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“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.”

Joel 2:12-13



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

FEBRUARY 2024 | www.kslcms.org

WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District



2024 Kansas District Life Conference / March for Life!

Over 100 participants attended the Kansas District Life Conference on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024**, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka. The keynote speaker was **Rev. Dr. Matthew Durance** (shown speaking in the above photo) who is the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Harbor Beach, Mich. Following the Life Conference, attendees joined several hundred participants in the March/Rally for Life to the Kansas State Capitol in downtown Topeka. Visit the [2024 Life Conference page](#) on the District website to see more photos. **Special thanks to all who helped organize the Life Conference!**



Concordia Academy-Wichita students, faculty and staff participated in the March and Rally for Life at the State Capitol in downtown Topeka.



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Workers Together Devotions Available

President Panzer’s devotions, in addition to appearing monthly in the *Workers Together* newsletters, are also available as individual pdf documents on the District website. These devotions can be downloaded and shared with LCMS congregations and schools around the Kansas District.

You can find the individual devotions under the [Communications](#) section on the District website.

President’s Office

February Devotion

Your doctor says you are a magnificent physical specimen. Later, you climb some stairs, clutch your chest, and are rushed to the hospital. The ER physician tells you your arteries are so clogged you were only one jelly donut away from the grim reaper. You ask the doctor, “Why didn’t you tell me I was in worse shape than the Pillsbury Doughboy?”

He confesses, “I don’t like telling people depressing news.”

By and large, we want the truth. Or do we? The season of Lent begins this month with a heightened emphasis on the devastation of our spiritual sickness of sin, confronting us with the truth. The Father is so pleased with His Son because He is the embodiment of truth and love. **He wants us all to have transfigured lives of the reality that Jesus offers. We need to listen to Him, about everything.**

Our capacity for self-deception has no limits. The prophet Obadiah writes, “The pride of your heart has deceived you” (Obadiah 3). The truth is pretty bad, which is damnation. However, the truth is also pretty terrific, which is no damnation. Remember this when ashes are placed on your forehead on Ash Wednesday. **Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, only in Jesus you have life. Put your listening ears on.**

Just like the previous years, we invite the people of the LCMS Kansas District to join together on Ash Wednesday for a District-wide **“Day of Repentance.”** We encourage you to pray the Litany, worship, fast and give a financial contribution to your local congregation.

What is a fast? How does it fit with what the Lord is trying to teach us as He calls us to repentance? If you have access to *The Lutheran Study Bible*, turn to page 189, where you will find a helpful article titled, “When You Fast” (also available online on the *First Things* blog, firstthings.com/blogs; type “When You Fast” in the search bar.)

Note especially these words:

During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke against fasting as a means of salvation. Instead, He commended fasting as a private, voluntary act of humility before God (Mt. 6:16-18). Take a few moments now to read His words and reflect on your own devotion. If you are like most people, you have thought more about dieting than fasting. It is hard to imagine a daylong fast. No doubt fasting for 40 days like Jesus did after His Baptism is out of the question. Yet our Lord’s words clearly reveal that fasting should be part of a Christian’s life: He said, “When you fast” (Mt. 6:16), not “If you fast” (cf. Mt. 9:14-15). The early Christians fasted (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23). Why shouldn’t a twenty-first century Christian do likewise?

A simple fast might involve going without one or two meals before receiving the Lord’s Supper and using the time to focus on God’s Word. If skipping a meal isn’t an option, think about taking a break from something else, like social media or web surfing. Whatever form it takes, fasting is a powerful reminder of Christ’s own obedience and sacrifice for us all.

Our Lord wants you to return to Him what is His in the first place. Everything belongs to the Lord, we only get to borrow it from time to time. In the same way, everything we give back to Him belongs to Him; it was never ours to begin with.

“Return to me” (Joel 2:12). Through His prophet Joel, the Lord invites you to return to Him with your whole life. **God bless our worship of Him, especially during the season of Lent!**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Travis Sherman, Grace, Gordon, NE to St. Paul, Clay Center (associate) – pending

Rev. Aaron Wagner, Christ the King, Salina to St. Paul, Williamsburg, IA – declined

Rev. Timothy Wilcoxon, Zion, Carlinville, IL to Trinity, Burlington – pending

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

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

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Arkansas City, Redeemer (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Overland Park, Bethany (senior)

Burlington, Trinity (sole)

Leavenworth, Trinity

Shawnee, Hope (sole)

Cheney, St. Paul's (sole)

(associate, seminary)

Wichita, Ascension (associate)

Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)

