



WORKERS TOGETHER

JULY 2024

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

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

(Psalm 19:1)



The beauty of Kansas is displayed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hepler during the aurora borealis on May 10.

Photo credit: **Deaconess Bethany Stoever** (*Immanuel, Hepler*)

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St. John's will be celebrating their 150th anniversary, Sept. 14-15

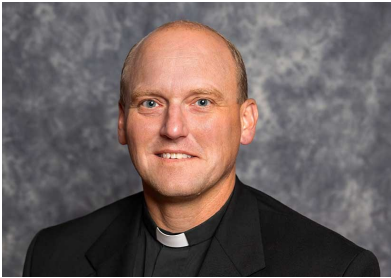
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

 Monthly Devotion

 Worker / Congregation Resources

 Pastoral Installations

 Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. He provides for both our spiritual and physical needs: *“Forgive us our trespasses; Give us this day our daily bread.”* With our sights set on Him, everything will fall into place. No doubt, the world around us offers a rich harvest. The question is, *“How are we to deal with it in our lives?”*

The parable of Luke 12 has no intention to make a farmer (or any of us) feel guilty if we have been blessed with a large yield. Neither is the parable intended to give someone a bad conscience for some type of successful increase in possessions. It’s a proper Christian thing for us to thank all those involved in bringing food to our table by producing a surplus of crops beyond what the farmer needs for himself. This equally applies to other sectors of the economy, where individuals work hard to make a good living for themselves and others.

Why then is the rich man called a “fool”? Because he forgot the

most important thing, which is God. His thoughts and plans relate to himself alone. This is evident from his statement in Luke: *“I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry’” (Luke 12:19).* The rich man is the reason why his crops

When we lead with statements that begin with “I’ve done this,” or “I’ve accomplished that,” the conversation is headed in the wrong direction.

Instead, our lives are to express the relationship that as we have received from God. Those blessings now flow from us into the lives of others.

increased. Notice God’s response to him: *“This night your soul is required of you” (v. 20).*

What does this parable teach us? First, to be rich toward God is to believe that God is the giver of all things, including life and salvation. To show that one believes is to

share with others the gifts God gives. Second, the rich man planned his life apart from God. Not clothed in the Savior, he stands all alone and “naked” before the Creator. Contrast that picture with how blessed are those who have received the gift of faith and are clothed in Christ! Christ became poor, stripped naked, and put on a cross for us so that we would be rich in much more than earthly possessions. **By faith in Christ crucified and Him risen, you have the eternal riches of heaven.**

No doubt, this parable points us to Jesus. It invites us to live life in God, to see those who are without Him as “naked” and in need of a Savior. It invites us to respond back to God through our worship, tithes, and offerings that we bring – to be rich towards Him as He has first been rich towards us. And it exhorts us to live lives of sincere thanksgiving to God in prayer. As we have been taught in the Catechism, *“For all this, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”*



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's July Travel Schedule

- July 7** Preaching at Christ (Manhattan)
Ordination / Installation of Christopher Warneke at Redeemer (Arkansas City)
- July 14** Commissioning / Installation of Ashley Nelson at St. Paul (Leavenworth)
Ordination / Installation of Nathan Nelson at Trinity (Leavenworth)
Ordination / Installation of Frank Johnson at Zion (Hillsboro)
- July 20** Installation of Rev. Joseph Goodroad at Grace (Iola)
- July 21** Ordination / Installation of John Kastner at Beautiful Savior (Olathe)
- July 31** New Worker Orientation at District Office (Topeka)



Rev. Anthony Masinelli was installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Cheney, on June 15. From left, (front row) Revs. Cliff Winter, Dr. James Voelz, Anthony Masinelli, Justin Panzer; (back row) Revs. Michael Schotte, Timothy Meyer, Craig Boehlke, CJ Lutttinen, Thomas Johnson and Nathan Dudley.



