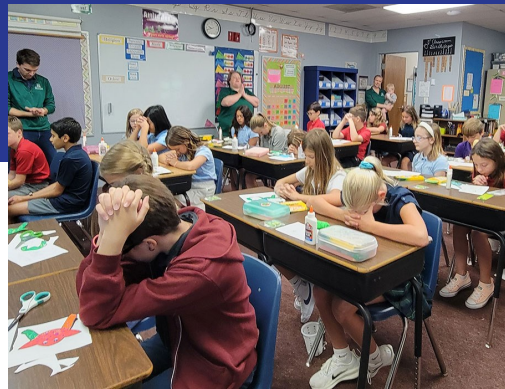




WORKERS TOGETHER

JANUARY 2025

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



TOP LEFT: Students of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Marysville, and Linn Lutheran School, Linn, sang at the Circuit 7 LLL Convocation on Nov. 10.

TOP RIGHT: Students of Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park, had the Opening Day Prayer Walk on Aug. 21.

BELOW: A special assembly was held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at St. Paul Lutheran School, Leavenworth.



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Redeemer, Olathe is holding a Liberty Weekend on Saturday, Feb. 22	

Celebrate our Lutheran Schools!

National Lutheran Schools Week will be held Jan. 26-Feb. 1. The theme for 2025 is "Endure," based on Hebrews 12:1-3. This special week provides an opportunity to celebrate educators, students and their families as together we share the love of Christ with our communities.

The Kansas District is blessed to have 15 elementary schools (K-8), including two classical schools; one classical high school and 43 pre-schools. Visit <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/national-lutheran-schools-week-resources> to find resources to help celebrate our schools! Pictured above are photos from the first half of the 2024-2025 school year.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Announcements and Reminders



Pastoral Installations



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

(Colossians 3:16)

New Year. New Beginnings.

New Goals. How about “new attitudes” in the form of spiritual discipline and your presence in church attendance as well?

“O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.” (Psalm 26:8)

“[Do not neglect] to meet together, as is the habit of some, but [encourage] one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

“Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she

went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42)

Receiving the gifts of God in Word and Sacrament matters. Prayer matters. Doing good works to the glory of God in love for Him and in service to the neighbor matters.

But most of all, sinners need Jesus. There's someone who died and rose from the dead and will never die again. He's in church every Sunday morning with His forgiveness for sinners. If you haven't been to the Divine Service in a while, don't be afraid! Your pastor and your fellow parishioners aren't waiting for you to show up so that they can gloat, “It's about time!” No! They're waiting for you to come

so they can joyfully say, “Welcome home!” If you are present every Sunday, by all means, keep it up! If you are present 1-2 times per month, strive to increase your attendance by at least one more time.

God's Word is valuable all by itself, but we pray that He would make His Word valuable for us. Psalm 119:37 reads, *“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.”*

“Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a Word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”



Trinity Lutheran Church, Parsons



Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburg



Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina



Calvary Lutheran Church & Learning Center, Topeka

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's January Travel Schedule

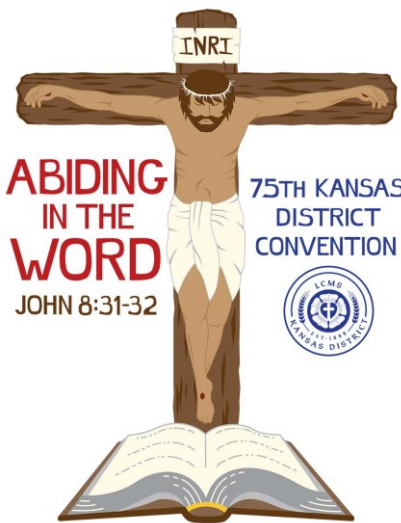
- Jan. 5** Preaching at Christ (*Topeka*)
- Jan. 11** Official visit at Immanuel (*Linn*)
- Jan. 12** Installation of Rev. Dale Skurla at St. Paul (*Leavenworth*)
- Installation of Rev. Jacob Dandy at Trinity (*Atchison*)**
- Jan. 14** Circuits 1 & 6 Winkel at Trinity (*Holton*)
- Jan. 15** Lutheran Social Services (*Wichita*)
- Jan. 21** Circuit 3N / 3S Winkel at Beautiful Savior (*Olathe*)
- Jan. 23-24** March for Life (*Washington, D.C.*)
- Jan. 26** Ordination of Nathan Harkins at Beautiful Savior (*Olathe*)
- Jan. 29** Kansas District Life Conference at St. John's (*Topeka*)