Medicine Lodge, Trinity &

Wichita, Risen Savior (associate,

Downs, Zion (sole)

Nashville, St. John (sole)

seminary)

Greenleaf, Bethlehem &

Olathe, Beautiful Savior

St. Peter's, Barnes (sole)

(associate, seminary)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Emporia, Messiah (DCE intern)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Teacher)

Fairmount Ministries (Commissioned Minister)

Linn Lutheran School (Teacher)

Garden City, Trinity (Commissioned worker intern)

Topeka, Calvary (Commissioned worker intern)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

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



Rev. Ryan Ankersen was installed as associate pastor of Holy Cross, Wichita on Sunday, January 7, 2024. From left, (front row) Revs. Daniel Myers, Ryan Ankersen and Scott Snow; (back row) Revs. Tom Harmon, Nick Cordt, Scott Goltl, Dean Von Stroh, Thomas Johnson, David Ersland, Keith Kohlmeier and John Einem.

Worker News



Rev. Jaron Melin was installed as pastor of the OIS Herington Partnership (Our Redeemer, Immanuel, and St. John) on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Our Redeemer, Herington. **Elizabeth Melin** was commissioned and installed as deaconess for Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (St. Louis, Mo.)

From left, (first row) Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Rev. John Werner, Rev. Jaron Melin, Deaconess Elizabeth Melin, Rev. John Fries and Rev. Kurt Letcher; (back row) Rev. Justin Panzer, Rev. Joe Pederson, Rev. Clark Davis and Rev. Joseph Barlau.



William Prann was installed as the Director of Christian Education (DCE) at St. Luke's, Manhattan on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

From left, Rev. Michael Schmidt, senior pastor of St. Luke's, Manhattan; DCE William Prann and James Bradshaw, District Executive for Education and Youth.



Andrea Roettger was installed as the Director of Christian Education (DCE) at Bethany, Overland Park on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

From left, Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services; DCE Andrea Roettger and Rev. Sean Baker, pastor of Bethany, Overland Park.

Worker News Cont.



Rev. Marty Reed was installed as senior pastor of Trinity, Atchison on Sunday, January 14, 2024. From left, (front row) Revs. Daniel Grams, Marty Reed and Michael Carney; (back row) Revs. Ian Kinney and Justin Panzer.



Rev. James Kirschenmann was installed as pastor of Zion, Vassar on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Rev. Justin Panzer, District President, performed the installation.

Worker News Cont.

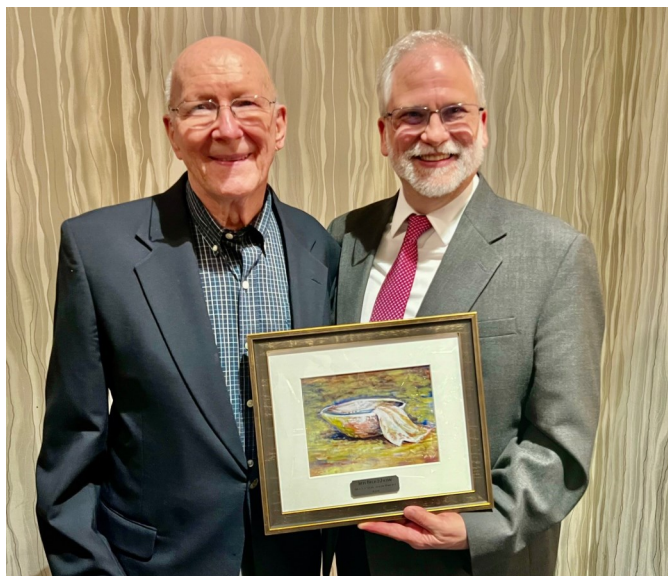


Rev. Luke Jacob was installed as senior pastor of Trinity, Mission and Shawnee on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Mission campus: from left, Revs. Lee Hovel, Justin Laughridge, Dr. Mark Schulz, Luke Jacob, Philip Cook and Justin Panzer.



Shawnee campus: from left, Revs. Justin Panzer, Justin Laughridge, Luke Jacob, Dr. Mark Schulz and Philip Cook.

Congratulations!



James Bradshaw, District Executive, was presented the Dale Griffin Master Statesman Award at the National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE) Conference in Houston, Texas, by his mentor and DCE instructor, Dr. William O. Karpenko.

