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“Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4:22-24



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

JANUARY 2024 | www.kslcms.org

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District



Concordia Academy-Wichita high school students, faculty and staff participate in the 2023 March for Life in downtown Topeka.

The Kansas District Celebrates Our Lutheran Schools!

National Lutheran Schools Week will be held January 21-27. The theme for 2024 is “Connected,” based on John 15: 1-5. This special week provides an opportunity to celebrate educators,

students and their families as together we share the love of Christ with our communities. The Kansas District is blessed to have 15 elementary schools (K-8) including two classical schools; one classical high school, and 43 preschools. Visit lcms.org/lutheranschoolsweek to find resources to help celebrate our schools!

Students at Hope Lutheran School, Shawnee, connect with veterans.



Fifth-graders at Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park, pray during the Prayer Walk.





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 find a schedule.

President's Office

January Devotion

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them" (Colossians 3:1-7).

New year. New beginnings. The words of Paul in Colossians 3 definitely speak to us. You have been raised with Christ. Where? Through the gift of faith showered upon you in the waters of Baptism. There, in those waters, you were clothed with Christ Himself, made to be His child, and an heir of the heavenly kingdom. **You are joined to His very death and resurrection for the forgiveness of all your sins.** You are now seated with Him. You can't help but only to look in His direction, to seek His will, to follow in His ways. On account of His work done for you, you will be raised with Him in glory.

But ... and there's always a "but," right? We are inherit sinners. Sin lurks inside each and every one of us. The devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking to devour and destroy us at every turn. Temptations abound. The devil wants you for his own. He wants you in his kingdom. He wants you to doubt, to question everything that Christ has done for you to forgive your sins. He wants you to deny the faith into which you were baptized. He wants you to miss receiving the Lord's Supper. He wants to keep tearing away at the spiritual body armor that you have been clothed with.

New year. New beginnings. If our hearts are set on the things of this world, Scripture tells us that we are to be most pitied. Yet, many of the people of our acquaintance know nothing but the things of this world. They will leave behind a legacy of financial well-being and spiritual ruin to their families. Seldom will they leave their children and grandchildren a legacy of faith in Christ and sacrificial service to the church. Such people give no thought to the things of the kingdom of Christ, the resurrection of the flesh, or the life of the world to come. Such things are passed off as insignificant as long as their 401(k) is fully funded. We Christians should offer up a secret prayer when we see such persons, first asking God that such unbelief might be repented of and that we ourselves would not fall into such misbelief, shame, and vice.

You have been clothed with Christ. Set your mind on things above. I want most of all to pass on the faith of Christ and the hope of the world to come to my children and my grandchildren. There is nothing more important that I can give them. (Continued on Next Page)

January Devotion Cont.

My children often surprise me with the strength of their Christian confession. But I shouldn't be surprised because they have been given Christ at every opportunity both at home, church, and in Bible study. Christ the risen Lord is their Lord. They have a hope that transcends earthly conditions and its life.

Set your minds on Christ. Gather in your local congregations to hear God's Word, receive His grace, offer Him your prayers and thanks, encourage one another, and give joyfully of your first fruits that He has so abundantly blessed you with. Be equipped through the means of grace that He offers to you. **Show God's love to others, help your neighbor in need, and share the Good News of the Christ who has been crucified and raised for all!**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

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

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

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

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

Rev. Kyle Winter, Kalispell, MT to Ascension, Wichita (Associate) – pending

Rev. Greg Zillinger, Lakewood, CO to St. Paul's, Cheney – pending

PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Ryan Ankersen, Good Shepherd, Fremont, NE to Holy Cross, Wichita – accepted, installation Sunday, January 7, 2024

Rev. Luke Jacob, Trinity, Mission and Shawnee as Senior Pastor – accepted, installation Sunday, January 28, 2024, at the Mission campus at 8:30 a.m.; installation at the Shawnee campus at 11:00 a.m.

