



WORKERS TOGETHER

OCTOBER 2024

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

Regular Features

President's Office	2-3
Calls & Vacancies / Prayer Requests	4
Missions & Stewardship	5-6
Education & Youth	7-8
Caring Ministry	9
Business Office	10
District Meetings & Events	11
Synod & Partners	12
Around the District / Staff Directory	13



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour," preached at the LLL Sunday worship service on Sept. 8.



The choirs from Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, and Trinity, Salina, sang at the Sunday worship service.



Vic Cross from Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, served as a volunteer at the LLL/LHM state fair booth.



Laura Wolter and Charlotte Buckmaster from Risen Savior, Wichita, served as volunteers at the LLL/LHM state fair booth.

LLL/LHM Presence at the Kansas State Fair

The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries presence at the 2024 Kansas State Fair was truly a blessed opportunity. The LLL/LHM booth was staffed by volunteers representing 10 LCMS congregations. Many more donated Bibles, *Portals of Prayer*, and other Christian materials. Keren Comfort Dog and handlers from Immanuel, Ellsworth, spent time at the booth on four different days. The State Fair was held Sept. 6-15.

The Sept. 8 Sunday worship service was led by **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour." Music was provided by the choirs from Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, and Trinity, Salina.

We give thanks and praise to God for the LLL/LHM presence at the fair!

IN THIS ISSUE

2024 Reformation Offering	6
The annual District Reformation Offering supports mission work in Kansas	
Kansas District Youth Gathering	8
The 2024 KDYG is Nov. 15-17 at Rock Springs Ranch, south of Junction City	
LLL/LHM District Convention	11
The 84th Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League Convention will be held Oct. 26 at Messiah, Hays	

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Pre-Lent Conference



Pastors Conference



Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

(Romans 3:23-24)

I want to talk with you about Jesus. Why? Because in Him alone there is substance. There is depth. There is forgiveness. There is life eternal. There is no other name by which we are saved.

St. Paul testifies so plainly in Romans 3 of our great need of Jesus. We have a great need for Him, because we are great in our sin. We are sinful by nature (*Romans 7:7*) and conceived as sinners (*Psalms 51:5*). From the very first moments of our lives we have but one fate, and that is death.

Many of us have sat in the doctor's office waiting to hear the diagnosis for our ailment. When we hear it and aren't pleased, we immediately begin to ask if we can seek a second opinion.

The Law gives one diagnosis, in that we are sinners incapable of saving ourselves. It condemns us because of our sin. So if the Law condemns, what saves? The Gospel! Only the Gospel pro-

nounces what Christ has done for us. It is the Good News of Christ dying and rising for the forgiveness of our sins.

This is why there is still a need for the Reformation in our own day and age. We are not saved based upon our morals, nor are we saved because of our feelings. We are saved because of Jesus and His work on our behalf. We are saved by the shed blood of Christ on the cross and His bodily resurrection from the grave. This is the Gospel message that is delivered into our lives through the preached Word and the announcement of Absolution. It is delivered in Baptism where the Word with the water forgives and washes us with Jesus' blood (*Rev. 1:5, 7:14*), and seals us for the day of our complete redemption (*Ephesians 4:30*). This Gospel message is delivered to us in the Sacrament where the Word offers the same gracious, life-giving body and blood of Christ

in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:25*), which, unless we eat and drink, we have no life (*John 6:53*).

Jesus is the only One who saves and brings us justification. When the Spirit kindled the gift of faith in our lives, and we believed that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, Scripture says that we are justified. Justification has been explained as “just as if I had no sin.” When you believe Jesus is your justifier, in God's sight it is “just as if you had no sin.”

That is what our Reformation faith is all about – Jesus Christ. Jesus is the object of faith, the earner of grace, and the content of Scripture.

Worship the Savior and invite to your local church those who need to hear this Good News!