James Bradshaw is humbled to announce that he is receiving two awards in February. The National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE) has selected him as the recipient of **The Dale E. Griffin Master Statesman Award**. He was recognized at the NADCE Conference Banquet in Houston on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Following is a description of this award:

The Dale E. Griffin Master Statesman Award

One of the individuals who had a significant impact on the Director of Christian Education (DCE) ministry within The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod was the Rev. Dale E. Griffin. Over a 28-year period, beginning in the early 1960s, he supported the development of DCE Ministry as editor of *The DCE Bulletin* as well fostering regional DCE conferences around the country, helping to draft key DCE-related Synodical resolutions, and interpreting DCE ministry within the International Center. In recognition of his many contributions, LEA-TEAM created the Dale E. Griffin Master Statesman Award. He was the initial recipient of the award, which was given at the National DCE Conference held in Breckinridge, CO in 1988. Over the following years, there have been two other awardees: Dr. William O.

Karpenko II in 1991 (LEA-TEAM), Dr. LeRoy Wilke in 2003 (DCE-Net), and most recently Dr. Mark Blanke (2022) at the NADCE Conference in Ft. Collins, CO.

Jim will also be inducted into **The Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Hall of Fame** at the evening banquet during the annual meeting on Monday, February 12, at the Ramada in downtown Topeka. KAIRS honors its outstanding educators who have made life-long contributions to independent and religious schools in Kansas. Inductees are educators who have given extraordinary service to a KAIRS member school (or a series of schools) during their career as educators.

In Jesus' Name we pray...



SPECIAL PRAYERS

As the season of Lent begins, we pray for God to help us remember His love and forgiveness during this time of reflecting on our sins. May we turn to Him with heartfelt repentance, with the knowledge that when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (ref. 1 John 1:9). In His Name, Amen.

FEBRUARY PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville – Feb. 5

St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Preschool, Manhattan – Feb. 12

Trinity Lutheran Church, Ramona, and St. John's Lutheran Church, Tampa – Feb. 19

Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita – Feb. 26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

FEBRUARY Staff Travel Schedule

- Jan. 31-Feb. 2 NADCE Conference, Houston, Texas (Jim Bradshaw)
- Feb. 4-8 Council of Presidents, **St. Louis** (President Panzer)
- Feb. 7 School visit at Linn Lutheran School, **Linn** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Feb. 8-9 Team Ministry Retreat, **Herington** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Feb. 9-10 LERT Retreat, **Herington** (Jim Bradshaw)
- Feb. 10 Jesus Door-2-Door event at Redeemer Lutheran, **Olathe** (Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 11 Light of the World Lutheran, **De Soto** (Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 12-13 KAIRS Conference, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 13 Circuit 9 Winkler at St. John's Lutheran, **Herington** (President Panzer)
Tri-Cluster DCE meeting at Messiah Lutheran, **Emporia** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)

(Continued on Next Page)

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."

FAITH *at* WORK



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* 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.

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, order your groups' FREE T-Shirts (while supplies last), and access *Faith at Work* Communication Resources. For questions, please email faithatwork@kslcms.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Out and About in Kansas

FEBRUARY Staff Travel Schedule Continued

- Feb. 14 School visit at St. John Lutheran School, **Alma** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 15-17 LCMS Stewardship Conference, **Tempe, AZ** (Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 16 Concordia Academy, **Wichita** (President Panzer)
- Feb. 18 Principals' meeting at District office, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)

Lutheran Schools Committee meeting at District office, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw, President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 20 Circuit 3N/3S Winkel at Bethany Lutheran, **Overland Park** (President Panzer)
- Feb. 21 School visit at Trinity Lutheran School, **Atchison** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- Feb. 24 KAIRS Early Childhood Conference, **Leawood** (Jim Bradshaw)

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

Holy Cross LWML Womens Retreat – March 2, 2024

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 is open. Visit holycrosslutheran.net/lwmlretreat to register and for more information.



Wives of pastors are invited to gather **April 19-20** for the annual Pastors' Wives Retreat at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington.

The keynote presenter will be **Deaconess Rose Adle**, the Assistant Director of Deaconess Formation at

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Concordia Publishing House author. Visit the Kansas District homepage kslcms.org to register and for more information.



Middle School Huddle – April 19-20

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 is open! The cost for the event will be \$80 per person. Visit the [Middle School Events](#) page on the District website to register and find more information.

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 5-8 – Council of Presidents, St. Louis

February 6 – Faith at Work Committee, Zoom 1-2:30 p.m.

February 12-13 – KAIRS Conference, Ramada Hotel by Wyndham, Topeka

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

February 15-17 – LCMS Stewardship Conference, Tempe, AZ

February 18 – Lutheran Schools Committee, District Office, 3-5 p.m.

February 24 – KAIRS Early Childhood Conference, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

February 27 – Middle School Huddle Committee, Zoom 1-2:30 p.m.