Rev. James Kirschenmann, Immanuel, Glenview, IL to Zion, Vassar – accepted, installation Sunday, January 14, 2024, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service at Zion, Vassar

Rev. Jaron Melin, Candidate to OIS Herington Partnership – installation Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Our Redeemer, Herington, at 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Marty Reed, Trinity, Atchison Associate to Senior Pastor – accepted, installation Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Arkansas City, Redeemer (sole)

Greenleaf, Bethlehem &

Medicine Lodge, Trinity &

Burlington, Trinity (sole)

St. Peter's, Barnes (sole)

Nashville, St. John (sole)

Cheney, St. Paul's (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Wichita, Ascension (associate)

Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)

Leavenworth, Trinity

Wichita, Risen Savior (associate,

Downs, Zion (sole)

(associate, seminary)

seminary)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Emporia, Messiah (DCE)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Teacher)

Fairmount Ministries (Commissioned Minister)

Overland Park, Christ (Principal)

Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker)

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, installation Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024

DCE Andrea Roettger, Trinity, St. Louis to Bethany, Overland Park – accepted, installation Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024

Worker News



Rev. Jaron Melin was ordained on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, at Holy Cross, Wichita (Rev. Melin's home congregation). From left, Revs. Justin Panzer, Daniel Myers, Jaron Melin, Kurt Letcher and Ryan Ankersen.

Rev. Melin will serve as pastor of the OIS Partnership (Our Redeemer, Immanuel, and St. John in Herington). His installation will be held Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Our Redeemer, Herington.

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.

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](#).

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!

Herren Grant Photos and Highlights!

The Kansas District was blessed to receive monies from the Herren family designated towards “brick and mortar” projects, totaling \$240,000. The Kansas District Board of Directors used unrestricted dollars to match \$200,000 with this amount. **Twenty-seven grants were awarded to Kansas District congregations, schools, and RSOs, totaling over \$420,000 provided for brick and mortar projects.**

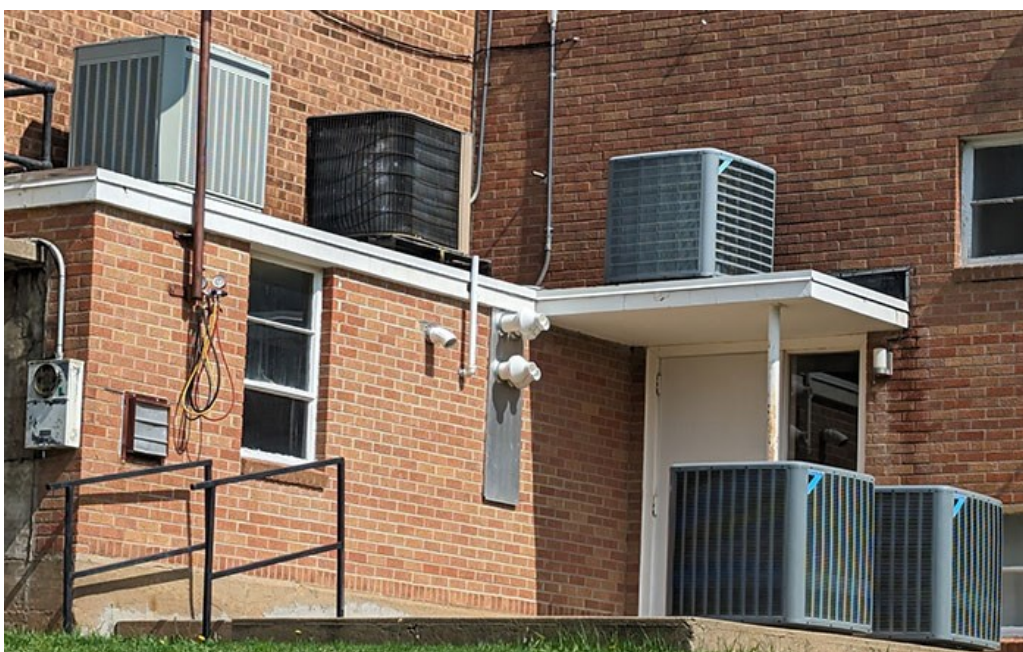
Since then, the District office has received photos and thank-you letters from a number of congregations, schools, and RSOs awarded Herren grant money, highlighting their brick and mortar projects. Here are photos showing how God continues to bless the work of the Kansas District!



Before



After



▲ Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Louisburg used their Herren grant award to resurface the church’s parking lot.

