



WORKERS TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 2025

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



Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer leads a session at the District Life Conference.



LCMS Lutherans gather at the Rally for Life in downtown Topeka.



The Rally for Life at the State Capitol in downtown Topeka.

Kansas District Life Conference

Around 130 participants gathered for the Kansas District Life Conference on **Wednesday, January 29**, at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Topeka. The keynote speaker was **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 author of the book, *Man Up!: The Quest for Masculinity*.

Conference attendees then joined several hundred participants in the March / Rally for Life, which took place at the Kansas State Capitol in downtown Topeka.

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

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Announcements and Reminders



Pastoral Installations



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



**“If you abide in my word,
you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you
free.” (John 8:31-32)**

As we are now one month into a new year, we also want to look at where we have been. In other words, *“What is the state of the Kansas District?”*

“Our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.” Technically speaking, our members are the congregations and rostered workers of the district. Nonetheless, everyone shares in our life together in mission as His baptized, royal priests. It is our pledge to be present for and assist the best interests of every LCMS Kansan.

2022-2025

“Living as the Baptized” has been our triennial theme. As the spiritual priests of Christ, we shine the light of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (*1 Peter 2:9*). We have the message of the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in the crucified and risen Christ that we not only need, but that the world needs desperately right now. Don’t take it for granted and don’t keep it to yourself!

Faith at Work is a new District-wide servant event that will be ongoing for years to come. Congregation and school support in the call process will continue to be efficient and effective. Our pastors and DCEs gather for their

monthly “winkles” and “clusters” to study God’s Word. Communication continues to be prompt and timely. Bookmark our District website <https://kslcms.org> and sign up to receive our monthly newsletter called *Workers Together*. Active church planting in De Soto and Concordia and church revitalization at Christ, Manhattan is taking place.

In addition, the district president, our district congregational services executive, circuit visitors, and region vice presidents continue to intentionally visit congregations and schools to build relationships, listen and offer support and encouragement for the advancement of Christ’s mission. We have moved from a “4 Executive Staff” model to a “3 Executive Staff” model. We live within a balanced budget and are in the process of evaluating committees and other areas. We must continue to ask the question, *“What is our rate of return in light of how we can serve the members of the district, and what it is that they want to receive from us as partners in the Gospel?”*

2025-2028

Looking ahead to the next triennium, as the Lord grants opportunity, it is my prayer to lead the Kansas District forward by continuing with our theme

of “Living as the Baptized” (*1 Peter 2:9-10*) with a special emphasis on “Abiding in the Word” (*John 8:31-32*). The baptized are built up and strengthened in the faith when they are actively in the Word of God and receiving His Sacrament. Fed and nourished in Christ, faith now expresses itself to others in word and deed. We must regain our evangelistic fervor and spirit. **Invite. Invite. Invite!**

The 2025 Kansas District Convention offering is being designated to “Supporting Theological Education.” There are 15 Lutheran schools in the district, and we are also celebrating our 28th year of partnership with the West Africa mission. The Board of Directors has set a goal of raising \$24,000 for the Convention Offering or \$1,500 per the 16 receiving entities to go towards the support of “Theological Education Books for our Kansas District Lutheran Schools” and “Theological Education – Books, Materials, Visiting Professors” in West Africa. I would encourage our congregations and schools to begin making plans now for how they can support this work together.

In summary, we are striving to support and encourage our members in a variety of ways. Thank you for the privilege of doing so!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bremen



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bremen



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Burlington

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's February Travel Schedule

- Feb. 2** Preaching at Christ (*Topeka*)
- Feb. 2-6** Council of Presidents (*St. Louis*)
- Feb. 8** Official Visitation at St. John (*Lincolnton*)
- Feb. 10** Circuit 15 Winkel at Trinity (*Colby*)
- Feb. 11** Circuit 16 Winkel at Zion (*Offerle*)
- Feb. 16-18** Council of Presidents Six-Pack (*San Antonio, TX*)



Rev. Dale Skurla was installed as interim pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Leavenworth, on Sunday, Jan. 12. Godspeed to Rev. Ed Mease, who retired after serving St. Paul for over 30 years. From left, Revs. Justin Panzer, Dale Skurla and Ed Mease.