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's October Travel Schedule

- Oct. 6** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
LERT training at St. John's (Topeka)
- Oct. 6-8** Pastors Conference at St. John's (Topeka)
- Oct. 13** Preaching at Grace, 75th Anniversary (Iola)
- Oct. 13-15** Educators Conference at Beautiful Savior (Olathe)
- Oct. 20** Preaching at Holy Cross, Circuit 16 Convocation (Dodge City)
- Oct. 27** Preaching at First St. John, 150th Anniversary (Kensington)
- Oct. 29** Circuit 13 Winkel at St. Paul's (Lincoln)

PRE-LENT CONFERENCE

The Kansas District Pre-Lent Conference for pastors will be held **January 6-7, 2025**, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence (2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047). The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall**, Assistant Vice President for Mission & Identity, Associate Professor of Theology, and Supervisor of the Office of Church Relations for Concordia University Chicago.

Participants can arrive Sunday evening, January 5. There will be a Circuit Visitors and Region Vice-Presidents meeting on Sunday at 6 p.m. Check the homepage of the Kansas District website <https://kslcms.org> for registration and a schedule coming soon.

Don't Forget! 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, De-

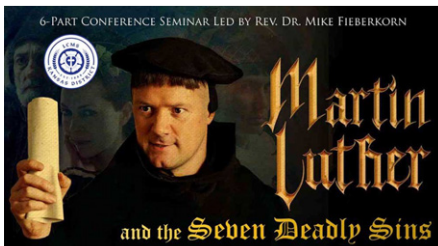
legate Reporting, Nominee Acceptance and Biography/Profiles, District Reports, and Overtures. The mailing also contained the assessment for each individual Kansas District congregation.

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).

All nomination forms and delegate forms are due by **Nov. 30, 2024**, to the Kansas District Secretary. Timely submission will facilitate nominee acceptance and floor committee selection.



Pastors Fall Conference

The 2024 Pastors Fall Conference will be held **October 7-8** at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka. The theme for this year's conference is "Martin Luther and the Seven Deadly Sins." The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Michael Fiebert**, associate pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in St. Charles, Mo.

There will also be an optional LERT training session **4:00-8:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, at St. John's in Topeka**. This training is for Circuit Visitors, Region Vice-Presidents, and all interested District pastors and laypeople.

Visit <https://kslcms.org/pastors-conference> to access the Pastors Conference program and schedule details, hotel/lodging information, and keynote speaker information.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Christopher Beck, Faith, Bloomington, IN to Trinity, Atchison – **pending**

Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf, First, Ely & Good Shepherd, Babbitt, MN to Risen Savior, Basehor – **pending**

Rev. Josiah Fitch, Peace, Neenah, WI to St. Andrews, Wichita – **pending**

Rev. Adam McDowell, New Haven, IN to St. Paul, Clay Center (associate) – **pending**

Rev. Jesse Schlie, Trinity, Jefferson City, MO to Trinity, Hanover – **pending**

Rev. Mark Wood, Our Saviour, Kansas City to Trinity, Mission (associate) – **pending**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Lord of Life, Leawood (DCE)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Abilene, Faith (sole)

Atchison, Trinity (senior)

Atwood, Redeemer (sole)

Basehor, Risen Savior (associate)

Chanute, Zion (sole)

Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)

Dodge City, Holy Cross & Jetmore, St. Paul (sole)

Ellsworth, St. Paul's (sole)

Hanover, Trinity (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Hoxie, Immanuel & Oakley, Immanuel (sole)

Medicine Lodge, Trinity & St. John, Nashville (sole)

Mission / Shawnee, Trinity (two associates)

Topeka, Christ (sole)

Wellington, Calvary (sole)

Wichita, Holy Cross (senior)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