Rev. Theodore Cook was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Parsons, on Sunday, Dec. 8. Trinity, Parsons, and Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburg, are the newest dual parish in the Kansas District. Rev. Cook (left) is pictured with Rev. Justin Panzer, District President.



Rev. Timothy Wangerin was installed as associate pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina, on Sunday, Dec. 15. Rev. Wangerin (left) is pictured with Rev. Aaron Wagner, pastor of Christ the King.



District Convention Deadlines & Dates

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

Visit <https://kslcms.org/2025-convention> for more information and to stay updated.

Circuit Visitors and Regional Vice-Presidents:

Please send your reports to Jackie Schaefer at jackie@kslcms.org by or before **February 1**.

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.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Aaron Fenker, Bethlehem and Immanuel, Bremen to Redeemer, Atwood – **declined**

Rev. Daniel Harders, St. Peter, Holyrood & Zion, Claflin to Immanuel, Hoxie & Immanuel, Oakley – **pending**

Seminary Candidate Nathan Harkins to Faith, Abilene – **pending**

Rev. Joshua Hayes, St. John, Palmer to Trinity, Casper, WY – **accepted**

Rev. Jacob Heine, Faith, Topeka to Bethlehem, Saginaw, MI – **declined**

Rev. Caleb Stoever, Immanuel, Hepler & Good Shepherd, Erie to Concordia, Forsyth, MN – **declined**

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

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

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 or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Abilene, Faith (sole)

Atwood, Redeemer (sole)

Chanute, Zion (sole)

Clay Center, St. Paul
(associate – seminary)

Dodge City, Holy Cross
(sole)

Ellsworth, St. Paul's (sole)

Emporia, Messiah (sole)

Hanover, Trinity (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Hoxie, Immanuel & Oakley,
Immanuel (sole)

Kansas City, Our Saviour
(sole)

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

Overland Park, Bethany
(associate – seminary)

Shawnee, Trinity
(associate)

Topeka, Christ (sole)

Wellington, Calvary (sole)

Wichita, Holy Cross
(senior)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Cheney, St. Paul's (Teacher)

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) (Kindergarten)

Topeka, St. John's Classical (Teacher)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

DCE Heather McCormick, Faith, Topeka to St. John, Woodbury, MN – **pending**

JANUARY 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.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

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

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- ◆ Peace, Natoma & First, Plainville – **Jan. 8**
- ◆ Augsburg, Shawnee – **Jan. 13**
- ◆ St. Paul, Preston – **Jan. 20**
- ◆ Christ Our Savior, Louisburg – **Jan. 27**

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.

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 Saturday, December 14, Rev. Timothy Koch (*pastor of Zion, Linn*), six youth and three adults traveled to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE, for a JD2D event.

Six canvassing teams knocked on 156 homes. 31 people agreed to take the canvassing survey. One of the questions asked was, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?" The teams received the following answers:

"Heaven" (23 people); "Reincarnation" (three people); "Ground" (one person); "I don't know" (one person); "20% heaven, 80% hell" (one person), and two people didn't answer the question.

Seven people (23%) the canvassing teams spoke with were un-churched.

Through the groups' canvassing efforts, two people desired a follow-up visit from the congregation.

The next JD2D event is **Saturday, January 18**, at Light of the World Lutheran Church in De Soto, KS. Contact Rev. Timothy Koch at revtimkoch@gmail.com if you or your congregation's youth would like to participate!