▶ Herren grant dollars assisted Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ellsworth with the purchase and installation of new heating and air equipment.

(Continued on Next Page)

Herren Grant Photos and Highlights Cont.



▲ Herren grant dollars were used to assist with the purchase and installation of nine new HVAC systems at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Shawnee.



▲ The Herren grant award was used to assist with the purchase and installation of a new boiler at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Topeka.

(Continued on Next Page)



▲ Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Wichita used their Herren grant award to help with building an Outdoor Education and Learning Pavilion.



Herren Grant Photos and Highlights Cont.



▲ The Herren grant assisted Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) in Kansas City with the renovation of two new showers, two toilets and sink rooms, and a new laundry room for summer college staff.



◀ Calvary Lutheran Church in Council Grove used their Herren grant award for the construction and completion of a new concrete church parking lot.

The LCMS Foundation released a video series highlighting the Dr. Charles and Vivian Herren Memorial Fund, and grant recipients in the Kansas District.

Included in the videos are interviews with **Heather Williams**, Kansas District Business Manager. Visit the [LCMS Foundation Facebook page](#) to watch the video series, and/or use the hashtag [#LCMSFoundation](#).

In Jesus' Name we pray...



SPECIAL PRAYERS

As the new year begins, we pray for God to abundantly bless all congregations and schools in the Kansas District, as we share the Good News with others around us. In His Name, Amen.

For the gift of life, we thank the Lord for the value of life and pray for wisdom and compassion when discussing the sanctity of life with others. May God bring opportunities for us to lovingly share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ. In His Name, Amen.

JANUARY PRAYER REQUESTS

Those experiencing recent or ongoing health issues, including Gideon Franson, Rev. Cliff Winter, Melody Maki, 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 January:

New Year's Week: Prayer for All – Jan. 1

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Ottawa – Jan. 8

Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard – Jan. 16

St. John's Lutheran Church and Classical School, Topeka – Jan. 22

Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland – Jan. 29

JANUARY EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

JANUARY Staff Travel Schedule

- Jan. 5-6 LERT Retreat, District Retreat Center, **Herington** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Jan. 7 Trinity, **Garnett** (President Panzer)
OIS Herington Partnership; Installation of Rev. Jaron Melin at Our Redeemer, **Herington** (President Panzer)
DCE Installation at Bethany, **Overland Park** (Rev. Daniel Grams)
DCE Installation at St. Luke's, **Manhattan** (Jim Bradshaw)
Circuit Visitors and Region Vice-Presidents meeting at Christ the King, **Salina** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Jan. 8-9 Pre-Lent Conference at Christ the King, **Salina** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Jan. 9 DCE Tri-Cluster at Messiah, **Emporia** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Jan. 10 School visit at Bethany, **Overland Park** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
Lutheran Social Services Board meeting, **Wichita** (President Panzer)
- Jan. 12-13 District Youth Ministry Committee Retreat, District Retreat Center, **Herington** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Jan. 14 Installation of Rev. James Kirschenmann at Zion, **Vassar** (President Panzer)
Installation of Rev. Marty Reed at Trinity, **Atchison** (President Panzer)
- Jan. 16 Circuits 1 & 6 Joint Winkel at Calvary, **Topeka** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
Educators Conference planning at Beautiful Savior, **Olathe** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)

JANUARY Staff Travel Schedule Cont.

- Jan. 17 School visit at Holy Cross, **Wichita** (Rev. Daniel Grams, Jim Bradshaw)
- Jan. 21 Pre-Call/Retirement meeting at Grace, **Iola** (President Panzer)
- Jan. 24 Kansas District Life Conference at St. John's, **Topeka** (President Panzer, Jim Bradshaw)
- Jan. 28 Installation of Rev. Luke Jacob at Trinity, **Mission and Shawnee** (President Panzer)
- Jan. 31-Feb. 2 NADCE Conference, Houston, **Texas** (Jim Bradshaw)

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



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 (901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66606).

Those participating in the March for Life will assemble at the Topeka Performing Arts Center at 11:40 a.m. (214 SE 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603). The March for Life will begin at noon and ends at the Kansas State Capitol in downtown Topeka, where the Rally for Life will be held.

