



# WORKERS TOGETHER

DECEMBER 2024

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



## Kansas District Youth Gathering

132 participants gathered for the 2024 Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) for high school-aged youth,

held November 15-17 at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch south of Junction City. This year's KDYG theme was "Run" based on Hebrews 12:1. The keynote speaker was **Rev. Andrew Nelson**, the associate pastor of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church in St. Peters, Mo. In the keynote sessions Pastor Nelson reminded the group that while we often run away from God's love and end up lost and ragged, through Jesus Christ we are always welcomed back to the Father, who runs to bring us home. Visit **Page 7** for more highlights and photos. Also visit the KDYG page on the District website <https://kslcms.org/kdyg> for photos.

**SAVE THE DATE** for the 2025 KDYG, which will be **November 14-16, 2025**, at Rock Springs Ranch!

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# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Pre-Lent Conference



Pastoral Installations



Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

(Isaiah 11:1-2)

**“Get back to your roots.”** It’s a simple phrase that means we must consider who we are through appreciating our past and the meaning of our history.

But most people are cut off from their past. That rootlessness is often magnified at Christmas, and especially for people who have been uprooted from their immediate families, whether by divorce, distance or conflict. Traditional human connections are the stuff of real, daily life. We may dismiss our past by describing it as “baggage” or “issues.” This is true when we feel that our past or our family history is embarrassing, too humble or even too foreign.

But even our Lord Jesus Christ had a root, a source, a history. His source from eternity was His heavenly Father from whom He was ever begotten, without beginning or end. Late in time, He comes as the offspring of the Virgin’s womb. He comes from the root of Jesse. Isaiah was intending to say that the sign of the King’s return is humble, unexpected, even foreign. No one

looks at the shoot that comes from the root of Jesse and declares His glory, or names Him King. His roots do not attract us to Him. He is of the cut down house of Jesse.

**Christ is not rootless. He comes from humble, human stock. His roots tell us how much like us He is. Our Lord is true man born of the Virgin Mary. He comes from God as God of God. His root is fixed in eternity. He comes from God and returns to God so that we might know who is born of Mary and comes from the stump of Jesse. It is good for us to know what our roots really are. If we are in Him, then we are rooted in God.**

Martin Luther writes:

“His resting place shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:10) that is, death, the end of life, the departure from this life. The death of all other kings is the end of their reign. But Christ will reign gloriously from His death forward, and this signifies His resur-

rection from the dead. In Psalm 8:4 we read: “What is man, etc.?” The prophet calls death a rest and cessation from labors, glory after shame. To the world He seems dead and mute and inglorious. But He lives and reigns in glory. Therefore, we have three elements here: (1) the raising of the ensign through the gospel; (2) the act of seeking, receiving, and believing; (3) the object of faith, the Root, that is, Christ, who reigns though dead. When the prophets speak of Christ’s reign, they speak of His humanity and of His divinity. The Root of Jesse points to the man. The fact that the nations seek Him shows that He is God. Earlier the prophet wrote: “Should not a people inquire of their God” (Isaiah 8:19)? Glory and faithfulness belong to God alone, who alone helps and saves.”

*Lectures on Isaiah 11:10*

**God bless your Christmas celebration as each and every one of us returns “to our roots!”**



# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## Out and About in Kansas

### President Panzer's December Travel Schedule

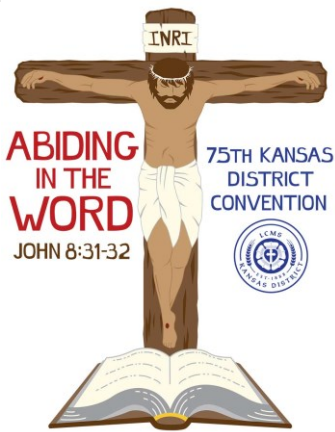
- Dec. 1** Preaching at Christ (*Topeka*)
- Dec. 3** Circuit 8 Winkel at St. John (*Alma*)
- Dec. 10** Circuit 9 Winkel at St. John (*Tampa*)



**Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf** was installed as the associate pastor of Risen Savior Lutheran Church and Classical School, Basehor, on Sunday, Nov. 3. From left, Revs. Philip Houser, Christian Schultz, Dr. Mark Schulz, Ian Kinney, Zachariah Burgdorf, Robert Weinkauff and Caleb Stoever.



