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“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.”

1 Peter 1:22-23

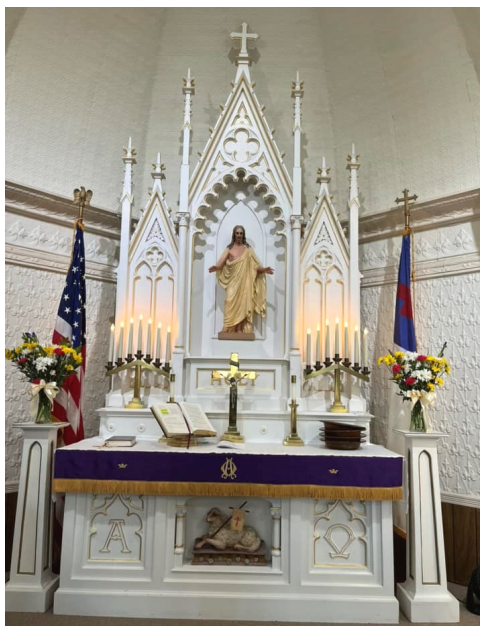


Our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

MARCH 2024 | www.kslcms.org

WORKERS TOGETHER

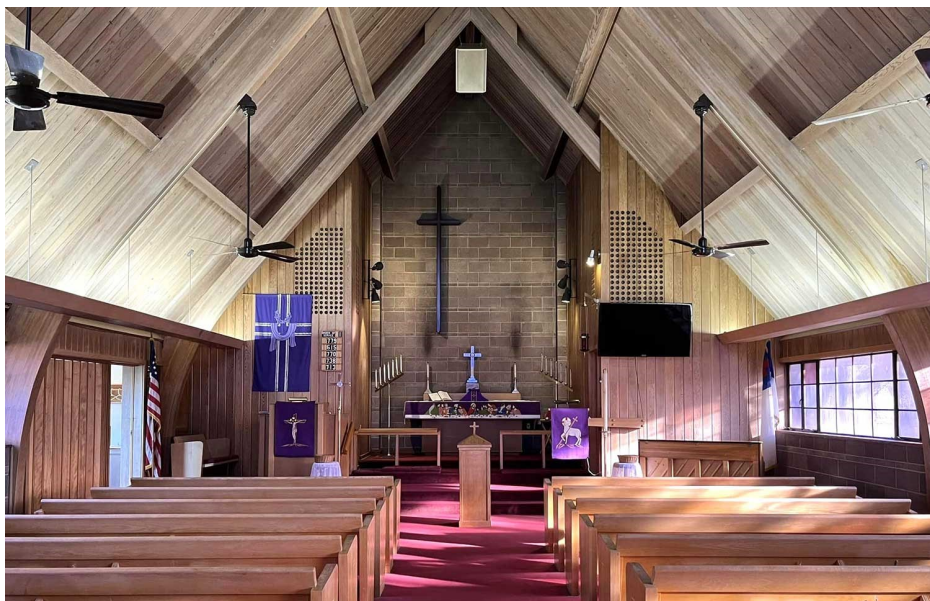
Monthly newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District



The sanctuary is prepared for Lent at Immanuel, Linn, in March 2023.



The sanctuary is prepared for Lent at Grace, McPherson, in March 2023.



The sanctuary is prepared for Lent at Calvary, Wellington, in February 2024.



Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Pastors Conference: Call for Papers

The 2024 Fall Pastors Conference will take place **October 7-8, 2024**, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka. The theme of the conference will be "Martin Luther and the Seven Deadly Sins." This theme is based on the Concordia Publishing House book, *Battle of the Soul: Luther Reforms Vice & Virtue* written by **Rev. Dr. Michael Fiebert**, associate pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in St. Charles, Mo. Dr. Fiebert will be the keynote speaker at the Pastors Conference.

The Pastors Conference Planning Committee is now accepting abstracts for presentations. Up to six slots per breakout session are available (*there will be three breakout sessions total on Monday and Tuesday of the conference, each 60 minutes in duration.*) Papers are encouraged to be related to the conference theme; those papers on topic will be given preference.

Please submit a brief abstract and title for your presentation to **Rev. Quentin Nuttmann**, qnuttmann@yahoo.com, and copy **Heather Williams**, heather@kslcms.org, no later than **May 1, 2024**.

President's Office

March Devotion

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

What is the largest number of people to whom you have ever had to admit a mistake? Most of us would never want our sins to be made public because it's embarrassing, shameful and ugly.