OCTOBER PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. Roderick Hathaway**, emeritus pastor of Trinity, Winfield. Rev. Hathaway entered his heavenly rest Sept. 26, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. James Mayes**, emeritus pastor of Mt. Calvary, Wamego. Rev. Mayes entered his heavenly rest Sept. 9, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Henry Adam "Hank" Blickhahn II**, father of Rev. Henry Blickhahn III, associate pastor of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson. Hank entered his heavenly rest Sept. 3, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Viola Kohlmeier**, mother of Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, former Kansas District President. Viola entered her heavenly rest August 25, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. John Hopkins**, emeritus pastor of Calvary, Topeka. Rev. Hopkins entered his heavenly rest August 10, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Verna Mae Krause**, mother of Rev. Tom Krause, emeritus. Verna entered her heavenly rest August 6, 2024.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. Christopher Gerdes**, pastor of Immanuel, Netawaka. Rev. Gerdes entered his heavenly rest August 5, 2024.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- ◆ **Kevin Adams**
- ◆ **Rev. Tom Harmon**
- ◆ **Rev. Richard Andrus**
- ◆ **Steve Hobus**
- ◆ **Ed Bruns**
- ◆ **Rev. David Kahle**
- ◆ **Gideon Franson**
- ◆ **Rev. David McCloskey**
- ◆ **Cindy Hammons**
- ◆ **Carrie Meyers**

Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ◆ **Rev. Matthew and Sulena Koterba** (son Ezekiel, Sept. 17).
- ◆ **Rev. Jaron and Elizabeth Melin** (daughter Lydia, August 20).
- ◆ **Rev. Christian and Magdalena Schultz** (daughter Rebekah Evangeline, August 17).
- ◆ **Rev. Michael and Staci Hofmann** (son Joel Leslie, August 6).

Congregations / Schools
Facebook
Prayer List

- ◆ Trinity, Leavenworth – **Oct. 7**
- ◆ Shawnee – **Oct. 14**
- ◆ Hope Lutheran Church and School, – **Oct. 21**
- ◆ Grace, Iola – **Oct. 21**
- ◆ Christ, Manhattan – **Oct. 28**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Campus Ministry



Circuit 8 Reformation Service



Evangelism / Outreach



Reformation Offering

LCMS-U Campus Ministry, Manhattan

Pictured left to right, Megan Jones (*LCMS-U President*), Aiden Ricker (*a LCMS-U Peer Minister*) and Rev. Michael Schmidt (*Pastor of St. Luke's, Manhattan*).



LCMS-U is a ministry of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan. It is also the officially recognized organization at Kansas State University (KSU). With this recognized status, flyers are given to the university's housing office, who then distribute them on bulletin boards in all of the dorms.

LCMS-U is also able to have a table at events, such as the KSU Activities Carnival. At the Carnival this year, over 200 cups with the logo were given out, along with 50 pens and 200 business advertising upcoming events.

LCMS Synod website: <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/campus-ministry/lcms-u-chapter-map>

St. Luke's, Manhattan website: <https://stlukesmanhattan.org/ministries/college-ministries/>

LCMS-U Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LcmsUAtKansasStateUniversity>

Light of the World, De Soto

Light of the World, a church plant in De Soto, was glad to join in the local De Soto festivities over Labor Day weekend.

The group had a booth at the De Soto Days festival, sharing giveaways for local participants who were interested in the church. Any who walked by and were interested received goodie bags, including information about the congregation.

Thanks to the labors of many who shared a presence with the community on Friday evening and all-day Saturday. They look forward to continued outreach to the city and making contacts with those who are looking for a church home.

