The keynote speaker was author and poet **Tanner Olson**. There was also a special after-hours Saturday night concert for Gathering participants featuring Lutheran rapper **FLAME**. See page 6 for more photos and highlights.

Special thanks to all who helped plan and organize the Kansas District Youth Gathering!



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

December Devotion

Christmas is all about what God has done and is now doing for us. His Son's birth in the flesh is a "new genesis" for us. This is why John's Gospel starts out: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14).

In the flesh of Jesus, God has made a new beginning, a new world, a new creation that is not subject to decay and death. Christ's death and resurrection in the flesh broke the curse of sin and brought life and immortality to light.

Christmas is like a second Genesis. It is as if the very first day were happening all over again. God said, "Let there be light," and the light of the world was born. God the Son has entered into this world in order to make a new creation that will never pass away. He has done this so that we who are subject to the old order of things might be released from it and made to be participants in the new and eternal order of things.

It is only through the body of Jesus that this takes place. He who was once laid in a manger is the point of contact between the old and the new. **He is the only passageway from this fallen creation into life everlasting.**

Christ has come to make us His new creation. How? Paul answers that question in Titus 3:5 when he says that God saved us "by the washing of regeneration and renewal."

The word regeneration is especially significant. In the Greek, it literally means "genesis again." Through Baptism we are recreated, given a new life in Christ. We are made to share in the eternal blessings of the new world that Christ brings into being. God is at work, not only to wash away our sins but also to join us to Christ. He gives us the entrance to eternal life and new birth into the kingdom of God. As Jesus said in John 3:5: "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Christmas is the pattern of our salvation. God comes right down to where we are in order to save us. He doesn't go halfway and then require us to do the rest. He goes all the way, 100 percent, even to the point of becoming one of us. He descended to us in order that we may ascend with Him.

Christmas is all about God's doing. Even our entering into that new life through Baptism is entirely by the Lord's action. For just as we do not choose to be born, neither can we choose to be born again. It is entirely the working of the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

St. Paul concludes this section of Scripture in Titus 3 by stating, "The saying is trustworthy" (v. 8). The Word of God, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, is reliable. The same God who kept His promise to send a Savior to save and deliver us will surely keep the promises that He made to you in your Baptism. **God bless your worship of Him not only throughout the year, but especially during this season of Advent and Christmas!**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. David Behm, Concordia, Williston, ND to Trinity, Burlington – pending

Rev. Michael Hageman, TIG Partnership to St. Paul's, Cheney – declined

Rev. Benjamin Kaiser, Emmanuel, York, NE to St. Paul, Clay Center – pending

Rev. David Reber, St. Paul's, Enid, OK to Zion, Downs – declined

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

Rev. Brian Tuma, St. John's, Cordova, NE to St. Peter's, Barnes & Bethlehem, Greenleaf – pending

Rev. Kyle Whaley, Mt. Calvary, St. Ignatius, and Zion, Polson to St. John, Nashville & Trinity, Medicine Lodge – pending

Rev. Kyle Winter, The Church at Creston Lutheran, Kalispell, MT to Messiah, Hays – declined

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

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

Jaron Melin, Candidate to Herington Partnership – ordination Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, at Holy Cross, Wichita; installation Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Our Redeemer, Herington, at 3:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Arkansas City, Redeemer (sole)	Hays, Messiah (sole)	Vassar, Zion (sole)
Burlington, Trinity (sole)	Leavenworth, Trinity	Wichita, Ascension (associate)
Cheney, St. Paul's (sole)	(associate, seminary)	Wichita, Risen Savior (associate,
Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)	Medicine Lodge, Trinity &	seminary)
Downs, Zion (sole)	Nashville, St. John (sole)	
Greenleaf, Bethlehem &	Mission & Shawnee, Trinity (senior)	
St. Peter's, Barnes (sole)		

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)	Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker)
Fairmount Ministries (Commissioned Minister)	Overland Park, Christ (Principal)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Principal David Birnbaum, First, Ponca City, OK to Trinity, Atchison – accepted

DCE William Prann, Candidate, Phoenix, AZ to St. Luke's, Manhattan – accepted

DCE Andrea Roettger, Trinity, St. Louis to Bethany, Overland Park – accepted

Worker News

Welcome, New Coordinators!



Miriam Wehling has been appointed to serve as the Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Kansas District. Miriam earned her BS in Education and DCE certification from Concordia University, Nebraska and has served Lutheran churches and schools in Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, Florida, and Kansas as a teacher and youth ministry director. Also active in youth ministry at the district, and synodical levels, she loves sharing Jesus and His Word with youth and their parents. Miriam is married to Rev. Andrew Wehling, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence. She is the “favorite” former youth leader of her grown children, Caleb (wife, Alicia), Katie (husband, Ben), and Daniel; and she loves being a new grandma to Lucy. Living in Lawrence, she is a member of Immanuel and is employed as a substitute teacher in area school districts and private schools.

