



WORKERS TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 2024

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



Confirmation Retreat

October 4-5

85 participants (64 youth, 21 adults) gathered for the annual Confirmation Retreat, Oct. 4-5 at Rock Springs Ranch located south of Junction City.

The theme for this year's retreat was "The Lord's Prayer." **Rev. Michael Ada** presented on the Heavenly Petitions (Introduction-3rd Petition), **Rev. Christian Schultz** taught the Earthly Petitions (4th Petition-Close), and **Rev. David Kahle** gave insights on the Habit of Prayer. Confirmands from Linn to Wichita, from Garden City to Olathe all enjoyed the sessions, camp games, and capture the flag. **Thank you all who attended, helped, and presented!**

Regular Features

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Pre-Lent Conference



Pastors Conference Highlights



Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

(1 John 3:1-2)

The first Sunday in November is the time that we “commemorate the faithful departed.” We remember before God those who have gone before us into eternal life. We thank God for their faith. We thank God for their life among us. We praise God that in Jesus they are now safely resting from their earthly labors. Our loved ones who have gone before us in the Christian faith are now home with the Father. Yes, their bodies now lie in the ground, but their souls are with Christ.

Now, let’s make absolutely sure just why they are with Christ, and why we will one day be there with them as well. Holy Scripture says that God “hates sin.” He can’t stand to be in the presence of sin, which is why He banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, the place of perfection and holiness. God’s holiness demands punishment for man’s sin. And because God hates sin, we must point in one direction — to Jesus. God, out of love for sinners, sent His Son to be our substitute on the cross. By doing this,

the Father’s wrath and anger was appeased. His wrath against the Christian’s sin has been turned away and directed toward Christ.

We have before us the picture of the cross. As the final stanza of the hymn “Abide with Me” so beautifully says, “Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes...” (Lutheran Service Book #878). Christ being the substitute for our sins on the cross is what saves. Jesus stretching out His arms and dying for the forgiveness of our sins is the message for all.

What can we say about us who are still living today? 1 John 3:2 says “we are God’s children now.” But, we don’t make ourselves children by our own efforts. Our selfish actions that we often display and our lack of love for others indicate this very well. You see, it’s God who makes us His children. God reaches out to us in love and draws wayward children — sinners — to Himself. The Holy Spirit draws us and puts us into a right relationship with the

Father by grace through faith.

It’s the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7). That blood was given directly to us in the saving waters of Baptism. In Baptism, we were brought to faith in Christ. Our sins were forgiven, and we were made the very heirs of eternal life. But more than that, Baptism places us into fellowship with Christ and with one another. This is why we grieve as a body together when someone from the fellowship among us in the Christian faith dies. But, it’s also the same reason why we rejoice as a body together because we know that that person is now safely in the arms of Jesus!

Dear Christian brother and sister, rejoice in what Christ has done, still does, and gives to you through Word and Sacrament. Rejoice that your Christian loved ones now rest in Jesus. Rejoice that you are His children now. **And rejoice that God gives us the opportunity each day to share that same love with others through our very own words and deeds!**



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Pastors Conference Highlights

The 2024 Pastors Fall Conference was held **October 7-8** at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka. There was also an optional LERT training session on Sunday evening, Oct. 6, at St. John's.

The theme for the conference was "Martin Luther and the Seven Deadly Sins." The keynote speaker was **Rev. Dr. Michael Fieberkorn**, associate pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in St. Charles, Mo.

Special thanks to all who helped plan and organize the Pastors Conference!



The Pastors Conference began with the Divine Service on October 7.

Rev. Dr. Michael Fieberkorn was the keynote speaker.



Rev. Jim Woelmer (pastor of Christ, Manhattan) leads the breakout session "Vice and Virtue within Marriage and Family."



