



# WORKERS TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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



Above: Kansas youth and adults attend the June 25-28 *Higher Things* conference in Mequon, Wis.  
Below: Kansas youth and adults attend the July 16-19 *Higher Things* conference in Clarksville, Ariz.



## Regular Features

President's Office	2-4
Calls & Vacancies / Prayer Requests	5
Missions & Stewardship	6-7
Education & Youth	8-10
Caring Ministry	11
Business Office	12
District Meetings & Events	13
Synod & Partners	14
Around the District / Staff Directory	15

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Pastors Fall Conference</b>	<b>4</b>
The 2024 Pastors Conference is Oct. 7-8 at St. John's, Topeka	
<b>Educators Fall Conference</b>	<b>9</b>
The 2024 Educators Conference is Oct. 13-15 at Beautiful Savior, Olathe	
<b>DOXOLOGY Workshops</b>	<b>13</b>
DOXOLOGY workshops will take place Sept. 19 at Christ, Topeka, and Sept. 20-21 at Redeemer, Lawrence	

## 2024 Higher Things Conferences

Another summer of *Higher Things* Conferences has concluded! 10 Kansas District congregations, with 90+ youth and adults, traveled to one of the three conferences. The 2024 *Higher Things* theme was "Who Am I?" At each conference there was worship and truth shared of our identity being a gift given to us by God and the One who sacrificed Himself on the cross.

There will also be three conferences in 2025 with the theme "All Things New." More information will be released October 1 at <https://higherthings.org/events/all-things-new-2025/>. Registration opens November 1, 2024.

Visit Page 10 for 2025 *Higher Things* dates and locations.

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

-  Monthly Devotion
-  Pastors Conference
-  Pastoral Ordinations / Installations
-  Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.”**

**(Matt. 22: 37-38)**

Purely by His grace, God has rescued us out of the slavery of sin and death. He sent His Son to save us from our sins and give us life everlasting.

**This is why you love Him – because He first loved you.** He showed His love to you on a wooden cross and in an empty tomb. He showed His love to you when water was poured upon your forehead in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism. He still shows His love to you when His Word is proclaimed and His true body and blood in the unleavened bread and wine are put into your mouths for you to eat and drink for the forgiveness of all your sins. This is how God shows His love to you in a very real way. We are the children of God, who love their Father. As Christians, this is not seen as a hard assignment. It comes naturally for those who know that they are His children because of what He has first done for them through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**God commands us to love Him above all other things. He commands us to worship Him. He commands us to give back to Him generously of what He has first entrusted to us. He commands us to spend time with Him by studying His Word and praying.**

Don't begin to think that this idea of God demanding all your worship is something that is limited to the Old Testament (*Deut. 6:4-9*). In Matthew 22:36-38, Jesus is asked a question, *“Which is the great commandment in the Law?”* He answered: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.”*

We worship the only true God that Israel confessed in Deuteronomy 6. We worship Jesus Christ, who, in John 8, identified Himself as Yahweh, along with the Father and His Spirit (v. 58). This, then, is the One whom we love and worship as God. The only true God is

the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine being.

God first showed His love to us. Our response is now to love Him with our whole being – heart, soul, mind, and body. God calls us to love Him without reservations; that is, not reserving a part of our love for a spouse, a career, a child or a favorite pastime, much less a vice. God calls us to love Him with all of our time, at all times, not just on Sunday or when we are in need.