Rev. Randy Jahnke was installed as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenleaf, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barnes, on June 30. From left, (front row) Revs. Jack Kirk, Rodney Fritz, David Gruoner, Randy Jahnke, Justin Panzer, Aaron Fenker; (back row) Revs. Mark Gaschler, Paul Tessaro, Philip Miller, Timothy Koch, Joshua Hayes and Alan Stahlecker.



Rev. Matthew Goltl was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, on June 23. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, CJ Lutttinen, Matthew Goltl, Scott Goltl (Matthew's father), Marvin Barz (Matthew's grandfather), Sean Baker (Matthew's brother-in-law); (middle) Revs. Mark Boxman, Keith Kohlmeier, Michael Schotte, Timothy Gordish, Nick Cordt; (back) Revs. Scott Snow and Dr. Michael Bingenheimer.

Don't Forget! District Convention Forms

Congregations and Church Workers: The District Convention letters and instructions were mailed to congregations in May, containing information about the 2025 District Convention which will be held June 5-6, 2025, at the Tony's Pizza Event Center (TPEC) in Salina. The theme for the 2025 Convention will be **"Abiding in the Word"** based on John 8:31-32.

The mailing included a cover letter listing important dates and instructions for Call for Nominations, Delegate Reporting, Nominee Acceptance and Biography/Profiles, District Reports,

and Overtures. The mailing also contained the assessment for each individual Kansas District congregation.

Please note, new for this Convention, forms are digital, fillable PDFs found on the 2025 District Convention page on the District website at kslcms.org/2025-convention.

Please fill out the forms online, download and email to the District Convention email, ksdconvention@kslcms.org. Sign any required forms and mail them to the District Office (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104).

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Steven Frank**, Redeemer, Atwood to St. John & St. Paul, Vergas, MN – **pending**
- Rev. Jacob Heine**, Faith, Topeka to Trinity, Monroe, LA – **declined**
- Rev. Christopher McCarthy**, Wall, South Dakota to Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **pending**
- Rev. Kevin McReynolds**, Redeemer, Mountain Home, AR to Messiah, Hays – **pending**
- Rev. Benjamin Micheel**, Christ, Topeka to Trinity, St. Joseph, MI – **pending**
- Rev. Thomas Presley**, Zion, Chanute to First, Birmingham, AL – **accepted**
- Rev. Erik Sorenson**, St. Peter, Columbus, IN to Risen Savior, Basehor (associate) – **declined**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Joseph Goodroad (CTSFW)** to Grace, Iola (sole) – **installation Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.**
- SMP Vicar Frank Johnson** to Zion, Hillsboro – **ordination / installation Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 6 p.m.**
- Candidate John Kastner (CTSFW)** to Beautiful Savior, Olathe (associate) – **ordination / installation Sunday, July 21, 2024**
- SMP Vicar Jeff Lane** to Faith, Topeka – **ordination / installation Sunday, August 11, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.**
- Rev. Brendon Moore**, Grace, Winter Haven, FL to Ascension, Wichita (associate) – **accepted, installation Sunday, July 21, 2024**
- Candidate Nathan Nelson (CSL)** to Trinity, Leavenworth (associate) – **ordination / installation Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 1 p.m.**
- Rev. Sherman Stenson**, Austin, TX to Zion, Downs – **accepted, installation Sunday, August 4, 2024**
- Candidate Christopher Warneke (CTSFW)** to Redeemer, Arkansas City (sole) & Trinity, Winfield (assisting capacity) – **ordination / installation Sunday, July 7, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

- Atchison, Trinity (senior)
- Basehor, Risen Savior (associate)
- Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)
- Dodge City, Holy Cross & Jetmore, St. Paul (sole)
- Ellsworth, St. Paul's (sole)
- Emporia, Messiah (sole)
- Hanover, Trinity (sole)
- Hays, Messiah (sole)
- Leavenworth, St. Paul (associate)
- Medicine Lodge, Trinity & St. John, Nashville (sole)
- Mission / Shawnee, Trinity (two associates)
- Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS

- Principal David Birnbaum**, First, Ponca City, OK to Trinity, Atchison – **accepted, installation Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024**
- DCE Hannah Eelsey**, Faith, Topeka to Fairmount Ministries – **accepted**
- Deaconess Candidate Claire Gerrard (CTSFW)** to Trinity, Garden City – **commissioning / installation Sunday, July 7, 2024**
- Amy Goltl**, Immanuel, Olivette, MO to Holy Cross, Wichita – **accepted, installation Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024**
- Deaconess Candidate Ashley Nelson (CSL)** to St. Paul, Leavenworth – **commissioning / installation Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 10 a.m.**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- Independence, Zion (EC Teacher)
- Marysville, Good Shepherd Association (Kindergarten Teacher)
- Shawnee, Hope (Teacher)

JULY PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ◆ **Family and friends of Nancy Harrison**, mother of LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. Nancy entered her heavenly rest June 12, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. Dr. John Wille**, President of the LCMS South Wisconsin District. Dr. Wille entered his heavenly rest June 10, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Melody Maki**, daughter of Rev. Paul and Michelle Tessaro. Melody entered her heavenly rest May 31, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Dr. Carl Moser**, former Director of LCMS School Ministry and father-in-law of Rev. Jeffrey Kunze, Christ, Overland Park. Dr. Moser entered his heavenly rest May 31, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Helen Christensen**, mother of Kristina Schmidt (Rev. Michael Schmidt, St. Luke's, Manhattan). Helen entered her heavenly rest May 9, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. Darrell Matthews**, emeritus pastor. Rev. Matthews entered his heavenly rest May 7, 2024.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- ◆ **Kevin Adams**
- ◆ **Rev. Richard Andrus**
- ◆ **Gideon Franson**
- ◆ **Rev. David Kahle**
- ◆ **Rev. Jim Mayes**
- ◆ **Rev. David McCloskey**
- ◆ **Carrie Meyers**

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- ◆ Zion, Claflin & St. Peter, Holyrood – **July 1**
- ◆ First, Phillipsburg – **July 8**
- ◆ Peace, Greensburg – **July 15**
- ◆ Christ, Wathena – **July 22**
- ◆ Trinity Family of Faith & Learning Center, Basehor – **July 29**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Campus Ministry



Deaf Ministry



Evangelism / Outreach



Planned Giving

Redeemer, Lawrence Campus Ministry



The Crimson & Blue Lutheran Crew (*Campus Ministry at the University of Kansas in Lawrence*) is excited to enter into its third year!

We are looking forward to welcoming in our new students and continuing to encourage and build up our existing students. The Lord

continues to be gracious and generous to our group, not only placing Lutheran students into our care but also giving us the opportunity to meet and connect with students who are neither Lutheran nor baptized.

It has been the great joy of our group to have students join the Lord's family through Holy Baptism and the Lord's altar through instruction in the Christian faith. **We are excited to see what the Lord provides us this year!**

For more information about Campus Ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence, contact **Rev. Sean Kilgo**, pastor of Redeemer, kilgosr@gmail.com or at the church office 785-843-8181.

Our Saviour, Kansas City Invites Students to Worship

Dear Kansas District congregations, *Kansas City; Kansas City Art Institute*).

Does your congregation or community include students who will be attending the University of Kansas Schools of Medicine, Nursing or Health Care Professions in Kansas City, Kansas?

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Kansas City is an LCMS congregation located on Rainbow Boulevard, just two blocks south of the KU Medical Center campus. We currently have students in several medical programs who are part of the congregation.

We also are blessed to have students from other local schools join us for worship (*University of Missouri –*

Kansas City; Kansas City Art Institute). We welcome students to join us for our regular, weekly worship service on **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** led by Rev. Mark Wood. Our church is located about 15 minutes from Kansas City's River Market and less than 10 minutes from the Country Club Plaza.