Pastors celebrating ordination anniversaries were recognized at the Pastors Conference on October 7. From left (years in parentheses), (front row) Revs. Andy Keltner (40), Michael Brockman (40), David Gruoner (45), Joel Hiesterman (45), Norbert Tegtmeier (45), Michael Hageman (20), Jason Toombs (10), Anthony Masinelli (20); (back row) Revs. Don Haselhuhn (30), Luke Brown (15), Gary Wolf (40), Henry Blickhahn (35) and Kevin Peterson (25).

Not pictured, but celebrating ordination anniversaries: Revs. Magdiel Fajardo (10), Richard Lally (10), William Wingfield (10), Joel Cundiff (15), Brian Holle (20), Philip Miller (20), Dr. Neil Buono (25), John Einem (35), Jeffrey Meyers (35) and Edward Mease (40).



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's November Travel Schedule

- Nov. 3** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- Nov. 5** Circuit 7 Winkel at Immanuel (Linn)
- Nov. 7** 2025 Church Worker Planning Conference at District office (Topeka)
- Nov. 10-14** Council of Presidents at Concordia University (Chicago)
- Nov. 17** 100th Anniversary at St. Luke's (Manhattan)
- Nov. 19** Circuit 12 Winkel at Grace (Lyons)



District Convention delegate and nominations forms are due Nov. 30.

The forms are all 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.

Convention Forms due November 30

Sign any required forms and mail them to the District Office (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104).

The District Convention will be held **June 5-6, 2025**, at the Tony's Pizza Event Center (TPEC) in Salina. The theme for the 2025 Convention is "Abiding in the Word" based on John 8:31-32.

Upcoming Deadlines & Dates

Nov. 30: All nominations forms and delegate forms are due to the Kansas District Secretary.

Jan. 17, 2025: Nominee acceptance and biography/profile forms are due to the District Secretary.

Jan. 31, 2025: Reports from all District officers and entities are due to the District office.

Feb. 14, 2025: Overtures are due to the District office.

April 4-5, 2025: Floor committees will meet to discuss assigned overtures.

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 theme is "How the Church's Divine Pedagogy Invites Conversation with Those Who Disagree with Us." 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. He will lead presentations on Liturgy and Ritual,

Divine Pedagogy, and Protreptics.

Participants can arrive Sunday evening, January 5. There will be a Circuit Visitors and Region Vice-Presidents meeting on Sunday at 6 p.m. **Registration is open.** Visit the homepage of the Kansas District website <https://kslcms.org> to register and find a [schedule](#). The registration deadline is **December 19**.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Robert Allmann, Emeritus, Merrill, MI to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **pending**

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

Rev. Thomas Brown, St. Paul, Spearfish, SD to Redeemer, Atwood – **pending**

Rev. Jacob Dandy, Zion, Terra Bella, CA to Trinity, Atchison – **pending**

Rev. Aaron Fenker, Bethlehem & Immanuel, Bremen to St. John, Madison, MN – **pending**

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

Rev. Daniel Grimmer, Zion, Mitchell, SD to Christ, Topeka – **pending**

Rev. Dan Harders, Zion, Claflin & St. Peter's, Holyrood to Peace, Pineville, LA – **pending**

Rev. Tyler Hauptmeier, St. Paul, Doniphan, NE to Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **pending**

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

Rev. Russell Peterson, Christ, Overland Park to Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL – **pending**

Rev. Russell Peterson, Christ, Overland Park to Trinity, Shawnee (associate) – **pending**

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

Rev. Glen Wurdeman, Candidate to Trinity, Blue Hill and Zion, Red Cloud – **pending**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Abilene, Faith (sole)

Atchison, Trinity (senior)

Atwood, Redeemer (sole)

Chanute, Zion (sole)

Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)

Dodge City, Holy Cross (sole)

Ellsworth, St. Paul's (sole)

Hanover, Trinity (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Hoxie, Immanuel & Oakley, Immanuel (sole)

Kansas City, Our Saviour (sole)

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

Shawnee, Trinity (associate)

Topeka, Christ (sole)

Wellington, Calvary (sole)