Miriam can be contacted at miriam.ksdyouth@gmail.com.

The period of Miriam’s service with the District is November 2023 through August 2025. She will report directly to Rev. Daniel Grams, the Executive Assistant to the District President for Congregational & School Services. Miriam will work in a part-time capacity in the support, coordination, and advancement of youth ministry across the Kansas District.



Dr. Patricia (Patti) Hoffman was appointed and now serves 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.

Patti 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.

Patti can be contacted at educationcoord@kslcms.org.

Worker News Cont.



Members of the **District Lutheran Schools Professional Development Council** gathered in Topeka on Saturday, November 11, 2023, for the annual training. From left, Gwen Thomas, Terry Harries, Marjorie Krzesinski, Deb Doesken, Lottie Lee, Tonya Smedley (PDP Toolbox), Lori Leonardi and Miranda Monday.



Rev. Dr. Jerome Brownlee was installed as pastor of Trinity, Holton on Dec. 3, 2023. Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District President, performed the installation.



Kansas District Youth Gathering November 17-19, 2023

Over 330 high school youth and adults representing 35 Kansas District congregations gathered in Topeka for the 2023 Kansas

District Youth Gathering (KDYG) Nov. 17-19. **Rev. Justin Panzer**, Kansas District President, opened the event with a greeting. The keynote speaker was author and poet **Tanner Olson**. There was also a special after-hours Saturday night concert for Gathering participants featuring Lutheran rapper **FLAME**. Following the Sunday Divine Service, Gathering participants were sent forth to serve in the name of Jesus.

Praise God for the celebration of 30 consecutive years of Kansas District Youth Gatherings!



Lutheran rapper **FLAME** was the featured concert artist at the KDYG.



A Sunday morning Divine Service was held at the KDYG.

Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District President, shares a greeting at the KDYG in Topeka.



Tanner Olson was the keynote speaker at the KDYG event.



**Light of the World
Lutheran Church**
Worship Services Have Begun!

Light of the World Lutheran Church, a church plant in De Soto, began Sunday worship and Bible study on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023. There were 50

people in attendance at the first worship service!

Light of the World is holding Sunday services, fellowship and Bible study 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://lightoftheworldcms.org> or the Light of the World [Facebook page](#).



Rev. Joel Schultz, senior pastor of Beautiful Savior, Olathe, leads the Light of the World worship service on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023.



Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District President, leads the Light of the World Bible study and worship service on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023.



Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services, leads the Light of the World Bible study and worship service on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023.

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 Advent and Christmas, we pray for pause and reflection, that we never forget in the midst of this busy time of year the true meaning of Christmas: the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! May God provide opportunities for us as Lutheran Christians to joyfully share this Good News with others, and invite them to church to learn about the free gift of salvation Jesus gives to all who believe in Him. In His Name, Amen.

DECEMBER 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.

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including Melody Maki, Rev. Dale Dumperth, Barbara Mozeik, Rev. Jim Mayes, Linda Grams, Rev. King Crawford, Rev. Robert Grimm, Rev. Matthew Schneider, South Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Clark Davis, Cindy Hammons, 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).

Congregations and Schools on our Facebook prayer list in December:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville – Dec. 4

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Leavenworth – Dec. 11

Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Overland Park – Dec. 18

Christmas Week: Prayer for All – Dec. 25

UPCOMING EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

DECEMBER Staff Travel Schedule

- Dec. 3 Preaching at Trinity/
Installation of Rev. Dr.
Jerome Brownlee, **Holton**
(President Panzer)
- Preaching at Light of the
World, **De Soto** (Rev. Daniel
Grams)
- Dec. 5 Circuit 13 Winkel at Our
Saviour, **Great Bend**
(President Panzer)
- Dec. 6 School visit at St. Paul,
Leavenworth (Rev. Daniel
Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Dec. 12 Circuit 4 Winkel at Faith,
Emporia (President Panzer)
- 2024 Summer EC Confer-
ence planning at Our
Saviour, **Kansas City** (Jim
Bradshaw)
- Dec. 13 School visit at St. Paul's,
Cheney (Jim Bradshaw)
- Dec. 14 Circuit 5 Winkel at
Immanuel, **Hepler**
(President Panzer)
- Dec. 17 Preaching at Trinity,
McFarland (President
Panzer)



2024 Kansas District 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 to register and find more details!

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.

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

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

December 5 – Middle School Huddle Planning, Zoom 1-2:30 p.m.