**Rev. Mark Wood** was installed as the associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and Pre-school, Mission, on Sunday, Nov. 10. From left (front row), Revs. Lee Hovel, Joel Schultz, Mark Wood, Luke Jacob (*senior pastor of Trinity, Mission and Shawnee*), Philip Cook; (back row) Revs. Jacob Mueller, Dr. Mark Schulz, (*pastor emeritus of Trinity, Mission and Shawnee*), John Kastner and Thomas Harries.



### Convention Deadlines & Dates

- Jan. 17, 2025:** Nominee acceptance and biography/profile forms due to the District Secretary.
- Jan. 31, 2025:** Reports from all District officers and entities due to the District office.
- Feb. 14, 2025:** Overtures due to the District office.
- April 4-5, 2025:** Floor committees 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.

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.**



**Rev. Robert Allmann** was installed as the pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dodge City, on Sunday, Dec. 1. From left, Revs. Jason Toombs, Robert Allmann, Michael Hageman and Dennis Mason.

# CALLS & VACANCIES

## PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Thomas Brown**, St. Paul, Spearfish, SD to Redeemer, Atwood – **declined**
- Rev. Thomas Brown**, St. Paul, Spearfish, SD to Messiah, Hays – **declined**
- Rev. Aaron Fenker**, Bethlehem and Immanuel, Bremen to Redeemer, Atwood – **pending**
- Rev. Aaron Fenker**, Bethlehem and Immanuel, Bremen to St. John, Madison, MN – **declined**
- Rev. Daniel Grimmer**, Zion, Mitchell, SD to Christ, Topeka – **declined**
- Rev. Matthew Hardaway**, Candidate, TX to St. Andrews, Wichita – **declined**
- Rev. Dan Harders**, Zion, Claflin & St. Peter's, Holyrood to Peace, Pineville, LA – **declined**
- Seminary Candidate Nathan Harkins** to Faith, Abilene – **pending**
- Rev. Tyler Hauptmeier**, St. Paul, Doniphan, NE to Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **declined**
- Rev. Jacob Heine**, Faith, Topeka to Bethlehem, Saginaw, MI – **pending**
- Rev. Conrad Oehlert**, St. John, Hooker, OK to Immanuel, Hoxie & Immanuel, Oakley – **declined**
- Rev. Russell Peterson**, Christ, Overland Park to Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL – **accepted**
- Rev. Russell Peterson**, Christ, Overland Park to Trinity, Shawnee – **declined**
- Rev. John Werner**, Zion, Hillsboro & Our Savior, Marion to St. John, Honeycreek, IA – **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)                                | Topeka, Christ (sole)   |
| Atwood, Redeemer (sole)                              | Wellington, Calvary (sole)  |
| Chanute, Zion (sole)                                 | Wichita, Holy Cross (senior)  |
| Clay Center, St. Paul (associate)                    | Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)   |
| Dodge City, Holy Cross (sole)                        | Pastors resigning their calls:  |
| Ellsworth, St. Paul's (sole)                         | <b>Rev. Joel Cundiff</b> ( <i>St. Paul, Leavenworth, Associate</i> ); |
| Emporia, Messiah (sole)                              | <b>Rev. William Hartley</b> ( <i>Messiah, Emporia</i> )               |
| Hanover, Trinity (sole)                              | Pastors resigning from the LCMS clergy roster:                        |
| Hays, Messiah (sole)                                 | <b>Rev. Luke Kammrath</b> ( <i>St. Luke's, Kansas City</i> )          |
| Hoxie, Immanuel & Oakley, Immanuel (sole)            | Congregations resigning from the LCMS:                                |
| Kansas City, Our Saviour (sole)                      | <b>St. Luke's, Kansas City</b>  |
| Medicine Lodge, Trinity & St. John, Nashville (sole) |   |
| Shawnee, Trinity (associate)                         |   |

## PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Theodore Cook**, Zion, Pittsburg to Trinity, Parsons (dual parish) – **installation Sunday, December 8, 2024**
- Rev. Timothy Wangerin**, Emeritus to Christ the King, Salina (part-time associate) – **accepted, installation Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**
- Rev. Dale Skurla**, Emeritus, Prescott, AZ to St. Paul, Leavenworth (IIM) – **accepted, installation Sunday, January 12, 2025, during the morning worship service at St. Paul, Leavenworth**
- Rev. Jacob Dandy**, Zion, Terra Bella, CA to Trinity, Atchison – **accepted, installation Sunday, January 12, 2025**

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

- Leawood, Lord of Life (DCE)
- Linn, Linn Lutheran (Teacher – 3rd / 4th grade)
- Manhattan, St. Luke's (Early Childhood Director)
- Overland Park, Bethany (Teacher – 1st grade)
- Overland Park, Christ (DCE)

## DECEMBER PRAYER REQUESTS

### Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ♦ **Family and friends of Duane Brunkow**, father of Brad Brunkow, who is the treasurer of the Kansas District Board of Directors. Duane entered his heavenly rest Nov. 16, 2024.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Louis "Ed" Bruns, Jr.**, brother of the Hon. David Bruns, who is the presiding officer of the Kansas District Board of Directors. Ed entered his heavenly rest Oct. 4, 2024.

### Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

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

### Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ♦ **Kyle and Bethany Johnson** (daughter Annalise Rose, Oct. 1).

## Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- ♦ St. Paul's, Oswego, Zion, Pittsburg & Trinity, Parsons – **Dec. 2**
- ♦ Grace, Larned – **Dec. 16**
- ♦ Christmas Week, Prayer for All – **Dec. 23**
- ♦ Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **Dec. 9**
- ♦ New Year's Week, Prayer for All – **Dec. 30**

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Campus Ministry



LCMS Spanish Hymnals



Evangelism / Outreach



Mission Advocates



## Campus Ministry Garden City

The equation is simple – Trinity invites and connects these individuals to ministries that are already in place and connects them to older adults who enjoy being around college-aged adults. These connections happen at weekly Wednesday midweek studies and Sunday morning worship. Young adults and church members also gather once a month on Sunday evenings at **Rev. Michael Hageman's** house for "Table Talk," where the group discusses the Augsburg Confession and closes the night by chanting Compline.

Recently on All Saints Sunday a student from the college was confirmed in the faith after spending much of his life in the Mennonite community.

***To God be the Glory!***

To learn more about the campus ministry at Trinity, Garden City, contact **Rev. Michael Hageman** (*senior pastor of the TIG Partnership: Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; Grace, Ulysses*) at [hagmission@att.net](mailto:hagmission@att.net).

The LCMS-U campus ministry at **Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City** has a small pocket of influence on Garden City Community College's campus, which has proven to have eternal implications.

For the last two years Trinity has returned their focus on making known they are a place for young adults to be enlightened by the gifts that Christ delivers. With a handful of college age Lutherans and their friends, Trinity has been gathering around God's Word and applying it to the challenges college students are facing.



## Jesus Door-2-Door

On Nov. 16, Rev. Timothy Koch (*pastor of Zion, Linn*) took **six youth** from three different LCMS Kansas District congregations to a Jesus Door-2-Door event at Concordia University in Seward, Neb. The Kansas group met up with people from Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, California, and Mongolia (*yes ... the country!*)

After icebreakers, a Bible study and witnessing training, the group canvassed the community in eight teams (*three teams to Utica, Neb., and five teams to York, Neb.*) The teams knocked on 190 homes. 80 people answered the door and 56 agreed to take the survey. Of those 56, 10 people (18%) were unchurched. Five of the 56 people (9%) replied, "I don't know" when asked, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?"