We can hide our sins and failures from most people, most of the time. Our co-workers don't know how we act at home. Our neighbors don't know what we do at work. Our friends at church only see the appearance that we cultivate.

The context of Psalm 51 tells us that David tried very hard to cover multiple sins as recorded in 2 Samuel 11-12. Even though David was the king, he was guilty of lying, adultery and murder. Imagine how it must have been for David. He was not particularly an evil man, at least no more so than the rest of us. In fact, he had been called "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). But like us, David could get caught in sin, with one sin leading to another until he was doing things he never thought he could possibly do.

God's prophet Nathan confronted David in public, and he confessed his sin so that everyone in the entire country knew what he had done. David not only confessed his sin to Nathan, but he also sat down and carefully wrote Psalm 51. David confessed his sin so publicly that for over 3,000 years people have repeated this story of his failure, our failure, and God's grace.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God." Those are words sung in the Offertory. In these words, we not only speak or confess our sins to God, but we also hear Him speak His gracious promises of forgiveness back to us, which He has bestowed upon us in Christ. David's words plead for God to have mercy on him because of God's unfailing love.

I can't see into your homes or hearts, and I really don't want to. I can only see into my own heart, and if you're like me you are capable of thinking and doing things that no one else would suspect.

But when you confess your sins, God is there to pronounce His complete forgiveness to you. That's it, it's done! Your sin is removed because Jesus shed His blood for you and was bodily raised again from the dead for you. Now Jesus wants to give that forgiveness to you. You hear this message of Good News preached at church, and you read of it in the Scriptures. You are joined to His death and resurrection in the waters of your Baptism. When you eat of His body and drink of His blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, He is personally forgiving you.

Dear friends, take the joy of the forgiveness of sins in Christ – which is the very message of Easter – with you all the time. Be not only a regular receiver of Christ's gifts in Word and Sacrament, but also invite someone you know to one of your church services throughout the Lenten and Easter season. **He is risen, and so shall we! Alleluia!**

Calls and Vacancies

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Sean Baker, Bethany, Overland Park, Assistant to Senior Pastor – pending

Rev. Paul Pater, Hope/Sheffield Village and Shepherd of the Ridge/North Ridge, OH, to Zion, Downs – declined

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

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

CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Arkansas City, Redeemer

(sole, seminary)

Basehor, Risen Savior (associate)

Cheney, St. Paul's (sole)

Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)

Downs, Zion (sole)

Greenleaf, Bethlehem &

St. Peter's, Barnes (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Hoxie, Immanuel &

Oakley, Immanuel

(sole, seminary)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (sole)

Leavenworth, Trinity

(associate, seminary)

Medicine Lodge, Trinity &

Nashville, St. John (sole)

Olathe, Beautiful Savior

(associate, seminary)

Overland Park, Bethany (senior)

Shawnee, Hope (sole)

Wichita, Ascension (associate)

Wichita, Risen Savior (associate,

seminary)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Atchison, Trinity (Teacher)

Emporia, Messiah (DCE intern)

Fairmount Ministries (Commissioned Minister)

Garden City, Trinity (Deaconess)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Teacher)

Linn Lutheran School (Teacher)

Topeka, Calvary (Deaconess intern)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

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

Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop

June 3-5, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church (702 S. 9th Street,
Salina, KS 67401)

The Beginnings of Genesis and the Genesis of Beginnings

Rev. Paul Landgraf, pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church/St. John Lutheran Church, Chamois/Drake, Mo.

Join Rev. Landgraf as he presents material on the structure and layout of the book of Genesis, as well as other Biblical books. The event will take place **June 3-5, 2024**, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina.

The registration deadline is May 20. Registration cost is \$150. For more information and to register, visit the [events page](#) on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis website. The local contact is Rev. Dennis Kootz, associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com

Prof Insights: Faculty-Led Workshop

July 8-10, 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church (2000 Main Street,
Hays, KS 67601)

What Does It Mean to be Lutheran in America? Discord in the LCMS in the 1960s and 1970s

Rev. Dr. Gerhard Bode, Professor and Chairman of Historical Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Join Dr. Bode as he presents analysis of the controversy within the LCMS in the 1960s and 1970s with attention to doctrinal issues and church-political developments in the Synod. The event will take place **July 8-10, 2024**, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays.