Visit the Light of the World website for more information, <https://www.lightoftheworldlcms.org>





MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' October Travel Schedule

- Oct. 6-8 Pastors Conference at St. John's (Topeka)**
- Oct. 9 School visit at Hope (Shawnee)**
- Oct. 12 LFL Conference at Hope (Shawnee)**
- Oct. 13-15 Educators Conference at Beautiful Savior (Olathe)**
- Oct. 18 School visit at Trinity (Winfield)**
- Oct. 19 Circuit Forum (Dodge City)**
- Oct. 23 School visit at Christ (Overland Park)**
- Oct. 27 140th Anniversary for St. Peter and Zion (Holyrood & Claflin)**

Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation

Circuit 8 will host its annual Circuit Reformation Service & Presentation on **Sunday, Oct. 27** at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alta Vista (303 Main St.)**

The preacher and presenter will be **Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink**, Executive Director of Concordia Historical Institute. Dr. Harmelink will focus on the 50th Anniversary of the February 19, 1974 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Walkout. His presentation includes a brief review of the 20 crises faced by the LCMS before the Walkout, a comprehensive presentation of the actual issues that surrounded the Walkout, and the lingering effects of higher-critical thinking in the world today.

Schedule

- 2:00 p.m.** Reformation Service, with Holy Communion
- 3:00 p.m.** Break / Refreshments
- 3:15 p.m.** Lutheran Hour Ministries / LWML / Flint Hills Lutherans For Life
- 3:30 p.m.** Dr. Daniel Harmelink's Presentation
- 4:30 p.m.** Adjournment



Reformation Offering

The annual Kansas District Reformation Offering supports mission work right here in Kansas. Here are ways you can get involved:

Prayers. Pray for congregations, workers and fellow LCMS Kansans as they are actively engaged in mission work, and for God to bless their efforts.

Gifts. Contributions to the Reformation Offering will support mission projects in Kansas (e.g., church planting and revitalization, campus ministry, evangelism, specialized ministries).

Gifts may be mailed to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104) or given online on the [Kansas District Offerings](#) page (under the "Business Office" tab.)

Reformation Offering materials are available on the [Mission Funding](#) page (under the "Missions" tab.)

Jesus Door-2-Door



On September 14, **12 people** representing five different LCMS congregations (Zion, Linn; Bethlehem, Greenleaf; St. John's, Palmer; Christ, Manhattan, and St. Luke's, Manhattan) gathered at Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan for a JD2D event. The group started with icebreakers, a reading of the Responsive Prayer 2 from *Lutheran Service Book*, and a Bible study and discussion over 1 Kings 17.

The group then divided into six canvassing teams. They knocked on 179 homes. 79 people answered the door, and 61 of them agreed to take the sur-

vey. Of the 61 people who took the survey, 18 (30%) were unchurched, and only 19 (31%) of those surveyed were confident of their salvation through Jesus. When asked, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?" five individuals (8%) replied, "I don't know."

Through the group's canvassing efforts, three people desired a follow-up visit to learn more about Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan.

The next JD2D event will be **Saturday, October 12**, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Church Worker Appreciation



Educators Conference



Parish Education



Youth Ministry



▲ The annual **Kansas District Principals Conference** was held Sept. 19-20, at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka. From left, (front row) Rev. David Fleming (*DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Spiritual Care*), Jane Limback (*Kansas District Accreditation*), Rev. Anthony Masinelli (*Pastor of St. Paul's, Cheney*), Becky Hillman (*Lead Teacher of St. Paul's Lutheran School, Cheney*), Sharon Fries (*Principal of Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park*), Cheryl Voss (*Lead Teacher of Faith Lutheran School, Derby*), Harmon Butler (*Principal of St. John Lutheran School, Alma*), Chris Dehning (*Principal of Trinity Lutheran School, Winfield*), Nancy Jankowski (*Principal of Hope Lutheran School, Shawnee*), Rev. Jim Woelmer (*Pastor of Christ, Manhattan*), Dr. Jackquelyn Veith (*Executive Director of Educational*

Certification for the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education); (back) Rev. Daniel Grams (*District Executive for Congregational & School Services*), Rev. Marty Reed (*Senior Pastor of Trinity, Atchison*), David Birnbaum (*Principal of Trinity Lutheran School, Atchison*), Dr. Beverly Yahnke (*DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Christian Counsel*), Dr. Patti Hoffman (*Kansas District School Ministry Coordinator*), David Beikmann (*Principal of Linn Lutheran School, Linn*), Eric Pralle (*Principal of Zion Lutheran School, Independence*), Kyle Erickson (*Principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Marysville*), Dan Snyder (*Headmaster of Concordia Academy-Wichita*), Ben Lausman (*Principal of Christ Lutheran School, Overland Park*) and Rev. Robert Grimm (*Pastor of St. John, Alma*).