Visit the [2024 Life Conference](#) page on the District website to register and find a schedule!

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

January 1 – District Office closed for New Year's Day

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 11 – Board of Education & Youth, Zoom 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

January 11 – Board of Caring Ministry, Zoom 1:00-3:00 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 1:00-3:30 p.m.

January 16 – Professional Development Committee, Zoom 4:00-5:00 p.m.

January 21-27 – National Lutheran Schools Week

January 22 – Board of Missions, Zoom 3:30-5:00 p.m.

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

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

January 29 – Board of Stewardship, Zoom 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

January 29 – Executive Committee, Zoom 1:00-2:00 p.m.

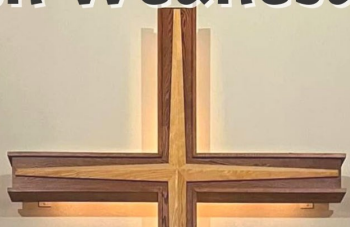
January 30 – Middle School Huddle planning, Zoom 1:00-2:30 p.m.

February 1 – President's Council, Zoom 1:00-5:00 p.m.

February 2 – Board of Directors, Zoom 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ash Wednesday



"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

02.14.24

District-wide Day
of Repentance
Ash Wednesday
Offering

The annual Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering supports scholarships for future church workers and grants to help active church workers pay off education loans.

Last year, over \$82,000 was awarded in scholarships and education loan repayment grants. **Of that amount, nearly \$23,000 was raised in last year's Ash Wednesday Offering!** For this year's offering, 25 percent of the proceeds will be allocated to the Kansas District Scholarship Fund, and 75 percent to the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Fund.

Please consider participating in the 2024 Ash Wednesday Offering and supporting our church workers! Here's how you can help:

- ❖ Participate in the Ash Wednesday Offering at your church.
- ❖ Donate online at kslcms.org/donate.
- ❖ Send a check to the District office (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104), with the designation, "Ash Wednesday Offering."



2024

Middle School Huddle

Middle School
Huddle
April 19-20, 2024

Join us for the 2024 Middle School Huddle (MSH) which will be held

April 19-20 at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch, south of Junction City (1168 Highway K157, Junction City, KS 66441). The goal of the Middle School Huddle is to lift up the middle school students of our Kansas District and provide community and faith growth opportunities through time in God's Word.

The theme for this year's MSH is "Connected" based on John 15:1-5. We will consider our individual place in the body of Christ and how that connects us with our Savior, Jesus Christ. The keynote speaker is **Rev. Ryan Matthias**, the campus pastor at Concordia University, Nebraska. Music will be led by a praise team also from Concordia University, Nebraska.

Registration opens February 1. The cost for the event will be \$80 per person. Visit the [Middle School Events](#) page on the District website for upcoming details!

Holy Cross LWML Womens Retreat

The Holy Cross LWML

will host its annual Womens Retreat **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). **Registration opens in January.** Visit holycrosslutheran.net/lwml for more information.

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.

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



Connecting Students to Campus Ministries!

Recently, I was given a worship folder from the dedication of our building in 1976. We were then called University Lutheran Center. As I read through it, certain things stood out to me (*for the excerpts below, I put Fairmount Ministries and Coffee Co. in place of ULC.*)

"We the people associated with Fairmount Ministries and Coffee Co., fellow Christians of the KS District of the LCMS, and fellow Christians of the Wichita community assembled here, dedicate this place to the Glory of God."

"Lord, give to those who are engaged in conversation here the grace of Thy Spirit."

"We dedicate our lounge as a place for pleasant and serious conversation, for the cementing of Christian fellowship, and for opportunities to share ourselves with one another."

"We dedicate our multi-purpose room for fun, food, and seasonal worship, for spiritual discussions of the Christian faith and its relevance to modern man's dilemma, for quiet, personal reflection upon the meaning of death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all life."

"We dedicate Fairmount Ministries and Coffee Co. as a place where students, faculty, staff, and community may grow in their relationship as children of their heavenly Father and brothers and sisters in Christ."

"Lord, help it to be so and give those who study, work, play, and worship here Your abiding grace."