February 29-March 3 – LCMS YouthLead Training, St. Louis, MO

March 5 – SAA55 meeting, Zoom 10-11 a.m.

March 7 – Hispanic Ministry Convocation, District Office, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 18-20 – Six-Pack Council of Presidents

March 19 – Professional Development Committee, Zoom 4-5 p.m.

March 24 – Palm Sunday

March 28 – Maundy Thursday, District Office closes at 2 p.m.

March 29 – Good Friday, District Office closed

March 31 – Easter Sunday

April 1 – Easter Monday, District Office closed

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

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!

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**.



Be Still & Know

LVR 2024

Registration will open in March for Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) Summer Camp! The camp will be held **June 2-7** in Woodland Park, Colo.

Visit the [LVR page](#) on the District website for more information.

Save the Date!

Saints Alive After 55 Conference

The 2024 Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55) conference will be held **July 21-22** 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**.

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.

KAIRS Early Childhood Conference

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Leawood is the

site for the annual KAIRS Early Childhood Conference, which will be held on **Saturday, February 24**.

Dr. Drew Gerdes will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Gerdes is the Assistant Professor of Education and Early Childhood Education Program Director at Concordia University, Nebraska. The cost is \$20 (includes lunch) for 5 KDHE approved clock hours. Register now at www.kairs.org. Deadline to register is February 16.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

ON THE CALENDAR:

LERT Leadership Retreat: Rescheduled (*due to weather*)



Date: Feb. 9-10, 2024

Location: Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, KS

Housing and meals onsite

Contact: Donna Williams, ksddrc@gmail.com

LERT Basic Chainsaw Safety & Operation Training event

Date: March 16, 2024

Location: King of Kings Lutheran Church (306 E. Madison, Gardner, KS 66030)

Registration: \$30 (send to King of Kings Lutheran Church, Attn: Mark Trivilino)

Registration: lcms-lert.org (Registration deadline: March 12, 2024)

Facilitator: Brain Mead, brian.t.mead2@gmail.com

Contact: Brain Mead, brian.t.mead2@gmail.com

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!

Lutheran Early Response Teams are encouraged to take advantage of the first annual **Faith at Work** event in **April 2024**. This is an opportunity to reach out and serve in your local communities and at the same time, practice the skills taught in your LERT Basic training class. It doesn't matter how long it's been since you have activated your team and service projects don't have to be big events that take hours to plan and involve a large number of volunteers. It's about you, the LERT volunteer, and your impact on your community – one person, one project at a time. And, don't forget to share your event with us! Contact Donna Williams with any questions at ksddrc@gmail.com.

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



Scholarships Available!

Our LCMS congregations and schools need church workers, and the Kansas District is ready and willing to help. The District is once again offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at one of the Synod's universities or seminaries. Last year the Kansas District awarded over \$45,000 in scholarships to future church workers!



Naomi, a student attending Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (CTSFW) shares how financial support has helped her in her education:

"Thank you for your continued financial support! Last quarter's classes went well and I enjoyed them, particularly History of the Office of Deaconess and Deaf Ministry. This quarter, I am taking Lutheran Confessions, Liturgies, Pauline Epistles, Ministry to the Sick & Dying 2, Field Education 2 and Deaf Ministry 2. I am particularly excited about Deaf Ministry 2, as it moves beyond the basic everyday signs into liturgical signing. We have already been working on the Creeds ... I am looking forward to translating and learning to sign the rest of the liturgy!"

Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of applications received. **The application deadline for 2024-25 scholarships is June 1.** The application is available on the District website, under [Grants and Scholarships](#) from the "Stewardship" drop-down menu. You can also find links to other organizations offering scholarships to church work students, including the [Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](#), [Lutheran Laymen's League](#) and [St. John's Alumni Association](#).



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

Calvary Lutheran Learning Center in Topeka (4211 NW Topeka Blvd.) has the following job openings:

- ❖ Lead Teacher
- ❖ A qualified Director to work with infants through age 4, and a school age summer program. Qualifications include a minimum of 2 years experience to lead a Christ-center, faith-based program, where excellent care and spiritual support is provided for both children and families.

If interested in any of these positions, please contact **Janice Sellers** at 785-554-6280 or by email at jsellers54@gmail.com.

New CSL, CUWAA partner course explores AI, ministry

Six-week online course begins April 9

A new six-week online continuing education course, "Artificial Intelligence and Real Ministry," aims to provide a comprehensive overview of AI for pastors and church leaders, highlighting key facets of AI and its potential implications in ministry. The course is offered in partnership by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) and Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor (CUWAA).