September means back to school for many. Consider that at all times God wants us to keep His words in our hearts and minds by reading Scripture everyday; engaging in family and individual devotions; praying; and attending worship at church. He wants us to repeatedly teach His words to our children. He wants us to remember His words in everything that we do by applying those words to our lives. **His Spirit will empower and direct us to do these things!**



# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## Out and About in Kansas

### President Panzer's September Travel Schedule

- Sept. 1** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- Sept. 3** Circuits 4 & 5 Joint Winkel at St. John (Alma)
- Sept. 7** "Faithful Future" meeting at Trinity (Girard)
- Sept. 8-12** COP meeting (St. Louis)
- Sept. 15** St. John's 150th Anniversary (Topeka)
- Sept. 19-20** KSD Principals Conference (Topeka)
- Sept. 29** Preaching at Faith (Abilene)



**Rev. Sherman Stenson** was installed at Zion, Downs, on Aug. 4. From left, (front row) Revs. Matthew Schneider, Sherman Stenson, Christopher Craig, Justin Panzer; (back) Revs. Michael Hageman, Mark Gaschler, Don Haselhuhn and Daniel Harders.



**Rev. William Jeffrey Lane** was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Faith, Topeka, on Aug. 11. Rev. Lane is beginning the third year of the four-year SMP (*Specific Ministry Pastor*) program. From left, (front row) Revs. Dr. Neil Buono, Martin Albrecht, Jeffrey Lane, Jacob Heine, Justin Panzer; (back) Revs. Benjamin Micheel, Richard Bruenger, Benjamin Ockree, Andrew Wehling, Dr. Frank Johnson and Kevin DeHope.



**Rev. William Hartley** was installed as Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia, on Aug. 11. Rev. Hartley is pictured with Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District President.



**Rev. Joel Cundiff** was installed as associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Leavenworth, on Aug. 18. From left, Revs. Edward Mease, Joel Cundiff and Justin Panzer.



# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

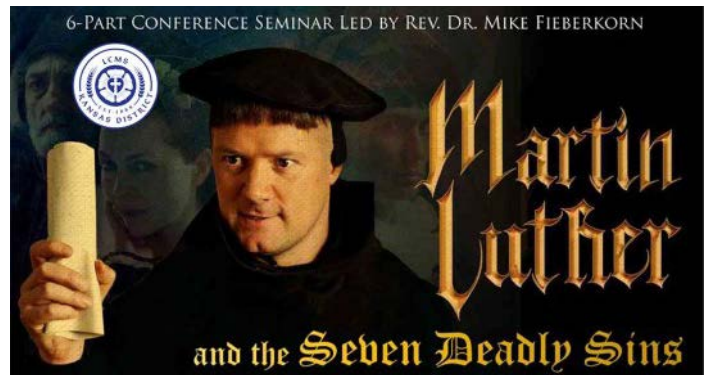


The Kansas District New Worker Orientation was held at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Topeka on July 31, 2024. **Welcome all new church workers to the Kansas District!**

## 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](https://kslcms.org/2025-convention). Please fill out the forms online, download and email to the District Convention email, [ksdconvention@kslcms.org](mailto: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 Fiebkorn**, 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. Registration is open for both the Pastors Conference and the Oct. 6 LERT training. Visit <https://kslcms.org/pastors-conference> to register and find program and schedule details, hotel/lodging information, and keynote speaker information.

# CALLS & VACANCIES

## PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. Joseph Barlau**, Faith, Abilene to St. Paul, Lester Prairie, MN – **accepted**

**Rev. Joseph McCalley**, Columbia, MO to Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **declined**

**Rev. Jordan McKinley**, Trinity, Vallonia, IN to Trinity, Hanover – **declined**

**Rev. Kevin McReynolds**, Redeemer, Mountain Home, AR to Messiah, Hays – **declined**

**Rev. Benjamin Micheel**, Christ, Topeka to Trinity, St. Joseph, MI – **accepted**

**Rev. Timothy Wangerin**, Emeritus to Immanuel, Oakley & Immanuel, Hoxie – **declined**

## PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

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)

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Lord of Life, Leawood (DCE)

## SEPT. PRAYER REQUESTS

### Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Michael Reed**, brother of Rev. Marty Reed, Trinity, Atchison. Michael entered his heavenly rest July 15, 2024.

### Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

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

### Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ◆ **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

- ◆ Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool, Newton – **Sept. 3**
- ◆ Immanuel, Wichita – **Sept. 9**
- ◆ St. John Lutheran Church & Child Development Center, Ellinwood – **Sept. 16**
- ◆ Our Saviour, Great Bend – **Sept. 23**
- ◆ Grace, Hill City – **Sept. 30**

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Campus Ministry



District Mission Grants



Evangelism / Outreach



Circuit 8 Reformation Service

## LCMS-U Campus Ministry, Manhattan

**LCMS-U** is an officially recognized organization at Kansas State University (KSU) and ministry of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan, KS.

### *What does this ministry look like?*

**Bible Studies** are held during the school year on Monday nights, 9-10 p.m. at the Blue House, a house close to KSU and which is owned and maintained by St. Luke's. The peer ministers choose the Bible Study topics and take turns leading the Bible Study. Students are also invited to Fellowship time which starts at 8 p.m. Also in attendance at the Bible Studies are St. Luke's



Campus Ministry Chair, **Jessica Jones**; St. Luke's **DCE William Prann**; St. Luke's **Rev. Michael Schmidt**; and Christ's **Rev. Jim Woelmer**.

There is also **Table Talk**, a free lunch for the students after the late service on Sundays. The lunches are held at St. Luke's, Manhattan, on the second – fifth Sundays of the month, and at Christ, Manhattan, the first Sunday of the month.

### Questions? Please contact:

**DCE William Prann** (St. Luke's) – [wprann@stlukesmanhattan.org](mailto:wprann@stlukesmanhattan.org)

**Rev. Michael Schmidt** (St. Luke's) – [srpastor@stlukesmanhattan.org](mailto:srpastor@stlukesmanhattan.org)

**Rev. Jim Woelmer** (Christ) – [jwoelmer@verizon.net](mailto:jwoelmer@verizon.net)



## Jesus Door-2-Door

**18 people (11 youth)** representing five different LCMS congregations gathered at Zion Lutheran Church in Concordia (a church plant) for a JD2D event on Aug. 17. Those gathered learned about the canvassing survey and practiced witnessing methods. Six teams went canvassing and knocked on 140 doors. 57 people answered the door, and 44 of them took the

canvassing survey. Of the 44 people who took the survey, 14 (32%) were unchurched. When asked, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?" 33 people said "heaven." Four people responded, "I don't know," and four others gave a variety of answers. Three people chose not to respond.

Only 13 people (30%) were confident of their salvation on account of Jesus Christ.

Through the group's efforts, one individual requested a follow-up visit from Zion in Concordia.

The next JD2D event is scheduled for **Saturday, Sept. 14th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan**. All are welcome to participate!

## 2024 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 will be available by mid-September on the [Mission Funding](#) page (under the "Missions" tab.)



# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## Out and About in Kansas

### Rev. Daniel Grams' September Travel Schedule

- Sept. 3** DCE Cluster Meeting at Faith (Topeka)
- Sept. 6** Circuits 1 & 6 Philippians Conference at Trinity (Holton)
- Sept. 7** DYMC Retreat at Christ (Topeka)
- Sept. 8** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- Sept. 10** Circuit 12 Winkel at Immanuel (Canton)
- Sept. 12** KC DCE Cluster at Christ (Overland Park)
- Sept. 15** Mission Sunday at Trinity (Holton)
- Sept. 19-20** Principals Conference at District Office (Topeka)
- Sept. 21** "In His Image" Conference at Redeemer (Lawrence)
- Sept. 22** NLSA Presentation at Hope (Shawnee)



ICOA, Kansas City hosts Bebes Felices (Happy Babies), a weekly gathering that supports mothers and their children.

The Kansas District is committed to helping congregations and organizations pursue mission projects in Kansas. The District sets aside 10 percent of its congregational receipts each year and makes these funds available in the form of mission grants.

Mission grant application materials were sent out in August. You can also click on the provided link for the [Mission Grant Application](#).

## District Mission Grants

Contact **Janet Powell** at [janet@kslcms.org](mailto:janet@kslcms.org) with any questions.