The registration deadline is June 24. Registration cost is \$150. For more information and to register, visit the [events page](#) on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis website. The local contact is Rev. Michael Schmidt, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church, revschmidt@yahoo.com

Worker News



Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) leaders gathered at the District Retreat Center in Herington, February 9-10, 2024, for their annual meeting. For information on about LERT training opportunities, contact Donna Williams, Disaster Response Coordinator, ksddrc@gmail.com

Kansas Lutheran school administrators and District staff attended the annual **Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Conference** at the Ramada in Topeka, February 12-13, 2024. The keynote presenter, Dr. Alan Freeman, Executive Director of LCMS School Ministry, St. Louis, spoke on the topic "The Changing Landscape of Education."



James Bradshaw, District Executive for Education and Youth, was inducted into the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Hall of Fame on Monday, February 12, 2024.

From left, Dr. Nick Compagnone, former Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Diocese of Salina; James Bradshaw and Dr. Jamie Finkeldei, Associate Superintendent, Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

Worker News Cont.



Directors of Christian Education (DCEs) gathered in Emporia on February 13, 2024, for a meet-and-greet with Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services. A DCE is a Synodically certified, called, and commissioned life-span educational leader prepared for team ministry in a congregational setting.



Gregg Wolgast was recognized as the 2024 KAIRS Lutheran Distinguished Teacher of the Year on Monday, February 12, 2024, at the annual KAIRS banquet in Topeka. He has been serving the staff of Holy Cross Lutheran School in Wichita since 2012, and teaches middle school Social Studies, Religion, a Career Elective Class, and P.E. for fifth-eighth grade. Mr. Wolgast also serves as the eighth grade teacher, coach, and Athletic Director. This is his 42nd year as an educator. ***Congratulations, Mr. Wolgast!***

Worker News Cont.



Nearly 75 early educators attended the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Early Childhood Conference at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Leawood on Saturday, February 24, 2024. The keynote presenter was **Dr. Drew Gerdes** (pictured), Assistant Professor of Education, Early Childhood Education Program Director, and Director of Student Teaching at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Dr. Gerdes presented on the topic, "Won't You Play With Me?" which focused on the importance of play-based learning.



Hope Lutheran School (Shawnee) Teacher **Sarah Eckhoff** was commissioned and installed on Sunday, February 25, 2024, by Rev. Robert Leiste.

Sarah teaches in the middle school and recently completed her colloquy through Concordia University, Irvine.



Congratulations!

Trinity Lutheran Church in Wichita celebrated their 90th Anniversary on Sunday, February 11, 2024.



2024 *Higher Things* Conferences for Youth!

Greetings! Two of the three *Higher Things* Conferences (Mequon, WI and Clarksville, AR) for this summer are full. Any further registrations will be placed on the waitlist. If you have not yet registered for a *Higher Things* Conference, be sure to get a spot on the waitlist! If another group cancels, you might still be able to go.



Kansas District youth at the *Higher Things* Conference in San Antonio, Texas, July 2023.

Higher Things is a youth conference focused on worship and catechesis, consisting daily of 3-4 worship services, a plenary speaker, and breakout sessions where speakers talk about faith, life here on earth, and most importantly, Jesus. Also included are meals and fun activities. Visit the *Higher Things* website <https://higherthings.org/events/who-am-i-2024> to learn more details.

Did you know *Higher Things* offers more than just conferences? Additional resources include social media videos discussing big questions and hard issues in a Biblical and Lutheran manner. *Higher Things* also offers podcasts with various teachers covering a wide range of topics that focus on Christ, what He has done for us, and how we live out our lives as Lutheran Christians in this unchristian world. Daily devotions are also available!

If you are interested in learning more about *Higher Things* and the resources offered, visit their website www.higherthings.org and click on the "Content" section. If you have any other questions about *Higher Things* or would like to know more, please feel free to reach out to me at Christopher.craig@ctsfw.edu.

May God bless you all,

Rev. Christopher Craig, Kansas District *Higher Things* Coordinator and pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove

Planned Giving – Creating Your Legacy

A good gift plan within one's estate plan can help manage taxation. For an extended period, Federal Estate Taxation exemptions (*how much is exempt from Federal Estate Tax*) have been high. In 2024 it is set at \$13.6 million per person, or \$27.2 million per couple. For most of us that is not a concern. However, some states have estate or inheritance taxes. In addition, retirement plans like annuities, IRAs' or 401(K)'s can be loaded with income tax liability. If you are planning on making a charitable gift to your favorite ministry from your estate, you want to make sure you use the right asset to reduce this liability.