December 7 – 2025 KSD Convention Planning Meeting #1, District Office, Topeka, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

December 22-January 1 – District Office closed for Christmas and New Year's

January 2 – Older Adult Ministry, Zoom 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

January 4 – 2024 District Service Project, Zoom 1:00-3:00 p.m.

January 5-6 – LERT Retreat, District Retreat Center in Herington

January 7 – Circuit Visitors/Region Vice-Presidents Meeting, Christ the King, Salina, 6:00 p.m.

January 8-9 – Pre-Lent Conference, Christ the King, Salina

January 9 – DCE Tri-Cluster, Messiah, Emporia, 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

January 12-13 – District Youth Ministry Committee Retreat, District Retreat Center, Herington

January 15 – District Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16 – Educators Conference planning, Beautiful Savior, Olathe 1:00-3:00 p.m.

January 21-27 – National Lutheran Schools Week

January 24 – Kansas District Life Conference, March/Rally for Life, downtown Topeka

January 27 – Parish Education Committee, Zoom 8:30-10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

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.

Scan this QR code for quick access to the Faith at Work webpage.



Congregations / Schools / RSOs:

Registration for *Faith at Work* projects will open in mid-December. Check the [Faith at Work page](#) on the District website for updates!

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.

February 2024 Hearts for Jesus Chapel Offerings

On August 8, 2023, the picturesque island of Maui, Hawaii, faced a catastrophic event as wildfires swept through, leaving a trail of devastation in their wake. The fires destroyed the historic town of Lahaina, and many parts of both Kula and Kihei.

These fires have brought unimaginable hardship to the community, causing destruction, displacing families, and leaving lives in turmoil. Members and families of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School (ELCS) located in Maui have lost their jobs and/or homes. ELCS is accepting donations to aid in this crucial mission of supplying those affected by the wildfires with the essential resources they require.

In October, the Kansas District LCMS Educators voted to assist Emmanuel Lutheran School through the **February 2024 Hearts for Jesus Chapel Offerings**. These fruits are payable to the LCMS Kansas District and can be sent to: 1000 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604. Please earmark all Hearts for Jesus checks for: Emmanuel Lutheran School, Kahului, Hawaii.



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, pod-cast host and Concordia Publishing House author **Michelle Diercks**.



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

ON THE CALENDAR:

January 5-6, 2024: LERT Leadership Retreat

Location: District Retreat Center, Herington, KS

Housing and meals onsite.

Contact: Donna Williams, ksddrc@gmail.com

January 27, 2024: Basic LERT Training event

Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Church (700 NE Chipman Rd, Lee's Summit, MO 64063)

Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration: \$35 (send to: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Attn: Tom Keel)

Register at: lcms-lert.org (Registration deadline: January 14, 2024)

Facilitator: NW Kansas LERT Training Team (Mark Trivilino, tma41@yahoo.com)

Contact: Tom Keel, twk500@gmail.com



DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in
Christ's Mission



LERT Training Event FAQs

Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod may host Disaster Response training for individuals in their area to join or create a Lutheran Early Response Team. LERT is a network of volunteers trained to respond in times of disaster. LERT training is also beneficial in the implementation and facilitation of Christ Care Ministries within the congregation in all seasons. It's never about the disaster, it's about the people!

How can our congregation receive training?

To schedule a training session in your area, contact your District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) who is responsible for coordinating all LCMS LERT training in your district.

Should we advertise to other LCMS congregations?

YES! No event comes together by itself. It takes time, work and energy to tell people about an event. You should advertise this event in your local congregation and to other congregations in your circuit and beyond. Your DDRC can help you coordinate the announcement on your District's website, social media, the LCMS Volunteer website and other communication channels. It is vital that you contact your circuit visitor and pastors within your circuit, as well as their lay leaders to ask if they could also advertise this training within their congregations.

What will we study?

There are three main sections:

- 1) An introduction to the LCMS Disaster Response program
- 2) Congregation preparedness
- 3) Lutheran Early Response Teams in times of disaster and the everyday life of the church

Who can be trained?

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the training session. Only LCMS members who are 14 years or older, however, will receive certification as LCMS volunteers.

How can we get more information?

Contact your DDRC: Donna Williams, ksddrc@gmail.com



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, Salina*

LCMS U Spring Retreat!

Hello, all college students and leaders! My name is Megan Jones and I am the president of LCMS U at Kansas State University. I am reaching out to invite you to our spring retreat at Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) in Colorado the weekend of **April 19-21, 2024**. The cost per participant is \$130. This includes room and board, meals, and activities. We plan to be at LVR on Friday night (*just whenever your group can arrive.*) Our group may arrive at LVR in the late evening, between 10-11 p.m.