Wichita, Holy Cross (senior)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Mark Wood, Our Saviour, Kansas City to Trinity, Mission (associate) – **accepted, installation Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, at Trinity, Mission**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Lord of Life, Leawood (DCE)

Christ, Overland Park (DCE)

NOVEMBER PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ◆ **Family and friends of Louis "Ed" Bruns, Jr.**, brother of the Hon. David Bruns, presiding officer of the Kansas District Board of Directors. Ed entered his heavenly rest Oct. 4, 2024.
- ◆ **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.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- ◆ **Kevin Adams**
- ◆ **Rev. Richard Andrus**
- ◆ **Rev. Dean Christ**
- ◆ **Cynthia Hammons**
- ◆ **Steve Hobus**
- ◆ **Rev. David McCloskey**
- ◆ **Carrie Meyers**
- ◆ **Rev. Kevin Peterson**

Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ◆ **Kyle and Bethany Johnson** (daughter Annalise Rose, Oct. 1).
- ◆ **Rev. Matthew and Sulena Koterba** (son Ezekiel, Sept. 17).

- ◆ Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Winfield – **Nov. 4**
- ◆ Concordia, Hoisington – **Nov. 11**

- ◆ Messiah, Hays – **Nov. 18**
- ◆ Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe – **Nov. 25**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Campus Ministry



LCMS Spanish Hymnals



Evangelism / Outreach



Mission Advocates

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://stlukemanhattan.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 in early September.

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 over the Labor Day weekend. 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' November Travel Schedule

- Nov. 15-17** KDYG at Rock Springs (Junction City)
- Nov. 15-16** Early Childhood Directors Retreat (Retreat Center, Herington)
- Nov. 19** 3N/3S Winkel at King of Kings (Gardner)
- Nov. 20** Linn Lutheran School visit (Linn)
- Nov. 23** Stewardship Workshop at Hope (Shawnee)

LCMS Spanish Hymnals: Price Reduction

Himnario Luterano, the new Lutheran hymnal used in Spanish-speaking churches throughout North, Central, and South America, is now available at a reduced price of **\$10 per copy!** Congregations and ministries who previously ordered the first edition of the hymnal at the cost of \$15 per copy may now order the updated 2nd edition copies for only \$5 per book.

Himnario Luterano orders must be placed through the LCMS Office of National Mission at 314-996-1396, or ordered online at <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/hispanic-ministry>.



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.



Almost \$7,800 has been received for the 2024 Pentecost Offering! These gifts will be used to continue supporting the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) Guinea seminary, as well as the provision of Lutheran education and resources to the people of Guinea and West Africa. **Support is still needed.** Consider making a donation to the 2024 Pentecost Offering by mailing a check with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line to the Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604) or making a donation on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/missions/guinea-westafrica>.

Jesus Door-2-Door



On October 12, **nine people** gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton for a Jesus Door-2-Door event. Three canvassing teams canvassed Norton, and one canvassing team canvassed Alma. The teams knocked on 66 doors and took 23 surveys. Five of the people spoken with (22%) were unchurched.

Through the canvassing efforts one family unit desired a follow-up visit from the congregation. Many thanks to Immanuel Lutheran Church for being such great hosts.

The next JD2D event will occur on **Saturday, Nov. 16** at Concordia University in Seward, NE, with canvassing in Utica and York. All are welcome to join.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Educators Conference Highlights



Youth Ministry



Parish Education

Educators Conference Highlights

The 2024 Educators Fall Conference was held **October 13-15** at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe. There was also a retirement celebration for Jim Bradshaw, District Executive for Education & Youth, at the Educator Awards Banquet on Sunday, Oct. 13.

The theme for the conference was "Endure and Flourish," based on Hebrews 12:1-3. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Bernard Bull**, president of Concordia University, Nebraska.

Special thanks to all who helped plan and organize the Educators Conference!

Dr. Bernard Bull was the keynote speaker.



Mindy Miller (Kindergarten-and-first grade teacher at St. John Lutheran School, Alma) leads a breakout session.