If you would like your congregation to learn more about gift planning, please call 785-357-4441 or email heather@kslcms.org to schedule a gift planning presentation. Business Manager **Heather Williams** or LCEF DVP **Jeffrey Maltz** will visit your congregation during Bible class, after church or during a potluck or other fellowship event.



Heather Williams, Kansas District Business Manager, shares a Planned Giving presentation at the Older Adult Ministry event at Messiah Lutheran in Hays, Aug. 2023.

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

In this season of Lent, may we turn to the Lord 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.

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.

MARCH PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones, including

- ❖ Family and friends of Rev. George Mock, emeritus pastor. Rev. Mock entered his heavenly rest Feb. 14, 2024.

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 March:

Bethany Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center, Wichita – March 4

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina – March 11

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove – March 18

St. John's Lutheran Church, Oberlin – March 25

UPCOMING EVENTS

Out and About in Kansas

MARCH Staff Travel Schedule

- March 5 Circuit 10/11 Winkel at Trinity Lutheran, **Wichita** (President Panzer)
- March 6 School visit at Zion Lutheran, **Independence** (Jim Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- March 7 Kansas District Hispanic Convocation at District Office, **Topeka** (President Panzer, Rev. Daniel Grams)
- March 10 Preaching at Light of the World Lutheran, **De Soto** (Rev. Daniel Grams)
- March 12 Circuit 7/8 Winkel at St. Paul Lutheran, **Clay Center** (President Panzer)
Circuit 9 Winkel at Trinity Lutheran, **Ramona** (Rev. Daniel Grams)
- March 17-20 Six-Pack COP Regional Meeting, **Lexington, KY** (President Panzer)
- March 19 DCE Cluster at District Office, **Topeka** (Jim Bradshaw)

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

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 UPDATES

- **T-shirt orders:** There are no more free shirts available at this time. If your *Faith at Work* Team would like to print T-shirts for your project, visit <https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/faith-at-work/resources/> to retrieve the T-shirt information and graphic that you can use at your local print shop.
- **T-shirt pickup:** A reminder that your Crew Leaders can pick up T-shirt orders at your local Circuit Visitor's Church. T-shirts will be mailed out the week of March 11. Crew Leaders can look for further communication when T-shirts are ready to pick up.
- **Project Registration:** There is still time to register your *Faith at Work* projects! Visit this link to register your team by **March 22:** <https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/faith-at-work/>
- **Faith at Work Prayers:** Visit the provided link for a printable PDF form of one-year and three-year prayers for *Faith at Work* (prayers are written by Rev. Michael Hageman, Senior Pastor of the T.I.G. Partnership): <https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/faith-at-work/resources/>
- **Resources Page:** We have a lot of wonderful resources on the *Faith at Work* Communication Resources Page. You can find an updated Timeline Countdown (a list of important tasks to prepare for your project), Sample Registration Forms, T-shirt Graphics, and more to help you plan and communicate your local project(s). Visit <https://kslcms.org/caring-ministry/faith-at-work/resources/>

Questions? If you have any questions regarding *Faith at Work*, please reach out to the Planning Team faithatwork@kslcms.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



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.



2024

Middle School Huddle

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.



Registration is open for Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) Summer Camp! The camp will be held **June 2-7** in Woodland Park, Colo. LVR is for high school students currently in grades 8-12.

The cost is \$675 per student, with a \$100 deposit due at the time of pre-registration. Final payment and registration are due on **May 1**.

Visit the [LVR page](#) on the District website to register and find more information. Questions can be emailed to DCE Beth Stephens (Trinity, Mission/Shawnee) at beth@tlcms.org

LOOKING AHEAD – FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

March 5 – DYMC Executive Leaders meeting, Zoom 1-2:30 p.m.

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

March 8 – LERT meeting, Zoom 8:30-9:30 a.m.

March 15 – LSA and KSDE meeting, Zoom 11-12 p.m.

March 18-20 – Six-Pack Council of Presidents

March 19 – DCE Cluster, District Office, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

April 12-14 – LWML District Convention, DoubleTree Hotel at Wichita Airport, Wichita

Save the Date!

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**.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

ON THE CALENDAR:



LERT Basic Chainsaw Safety & Operations

Date: March 16, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Registration: \$30 (send to King of Kings Lutheran Church, Attn: Mark Trivilino or Dale Melancon, 306 E. Madison, Gardner, KS 66030)

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

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

Severe Weather Awareness with KCTV5 meteorologist Warren Sears

Date: March 21, 2024

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. (please arrive by 6:45 p.m.)