Through the groups' canvassing efforts, two people desired a follow-up visit from the local congregations (*one individual lived in Utica, and the other in York*).

The next JD2D event is scheduled for **Saturday, December 14**, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb. Contact Rev. Timothy Koch at [revtimkoch@gmail.com](mailto:revtimkoch@gmail.com) if you or your congregation's youth would like to participate!



# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' December Travel Schedule

**Dec. 1 Our Saviour Lutheran Church (Kansas City)**

**Dec. 3-4 Office of National Mission / District Mission Leaders (St. Louis)**

**Dec. 8-10 CONFEDX for Synod and District Education Leaders (Savannah, Ga.)**

**Dec. 17 Circuit 2 Winkel at Grace Lutheran (Kansas City)**

## 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](mailto:janet@kslcms.org) or 785-357-4441, ext. 2001.



Rev. David Gruoner leads a Mission Advocate presentation at Trinity, Paola, on Nov. 10, 2024.

LCMS Kansas District

# WEST AFRICA

PARTNERSHIP



**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). You can also make an online donation on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/missions/guinea-westafrica>.

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

✝ Commissionings / Installations

👥 Youth Ministry

## KDYG Highlights

The Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) is an opportunity for high school-aged youth in grades 9-12 to grow in their faith through study, worship and fellowship. Some of the highlights from this year's KDYG included keynote sessions with Rev. Andrew Nelson, activities such as the Amazin' Grace scavenger hunt and 2-mile glow run/walk/cheer on Saturday evening, and the Divine worship service on Sunday morning.



**Miriam Wehling** was installed as the Youth Ministry Coordinator & School Services Assistant of the LCMS Kansas District on Sunday, Nov. 24. The installation was officiated by Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services, and was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence, Miriam's home congregation. **Congratulations!**

Miriam earned her BS in Education and DCE certification from Concordia University, Nebraska and has served Lutheran churches and schools in Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, Florida, and Kansas as a teacher and youth ministry director. Also active in youth ministry at the district, and synodical levels, she loves sharing Jesus and His Word with youth and their parents. Miriam is married to Rev. Andrew Wehling, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence. She is the "favorite" former youth leader of her grown children, Caleb (wife, Alicia), Katie (husband, Ben), and Daniel; and she loves being a grandma to Lucy.

As the Youth Ministry Coordinator & School Services Assistant, Miriam will work in a part-time capacity in the support, coordination, and advancement of youth ministry and school services across the Kansas District.



# EDUCATION & YOUTH



## ENDURE

2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING  
HEBREWS 12:1-3

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

### 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/>.

The LCMS Youth Gathering is **July 19-23, 2025**, in New Orleans, La. The theme is "Endure" based on Hebrews 12:1-3. **There are already 553 participants registered from the Kansas District! Praise God!**

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

There is still availability for transportation, T-shirts, and the Kansas District event. The optional swamp tour has almost reached its limit. 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, send an email to Debbie and Karen at [nygksdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:nygksdistrict@gmail.com).



## Middle School Huddle

Join us for the 2025 Middle School Huddle (MSH) taking place on **April 4-5, 2025**, at

Rock Springs 4-H Ranch, south of Junction City. This event aims to encourage middle school students from the Kansas District in their faith by fostering community and spiritual growth as we study God's Word.

The theme for this year's Middle School Huddle is "**The Armor of God**," based on Ephesians 6:10-18. Together, we will explore how to stand strong in faith, equipped with the spiritual armor that God provides. We will dive into how each piece of the armor—from the belt of truth to the sword of the Spirit—prepares us to face life's challenges with courage and conviction.