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Westfall (Lincoln)



St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wheaton



Ascension Lutheran Church & Preschool, Wichita (Tyler campus)



Ascension Lutheran Church & Open Arms Child Development Center, Wichita (Maple campus)

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' January Travel Schedule

- Jan. 5 **Our Saviour Lutheran Church** (Kansas City)
- Jan. 11 **DYMC Retreat** (Herington)
- Jan. 12 **Installation of Rev. Dale Skurla at St. Paul** (Leavenworth)
Installation of Rev. Jacob Dandy at Trinity (Atchison)
- Jan. 15 **School visit at Bethany** (Overland Park)
- Jan. 21-24 **Symposia at CTSFW** (Fort Wayne, Ind.)
- Jan. 29 **School visit at St. Paul** (Leavenworth)

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.

Ash Wednesday Offering: March 5

The annual Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering supports scholarships for future church workers and education loan repayment grants for active church workers. Last year, we were able to award over \$96,000 in scholarships and education loan repayment grants. **Of that amount, nearly \$33,000 was raised in last year's Ash Wednesday Offering.** On behalf of our grateful recipients, THANK YOU!

You can participate in this year's offering either through your congregation or by sending a gift directly to the District. You can contribute online at <https://kslcms.org/donate> or send a check to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104) with the designation "Ash Wednesday Offering."

Ash Wednesday also marks a District-wide **Day of Repentance**. We encourage you to pray the Litany (found in *Lutheran Service Book*, pp. 288-289), worship, consider fasting, and give to someone in need.



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

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Message from James Bradshaw



Kansas Lutheran Schools
Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)



Youth Ministry



Dear Friends and Partners in Christ's Mission,

Forty-two and a half years ago, God called me to serve as Director of Christian Education in a parish setting in the Texas District. I was excited about engaging children and youth in a life-long faith journey while sharing the love of Christ with them and their households. God used me over the course of two decades and three parish ministries to accomplish His will.

In 2005, the Lord called me, via the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors, into a different vocation – a leadership role within the District to resource congregations and schools in mission and ministry. To serve in

this role of Assistant to the Kansas District President for Education & Youth has been an incredible joy and an honor!

On January 15, 2025, I will conclude almost 20 years of service in the District and enter the next chapter of my life – retirement. I am deeply grateful for having this opportunity to serve alongside you. To get to know you, to learn about your ministries, and to count you as my friends is one of the greatest blessings in my life. God has been faithful in covering my shortcomings and giving me courage to face difficult situations.

I want to express my thanksgivings for the workers with whom I have had the privilege to serve these past two decades at the District Office. I am especially thankful for the three District Presidents (Revs. Keith Kohlmeier, Peter Lange and Justin Panzer) who placed their confidence in me, offered their support, and prayed for me. I know that He will continue to bless this District and its faithful Christ-like servant leaders!

As always, I will continue to pray for the mission and ministry of the Kansas District and its workers. Please keep in touch. My new contact information is: faithdce@hotmail.com

Blessings in Christ!

James Bradshaw



Bethany Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center, Wichita



Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School, Wichita



Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita

EDUCATION & YOUTH



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.

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. 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.

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 (FULL, waitlist)

Concordia University Nebraska
Seward, NE

Pricing

November 1 - January 31: **\$565**

February 1 - April 30: **\$590**

May 1 or later: **\$640**

A non-refundable \$150 deposit with your registration secures your spot at the conference.

Visit the *Higher Things* website: <https://higherthings.org/events/all-things-new-2025/>.

Part-Time Teacher's Assistant

Our Saviour Lutheran Preschool in Kansas City (4153 Rainbow Blvd.) is currently looking for a part-time teacher's assistant. The position requires 20 hours weekly on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If interested please call **Donna Bottemuller** at 816-868-4772.



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. 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. Check the Middle School Huddle page on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/middle-school-huddle>.