Six sessions will be taught weekly from 4-5 p.m. (CT) Tuesday, April 9, through May 14, 2024, via Zoom.

Course sessions will cover introduction to AI, ethical considerations, theological reflections, ministry applications, congregational engagement, and practical considerations/future trends.

The fee for the course is \$99, which includes one Continuing Education Unit (CEU). [Register](#) by April 2, 2024. For more information, contact Concordia Seminary's Continuing Education department at ce@csl.edu or 314-505-7286.



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

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.

SAVE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA).

When you invest with LCEF, you'll not only enjoy the financial benefits of an IRA, you help support the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to share the Gospel.

Ready to invest?

CALL 800-843-5233 OR VISIT LCEF.ORG/IRA TODAY.



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> where investments build ministry

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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.

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

Friendly Reminders!

Remittance Vouchers

This is a reminder to please include a remittance voucher with any check that is submitted to the Kansas District office in Topeka. This is to ensure that the money is credited properly.

Remittance vouchers are available on the District website under the "Business Office, District Resources" section: <https://kslcms.org/district-resources>. You can also access a remittance voucher by clicking the link provided [here](#).

Planned Giving – Creating Your Legacy

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.

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](#).

Lutheran Hour Ministries Lenten Devotions

Word.

The devotions end on Easter Monday, April 1. Downloadable versions include large print and booklets, as well as promotional materials such as bulletin inserts and PowerPoint slides. The downloadable versions can also be customized for churches, and directions to customize and print are available with the devotions. Visit www.lhm.org/lent to access the Lenten devotions and materials.

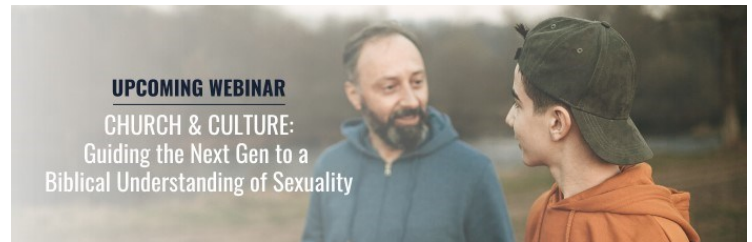
Kansas Secretary of State Annual Report Filing Frequency Changed

Good news! The Kansas Secretary of State has changed the filing frequency for business annual reports from annually to biannually.

Churches and schools incorporated in Kansas will now be required to file Form INP every two years. Filing years will be determined by formation documents on file with the Kansas Secretary of State. If a ministry was formed in an even year, they will file every even year. If a ministry was formed in an odd year, they will file every odd year.

Please visit <https://www.sos.ks.gov/businesses/information-reports.html> for more information.

Synod & Partners



The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) Church & Ministry Alliance is hosting a webinar on **Thursday, February 15 12:00 p.m. EST / 9:00 a.m. PST** to equip you with the insights needed to navigate the issue of Biblical sexuality with understanding, kindness, and truth.

Topics covered in this webinar include Navigating Sexuality & Identity, Firsthand Experience in Faith Leadership, and Legal Insights on Gender Ideology.

This webinar is designed to empower you as a faith leader with the necessary knowledge, legal insights, and practical tools to guide the next generation through the complexities of sexuality in a way that aligns with God's design.

Visit <https://www.adfchurchalliance.org/church-and-culture> to register for this event.

Lutheran Hour Ministries' 2024 Lenten devotions is titled "Lamb of God." In these devotions, readers learn about God's Son, Jesus Christ as both God and Man, full of grace and truth, and the eternal

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Around the District



LCMS Kansas District pastors were in attendance at the January 8-9 Pre-Lent Conference at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina. The keynote speaker was **Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz** (shown in the photo) pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo. Dr. Koontz presented on the topic "The Relationship Between God and Nature, Helping Us to Understand Our Church's Response to it."



From left, (front row) Rep. Timothy Johnson, Rep. Susan Estes and Norene Kerschen; (back row) Rep. Jeff Underhill, Rep. Steven Howe, Rep. Kenny Titus, Rev. Mark Frith, Sen. Dan Kerschen, Judge David Bruns and Sen. Kristen O'Shea.

Kansas LCMS Public Servants

We are blessed to have LCMS members serving in State offices, who gather once a month for Bible study.

Members of the Kansas LCMS Public Servants group met at the Kansas State Capitol on Jan. 10, 2024, following the State of the Judiciary address.

A special guest was **Rev. Mark Frith**, Director of the Champions of Liberty Network at the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.

Please keep these brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers as they serve in public office.