Educators celebrating service milestones were recognized at the Educators Conference on October 13. From left (years in parentheses), (front row) Monica Lennington (5), Renae Bott (10), Cheryl Voss (20), Deb Doesken (5), Cynthia Foster (15), Joanna Bradshaw (40), Molly-Ann Wells (10), Roberta Schempp (30), Jane Limback (40); (back row) DCE Heather McCormick (10), Tammy Lampe (30), David Beikmann (25), Harmon Butler (10), DCE Brian Amey (20), DCE William Prann (20), Debra Carter (30) and Gregg Wolgast (10).

Not pictured, but celebrating service milestones: Debbie Coughlin (5), Cynthia Hammons (40), Diane Harries (15), Jen Myers (20) and Sally Niemann (5).

2025 Higher Things Dates and Locations

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

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

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

Pricing

November 1 - January 31: **\$565**
February 1 - April 30: **\$590**
May 1 or later: **\$640**

Registration opens November 1, and a non-refundable \$150 deposit with your registration secures your spot at the conference.

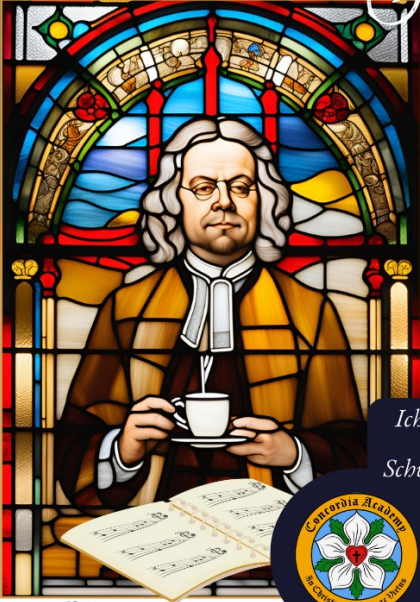
For more information visit *Higher Things* website: <https://higherthings.org/events/all-things-new-2025/>.



EDUCATION & YOUTH

Concordia Academy-Wichita
in partnership with:
Fairmount Ministries & Coffee Co.
invites you to join them for the

2nd Annual Concert Series





produced by:
Wichita Grand Opera
November 15
7:30 pm

at
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 N Greenwich Rd
Wichita, KS

featuring
Johann Sebastian Bach's
Ich Habe Genug - BWV 82
&
Schweig stille, plaudert nicht
The Coffee Cantata

Art Show &
Light Reception to follow

Donations taken at the door
to benefit the:
Concordia Academy Scholarship Fund

visit CAWichita.org to learn more



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).

Visit the KDYG page on the District website <https://kslcms.org/kdyg> to 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!](#)



ENDURE
2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING
HEBREWS 12:1-3

The LCMS Youth Gathering is **July 19-23, 2025**, in New Orleans, La. The theme is "Endure" based on Hebrews 12: 1-3.



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 / 785-893-3960

Visit <https://kslcms.org/parish-education> to access the individual flyer.

Registration for the Kansas District options is open!
Visit <https://kslcms.org/national-youth-gathering> to register.

Bus transportation leaving from various Kansas locations is \$300 per person. 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. Kansas District T-shirts are \$15 per shirt.

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

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

CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



Parish Nurse Ministry



2025 District Life Conference



Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator

Hurricanes Helene & Milton: How to Help

In the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton countless people, including LCMS members and congregations, are grieving the loss of their businesses, homes, and even their loved ones. Kansas District congregations and schools are encouraged to prayerfully consider

Lutheran Early Response Team News

taking up a special offering to support our brothers and sisters in the LCMS districts affected by the hurricanes.

Provided below are links for the three districts receiving contributions:

LCMS Mid-South District:

<https://mid-southlcms.org>

LCMS Southeastern District:

<https://se.lcms.org>

LCMS Florida-Georgia District:

<https://flgadistrict.org>

Funds received will be distributed by these districts for survivor support and some volunteer support. This will be a long-term ongoing recovery.