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



Immanuel Lutheran Church & Concordia Academy, Wichita



St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Wichita



Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita



Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Winfield

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation Approved to Participate in Scholarship Program

Topeka, Kansas, December 2, 2024 – At its November 12-13, 2024, meeting, the Kansas State Board of Education officially recognized the **Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation, Inc.**, of Topeka, Kansas, as an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), meeting all the statutory requirements for participation in the “Tax Credit for Low Income Student Scholarship Program.”

The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF) is a newly incorporated non-profit organization in the State of Kansas. It was formed at the request of the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors for the benefit of K-12 LCMS schools in Kansas. It is a separate entity of the LCMS Kansas District with its own governing board and officers. The KLSSF is also an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which means that donations to the foundation are tax-deductible.

The sole purpose of the KLSSF is to serve as a Scholarship Granting Organization under the provisions of the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program for participating qualified K-12 LCMS schools in Kansas. Under the provisions of the program, individuals and businesses with a state tax liability are eligible to donate up to \$500,000 and receive a 75% tax credit.

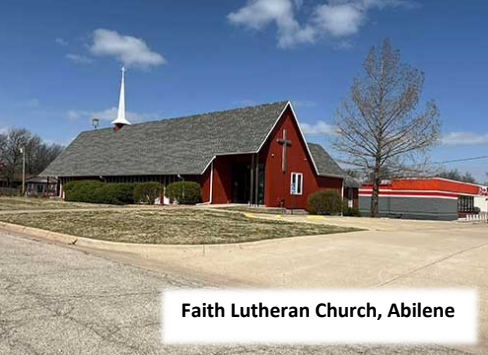
Once a donation is received, the KLSSF must use

at least 90% of it to provide up to \$8,000 in scholarships for students at the lowest income levels to attend an accredited K-12 LCMS school in Kansas. Foundation staff will process the donation with the Kansas Department of Revenue to secure your 75% state income tax credit.

Reflecting on the vital mission of our K-12 LCMS schools in Kansas, **Rev. Justin Panzer**, President of the LCMS Kansas District suggested: *“Your contribution to the KLSSF provides educational scholarships to qualifying students so that they can receive a high-quality Lutheran, Christian education. Lutheran education is important because its focus is on the most important thing: helping students’ faith in Jesus grow and develop. Educators in Lutheran schools teach students about Jesus while they prepare students to live out the purpose that God has planned for them. Prayerfully consider what you can do to help support our Kansas District LCMS Lutheran schools as they seek to serve the children of their communities.”*

State Representative **Kenny Titus** and Board President of the KLSSF offered this encouragement to considering a donation: *“Educating our children has been a historical priority for LCMS congregations and the need is greater now than at any time in the past. As the culture rejects our fundamental Christian values and the cost to our churches for providing education increases every year, supporting the Kansas*

(Continued on Page 10)



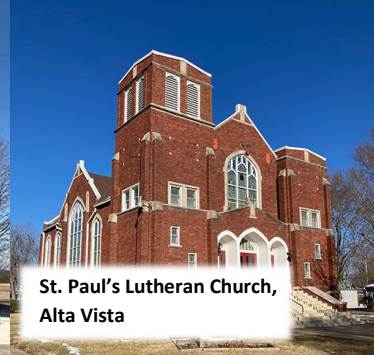
Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene



St. John Lutheran Church & School, Alma



St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alta Vista

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Lutheran Schools Scholarship Fund not only provides donors with direct tax relief, but makes it possible for our schools to stretch their resources further and provide a Christ-centered education to more families. LCMS members across Kansas, even in congregations without schools, should consider supporting the KLSSF."

To make a donation, please visit <https://klssf.org>. Download and complete the fillable pdf **Donor Form** (provided at this link and/or found on the KLSSF website) and mail it along with your payment to:

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
1000 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604

The Foundation will be able to accept online donations shortly. Please continue to check the KLSSF website.