Rev. Jacob Dandy was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Atchison, on Sunday, Jan. 12. From left (front row), Revs. Andrew Preus, Dr. Jerome Brownlee, Marty Reed, Jacob Dandy, Michael Carney, Justin Panzer; (back row) Revs. Brian Holle, Philip Wolf, Zachariah Burgdorf, Daniel Grams and Ian Kinney.

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> to stay updated.

February 14: Overtures due to the District office.

Late March: The Convention Workbook will be available online.

April 5: Floor committees will meet to discuss assigned overtures.

Month of April: Convention information, including registration details, will be sent to delegates. The slate of nominees will be published in the April LW Kansas insert.



Rev. Nathan Harkins was ordained on Sunday, Jan. 26, at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe. Rev. Harkins will be installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, in March. From left, Revs. Michael Ada, Nathan Harkins, Justin Panzer and Joel Schultz.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Shawn Fenske, Saint Lorenz, Frankenmuth, MI to Holy Cross, Wichita – **declined**

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

Rev. Ryan Janke, St. Paul & St. Peter, Orchard, NE to Trinity, Hanover – **pending**

Rev. Jonathan Schultz, Trinity, Great Falls, MT to Redeemer, Atwood – **declined**

Rev. Andrew Simpson, Our Savior, Reno, NV to St. Andrews, Wichita – **pending**

Rev. Caleb Stoeber, Good Shepherd, Erie & Immanuel, Hepler to Zion, Denison, IA – **pending**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Nathan Harkins to Faith, Abilene – **installation Sunday, March 16, 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)

Pastors resigning their calls:

Rev. Jeffrey Kunze
(*senior pastor, Christ, Overland Park*)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Cheney, St. Paul's (Principal / Teacher)

Leawood, Lord of Life (DCE)

Linn, Linn Lutheran (Principal / Teacher)

Manhattan, St. Luke's (Early Childhood Director)

Overland Park, Bethany (Teacher – 1st grade)

Overland Park, Christ (DCE) (Teacher – 6th grade)

Shawnee, Hope (Teachers – K, 2nd, 5th, and 8th grades)

Topeka, Calvary (Deaconess)

Topeka, St. John's Classical (Teacher)

Winfield, Trinity (Teacher - Kindergarten)

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

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

FEBRUARY PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

◆ **Family and friends of Stanley Wehling**, father of Rev. Andrew Wehling, pastor of Immanuel, Lawrence. Stanley entered his heavenly rest Jan. 16, 2025.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

◆ **Kevin Adams**

◆ **Rev. Richard Andrus**

◆ **Rev. Dean Christ**

◆ **Cynthia Hammons**

◆ **Rev. David McCloskey**

◆ **Carrie Meyers**

◆ **Rev. Kevin Peterson**

◆ **Lori Reed**

Those celebrating the gift of new life

◆ **Josh and Erin Grass** (son Nolan Alexander, Jan. 9).

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

◆ St. Peter's, Barnes & Bethlehem, Greenleaf – **Feb. 3**

◆ Holy Cross, Dodge City & St. Paul, Jetmore – **Feb. 10**

◆ Trinity, Waterville – **Feb. 17**

◆ Light of the World church plant, De Soto – **Feb. 24**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Jesus Door-2-Door



Ash Wednesday Offering



LCMS Spanish Hymnals



Mission Advocates



On January 18, **14 people representing six LCMS congregations** gathered at "The Barn" in De Soto for a Jesus Door-2-Door event on behalf of Light of the World Lutheran Church. After Bible study on Psalm 45 led by Rev. John Kastner (*pastor of Light of the World*) the group trained on conducting canvass-

ing surveys and practiced witnessing methods. After lunch the group divided into six teams and canvassed the area.

The teams knocked on 169 homes. 60 people answered the door, and 32 agreed to take the survey. Seven (22%) of the participants were unchurched. 18 (56%) were unfamiliar with Light of the World's efforts in the De Soto area. Four (13%) individuals were identified as future prospects, two of whom explicitly desired a follow-up visit.