2024-2025 Church Worker Appreciation

The month of October has historically been the Synod's designated month for showing appreciation to our church workers. For 2024-2025, the Synod will be highlighting the many different types of church workers all year round!

October 13 – [Pastor Appreciation](#)

October 25 – [Deaconesses, Director of Family Life Ministry, Director of Christian Outreach, and Director of Church Ministries Appreciation](#)

April 28 – [Director of Parish Music Appreciation](#)

May 5-9 – [Teacher Appreciation](#)

June 26 – [Director of Christian Education Appreciation](#)

Click the links above to find resources on the LCMS website and show church workers how much they are appreciated!



Educators Fall Conference

The 2024 Educators Fall Conference will be held **October 13-15** at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church,

Olathe. The theme for this year's conference is "Endure and Flourish," based on Hebrews 12:1-3. The keynote speaker is **Dr. Bernard Bull**, president of Concordia University, Nebraska.

Visit <https://kslcms.org/educators-conference> to find program and schedule details, and make an online donation to the **District Church Worker Care Fund**, this year's Educators Conference designated offering.



EDUCATION & YOUTH



Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee, was presented with the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) certificate on Sunday, Sept. 22. Pictured from left, Hope's Principal Nancy Jankowski, Rev. Daniel Grams (*District Executive for Congregational & School Services*) and Rev. Jacob Mueller (*pastor of Hope Lutheran Church and School*).



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

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 ends Oct. 15

* Scan the QR code above to RSVP for the Trinity, Girard seminar *



Trinity Lutheran Church

(34868 Black Rd., Paola, KS 66071)

Saturday, Nov. 16 / 9:30 a.m.-noon

Speaker: Rev. Jim Woelmer

Cost: Free (*lunch provided*)

RSVP: Rev. Joshua Woelmer, joshua.woelmer@gmail.com / 785-893-3960

Visit <https://kslcms.org/parish-education> to access individual flyers for each seminar.



The LCMS Youth Gathering is **July 19-23, 2025**, in New Orleans, La. The theme is "Endure" based on Hebrews 12: 1-3. Visit <https://www.lcmsgathering.com> for more information!

Bus contracts from Kansas are in place! The cost is \$300 per person. Buses will leave from various Kansas locations. The Kansas District event will be held at Bayou Barn on July 19, 2025, 3:30-6:30 p.m. for a cost of \$55. An optional swamp tour prior to the event is \$25. Registration for these options will open November 1 on the Kansas District website.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) registration is open at <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/YoungAdultVolunteer>.

If you have any questions about the Gathering or want more information, send an email to Debbie and Karen at nygksdistrict@gmail.com.



Kansas District Youth Gathering

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).

Registration is open. Visit the KDYG page on the District website <https://kslcms.org/kdyg> to register and find more information.

If you have any questions, please contact **DCE Amanda Adams** (*Christ, Topeka*) at dceadams@christlcms.org.

Join the [Kansas District Youth Ministry Facebook page!](#)

CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



2025 District Life Conference



Life Ministry



Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator

Upcoming LERT Events:

- ◆ **Oct. 6, 4:00-8:30 p.m. - Basic LERT Training**
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church (901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66606)

Lutheran Early Response Team News

This training is for Circuit Visitors, Region Vice-Presidents and all other interested District pastors and lay people who would like to participate. The curriculum is used to train Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) volunteers who intend to deploy and/or assist with disaster recovery.