Interested donors should consult with their CPA or tax advisor about their expected state tax liability for the year and their eligibility to claim the credit. Donations dated and post-marked 12/31/2024 or earlier will be considered 2024 donations.

For questions or additional information, contact **Rev. Daniel Grams**, Executive Director of The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation at dgrams@klssf.org or (785) 357-4441.

For information from the State of Kansas about the Tax Credit Scholarship Program, please visit <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/prtaxcredits-LowIncomeStudents.html>.



KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation

Who is the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation?

- ◆ The KLSSF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.
- ◆ The LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors encouraged the formation of the KLSSF to support LCMS schools in the Kansas District.

Overview of the Kansas Tax Credit Scholarship Program

- ◆ Receive a 75% Tax Credit on your Donation!
- ◆ Annual donation limit of \$500,000
- ◆ Individuals and Businesses with a state tax liability may contribute.
- ◆ \$10 million in credits are available per year.
- ◆ 14 K-12 Lutheran schools in Kansas.
- ◆ Donate for a specific school (*unless there are no eligible students at that particular school*).
- ◆ 90% of each donation is used to fund scholarships.

What Happens to the Donation?

- ◆ KLSSF uses it to provide scholarships for students at the lowest income levels to attend an accredited K-12 LCMS school in Kansas.
- ◆ The KLSSF will process your donation with the Kansas Department of Revenue and secure your 75% state income tax credit.

What are the Advantages of Making a Donation?

- ◆ Reduce or eliminate your state tax liability.
- ◆ Donors that itemize may also be eligible to claim a partial charitable contribution deduction on their federal income taxes.
- ◆ Donations to the KLSSF can be made at any time and a non-refundable state income tax credit is earned when a donation is made. Any unused tax credits may be carried forward for future tax years.

CARING MINISTRY

 LERT / Disaster Response

 Parish Nurse Ministry

 2025 District Life Conference

Lutheran Early Response Team News

Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator
ksddrc@gmail.com



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

And so it is with the impending retirement of our LERT Leadership Team member **Mark Trivilino** (*King of Kings Lutheran Church, Gardner*). As one of our foundational LERT volunteers and with his experience and dedication to service, Mark’s involvement has been instrumental in putting the Kansas District on the map for Disaster Response. He serves in a multitude of roles in the Kansas District. Chances are if you

are a LERT volunteer you have met Mark in any number of different settings, including the training classroom.

Thank you, Cindy, for sharing Mark with us. Thank you, Mark, for your unwavering partnership in Kansas District Disaster Response. We will miss you greatly and promise to do our best to continue your legacy and make you proud. Your relentless pursuit of effectiveness and excellence has been and will continue to be an immense blessing!

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 closes January 20. 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

January is designated as **National Blood Donor Month**. Because of the holiday celebrations, inclement weather, and seasonal illnesses, the winter months are often a time of reduced donations and an increased need for blood transfusions, causing a shortage at the blood centers and hospitals.

Do you know your blood type? For your health record, it is good to have the information. The types of blood are A, B, AB and O, with each being either negative or positive. Type O is considered the universal donor and is the most common at 44% of the population, followed by type A at approximately 42%. Type B is less common at 10%, and type AB is the least common at around 4%.

Blood donation centers are readily available in any major city and often there is a mobile unit available for donations. Make an appointment, it feels good to help others!

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.

2024 Year-End Checklist

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.

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 **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.