Other ways congregations and schools can help are by putting together hygiene kits for those districts affected.

Visit the Disaster Response Page on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/disaster-response> for the list of items needed for hygiene kits. Please ship assembled kits to **St. Peter's Lutheran Church** (6175 St. Peter's Church Road, Conover, NC 28613). The church office number is 828-256-2970.

For questions contact **Donna Williams**, the Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator, at ksddrc@gmail.com.

Upcoming LERT Events

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

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

The registration cost is \$35. Participants must have completed the Basic LERT Training class.

Register at <https://www.lcms-lert.org> or contact Brian Mead at 859-576-1892.

kslcms.org/disaster-response

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

<https://www.facebook.com/LERTKansasDistrict/>

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.

Registration is open. Visit the Life Conference webpage on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/2025-life-conference> to register and find more information.

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>.

Parish Nurse Ministry

The role of the Parish Nurse is to counsel, educate and refer to community resources.

A Parish Nurse reflects God's love through professional care and confidentiality. As a **health educator**, the nurse offers blood pressure screenings, provides health and safety classes, and facilitates support groups.

As a **health counselor**, individual health counseling can be provided.

As a **liaison to community health resources**, knowing the community resources and making appropriate referrals.

In addition, **coordinating volunteers** is important when congregational members need transportation to medical appointments or meals can be arranged when a member is going through difficult times.

A Parish Nurse is a Registered Nurse committed to serve the Lord and one another. She/he is Christ-centered, people oriented, and user friendly. Walking alongside the pastor, the Parish Nurse can be very helpful to the congregation.

For more information visit the Parish Nursing page on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/parish-nurse>.

BUSINESS OFFICE



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders

2025 Kansas District Salary Guidelines

The 2025 Kansas District Salary and Benefit Guidelines are posted on the District Resources page of the District website, <https://kslcms.org/business-office/district-resources>. The guidelines provide congregations with an objective approach to developing a suitable compensation plan for church workers.

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

2024 Year-End Checklist

As the end of 2024 approaches, the [2024 Year-End Checklist](#) is available for congregational treasurers.

Click on the provided link to access the checklist or find it on the District Resources page of the District website, <https://kslcms.org/business-office/district-resources>.

Please note that the end of the 2024 fiscal year is Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Anything received in the District office after January 15 will be posted to the 2025 fiscal year.

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.

Open enrollment is Nov. 4-15. Visit 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>

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1** Board of Directors, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (District Office, Topeka)
- Nov. 4** Convention Planning meeting, 12-2 p.m. (District Office, Topeka)
- Nov. 7** Church Worker Conference Committee, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
Convention Nomination Committee, 7-8 p.m. (Zoom)

- Nov. 9** Parish Education Committee, 8:30-10 a.m. (Zoom)
- Nov. 12** MSH Committee, 1-2 p.m. (Zoom)
- Nov. 15-17** KDYG (Rock Springs, Junction City)
- Nov. 23** Philippians Stewardship Conference, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (Hope, Shawnee)
- Nov. 27** District office closes at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 28-29** District office closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- Dec. 1** KSDE School Improvement Day (Smoky Hill Education Service Center, Salina)
- Dec. 3-4** Office of National Mission meetings (St. Louis)
- Dec. 5** Church Worker Care Committee, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1** District office closed for Christmas and New Years

JANUARY

- Jan. 5** Circuit Visitor / Region VP meeting, 6-8 p.m. (Redeemer, Lawrence)
- Jan. 6-7** Pre-Lent Conference (Redeemer, Lawrence)
- Jan. 8** Board of Missions, 4-5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Jan. 9** Board of Education & Youth, 10-11 a.m. (Zoom)
- Jan. 10-11** DYMC Retreat (Herington)
- Jan. 13** Convention Planning meeting, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- Jan. 15** Lutheran Social Service meeting, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Wichita)
- Jan. 16** Board of Caring Ministry, 12-1:30 p.m. (Zoom)

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 tohld@altagenetics.com. There will be a free will offering.