The training takes place at St. John's Lutheran Church, 901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66604 (located just north of the District Office) and will be facil-

itated by **Rev. Michael Meyer**, Managing Director in the LCMS Office of National Mission and Director of Disaster Training.

Please arrive by 3:45 p.m. so check-in may be completed in time to allow for the 4:00 p.m. start. Dinner and refreshments will be provided. Register at <https://www.lcms-lert.org>

- ◆ **Nov. 9, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Basic Chainsaw Safety and Operation**

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

The registration cost is \$35. Register at <https://www.lcms-lert.org> or contact Brian Mead at 859-576-1892.

Find us at:

[kslcms.org/disaster-response](https://www.lcms.org/disaster-response)
[lcms-lert.org](https://www.lcms-lert.org)

Facebook:

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

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Lutherans For Life invites you to join fellow life-minded Lutherans celebrating life and equipping ourselves on life issues during the LFL Regional Conference Midwest. The conference theme is "Life Shines in Darkness" and will be held **Saturday, October 12**, at Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee (6308 Quivira Rd. Shawnee, KS 66216).

This is a one-day, in-person conference featuring four national life-affirming, Gospel-motivated speakers, as well as fellowship, lunch, and a service opportunity. Limited childcare is available.



Scan the QR code to register for the Lutherans For Life Midwest Regional Conference.

You can also learn more at <https://lutheransforlife.org/conferences>

Flint Hills Lutherans For Life Workshop: "Open Hearts, Open Homes"

The Flint Hills Lutherans For Life will host a workshop from **2:00-4:15 p.m. on Sunday, October 13**, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego (17535 Say Rd. Wamego, KS 66547). This workshop will help congregations understand the adoption journey, support those in foster care, and offer guidance in caring for adoptive and foster families. Sessions will be presented by representatives from Lifeline Children's Services.

Opening Session: "The Gospel Call to Care for the Vulnerable."

Breakout Sessions (choose two)

Breakout Session #1: "How to Care for Others Serving: Wrap Around Care in the Local Congregation."

Breakout Session #2: "The Adoption Journey: Understanding the Steps of Adoption."

Breakout Session #3: "Standing for Life: From Conception to Eternity."

Closing Session: Q & A Panel: professionals from the foster / adoptive field answer questions.

If you have questions, please contact **Judy Boye** at 785-313-2276, or **Rev. Jim Price** at 254-716-0166.

Save the Date! 2025 Life Conference

The Kansas District Life Conference will be held **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**, at St. John's in Topeka (901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66606). The 2025 Kansas District Life Conference will once again be in conjunction with the 2025 Kansas March for Life.

Visit the Life Conference webpage on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/2025-life-conference> for more information to come!

The keynote speaker will be **Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer**, pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fairview Heights, Ill. Rev. Hemmer is also an assistant to LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and the author of the book, *Man Up!: The Quest for Masculinity*.

Find out more about Rev. Hemmer's book by visiting the Concordia Publishing House website, <https://www.cph.org/man-up-the-quest-for-masculinity>

BUSINESS OFFICE



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



Congregational Treasurers Workshops

Congregational Treasurers Workshops

The District workshops being offered 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 / Locations

- ◆ **Oct. 12 - Kansas District Office, Topeka (Region I)**

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

2025 Kansas District Salary Guidelines

The 2025 Kansas District Salary and Benefit Guidelines are now posted on the [District Resources](#) page of our website. The guidelines provide congregations with an objective approach to developing a suitable compensation plan for church workers.

If you have any questions about the guidelines, please call the Business Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1002, or email **Heather Williams** at heather@kslcms.org.

Concordia Plans: 2025 Benefits

Don't forget to enroll for 2025 benefits with Concordia Plans. Workers can enroll in a 403(b) retirement savings plan, supplemental life insurance, and health, dental and vision benefits. Concordia Plans also encourages members to log in to their portals to access a variety of wellness solutions and to take advantage of useful retirement calculators.