The next JD2D event will take place at Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee on Saturday, February 8.

Contact Rev. Timothy Koch at revtimkoch@gmail.com if you or your congregation's youth would like to participate!



Jesus Door-2-Door

Jesus Door-2-Door Statistics

Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) is a program that gathers local demographic data for congregations while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on their behalf. This is accomplished through equipping and training teams to conduct a short, two-minute survey.

In 2024, JD2D canvassed 17 times in 13 locations around the Kansas District (*including Olathe, Shawnee, Manhattan, Norton, and Concordia, KS*). In total, JD2D knocked on 2,544 homes. 986 people (38.7%) answered the door, and 663 (67.2%) agreed to take the survey.

Responses to the question "Where do you believe you will go when you die?"

- ◆ "Heaven" – 519 (78.2%)
- ◆ "I don't know" – 61 (9.2%)
- ◆ "The Ground" or "Nothing" – 34 (5.1%)

- ◆ No response – 20 (3%)
- ◆ "The Ether" or "Valhalla" – 13 (2%)
- ◆ "Reincarnation" – 6 (.9%)
- ◆ "Hell" – 3 (.4%)
- ◆ "Good Place" – 2 (.3%)
- ◆ "Purgatory" – 2 (.3%)

Additional Data:

- ◆ 630 (95%) agreed to listen to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ 234 people (35.2%) were unchurched.
- ◆ 81 (12.2%) were not baptized.
- ◆ 39 (5.8%) did not believe Jesus to be a real / historical person.
- ◆ 27 (4%) desired a follow-up visit from the local congregation.

JD2D was started by Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor of Zion, Linn. Learn more at jd2d.org.



Trinity Lutheran Church, Caney



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Canton



Zion Lutheran Church & SONshine Preschool, Chanute

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' February Travel Schedule

- Feb. 2** Preaching, mission & KLSSF presentation at St. John (Alma)
- Feb. 3** St. Paul's school visit (Cheney)
- Feb. 4** Circuits 10 & 11 Winkel at Holy Cross (Wichita)
- Feb. 5** Holy Cross school visit (Wichita)
- Feb. 10-11** KAIRS Administrators Conference (Topeka)
- Feb. 11** Circuit 6 Winkel at St. John's (Topeka)
- Feb. 13** KLSSF presentation at Lutheran Administrators (Kansas City)
- Feb. 16** Preaching at Our Saviour (Kansas City)
- Feb. 18** Circuit 5 Winkel (Coffeyville)
- Feb. 19** Zion school visit (Independence)
- Feb. 26** Trinity school visit (Atchison)

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 **Tami Lierz** at the District Office, tami@kslcms.org or 785-357-4441, ext. 5001.

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.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Youth Ministry



Kansas Lutheran Schools
Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)



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

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/>.



CAW Phoenix Rising Gala

The Concordia Academy-Wichita annual Phoenix Rising Benefit Gala will be held **Friday, April 25, 6-8 p.m.** at Concordia Academy (909 S. Market St., Wichita, KS 67211).

Dr. Louis Markos, Chair of Humanities at Houston Christian University, will be this year's keynote speaker. Visit <https://cawichita.org/gala> to register or scan the QR code.



Middle School Huddle

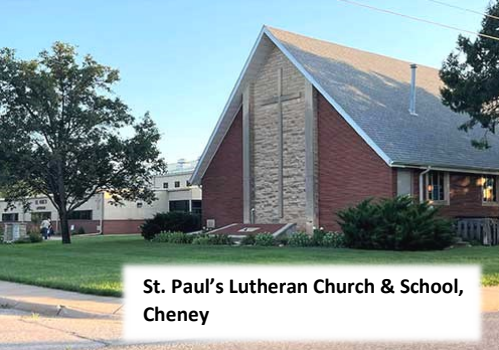
Join us for the 2025 Middle School Huddle (MSH) taking place on **April 4-5, 2025**, at

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 is open and ends March 16. Visit the Middle School Huddle page on the District website to register, <https://kslcms.org/middle-school-huddle>.