Return completed mission grant applications to the District Office by mail (LCMS Kansas

*District Attn: Janet Powell, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604 -1104) or scan / email applications to Janet.*

**The deadline to submit applications is Friday, Sept. 20.**



Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka received a mission grant to order 100 ESV Outreach Bibles and 100 Mini Arch Books from CPH, to give away at community outreach events.

## Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation

**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



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

# EDUCATION & YOUTH



Commissionings / Installations



Educators Conference



Parish Education



Youth Ministry



**James Bradshaw**

District Executive for Education & Youth

## District Staff Update

for **Jim Bradshaw** commenced. Jim will return in early December for a period of debriefing with District staff and committees. Jim's retirement takes effect in January 2025.

Please note that all specific communications pertaining to commissioned workers, schools, and youth ministries should now be directed to the **Rev. Daniel Grams**, Assistant to the District President for Congregational & School Services, at [daniel@kslcms.org](mailto:daniel@kslcms.org).

Personal correspondences may be sent to Jim at [faithdce@hotmail.com](mailto:faithdce@hotmail.com).

**Effective September 1**, the three-month District Board of Directors approved sabbatical leave



**Deaconess intern Lara McComack** was installed to Calvary Lutheran Church, Topeka, on July 21. Lara is pictured with Rev. Benjamin Ockree, Pastor of Calvary, who performed the installation.



Headmaster Dan Snyder and members of the Board of **Concordia Academy-Wichita** were presented CAW's certificate of accreditation from the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) by Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services, on Aug. 10. CAW will begin their third year of classes as a dually accredited high school.

From left, (front row) Troy Nordman (*Holy Cross, Wichita*), Rev. Timothy Gordish (*Immanuel, Wichita*), CAW Headmaster Dan Snyder, Rev. Daniel Grams, Stan Kenny (*Immanuel, Wichita*); (back) Mr. Wade Ortego (*Head of The Ambrose School, Idaho*), Harley Alderson (*Immanuel, Wichita*), Dick Lewallen (*Trinity, Wichita*) and Rev. Timothy Meyer (*Trinity, Wichita*).

Not pictured: CAW Board members Kristi Lovett (*Immanuel, Wichita*) and Rev. Dr. Geoff Boyle (*Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*)



**Principal David Birnbaum** was installed as principal of Trinity Lutheran School, Atchison, on Aug. 4. From left, (front row) David and Julie Birnbaum; (back) Revs. Michael Carney (*Specific Ministry Pastor of Trinity*), Daniel Grams (*District Executive for Congregational & School Services*) and Marty Reed (*Senior Pastor of Trinity*).





# EDUCATION & YOUTH



**Amy Goltl** was installed as a teacher of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Wichita, on Aug. 11. From left, Rev. Scott Snow (*Senior Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School*), Amy Goltl and Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services.



**DCE Hannah Elsey** was installed as the Director of Engagement and Outreach for Fairmount Ministries, Wichita, on Aug. 11. Hannah is pictured with Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services.



**Anna Johnson** was commissioned and installed as a teacher of Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park, on Aug. 25. Pictured from left, Bethany's Principal Sharon Fries, Rev. Daniel Grams, Anna Johnson and Rev. Sean Baker (*Senior Pastor of Bethany*).



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 [nygkdsdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:nygkdsdistrict@gmail.com).



## 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.

This year's Educators Conference offering has been designated for the **District Church Worker Care Fund**. Congregations and schools are encouraged to designate their September chapel/Sunday school offerings for the continued funding of the District-wide Church Worker Care fund, and invited to raise a minimum of \$50 per congregation/school. Offerings should be made payable to the LCMS Kansas District with "District Church Worker Care Fund" in the memo line and mailed to the District office (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104). Donations can also be made online by visiting the [Donate page](#) on the District website and choosing "Church Worker Care" from the donate drop-down menu.