Visit [ConcordiaPlans.org](https://www.concordiaplans.org) to enroll in 2025 benefits.

Congregational Commitments

Every fall, congregations are given the opportunity to make a commitment to support our joint work in the Kansas District and the Synod for the upcoming year. We appreciate your prayerful consideration for your 2025 commitment!

Congregational commitment forms were mailed to congregations in late September, along with an updated "Mission and Ministry" document and a 2024 Kansas District budget summary.

Please submit your 2025 form by **Nov. 30** (January 15, 2025 at the latest) in any of the following ways:

- ◆ Email / scan your form to **Shannon Fender** at shannon@kslcms.org or call 785-357-4441, ext. 1001.
- ◆ Fax your form to 785-357-5071.
- ◆ Mail your form to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104.

Lutheran Witness Billings

Billing statements for 2024-2025 *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions will be mailed to all subscribing congregations the first week in October.

Congregations: Be sure to watch your mail for the statements!

Payment is due to the District office no later than **December 31, 2024**. Include a [remittance voucher](#) with payment, noting the check is for *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions.

Make checks payable to the LCMS Kansas District and send to LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104, Attn: Shannon Fender.

**Please note that no additional additions or cancellations will be taken for this subscription year. You can, however, still make address changes.*

If you need to update an address on your subscription list, please contact **Shannon Fender** at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001 or shannon@kslcms.org for a change form.



DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

OCTOBER

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Oct. 4-5 Confirmation Retreat
<i>(Rock Springs 4-H Center, Junction City)</i></p> <p>Oct. 6 LERT training, 4:00-8:30 p.m. <i>(St. John's, Topeka)</i></p> <p>Oct. 7-8 Pastors Conference
<i>(St. John's, Topeka)</i></p> <p>Oct. 12 Lutherans for Life Regional Conference - Midwest, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. <i>(Hope, Shawnee)</i></p> | <p>Oct. 12 Congregational Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. <i>(District Office, Topeka)</i></p> <p>Oct. 13-15 Educators Conference <i>(Beautiful Savior, Olathe)</i></p> <p>Oct. 15 Board of Missions, 1:00-3:30 p.m. <i>(Beautiful Savior, Olathe)</i></p> <p>Oct. 17 Board of Education & Youth, 10-11:30 a.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> |
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OCTOBER (cont.)

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| <p>Oct. 17 Board of Caring Ministry, 12-1 p.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> <p>Oct. 19 Marriage Enrichment Seminar, 12-5:30 p.m. <i>(Immanuel, Norton)</i></p> <p>Oct. 23 National Youth Gathering representatives meeting, 2-3 p.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> <p>Oct. 25 Board of Administration, 12-1 p.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> <p>Oct. 26 Marriage Enrichment Seminar, 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. <i>(Trinity, Girard)</i></p> <p>Oct. 28 Board of Stewardship, 10-11:30 a.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> | <p>Oct. 28 Executive Committee, 1-2 p.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> <p>Oct. 31 Reformation Day
President's Council, 1-5 p.m. <i>(District Office, Topeka)</i></p> |
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NOVEMBER

- | |
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| <p>Nov. 1 Board of Directors, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. <i>(District Office, Topeka)</i></p> <p>Nov. 4 Convention Planning meeting, 12-2 p.m. <i>(District Office, Topeka)</i></p> <p>Nov. 7 Convention Nomination Committee, 7-8 p.m. <i>(Zoom)</i></p> |
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84th LLL/LHM District Convention

The 84th annual Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) District Convention will be held **10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26**. Registration opens at 8 a.m.

This year's convention will be hosted by LLL Region 4 West, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays (2000 Main Street, Hays, KS 67601). The keynote speaker is **Polly Gregali**, LHM Community Facilitator, on *Energizing Mission*.