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



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School, Cheney



Zion Lutheran Church, Clafin



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool, Clay Center

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 Senator **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 Lutheran Schools*

(Continued on Page 9)



St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Coffeyville



Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby



Zion Lutheran Church, Concordia



Calvary Lutheran Church,
Council Grove

EDUCATION & YOUTH

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



Faith at Work



Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator
ksddrc@gmail.com

The 2025 LERT training calendar is open for LERT Basic Training and LERT Basic Chainsaw Safety & Operation Training events. If you have questions about scheduling or have dates in mind for either of these oppor-

Lutheran Early Response Team News

tunities, please reach out to Donna Williams, ksddrc@gmail.com.

Ideally, it works best if we schedule your event 2-3 months in advance. This gives us, and you, a chance to publicize your event as well as invite sister congregations to participate. If you would like a LERT representative to visit your congregation and give an overview of LERT Ministry, please let Donna know.

Storm clean-up in North Carolina is still ongoing. There are several events scheduled through the end of April 2025 in three different

North Carolina locations. Visit <https://lcms-lert.org> for details and requirements.

Southern California Wildfires

At this time, there are no responses scheduled for the California wildfires. Work to extinguish the fires and recover missing persons is ongoing.

Monitor <https://lcms-lert.org> for updates and announcements.

<https://kslcms.org/disaster-response>

<https://lcms-lert.org>

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



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:

Registration is open! Click on the link below to register your *Faith at Work* service project:

[2025 Faith at Work Registration](https://kslcms.org/faith-at-work)

Visit <https://kslcms.org/faith-at-work> for additional resources. For questions, please email faithatwork@kslcms.org.

Parish Nurse Ministry

This is February in Heart Month. Cardiac arrest and heart attack. People often use these terms interchangeably, but they are not the same. **Cardiac arrest** occurs when the heart malfunctions, causing irregular beating, not allowing blood to be pumped to the brain, lungs and other organs resulting in death. This is an electrical problem in the heart. **Heart attack** occurs when the blood flow to the heart is blocked. A heart attack is a problem with blood circulation which can cause a portion of the heart to die because of the lack of blood to nourish it.

In either situation, by calling 911 immediately and performing CPR until medical personal arrive the chances of survival of the individual increases. For this reason, it is vital to recognize the symptoms of cardiac problems and learn CPR.

Ways to improve heart health: Eating a healthy diet low in salt and fat, exercising and getting regular medical check-ups.

A website with valuable information including heart healthy recipes is www.heart.org.

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

Free Access to MinistrySafe: Resource for Preventing & Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

The LCMS Kansas District, with the support of the LCMS Office of National Mission, takes the safety of children seriously. That's why we have partnered with MinistrySafe to better educate and equip the workers in our congregations and schools to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse and to better understand the tendencies of child predators — all at no cost to our congregations and schools. You can immediately roll out the MinistrySafe Sexual Abuse Awareness program among your staff and volunteers. Their resources and training are FREE to our ministries across Synod through the end of the 2024 / 2025 school year.

We want every staff person in every congregation and school in the District to commit to helping protect the children and ministries entrusted to your care. To learn more about MinistrySafe, watch a short video at <https://ministrysafesafe.com/the-risk/>. You can also learn more about our partnership with MinistrySafe at <https://ministrysafesafe.com/lcms/>.

To begin setting up your congregation / school account, [this PDF document](#) can assist you with the process. **The discount code is LCMS2025.** Account set-up questions can be sent directly to MinistrySafe. Please take advantage of this FREE screening and training program to protect the kids in your ministry and to equip your staff and volunteers.

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.



LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

Pastors' Wives Retreat

March 21-22, 2025

Kansas District Retreat Center, Herington, Kansas



The annual Pastors' Wives Retreat will be held **March 21-22** at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington. The keynote speaker will be speaker and teacher Renee Gibbs.