Meals included will be Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast. We plan to leave sometime on Sunday morning. Each group will be responsible for their own transportation. If there are enough people registered by the deadline (**Monday, February 12, 2024**) we may be able to get a charter bus to meet in either Manhattan or Salina.

Click on the [Registration Form link](#) to access the form on the St. Luke's, Manhattan website. If you have any questions, please email me at meganjonesvc@ksu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you soon!



DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in Christ's Mission



Homeschool Resources Webpage

There is a new webpage on the Kansas District website that offers homeschooling resources and recommendations. Included on the page are curriculum websites, podcast and book suggestions, and common questions asked about homeschooling.

Visit <https://kslcms.org/homeschool-resources> to learn more!

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.

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](#).

Did you know your investment can have a bigger impact this season with Lutheran Church Extension Fund? Our new, limited-time, six-and-a-quarter term note empowers you to grow your savings while strengthening, sustaining, and starting Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries. This is for new money, with a minimum of \$500 to open an account. **And that is what truly sets us apart;** your investment with LCEF directly supports LCMS ministries through this 2 ½ year fixed-rate term note.

Visit lcef.org/invest to open an account today and earn a solid 6.25% return as you help build a brighter future for LCMS ministries.

6.25% APR

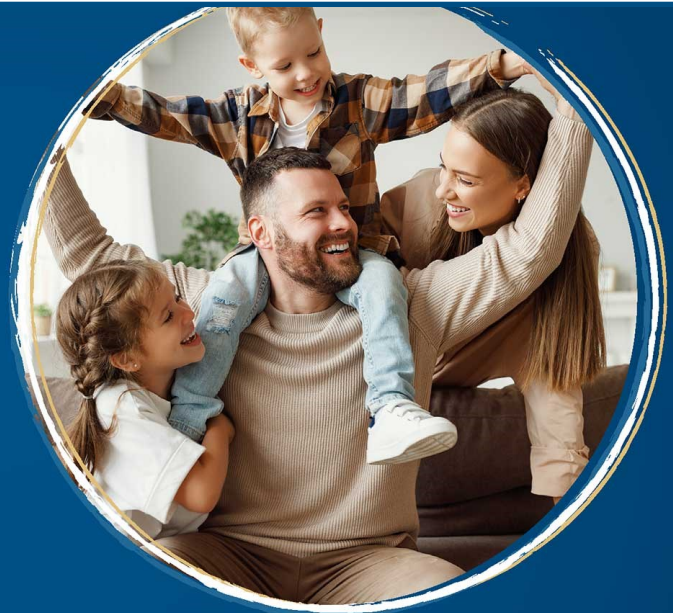
2½ year fixed-rate term note

Limited-time offer

This limited-time offer is available for LCMS:

- Individuals
- Congregations
- Organizations
- Businesses

Minimum \$500 to invest. New money only. Available as an IRA. New money supports new lending. New lending means more ministry is happening.



APPLY ONLINE AT [LCEF.ORG/INVESTTODAY](https://lcef.org/investtoday) OR CALL 800-843-5233.

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. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA program. Rates as of November 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.

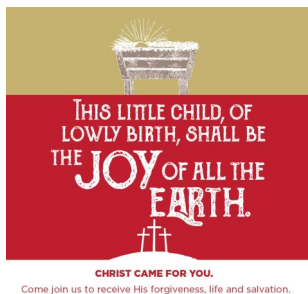
Payment is due to the District Office no later than **December 31, 2023**. Include a [remittance voucher](#) with payment, noting the check is for *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions.

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 **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 access the new resource link!**

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Around the District



Circuit 8 gathered for worship at St. John, Alma, on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, to celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation. Nearly 100 people were present for worship, which included Holy Communion. The guest preacher was **Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss**, associate professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind. The officiant was Rev. Robert Grimm (St. John, Alma). Assisting with the liturgy were Rev. John Fries (Redeemer Mission, Lake Wabaunsee; St. Paul's, Alta Vista; St. Paul's, Junction City); Rev. Larry Boye (Circuit Visitor, Circuit 8); Rev. Terry DeGiovanni (St. Luke, Wheaton); Rev. Michael Schmidt (St. Luke's, Manhattan) and Rev. Jim Woelmer (Christ, Manhattan).



Following the worship service approximately 80 people attended a presentation led by Dr. Bruss titled "The Seal of the Confessional."



Jesus Door-2-Door

Six people from three LCMS congregations gathered for a Jesus Door-2-Door event at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023. There was a Bible study on Genesis chapter 5, followed by training on witnessing methods. After lunch the group formed three canvassing teams and knocked on 90 doors. 17 surveys were taken, with over half of those surveyed being unchurched. May God produce much fruit from the Gospel seeds that were sown 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.