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

- 11:00 a.m.** Divine Service
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:30 p.m.** Session #1
- 2:30 p.m.** Break
- 3:00 p.m.** Session #2
- 4:30 p.m.** Vespers
- 5:45 p.m.** Brat supper / Fellowship

2025 Lutherans for Life Essay Contest



The Council of Federation Presidents of the National Lutherans for Life and Lutherans for Life of Kansas (LFL of KS) are sponsoring an essay contest with the theme "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" based on Psalm 139:13-14. This essay contest is open to students in grades 6-12 who are enrolled in Lutheran schools, or Lutheran students who attend public school or are homeschooled in Kansas.

The guidelines are available at <https://lflofkansas.org/essay-contest>. Please encourage the youth of your churches and schools to participate! Students are to submit their essay entries to secretary@lflofkansas.org by or before March 15, 2025. Please submit essays digitally using Microsoft Word format.

SYNOD & PARTNERS

Million Dollar Life Match

To support local pro-life efforts of all sizes, the LCMS is offering **\$1 million in matching grants** to LCMS congregations and districts within the United States. The online application for congregations will be open from **January 1-February 15, 2025**.

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. District applications have different dates. For questions on projects or the application process, email **Kris Freeman**, manager of LCMS Life Ministry, at lifeministry@lcms.org.

Visit the Life Ministry Million Dollar Life Match webpage for more information and resources, <https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/life-grant>.

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>.

LWML Kansas District: New Webmaster

The LWML Kansas District currently has an immediate need for a webmaster. This person would be responsible for maintaining and managing the established LWML Kansas District website (www.kansaslwml.org) as needed under the direction of the LWML District President and the VP of Communication.

If you are interested in serving through this paid position or have any questions, please contact **Allison Lehmann** at communication@kansaslwml.org.

Concordia Health Plan: 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.

Health Savings ACCOUNT

Many employers offer the health coverage option of a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) that can be paired with a Health Savings Account (HSA). HSAs offer investors the opportunity to use their funds to pay for qualifying medical expenses. Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) HSA FlexPlus Certificate earns interest while allowing easy access to funds.

Need to know more about HSAs?

Visit lcef.org/hsa today!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

› where investments build ministry

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA/HSA programs.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Participants from around Circuit 15 attended the Marriage Enrichment Seminar held at Immanuel, Norton on Saturday, Oct. 19. **Rev. Dan Galchutt** (*Executive Director of the LCMS Office of National Mission*) served as the keynote speaker.

The entirety of Pastor Galchutt's presentation can be found online at <https://youtu.be/Q5OhHxnmP6Y>.



48 participants attended the Marriage Enrichment Seminar held at Trinity, Girard on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Rev. Jim Woelmer (*pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan*) served as the keynote speaker.



Circuit 8 hosted a Reformation worship service on Sunday, Oct. 27, at St. Paul's, Alta Vista, prior to the circuit forum. The preacher was **Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink** (*Executive Director of Concordia Historical Institute*) with Rev. John Fries as the liturgist and celebrant and Rev. Larry Boye as the lector. Circuit pastors including Revs. Robert Grimm, Jim Woelmer, Michael Schmidt and Terry De Giovanni assisted in worship and distribution. The Jubellation handbell

choir from St. John, Alma, provided prelude and offertory music. About 75 participants were present for the worship service.

After the service, the group met in the basement for refreshments before short presentations from the LLL, LWML and the Flint Hills Lutherans for Life. A keynote presentation by Dr. Harmelink focused on historical controversies and events that challenged the synod prior to and during the walkout of 1974.





AROUND THE DISTRICT



Jim Bradshaw, District Executive for Education & Youth, was celebrated for his many years of service in the LCMS Kansas District at the Educator Awards Banquet on Sunday, Oct. 13. Jim will retire at the end of January 2025.

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

Miriam Wehling
Youth Ministry Coordinator & School
Services Assistant

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

Donna Williams
Disaster Response Coordinator

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