Please share our location and service time with your community! We love to share the love of Christ with students in our midst.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church is located at 4153 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103. Visit the Our Saviour website at www.oskc.org for more information.



KANSAS DISTRICT MISSION ADVOCATES

Revs. Joel Hiesterman, David Gruoner and Dean Christ

(pictured above left to right, with President Panzer) 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.



MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' July Travel Schedule

From July 1-25, Rev. Grams will be on campus at the University of Notre Dame completing two remaining courses for the Masters of Non Profit Administration degree. He will continue to fulfill his district responsibilities with remote work.

- July 11** Board of Missions (Zoom)
- July 18** Board of Education & Youth (Zoom)
- July 25** KAIRS Executive Committee (Zoom)
- July 31** New Worker Orientation at District Office (Topeka)



The Jesus Signs Immersion Workshop is for those interested in learning more about sign language, as well as learning religious signing skills. The Jesus Signs Workshops are designed to teach religious signing (beginner, intermediate, or advanced), provide resources for teaching and training, ongoing support and resources to use in your specific area, and

Jesus Signs Immersion Workshop, July 22-26

sharing ideas on reaching out to the deaf community.

All are welcome to attend this workshop, including those who are deaf, have a hearing disability, and all levels of signers from beginners to advanced.

The Jesus Signs Immersion Workshop will take place **July 22-26** at

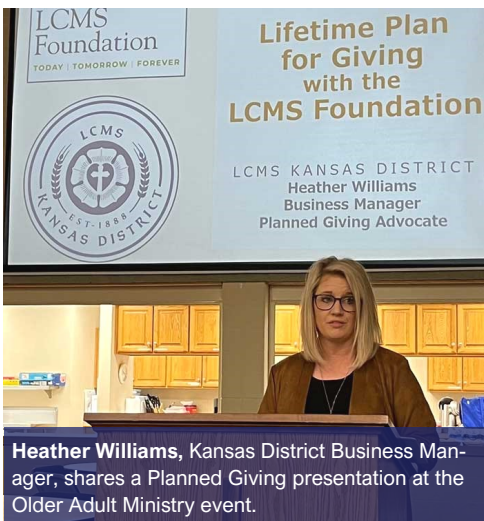
Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Mo. (115 S. Sixth Street, St. Charles, MO 63301).

Registration is \$200, and scholarships and CEU credits are available. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided, and participants are asked to bring snacks to share during break time.

Visit the 2024 Jesus Signs Immersion Workshop page on the Deaf Outreach website at:

<https://www.immersion2024.deafoutreach.org/home> for more information and to register.

Planned Giving



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 Planned Giving 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.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Kansas District Schools



Education Resources



Parish Education



Youth Ministry



James Bradshaw

District Executive for Education & Youth

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am writing to formally notify you that **Friday, August 30** will be my last

day with the LCMS Kansas District before entering into a District board approved three-month sabbatical leave. This will be followed by a period of debriefing in December with staff that will lead into my retirement in January 2025. It has been a joy and an honor to work with such gifted workers across the District and office colleagues these past 19+ years!

Please note that all communications pertaining to school and youth ministries may be directed to **Rev. Daniel Grams**, Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services, at daniel@kslcms.org effective August 1. All other communications may be directed to the appropriate personnel at the District Office. Personal cor-

respondences may be sent to me at faithdce@hotmail.com.

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunities I have been given during my tenure here to serve you. Thank you all and may God richly bless you and keep you!

Blessings in Christ!