The keynote speaker this year will be **Rev. Quentin Nuttmann**, senior pastor of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson. He will guide us in understanding of what it means to put on the armor of God.

Registration begins January 15 and ends March 15.

For questions contact **Rev. Dennis Kootz** (associate pastor of Trinity, Salina) at [pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com](mailto:pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com).



# 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-](https://kslcms.org/disaster-response)

[response](https://kslcms.org/disaster-response) for the list of items

needed for hygiene kits (*also*

*included in this section.*) 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](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com).

## Hurricanes Helene & Milton Hygiene Kits

- Ziplock 1 gallon food storage bags
- Fabric adhesive bandages
- Shampoo – 1.7 fl. oz.
- Hand sanitizer – 1 oz.
- Disposable travel toothbrush/ toothpaste kits (*individually wrapped*)
- Bath soap – 3 oz. bar
- Nail clipper
- Pocket combs
- Washcloths
- Hand towels

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

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

[https://www.facebook.com/  
LERTKansasDistrict/](https://www.facebook.com/LERTKansasDistrict/)

## 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

**December is Safe Toy Month!** It's the Christmas season and we remember our children. Before a child receives a new toy, it's important to stop and consider if it is safe and age appropriate. Thousands of children are hurt each year due to unsafe or developmentally inappropriate toys.

Toys that can be swallowed and cause airway obstruction is one of the leading causes of death in children. Their trachea is extremely narrow, and even the tiniest piece from a toy can block a child's airway and cause suffocation. Also, make sure crayons and markers are labeled "nontoxic." Toys with removable magnets or "button" batteries can cause serious injuries or even death if they are ingested.

Keep in mind the child's age and development level when giving toys. If shopping for infants and children with special needs, look for toys that appeal to the senses. Let this be a safe Christmas!

**Mary Hume, Parish Nurse**

For more information about Parish Nursing 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](mailto: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.

## Corporate Transparency Act and Scam Forms

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) is a recently enacted federal law effective January 1, 2024, which requires corporate entities to disclose information regarding their beneficial owners and controlling individuals. **501(c)(3) organizations, including church entities, are exempt from filing the CTA report.**

With the new act in place, many businesses, organizations, and individuals are receiving "official-looking" forms from entities who are not a federal agency. An example that has come to my attention is a mailing titled "Form 5102 Mandatory Beneficial Ownership Reporting," from either Annual Records Service or Records Management Service with a filing fee of \$119. These forms are a fraudulent attempt to get information and payment; the correspondence is not from a governmental agency. There is also no legitimate fee associated with filing a CTA report.

**If your church receives correspondence similar to this, remember that churches are exempt from the CTA and that these forms are a scam. Do not fill out these forms and do not remit payment.**



## Lutheran Witness Billings

Billing statements for 2024-2025 Lutheran Witness subscriptions were mailed to all subscribing congregations in October.

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](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org) for a change form.



# DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

### 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.-2 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 a.m.-12 p.m. (*Zoom*)

## JANUARY (CONT.)

- 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*)
- Jan. 21** **Older Adult Ministry Committee**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (*Zoom*)
- Jan. 27** **Board of Stewardship**, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (*Zoom*)
- Jan. 27** **Executive Committee**, 1-2 p.m. (*Zoom*)
- Jan. 29** **Kansas District Life Conference / March for Life** (*St. John's, Topeka; Kansas State Capitol, downtown Topeka*)
- Jan. 30** **President's Council**, 1-5 p.m. (*Zoom*)
- Jan. 31** **Board of Directors**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (*Zoom*)



## 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://lflforkansas.org/essay-contest>. Please encourage the youth of your churches and schools to participate!

Students are to submit their essay entries to [secretary@lflforkansas.org](mailto:secretary@lflforkansas.org) by or before March 15, 2025. Please submit essays digitally using Microsoft Word format.