Location: Johnson County Firehouse - District 1 (33364 W. 191st St., Edgerton, KS 66021)

Registration: FREE to LERT & CERT members only

Registration: lcms-lert.org

Contact: Mark Trivilino, tma41@yahoo.com

Community Outreach Cookout

Date: April 7, 2024

Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Registration: lcms-lert.org

Contact: Mark Trivilino, tma41@yahoo.com

Basic LERT Training

Date: April 13, 2024

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

Location: Lord of Life Lutheran Church (3105 W. 135th St., Leawood, KS 66224)

Registration: \$35 (send to Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Attn: Josh Keithly LERT, 3105 W. 135th St., Leawood, KS 66224)

Registration: lcms-lert.org

Contact: Mark Trivilino, tma41@yahoo.com or Josh Keithly, josh.lordlife@gmail.com

Red Cross Readiness "Shelter Set-Up After a Disaster 101"

Date: April 18, 2024

Location: Johnson County Firehouse - District 1 (33364 W. 191st St., Edgerton, KS 66021)

Registration: FREE to LERT & CERT team members only

Registration: lcms-lert.org

Contact: Mark Trivilino, tma41@yahoo.com

**(LERT News Continued
on Next Page)**

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Engaging in
Christ's Mission



Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News Cont.

Faith at Work is a District-wide service event on the calendar for April 2024. We invite our LERT teams and congregations to participate in this annual District-wide service event where groups of all ages and skill sets find needs within their local communities to serve throughout the month of April. If your LERT team has been looking for ways to stay active and engaged in Mercy Work, this is a great place to start! Find more information at <https://kslcms.org/disaster-response>

In Kansas, we understand the unpredictability of year-round weather patterns. "Prepare to Adapt" is the theme for any type of Disaster Response. Are you equipped to step into the spring storm season? There are many resources available to help you assess your current and future preparedness and needs, both personal and within your church. Here is a list of resources for you to tap into as you prepare for storm season in Kansas:

- [Weather.gov/top/swaw](https://www.weather.gov/top/swaw) - resources include Kansas Weather Spotters Field Guide and the 2024 Kansas Severe Weather Preparedness Packet.
- Connect with your local County, Township and/or City Emergency Management office. Many will be scheduling Storm Spotter classes in the coming weeks. Most are free to attend and do not require an RSVP.
- Severe Weather Week: March 4-8, 2024
- National Emergency Preparedness Month: September 2024

If you do not have a Severe Weather Plan at your church, make one. You never know when a storm might develop. Not sure where to start? Invite your local Emergency Manager to help you assess your church building and the best course of action, including multiple storm shelter options. And, if you don't have a weather radio in your building, you might consider purchasing one. Equally important is your Severe Weather plan at home. Do you have a plan and does everyone understand it? Do you practice it? A few minutes of preparation could matter in the event you must take immediate shelter. In the event of a destructive storm or critical event, do you have a list of resources to call to request help? Prioritize your list and be intentional in updating and distributing your list to those responsible for taking the lead on any cleanup or recovery effort. Be sure to include the District Office (President Panzer) and your DDRC (Donna Williams) on your list. LERT teams respond through these contacts.

For questions related to LERT or Disaster Response or to schedule a Training event, please contact **Donna Williams**, District Disaster Response Coordinator, at ksddrc@gmail.com



Connecting Students to Campus Ministries!

The NIV translators insert topical headings throughout the Bible. Above Titus chapter 2 is the heading, **"What Must Be Taught to Various Groups."**

College students are an identifiable group in our culture. These young men and women greatly benefit from being taught how to distinguish between worldly wisdom and God's wisdom. They enjoy learning how science is not infallible, but God's Word is. They appreciate having a pastor who can answer their curious questions, lead them to mature in their faith and life, and help them grow in true knowledge and wisdom. They appreciate the fellowship of believers and the privilege of being missionaries on campus.

If you have a couple of college students who participate in the life of your congregation, you have enough to start a college Bible study/fellowship. For ideas on how to take those first steps, please contact me.

May the Lord richly bless all of us who have the privilege of serving the Lord in ministry to college students.

Rev. Mark Boxman, Campus Ministry Coordinator and Senior Pastor at Trinity, Salina
Serving students at Kansas Wesleyan University and Kansas State University in Salina
Phone: 620-441-8342, Email: markdboxman@gmail.com

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!