Conference registration is open. Visit <https://kslcms.org/educators-conference> to register and find program and schedule details, and hotel/lodging information.



# EDUCATION & YOUTH



Organized in part by the Parish Education Committee of the LCMS Kansas District.

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

## 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: \$30 per couple (lunch provided)  
**RSVP: Rev. Jeff Meyers, [jeff.meyers@clcop.org](mailto:jeff.meyers@clcop.org) / 913-345-9700**

## 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](mailto:ilcnorton@ruraltel.net) 785-877-2430**

## PAOLA

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 (34868 Block 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](mailto:joshua.woelmer@gmail.com) / 785-893-3960**

## 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 runs from Aug. 18 - Oct. 15  
**\* Scan the QR code above to RSVP for the Trinity, Girard seminar \***



## Fall Confirmation Retreat

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

Registration is open. Visit the Confirmation Retreat page on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/confirmation-retreat> to register.

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

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

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



Kansas youth and adults attend the July 23-26 Higher Things conference in Portland, Ore.

## 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](mailto:dceadams@christlcms.org).

### 2025 Higher Things Dates and Locations

**June 24-27, 2025**  
 University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
 Amherst, MA

**July 8-11, 2025**  
 Concordia University Nebraska  
 Seward, NE

**July 29-August 1, 2025**  
 Calvin University  
 Grand Rapids, MI

# CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



2025 District Life Conference



Life Ministry



**Donna Williams**

Disaster Response Coordinator

## Upcoming LERT Events:

- ♦ **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-ler.org](https://lcms-ler.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.)

Registration is FREE! Lunch is included. Find more information at [lcms-ler.org](https://lcms-ler.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 details, [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com).

- ♦ **Sept. 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - LERT Community Awareness**

Paola Kansas Town Square

(15 Wea St., Paola, KS 66071)

10 people are needed per shift. Shift 1: 9 a.m.-noon; Shift 2: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Register at [lcms-ler.org](https://lcms-ler.org).

Contacts are **Dale Melancon**, 913-522-2684 and **Mark Trivilino**, 913-209-9324.

## Find us at:

[kslcm.org/disaster-response](https://kslcm.org/disaster-response)

[lcms-ler.org](https://lcms-ler.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://kslcm.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

 **Congregational Treasurers Workshops**  **Salary and Benefit Guidelines**

 **Congregational Commitments**



## Congregational Treasurers Workshops

There are District workshops being 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 con-

trol, 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

- ◆ **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](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).

## 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 will be mailed to congregations at the end of September, along with an updated "Mission and Ministry" document and a 2024 Kansas District budget summary.

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

- ◆ Email / scan your form to **Shannon Fender** at [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org) or call 785-357-4441, ext. 1001. You can also fax your form to 785-357-5071.
- ◆ Mail your form to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104.

## 2025 Kansas District Salary and Benefit 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](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).



# DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

### SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 2** **Labor Day** (*District Office is closed*)
- Sept. 7** **District Youth Ministry Committee Retreat** (*Christ, Topeka*)
- Sept. 9-12** **Council of Presidents** (*St. Louis, Mo.*)
- Sept. 19-20** **Principals Conference** (*District Office, Topeka*)
- Sept. 21** **Congregational Treasurers Workshop**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (*St. Paul, Clay Center*)

### SEPTEMBER (cont.)

- Sept. 28** **Marriage Enrichment Seminar**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (*Christ, Overland Park*)

### OCTOBER

- Oct. 4-5** **Confirmation Retreat** (*Rock Springs 4-H Center, Junction City*)
- Oct. 6** **LERT training**, 4-8:30 p.m. (*St. John's, Topeka*)
- Oct. 7-8** **Pastors Conference** (*St. John's, Topeka*)