The LCMS Kansas District invites our congregations, schools, and RSOs to save the date for **April 2025** for the second annual *Faith at Work* service projects! *Faith at Work* (FAW) is an annual District-wide service event where groups of all ages and skill sets find

needs within their local communities to serve throughout the month. Each spring we would like to encourage every person, young and old, to serve friends and neighbors in their communities in the name of Jesus.

### Congregations / Schools / RSOs:

Be on the lookout for registration to open for *Faith at Work* projects.

Check the *Faith at Work* page on the District website for updates, and watch the 2025 *Faith at Work* video (*produced by JAECreative, [jae-creative.com](http://jae-creative.com)*).

*Faith at Work* webpage: <https://kslcms.org/faith-at-work>

For questions, please email [faithatwork@kslcms.org](mailto:faithatwork@kslcms.org).

# 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](mailto: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>.

## Lutheran Bible Translators

7,000+ languages are spoken in the world, but only 750 languages have the full Bible. Help raise awareness as a church advocate for Bible translation ministry.

Host a **Bible Translation Sunday** at your church to advocate for the mission of Lutheran Bible Translators. Engage your church with a call to action by inviting individuals and families to contribute \$35 monthly to translate one verse of Scripture until the work is done (or set a total goal for your church). It's a simple yet powerful way to gather in prayer, inspire generosity, and make a huge impact, translating entire chapters and books of the Bible. Join us in this mission to let the world know, "God speaks your language." Ready to make a difference? Take next steps at <https://lbt.org/bible-translation-sundays>.

## Christmas Media Kits

LCMS Worship has made available media kits for congregational use, in reaching out to local communities this Advent and Christmas season. These free kits may be personalized with a local parish's information about their Advent and Christmas services. Included in the kits are a newspaper opinion editorial and advertisement, a Facebook advertisement, social media shareables and reels, and post/note cards.

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

## 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](http://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](mailto:communication@kansaslwml.org).

## MERRY Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. -JOHN 1:14 (ESV)*



Jeffrey Maltz  
District Vice President  
Kansas & Oklahoma Districts  
785-230-4112 | [jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org](mailto:jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org)

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
where investments build ministry



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

On November 10, congregations of Circuit 7 gathered for a joint-worship service in the Washington County High School Gymnasium, as part of their Lutheran Laymen's League Convocation. **Over 600 people were in attendance!**

The guest preacher was **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**, speaker of The Lutheran Hour. Dr. Zeigler preached a sermon based on Daniel 7:9-14, reminding attendees of the eternal reign of God in Christ Jesus, in contrast to temporary political powers.

Special music was provided by the children of Circuit 7 congregations and schools, specifically Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Marysville and Linn Lutheran School in Linn. The convocation was also blessed to have the Male Chorus of Concordia University, Nebraska attend and sing a number of choral offerings during the service.

An offering of \$4,100 was collected on behalf of Lutheran Hour Ministries.



**The Early Childhood Directors** held a retreat November 15-16, at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington.



# AROUND THE DISTRICT



42 participants attended the Marriage Enrichment Seminar at Trinity Lutheran Church in Paola, on Saturday, Nov. 16. **Rev. Jim Woelmer** (*pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan*) served as the keynote speaker.

Thanks be to God for the six Marriage Enrichment Seminars that were held around the Kansas District this summer and fall!



The central Kansas **Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS)** pastors, wives and children met on November 9. The group meets four times a year for worship, study and fellowship. Participants include Rev. Matthew and Amy Goltl (*Risen Savior, Wichita*), Rev. Jaron and Elizabeth Melin and children (*Our Redeemer, Immanuel, and St. John, Herington*), Rev. Mark and Olivia Gaschler (*Immanuel, Linn*) and Rev. Christopher and Sarah Warn- eke (*Redeemer, Arkansas City and Trinity, Winfield*). Facilitators are Rev. Mark and Lynn Boxman (*Trinity, Salina*).

## 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**  
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

### CONTACT US

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### 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