Peace Lutheran Church, Andover



Zion Lutheran Church, Argonia



Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

JANUARY

- Jan. 8 **Board of Missions**, 4-5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Jan. 9 **Board of Education & Youth**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
- Jan. 10-11 **DYMC Retreat** (Herington)
- Jan. 11 **Parish Education meeting**, 8:30 a.m. (Zoom)
- Jan. 13 **Convention Planning meeting**, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- Jan. 15 **Lutheran Social Services meeting**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Wichita)
- Jan. 16 **DCE Joint Cluster meeting**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Messiah, Emporia)
- 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 Administration**, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Zoom)

- Jan. 27 **Board of Stewardship**, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
- 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)

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 3-6 **Council of Presidents** (St. Louis, MO)
- Feb. 10-11 **KAIRS Administrators Conference** (Ramada by Wyndham, Topeka)
- Feb. 12 **Church Worker Conference meeting, Pastors** (Zoom)
- Feb. 16-18 **COP Six-Pack** (San Antonio, TX)

MARCH

- March 5 **Ash Wednesday**
- March 10 **Convention Planning meeting**, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- March 21-22 **Pastors Wives' Retreat** (Herington)



CAW Phoenix Rising Gala

The Concordia Academy-Wichita annual Phoenix Rising Benefit Gala will be held Friday, April 25, 2025. Dr. Louis Markos, English professor at Houston Christian University, will be this year's keynote speaker. **Tickets will be available beginning Monday, February 3.**

Visit <https://cawichita.org> or email CAW_info@cawichita.org for more information.

Liberty Weekend: February 22 @ Redeemer, Olathe

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Olathe (920 S. Alta Lane, Olathe, KS 66061) will be hosting a **Liberty Weekend** on **Saturday, February 22**, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The name of the event is "Two Kingdoms & the Champions Network," and includes three sessions led by **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz** (Executive Director of Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty) and **Rev. Mark Frith** (Network Director of Champions for Religious Liberty).

The event is free to attend, but registration is needed for lunch. RSVP by February 17 by emailing championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com or calling 913-732-1090.

You can also scan the provided QR code to register.



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>.

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>.

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>.



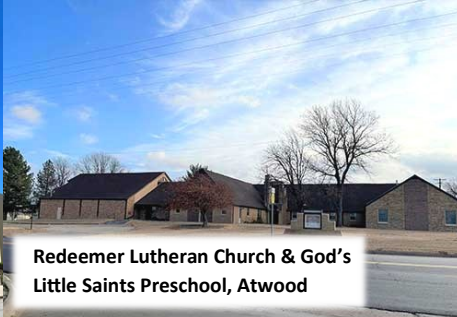
**LCMS LUTHERANS
YESTERDAY. TODAY. ALWAYS.**

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.



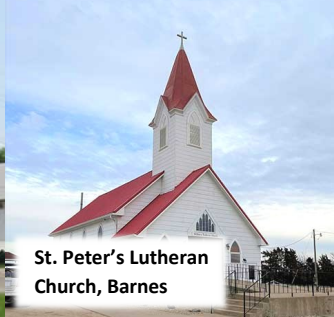
Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Atchison



Redeemer Lutheran Church & God's Little Saints Preschool, Atwood

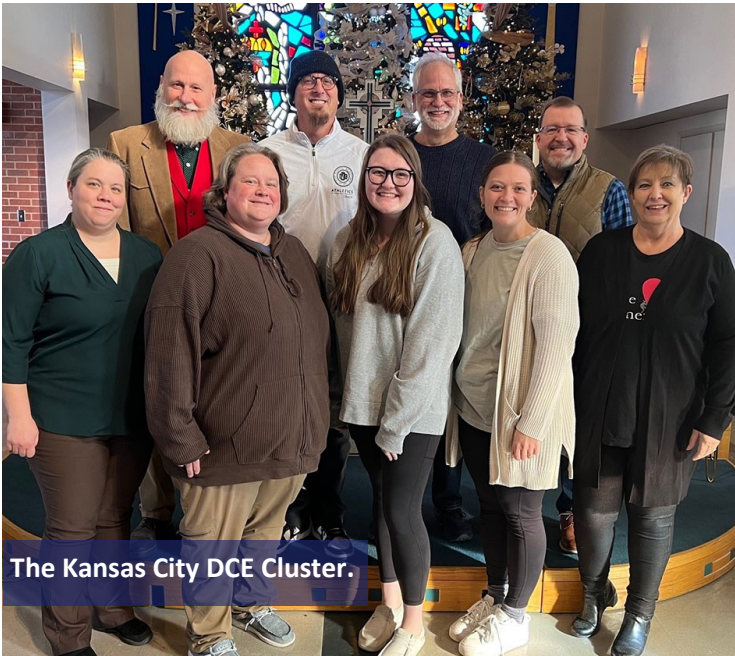


Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta



St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barnes

AROUND THE DISTRICT



The Kansas City DCE Cluster.