### OCTOBER (cont.)

- Oct. 12** **Lutherans for Life Regional Conference - Midwest**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (*Hope, Shawnee*)  
**Congregational Treasurers Workshop**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (*District Office, Topeka*)
- Oct. 13-15** **Educators Conference** (*Beautiful Savior, Olathe*)
- Oct. 19** **Marriage Enrichment Seminar**, 12-5:30 p.m. (*Immanuel, Norton*)
- Oct. 26** **Marriage Enrichment Seminar**, 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. (*Trinity, Girard*)
- Oct. 27** **Circuit 8 Reformation Service**, 2-4:30 p.m. (*St. Paul's, Alta Vista*)

### Installation of Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss as CTSFW President

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), will open its 179th academic year with a special service on **Sunday, September 8, at 3 p.m. (EDT) in Kramer Chapel**. The service, which will be livestreamed, will include the installation of the **Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss** as CTSFW's seventeenth president. Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS President, will serve as preacher for the service, and Rev. Dr. Don Richard Stuckwisch, Indiana District President, will preside over the installation. To view the livestream, visit the Daily Chapel page at [ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel](http://ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel). You can also find the service on CTSFW's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

## St. John's, Topeka 150th Anniversary Celebration

St. John's Lutheran Church in Topeka (901 SW Fillmore St.) is celebrating

their 150th anniversary the weekend of **Sept. 14-15**. 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. There will be an Open House at 2 p.m. and an Organ Recital with a hymn sing at 3 p.m., provided by Organist Jonathan Rudy. A reception will 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.

There will be a Philippians Stewardship Workshop from 5:30-8:30

## Philippians Stewardship Workshop

p.m. on **Friday, Sept. 6**, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Holton (410 Cheyenne Dr., Holton, KS 66436).

This workshop gathers pastors and lay leaders to examine the theological practice of stewardship and help congregations assess, strengthen and even change their local stewardship culture. **Rev. Heath Curtis**, LCMS Coordinator for Stewardship, will be the keynote speaker.

Pastors are asked to arrive at Trinity, Holton at 3 p.m.. Lay leaders arrive at 5:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend the workshop. Dinner will be provided.

## DOXOLOGY Workshops

DOXOLOGY will be holding workshops in Kansas during the month of September. The theme is **"In HIS Image: Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture."** Presenters at the workshops will be **Rev. David Fleming** (*DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Spiritual Care; Associate Pastor of Our Savior, Grand Rapids, Mich.*) and **Dr. Beverly Yahnke** (*DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Christian Counsel*).

### Scheduled DOXOLOGY Workshops:

**Sept. 19 – Christ Lutheran, Topeka** (3509 SW Burlingame Rd.)

(*This workshop will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is open to the public.*)



The workshop is FREE. However, due to space limitations, registration is required. Scan the QR code to register for the Christ, Topeka DOXOLOGY workshop.

**Sept. 20-21 – Redeemer Lutheran, Lawrence** (2700 Lawrence Ave.) (*Friday, Sept. 20 - Clergy only; Saturday, Sept. 21 - Open to the public*)

The workshop is FREE. However, due to space limitations, registration is required. Scan the QR code to register for the Redeemer, Lawrence DOXOLOGY workshop.



# 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](https://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



## 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](mailto:tohlde@altagenetics.com). There will be a free will offering.

Six pastors from the Kansas District attended this year's **Bugenhagen Conference in Racine, Wis.** This is a free conference for all pastors and occurs annually the last Monday in July. Please consider attending this valuable conference to be edified, encouraged, and strengthened as shepherds of the Lord's Church.

Pictured left to right, Revs. Mark Lovett, Sean Kilgo, Benjamin Ockree, Michael Brockman and Aaron Filipek. *Not pictured but present: Rev. Nicholas Belcher.*

## 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

### COORDINATORS

**Rev. Mark Boxman**  
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

## CONTACT US

**LCMS Kansas District Office**

1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604-1104

**Phone**  
785-357-4441

**Fax**  
785-357-5071

**Website**  
<https://kslcms.org>

**Facebook**  
[facebook.com/kslcms/](https://facebook.com/kslcms/)