Jim Bradshaw

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

Out and About in Kansas

Jim Bradshaw's July Travel Schedule

- July 6-7** Commissioning / Installation of Claire Gerrard at Trinity (Garden City)
- July 21-22** Saints Alive After 55 Conference at Christ the King (Salina)
- July 27** Early Childhood Summer Workshop at Our Saviour (Kansas City)

ATCHISON

Trinity Lutheran Church

(603 North 8th St. Atchison, KS 66002)

Saturday, Aug. 24 / 9 a.m.-noon

Speaker: Rev. Jim Woelmer

Cost: Free (*freewill offerings accepted*)

Childcare and lunch provided

RSVP: rachel.micheel@cune.org / 913-426-4007

NORTON

Immanuel Lutheran Church

(14715 W. Washington Rd. Norton, KS 67654)

Saturday, Oct. 19 / Noon-5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dan Galchutt

Cost: Free (*lunch provided*)

RSVP: **Rev. Matthew Goehring**, ilcnorton@ruraltel.net / 785-877-2430

WICHITA

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

(6770 E. 34th St. N Wichita, KS 67226)

Saturday, Aug. 17 / 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Jeff Meyers

Cost: Free (*lunch provided*)

RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/8esmZbUphn>

GIRARD

Trinity Lutheran Church

(109 W. Saint John St. Girard, KS 66743)

Saturday, Oct. 26 / 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Jim Woelmer

Cost: \$30/couple or \$15/individual

Childcare: \$10 per child

Lunch provided (*donated by Immanuel, Hepler*) **Registration coming soon!**



OVERLAND PARK

Christ Lutheran Church

(11720 Nieman Road, Overland Park, KS 66210)

Saturday, Sept. 28 / 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Jeff Meyers

Cost: Free (*lunch provided*)

RSVP: **Rev. Jeff Meyers**, jeff.meyers@clcop.org / 913-345-9700



EDUCATION & YOUTH



Rev. Daniel Grams (back row, third from left) District Executive for Congregational & School Services, participated in School Leadership Development (SLED) training sponsored by LCMS School Ministry in St. Louis, June 12-14. SLED '24 participants receive leadership training designed specifically for school leaders serving Lutheran schools and are mentored by respected, experienced administrators. Participants complete training that benefits the schools they serve. SLED '24 will be completed in June 2025.

Fall Confirmation Retreat

The 2024 Fall Confirmation Retreat for 5th-8th grade youth will be held **October 4-5**, at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch located south of Junction City (1168 Highway K157, Junction City, KS 66441).

This year's Confirmation Retreat theme will be "The Lord's Prayer."

Visit the Confirmation

Retreat page on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/confirmation-retreat> for more information to come.

If you have questions, please contact **Rev. Christian Schultz** (First, Paola) at pastor@firstlutheran-paola.org.

Save the Date!

The 2024 Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) for

high school-aged youth will be held **November 15-17**, at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch located south of Junction City (1168 Highway K157, Junction City, KS 66441).

Visit the KDYG page on the District website <https://kslcms.org/kdyg> for more information to come. If you have any questions, please contact **DCE Amanda Adams** (Christ, Topeka) at dceadams@christlcms.org.

Congregation at Prayer

Produced by the Kansas District

Parish Education Committee, this free resource gives congregation members a short form for devotions, readings, hymns, prayers, and parts of the Small Catechism. Visit <https://kslcms.org/cap> to access the devotions.

GIVE FOR YOUTH

The "Give for Youth" opportunity

serves the purpose of allowing congregations and individuals to support the youth ministries of the LCMS Kansas District in a financial way. This fund assists young people by reducing the cost of District-sponsored youth ministry events

(Note: this does not include the LCMS Youth Gathering and Higher Things because they are national events.)

Financial gifts can be sent to the LCMS Kansas District Office (Attn: Business Office, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104). Please earmark "**Give for Youth.**"

Gifts can also be made electronically through the "Donate" red button found on the [Youth Ministry](#) page of the District website.

If you have any questions, please contact **Rev. Daniel Grams** at daniel@kslcms.org.

CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



Church Worker Wellness



Older Adult Ministry



Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator

Upcoming LERT Events:

- ♦ **Aug. 8, 6:30-9 p.m. - Community Awareness, Human Trafficking 101**
Johnson County Firehouse-District 1 (33364 W. 191st St., Edgerton, KS 66021)
This event is FREE to LERT & CERT team members. Find more information at lcms-lert.org.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Contact is **Mark Trivilino**, tma41@yahoo.com.

- ♦ **Aug. 10, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. - LERT Basic Training**

Christ Lutheran Church (11720 Neiman Rd., Overland Park, KS 66210)

Registration is \$30. Register at lcms-lert.org.

Contact is **Rick Johnson**, ricksjohnson@sbcglobal.net.

- ♦ **Sept. 7, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Train the Trainer: Kansas District LERT Training**

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

Registration is FREE! Lunch is included. Find more information at lcms-lert.org. The purpose of this event is to add more LERT trainers to the team. If you have completed Basic LERT training and would like to be involved in equipping others to respond to disasters, please register to attend this event!

- ♦ **Sept. 7, 12:30-5 p.m. - Kansas District LERT Assessment Training**

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

Registration is FREE! Lunch is included. Find more information at lcms-lert.org.

The purpose of this event is to build a team of volunteers trained in assessments. Volunteers must have completed the Basic LERT class. If you are interested in being a part of the Assessment Team, please register for this event!

Contact **Donna Williams** for more information, ksddrc@gmail.com.

Find us at:

kslcms.org/disaster-response

lcms-lert.org

Facebook:

[LERT Kansas District](https://www.facebook.com/LERT-Kansas-District)

SAINTS ALIVE AFTER 55

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 event will be **7-9 p.m. on Sunday, July 21**, and **8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday, July 22**.

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**, emeritus pastor. The Bible study leader is **Rev. Mark Boxman**, senior pastor at Trinity, Salina.

Register and find a schedule on the homepage of the District website, <https://kslcms.org>. Registration is open until July 8.

Older Adult Ministry Events

Game Night will be held **Friday evening, August 23**, at Immanuel, Ellsworth (905 Stanberry St.). There will be an informal meeting with attendees to encourage and educate on Older Adult Ministry. This is a free event.

Rev. William Cornelius (St. Peter's, Elk Creek, Neb.) will share his thoughts on Generational Serving as a Servant on **Saturday, August 24**, at Messiah, Hays (2000 Main St.). Clinkscapes Elder Law Practice located in Hays will provide a legal perspective during the financial strategies forum. There will be a \$15 fee to cover the cost of a box lunch.

For questions, contact **Sharon Kolanowski** kolanosm32@gmail.com or 785-366-6701.

LCEF Sabbatical Scholarships

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is excited to launch the first cycle of the **Sabbatical Scholarship Program**. This promotes a sabbatical leave for rest and renewal to support the long-term wellness of ministry leaders and congregations.

Four scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to selected LCMS church workers and ministries who are planning a sabbatical experience.

Visit <https://lcef.org/grace-place-wellness-sabbatical-scholarship> to complete an application. The deadline for applications is Oct. 31, 2024.

BUSINESS OFFICE

 **Kansas District Resources**

 **Announcements and Reminders**

 **Congregational Treasurers Workshops**



Congregational Treasurers Workshops

Starting in July, there will be District workshops offered that provide simple, straightforward help relating to clergy tax and church treasurer issues. The presenters will be District Business Manager **Heather Williams** and LCEF District Vice President **Jeffrey Maltz**. Participants will also hear from Concordia Plan Services and meet fellow servants from their specific church region. A free

lunch will be provided, sponsored by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Some of the topics that will be covered at the workshops include a review of the Congregational Treasurers Manual, borrowing and investment options through LCEF, narrative budgets, salary guidelines, board governance, internal control, planned giving, clergy taxes, document retention, employer resources, and

employees vs. contractors.