Vicar Nathan Harkins, who serves as the vicar at Beautiful Savior in Olathe, shares a thank-you to the Kansas District for continued financial support for his education:

"Thank you for your continued investment in my formation and the preparation of many church workers. It is such a blessing to be the recipient of such Christian generosity. There is also great joy in seeing the District invest in the future of the church. I look forward to the day when I am blessed with a flock to shepherd!"

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](#).



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

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



For More Information

www.CAWichita.org

316-202-8989

CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org

LCMS Kansas District

WEST
AFRICA

PARTNERSHIP



Pentecost is May 19 and there will be a District-wide offering to support mission work in Guinea and West Africa. Last year's offering and designated funds to West Africa resulted in a total of \$50,000!

This year's Pentecost Offering will continue to help support the mission work in West Africa, and the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques (CLET) seminary in Guinea. Please mark your calendars and prayerfully consider participating. More information to come!

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.

2024 LCEF Take Heart Scholarship!

High school seniors invested with LCEF have the opportunity to earn a \$3,000, \$1,000 or \$500

Take Heart Scholarship! **The window to apply closes May 1, 2024.** Winners will be announced on May 31, 2024.

Visit the LCEF Take Heart Scholarship page at <https://lcef.org/scholarship> to apply and learn more! The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for LCEF Young Investors Club members who are high school seniors, and will soon advance to the next level of higher education.

SHARED INTEREST PROGRAM

Donate your Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investment interest to a ministry close to your heart.

Your investment in LCEF is already helping ministries through low-cost loans and ministry solution programs for LCMS organizations and Rostered Church Workers (RCWs).

Now take your investments one step further by donating your interest to the ministry of your choice.

Ready to donate?

Call our friendly Customer Relations Team at **800-843-5233** or scan the QR code.

Want to learn about more ways to give? Visit lcef.org/shared.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
where investments build ministry

800-843-5233 | fax: 314-996-1131 | lcef.org



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

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](#).

Congregation Statistical Reports

Synodical Congregation Statistical reports were emailed to congregations the week of February 5th. Be sure to submit your congregation's end-of-year statistics for 2023 and update your current list of lay leaders at the following website: <https://lc.lcms.org/>.

The deadline for reporting is March 31, 2024. You may review your congregation's profile and update lay leader information throughout the year to make sure your contact information, service times, and other important data are current. If you do not have your congregation's login information, contact LCMS Rosters, Statistics and Research Services at rosters.statistics@lcms.org or **314-996-1366**.

Up-to-date statistical information is essential for the Synod as it plans current and future ministry efforts. Such information is also critical for determining proper voting representation at conventions (see LCMS Bylaw 1.3.4.3). **Your timely completion of the report is appreciated!**

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

Lent and Easter Media Kits Available

Media kits are available on the LCMS website for the Lent and Easter season. These free kits offer a variety of resources for congregations to use in reaching out to local communities to invite and provide details about their worship services. The kits include a newspaper opinion editorial and advertisement, social media shareable and reels, a Facebook advertisement, and post/note cards.

Visit <https://resources.lcms.org/media-kits> to access the Lent and Easter media kits!

Set Apart to Serve – School Resource Kits!

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



The LCMS *Set Apart to Serve* church work recruitment initiative has created a free School Resource Kit, to equip and encourage young people for church work vocations. Included in the kit are student books, posters, leader's guides, handouts, and two chapel services.

Schools can visit <https://www.cph.org/set-apart-to-serve> to preorder a School Resource Kit.

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Around the District



The Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington has a new chair lift! This lift is accessible for those with mobility challenges to use between the main level and the lower level of the retreat center.

The chair lift was made possible through a grant provided by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). ***We thank the LWML for their generosity!***



27 people from seven different churches (and three different states!) gathered at Redeemer Lutheran in Olathe for a Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) event on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Rev. David Kahle led a Bible Study and Rev. Timothy Koch led the evangelism training. After lunch the group divided into nine teams and canvassed the immediate neighborhood. The teams knocked on 206 homes. 72 people answered the door, and 40 took the survey. Of those 40 people, only 18 were certain of their salvation because of Jesus Christ. 25% of the people who took our survey were currently unchurched. **Through the group's canvassing efforts, three people desired a follow-up visit.**

The next JD2D event is **Saturday, March 9** at the Zion Lutheran church plant in Concordia, KS.