The Wichita DCE Cluster.

Kansas District DCEs, Parish Youth Leaders, and Deaconesses met in their area clusters in early December for Christmas fun, food, fellowship, and time in God's Word.



The Topeka DCE Cluster.



Risen Savior Lutheran Church & Classical School, Basehor



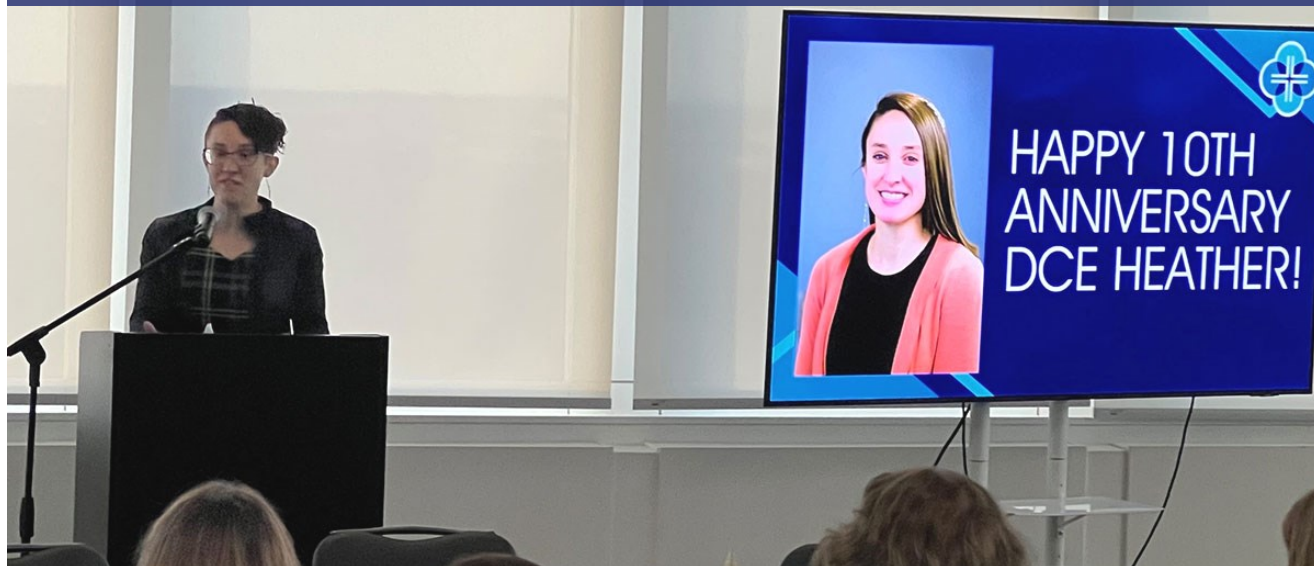
Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church & Learning Center, Basehor



Peace Lutheran Church, Beaver, OK

AROUND THE DISTRICT

On Sunday, December, 15, Faith Lutheran Church in Topeka honored **DCE Heather McCormick** for her 10th anniversary in service and ministry with the congregation and community. ***Congratulations, Heather!***



DISTRICT STAFF / COORDINATOR DIRECTORY

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Justin Panzer
District President

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

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

LCMS Kansas District Office

1000 SW 10th Ave.

Topeka, KS 66604-1104

Phone 785-357-4441 **Website** <https://kslcms.org>

Fax 785-357-5071 **Facebook** facebook.com/kslcms/

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