These workshops are geared towards new and returning congregational treasurers, bookkeepers, financial secretaries, office managers, stewardship leaders, pastors, church members and/or staff who have financial or administrative responsibilities.

Workshop Dates and Locations

- ◆ **July 13 - Faith, Derby** (Region III)
- ◆ **August 24 - Messiah, Hays** (Region IV)
- ◆ **Sept. 21 - St. Paul, Clay Center** (Region II)
- ◆ **Oct. 12 - Kansas District Office, Topeka** (Region I)

Register here for the workshops. For questions, please call 785-357-4441 or email heather@kslcms.org.

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](#).

2024-2025 Lutheran Witness Renewal Packets

2024-2025 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets for the Kansas District will be sent to congregations in July. Check your mail for the packets to make additions, changes, or deletions to your subscriptions. Renewals will be due in our office in late August.

Every month, *The Lutheran Witness* brings you news, stories, and essays that aim to encourage you in your faith, clarify God's Word, keep you informed, and spark a question or two. If you subscribe through your congregation, your issue also includes the Kansas District edition, which brings you news about LCMS people and places right here in Kansas.



DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

JULY

- July 4-5 Independence Day**
(District Office closed)
- July 9-12 Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, and Church Music**
(Concordia University, Seward, Neb.)
- July 11 Board of Missions,**
10-11 a.m. *(Zoom)*
- July 13 Congregational Treasurers Workshop,** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
(Faith, Derby)

JULY (cont.)

- July 16 SAA55 Committee,** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. *(Zoom)*
- July 18 Board of Caring Ministry,** 9 a.m.-11 a.m. *(Zoom)*
Board of Education & Youth, 1-3 p.m. *(Zoom)*
- July 21-22 Saints Alive After 55 Conference** *(Christ the King, Salina)*
- July 27 Early Childhood Summer Workshop** *(Our Saviour, Kansas City, Kan.)*

JULY (cont.)

- July 29 Board of Stewardship,** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *(Zoom)*
Executive Committee, 1-2 p.m. *(Zoom)*
- July 31 New Worker Orientation,** 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. *(District Office, Topeka)*

AUGUST

- Aug. 1 President's Council,** 1-5 p.m. *(District Office, Topeka)*
- Aug. 2 Board of Directors,** *(District Office, Topeka)*

AUGUST (cont.)

- Aug. 3 LERT Leader meeting,** 9-11 a.m. *(Zoom)*
- Aug. 6 DYMC Executive meeting,** 2:30 p.m. *(Zoom)*
PDC meeting, 4-5 p.m. *(Zoom)*
- Aug. 17 Marriage Enrichment Seminar,** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. *(Risen Savior, Wichita)*
- Aug. 24 Congregational Treasurers Workshop,** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. *(Messiah, Hays)*
Older Adult Ministry event *(Messiah, Hays)*
Marriage Enrichment Seminar, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. *(Trinity, Atchison)*

2024 Worship Conference

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church *(901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66606)*

The annual St. John's, Topeka Worship Conference will be held **8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, August 10.** The keynote speaker is **Rev. Max Mons**, First Vice-President of the Iowa East District. This conference provides continuing education and conversation for those interested in the song and worship of the Church.

Registration and a schedule are found at: <https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference>.

LLL/LHM Presence at the Kansas State Fair

The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries will sponsor a booth at the Kansas State Fair **Sept. 6-15** in the Meadowlark Exhibition Hall. There will also be a worship service at the People's Bank and Trust Arena at **10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8.** The preacher will be Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour." The music at the worship service will be provided by the choirs of Trinity, Salina, and Our Redeemer, Hutchinson. There will be a reception with Dr. Zeigler at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Hutchinson *(407 E. 12th Avenue)*.

Volunteers are needed to work at the booth, greeting guests and sharing Christian materials, including Bibles, *Portals of Prayer, My Devotions*, LHM resources and gifts for children.