Visit <https://kslcms.org> to register and find a schedule. Registration closes on March 19.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders

Dear Kansas District Members,

I'm pleased to share with you all some exciting news: **Lutheran Church Extension Fund has rebranded!** Our new website is live and ready for you to visit! If you have a moment, visit <https://lcef.org>.

You'll see that our new look is simpler, cleaner, and bolder, but our mission is the same: *sharing Christ's love with the world by financially supporting the LCMS*. Indeed, the heart of our work will never change. **We exist to serve you.**

Are you a **church worker** wanting to earn market-leading rates on your savings? Our *Church Steward Account* is for you: while other institutions require large minimum balances (*as much as \$25,000*), LCEF gives you a competitive return with any balance.

Are you a **pastor** looking to repair, renovate, or expand your church building? Our low-cost, relationship-first loans are specifically designed to meet your church's unique needs *without* breaking the bank.

Are you a **layperson** who wants to grow wealth *and* grow the Church? We offer certificates of deposit (CDs) that earn you competitive interest, and your money in turn is used to help strengthen Lutheran churches, schools, and ministries nationwide.

Bottom line: if you are a Lutheran and seeking a trusted

financial solutions provider with shared beliefs, Lutheran Church Extension Fund is for you. We steward your hard-earned resources to create eternal impact for God's Kingdom on Earth. By investing in us, you invest in the Church and her workers.

Our new slogan says it all: **Financial Solutions. Together in Faith.** Our goal is to help you preserve and grow your wealth, and we do it all for God's glory and for the prosperity of his Church.

If that's a mission you can get behind, please reach out to me at jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org. I'd love to hear from you.

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org

785-230-4112

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 of the LCEF IRA/HSA programs. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a.

Finance for the Faithful

Together in faith, we'll unite resources to serve God's kingdom.

Learn more about our rebrand at lcef.org/TogetherInFaith.



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EXTENSION FUND**
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS. TOGETHER IN FAITH.

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INVESTMENTS



LOANS



MINISTRY SOLUTIONS



REAL ESTATE SOLUTIONS



Light of the World Lutheran Church, De Soto



Faith Lutheran Church & School, Derby



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dodge City

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

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)**, 10-11 a.m. (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 18 **Middle School Huddle planning**, 1-2 p.m. (Zoom)
- March 21-22 **Pastors' Wives Retreat** (Herington)

APRIL

- April 4-5 **Middle School Huddle** (Rock Springs, Junction City)
- April 4-5 **Floor Committees Weekend** (District office, Topeka)
- April 7 **Convention Planning meeting**, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- April 13 **Palm Sunday**
- April 17 **Maundy Thursday** (District office closes at 2 p.m.)

APRIL (cont.)

- April 18 **Good Friday** (District office closed)
- April 20 **Easter**
- April 21 **Easter Monday** (District office closed)
- April 22 **Older Adult Ministry Committee**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
- April 24 **Board of Education & Youth**, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Zoom)
- April 24 **Board of Missions**, 1-3 p.m. (Zoom)
- April 26-May 1 **Council of Presidents** (St. Louis, MO)



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 by or before March 15, 2025. Please submit essays digitally using Microsoft Word format.

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).

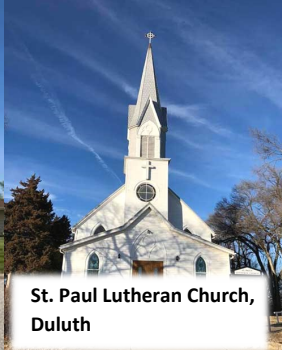
The event is free to attend, but registration is needed for lunch. RSVP by February 17 by emailing championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com or calling 913-732-1090.

You can also scan the provided QR code to register.

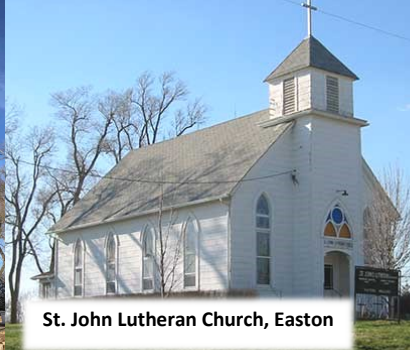




Zion Lutheran Church, Downs



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Duluth



St. John Lutheran Church, Easton



Grace Lutheran Church, El Dorado

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>.