A meet-and-greet event is planned for Friday evening, Oct. 25, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Days Inn in Hays (3205 Vine Street, Hays, KS 67601).

Registration is \$30 per person and lunch is included. The Convention hotel is the Days Inn in Hays.

Visit the 84th Kansas District LLL/LHM District Convention webpage at <https://give.lhm.org/event> to register and for more information.

Save the Date! Christ in the Home Conference

There is an upcoming conference titled "Christ in the Home: Living out God's Calling in Family, Church, and Society." It will be held **11 a.m.-5:45 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9**, at First Lutheran Church in Sabetha (311 Cedar St., Sabetha, KS 66534).

The keynote speaker is **Rev. Michael Larson**, pastor of Luther Memorial Chapel & University Student Center in Shorewood, Wis. The conference is free to attend, and lunch and dinner will be provided.

To RSVP contact **Rev. Ian Kinney** (pastor of First, Sabetha) at 260-348-1891, pastoripkinney@gmail.com

Schedule

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| <p>11:00 a.m. Divine Service</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Lunch</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Session #1</p> <p>2:30 p.m. Break</p> | <p>3:00 p.m. Session #2</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Vespers</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Brat supper / Fellowship</p> |
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SYNOD & PARTNERS

LCMS Worker Wellness Retreat Grants

The LCMS prioritizes church worker wellness. The fifth mission priority is to “promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers.”

Demand for such help is greater than many people may realize, as affected workers endure in uncomplaining silence. Grants for wellness retreats rely on donor contributions to deliver this vital program for workers.

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit <https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/worker-wellness-retreats>

LCEF Sabbatical Scholarships

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is excited 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.


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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*Data pulled from Bankrate.com on July 31, 2024.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



On August 4, **Rev. Philip Cook** was installed as Executive Director of Lutheran Urban Mission Agency (LUMA) at Immanuel, Kansas City, Mo. From left, (front) Revs. Daniel Jordan, Lee Hovel, Juan Zamora, Philip Cook, Abdi Megerssa, Sean Baker, Dr. Robert Lee Hagan (Missouri District President); (back) Revs. Dr. Mark Schulz, William Geis, Kenneth Nettling, David Rolf, David Federwitz, Jacob Mueller and Thomas Harries.

Zone 7 Convocation

The Zone 7 Convocation will be held **Sunday, Nov. 10**, at the Washington County High School gymnasium (115 North D Street, Washington, KS 66968). The presenter will be **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour."

Bible class will be at 9 a.m. and the Sunday worship service takes place at 10:30 a.m. Please stop and visit the Lutheran Hour Ministries display table at the high school during this time.

There will also be a meet-and-greet social gathering with Dr. Zeigler at **6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9**, at Gilliam's Barn (2211 15th Road) north of Greenleaf, Kan. Everyone is invited to meet and socialize with Dr. Zeigler.

Please RSVP with a text to 785-747-6554 or email tohlde@altagenetics.com. There will be a free will offering.

DISTRICT STAFF / COORDINATOR DIRECTORY

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Justin Panzer
District President

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

Jim Bradshaw (*on sabbatical*)
Executive Assistant to the President for Education & Youth

Jeffrey Maltz
DVP, LCEF Kansas and Oklahoma

Heather Williams
Business Manager

Jackie Schaefer
Communications Specialist

Tami Lierz
Administrative Assistant
President's Office / Event Registrar

Shannon Fender
Administrative Assistant
Business Office / Stewardship

Janet Powell
Administrative Assistant
Schools / Missions / LCEF

Mike Grau
Archivist

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Campus Ministry Coordinator

Dr. Patti Hoffman
School Ministry Coordinator

Rev. Ian Kinney
Life Coordinator

Lottie Lee
Professional Development
Coordinator

Jane Limback
Accreditation

Amy Schultz
Early Childhood Consultant

Miriam Wehling
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Donna Williams
Disaster Response Coordinator

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