Contact **Mike Tonn** at 316-640-3918 or tonn.mike@yahoo.com if you and your congregation can provide Christian materials and/or serve as booth volunteers.

JDMA Music Camp at St. John, Palmer

Jubilate Deo Music Academy is excited to offer a music camp this summer to strengthen music skills

by engaging in LSB services that may not be familiar, singing in large and small groups, folk dancing, playing musical games, and more! We will be encouraging the artist in everyone to work on a group project we can all be proud of. The camp is for kids ages 7-12 and will meet **9 a.m.-12 p.m. from July 15-19** at **St. John Lutheran Church in Palmer**, with a service of Evening Prayer and family fellowship time on Friday at 6 p.m.

For more information, call or text **Diane Hayes** 970-227-8600 or email JDMAKansas@gmail.com. Sign up soon because space is limited! Register at <https://forms.gle/MEKsLcsdjJq1PM2G9>. We also need volunteers age 13 and up!

SYNOD & PARTNERS

LCMS National Grants

The LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM) offers grants to aid LCMS congregations, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) and districts to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches and communities.

Types of national grants include National Development Grants, Million Dollar Life Match, the Schiebel Grant Program, and the Ukraine Refugee Grant Program.

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit www.lcms.org/serve/national-grants. For questions about grants, contact grants@lcms.org or 888-THE LCMS.

GOD'S MISSION HERE

A new KFUEO podcast is available from National Mission called "God's Mission Here," which spotlights the work God is doing through His people right where they are.

Listen to the latest episode at resources.lcms.org/gods-mission-here.

Concordia Health Plan: New Mental Health Resource

Concordia Plans offers a new and enhanced Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through the Evernorth Confide Behavioral Health Navigator. It includes immediate 24/7 access to clinical help, access to a digital portal, virtual, phone and chat care, and eight free sessions per topic (*from family to financial issues to substance abuse, emotional health and stress*), per year.

This confidential, free mental health resource is available to Concordia Health Plan members and members of their households. Visit ConcordiaPlans.org/MentalHealth to learn more about Evernorth Confide, or call the Concordia Health Plan number for Evernorth Confide at 866-726-5267 to speak with a Care Navigator.

Upheld by God's Hand: LCMS Mental Health Outreach Course

This is a free, online course for LCMS Educators and Youth Workers to gain understanding and awareness of mental health, mental health problems, and mental illness. Participants will also learn strategies for supporting the mental health of children and youth. Create an account on the LCMS Learning website, <https://lcms.talentlms.com> to access the course and videos.



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AROUND THE DISTRICT

St. John's, Topeka 150th Anniversary Celebration



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Topeka (901 SW Fillmore St.) is celebrating their 150th anniversary the weekend of **Sept. 14-15**, and you are invited!

The festivities will begin with a Banquet from 5-8 p.m. on **Saturday, Sept. 14** at St. John's. **Rev. Peter K. Lange**, Synodical First Vice-President, will be the guest speaker.

The St. John's Divine Service will take place **10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15**, with Rev. Peter Lange preaching. Following the Divine Service there will be an **Open House at 2 p.m.** and an **Organ Recital with a hymn sing at 3 p.m.** Organist Jonathan Rudy will provide the recital, with a reception to follow.

Banquet tickets are \$15 per person (*cash or check is accepted*). This fee includes one anniversary ornament and church directory per St. John's family. There is also an optional anniversary cup available for \$10.

Ticket sales will take place at St. John's from 9:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m. the following days: **July 14; Aug. 11 and 25**. The deadline to purchase tickets is Aug. 25.

Questions? Contact **Nancy Taylor** at ntaylor713@aol.com.

DISTRICT STAFF / COORDINATOR DIRECTORY

STAFF DIRECTORY

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District President

Rev. Daniel Grams
Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services

Jim Bradshaw
Executive Assistant to the President for Education & Youth

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