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>.

Family Discipleship Facilitator Training

What is Family Discipleship? Christ’s gifts nurturing faith in God’s children through the partnership of home and congregation.

Building on our Lutheran heritage, Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) is training pastors, other church workers, and qualified lay leaders to help us ignite new zeal for Family Discipleship in our LCMS. As homes and congregations work together to disciple the next generations, our LCMS and Christ’s Kingdom will flourish!

Training Events

April 22-26 - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

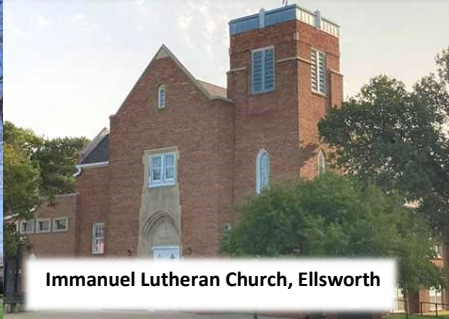
May 12-16 - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Visit <https://concordiacenterforthefamily.org> for more information, or scan the provided QR code.

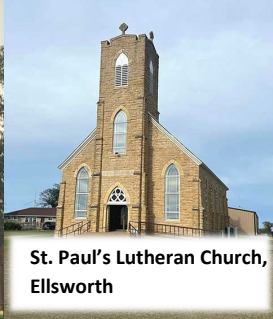




St. John Lutheran Church & Child Development Center, Ellinwood



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellsworth



Faith Lutheran Church & Lord's Lambs Preschool, Emporia

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Thank You, Janet!

Janet Powell, District Administrative Assistant for Missions & Education, retired on January 15, 2025. Janet worked as Kansas District staff for almost eight years, having joined in July 2017.

For the missions department, she assisted with mission grants and quarterly mission grant reports, Board of Missions meeting preparation, the annual Pentecost Offering

communications and mailings, and producing LCEF MissionInsite Reports. For the education department, Janet worked with Kansas District principals and Early Childhood directors on event preparations, KDHE reporting, accreditation and professional development, kept the educator directory up-to-date, and created and sent out the monthly Principal's Newsletter.

We thank Janet for her years of service at the District, and pray for God's many blessings in her retirement!

From left, former Rep. Ron Highland, Linda Highland, Sen. Kenny Titus, Kansas Court of Appeals Judge David Bruns, Rep. Steven Howe, and Rep. Tim Johnson. (Not pictured: Rep. Susan Estes and Rep. Kevin Schwertfeger).



We are blessed to have LCMS members who are serving in state offices gather once a month for Bible study. On January 15, six members of the **Kansas LCMS Public Servants** group met at the Kansas State Capitol. Please keep these brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers as they serve in public office.



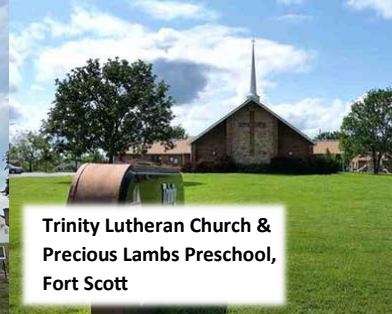
Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Erie



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool, Fairview



Trinity Lutheran Church & Precious Lambs Preschool, Fort Scott

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Every year the **Church Worker Care Team** from Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City shows appreciation for church workers from three congregations (*Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; Grace, Ulysses*) under the direction of senior pastor Rev. Michael Hageman, and associate pastor Rev. Magdiel Fajardo. The year 2024 marked the first time the Church Worker Care Team provided a "Church Worker Appreciation Meal" for the church workers.

The Appreciation Dinner was held Friday, December 6, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City. *Praise be to God for these dedicated church workers!*

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

Miriam Wehling
Youth Ministry Coordinator & School Services Assistant

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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