Our name has changed a couple of times, our building has been remodeled, we have a coffee shop and a living room and offices, and our staff has changed many times over the years. Yet, our purpose and mission remain the same. We still abide by those words of dedication. We give thanks to God for the faithful LCMS Kansas District, faithful congregations, and faithful individual supporters. We continue to exist by God's grace and His will worked through all of you. **Thanks be to God!**

Vicki Lessman, Fairmount Ministries Board President



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



Join Kansas's First and Only Full-Time Lutheran High School

ENROLL TODAY

Concordia Academy is now enrolling
9-12 Grade Students.

Join us on campus or be part of our
Orbis Concordiae Residency
Program.

- ✓ Online Enrollment
- ✓ Scholarships Available
- ✓ Uncompromisingly Classical
Intentionally Christian
Particularly Lutheran



For More Information

www.CAWichita.org

316-202-8989

CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org

FAITH *at* WORK

A Challenge for Seasoned Christians written by Tom Perry
(District Older Adult Ministry Committee)

The Kansas District is inviting congregations to designate the month of April as a special time to put our faith into action. Christ's command for us is to *"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another"* (John 13:34).


We share that love by living the "fruits of the Spirit" and volunteering to help our neighbor. Our older adults are perfectly positioned to lead the way in this ministry. Although many have taken a step back physically, we still have a wealth of experience sharing God's love in a variety of ways.

The District Older Adult Committee is challenging each congregation to find ways to give to their community. It could be clothing drives, food collection, or various other possibilities. Be creative, and carry out your projects in April! We would love to hear what each congregation develops, and share those ideas on the Older Adult webpage on the Kansas District website.

Be sure to also visit the [Faith at Work page](#) on the District website for additional ideas and information.

This is a giant opportunity for older adults to show they are an important asset and resource for our congregations. Please send your ideas and action results to **Tom Perry** at perry10029@gmail.com.

Congregations / Schools / RSOs: Registration for *Faith at Work* service projects is open. Project Crew Leaders can visit the [Faith at Work page](#) on the District website to register, and access *Faith at Work* Communication Resources!



**LCMS LUTHERANS
YESTERDAY. TODAY. ALWAYS.**

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

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.

For more information about LCEF options, contact Jeffrey Maltz by email jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org or phone 785-230-4112.

Friendly Reminders!

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.

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.

Congregational Commitments

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.

Synod & Partners

Stephen Ministries: New Resources!

Stephen Ministries has released its latest book *The Gift of Empathy: Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared for, and Understood*, written by Joel Bretscher and Dr. Kenneth Haugk. The book presents a fresh approach to empathy through practical ideas and real-life examples.

For more information about this new resource, visit www.stephenministries.org.

Stephen Ministries has also launched *The Gift of Empathy Discussion Guide* Pilot Test Program, as part of their initiative to help more people gain the skills needed to empathize effectively. Sign-ups for this program are currently open. Those interested can call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600 to learn more, and visit thegiftofempathy.org/pilot.

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



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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Kansas District Hispanic Ministry Convocation

Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mark your calendars! You are invited to participate in a Hispanic Ministry Convocation to be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the LCMS Kansas District Office in Topeka (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104).

The purpose of this event is to gather together from across the Kansas District those who are currently doing Hispanic ministry, as well as those who are interested in learning about Hispanic ministry. The goal is to learn from each other and encourage our congregations to work together in sharing the Gospel with our Spanish speaking neighbors located throughout Kansas in our urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Rev. Juan Zamora, the associate pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Irving, Texas, will be a guest at the Convocation. He was instrumental in bringing Rev. Daniel Jordan to Kansas City to serve at Jesus El Buen Pastor.

Please share about the Hispanic Ministry Convocation with others who may be interested! More information will be coming soon.

RSVP by emailing **Rev. Daniel Grams**, Executive Assistant for Congregational & School Services, at daniel@kslcms.org.

Please RSVP to Pastor Grams by **Monday, March 4, 2024**.

Around the District



Trinity Lutheran Church in Girard hosted their annual Christmas Community Bonfire on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023. The entire community was invited to a fireside night filled with performances by the Trinity choir and kids, and a number of church members. The evening ended with Rev. Michael Hofmann reading the Christmas story and a live Nativity scene. ***Praise God for His blessings!***