



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

January 2025

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

Fourth Quarter Meetings and Events. Events over the fourth quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, service boards, and various committees; Constitution & Bylaws Committee meetings; Church Worker Care Committee and Older Adult Ministry meetings; Fairmount Ministries; Lutheran Social Services annual meeting; National "March for Life" in Washington, D.C.; Kansas District Life Conference/March for Life, and multiple Circuit Winkel visits.

Ordinations and Installations. In the fourth quarter there were seven pastoral installations (Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf, Risen Savior, Basehor – Region 1; Rev. Mark Wood, Trinity, Mission – Region 1; Rev. Theodore Cook, Trinity, Parsons – Region 3; Rev. Timothy Wangerin, associate pastor Christ the King, Salina – Region 2; Rev. Dale Skurla, St. Paul, Leavenworth – Region 1; Rev. Jacob Dandy, Trinity, Atchison – Region 1, and Seminarian Nathan Harkins, ordination at Beautiful Savior, Olathe).

Visits/Travel. In the fourth quarter President Panzer drove 6,811 miles as he traveled to ordinations, installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the fourth quarter there were 18 calling congregations in the Kansas District, with 14 churches seeking a sole pastor, one a senior pastor, and three an associate/assistant. Six call lists were completed in the past quarter.

Congregational & School Services

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

Missions and Stewardship. Rev. Grams reported ongoing meetings with the De Soto and Zion, Concordia church plants. Rev. Grams attended Office of National Missions meetings in December, along with a district partners meeting. A Philippians Stewardship Conference was held at Hope, Shawnee, on Nov. 23, and regional conferences have been well received around the District (e.g., treasurers workshops, marriage enrichment seminars).

Lutheran Schools. Rev. Grams attended multiple meetings in the fourth quarter, including but not limited to: numerous school visits, Early Childhood Directors Retreat in Herington; accreditation meetings with Jane Limback and Mindy Sanders-Miller; the Kansas District Youth Gathering and District Youth Ministry Executive Committee.

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. Rev. Grams presented some highlights regarding the KLSF, including the KLSF website being live, and a number of gifts being received prior to the end of the calendar year.

Youth Ministry. Miriam Wehling was hired as the District Youth Ministry Coordinator and School Services Assistant and was installed in November. The Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) was held Nov. 15-17 at Rock Springs Ranch. There were 115 registrants. The Middle School Huddle will be held April 4-5 at Rock Springs. Lutheran Valley Retreat will be held June 1-6. The LCMS Youth Gathering will be held July 19-23, 2025, in New Orleans. There were almost 400 early registrants from Kansas.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Financial Update

- Through December 2024, LCEF Kansas District has a loan of **\$24,497,653**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **3,379** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$67,888,532**.

LCEF Business Notes. The LCEF rebranding was launched.

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

Human Resources. The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for seven call documents and planning scenarios this quarter. Exit interviews and check-out procedures were completed for both Jim Bradshaw and Janet Powell as they retired from the District.

Accounting/Finance. Congregational giving is beyond year-to-date commitments and came in at 105.6% of budget. Expenses are reported at 94.7% of budget. Using a 12-quarter rolling market value average, an endowment payout is anticipated in 2025 of \$63,524 from investment earnings. The Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) was able to receive gifts in December of 2025 and tax credits were issued to donors. The Business Office has been especially busy the last few weeks working on year end, preparing for the audit, issuing 1099s, and learning about the State of Kansas and the SGO tax credit system.

Planned Giving. Please encourage your congregations and schools to reach out to the District for a presentation. Heather has a presentation scheduled for Sunday, February 23 at Trinity, Burlington.

Congregational Treasurer Workshops. Heather has been discussing 2025 Congregational Treasurer Workshops with the Nebraska District Business Manager, Elijah Lubbe. They are planning to partner on next year's workshops, holding two in Nebraska and two in Kansas, with dates to be determined.

Heather is also hoping to offer a retirement planning workshop in Kansas this year.

2025 District Convention. Congregational assessment invoices are due May 15, 2025. Assessments have already been received in full by 72 congregations.

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Kansas District Website. Website projects this quarter included new information and the registration link on the Middle School Huddle webpage; Pastors' Wives Retreat registration link and schedule to the District homepage; 2024 photos and highlights to the KDYG webpage; the 2025 Life Conference page with the lunch payment link and LCMS Life Ministry Opportunities link; new information and the registration link on the LCMS Youth Gathering webpage; a link to the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF) website on the homepage; the 2025 Ash Wednesday Offering materials on the Grants and Scholarships webpage, and continuing to add to the *Congregation at Prayer* (CAP) webpage the one-year and three-year CAP prayers from Trinity Lutheran, Wichita, and the Parish Education Committee.

Workers Together. Highlights from *Workers Together* (WT) publications this past quarter include ongoing worker installations, events/conferences around the District, 2025 National Lutheran Schools Week, 2025 District Convention reminders, KLSSF article and information, Life Ministry events, Jim Bradshaw's farewell article, a thank-you article to Janet Powell, upcoming Youth Ministry events, Campus Ministry articles/photos from congregations involved in campus ministry, Marriage Enrichment Seminars, announcements and friendly reminders, and District and Synod available resources.

Monthly Newsletter to School Principals / Lead Teachers. Since August, Jackie has assembled the monthly newsletter for Kansas District school principals and lead teachers. Included in the newsletter are highlights from educator events/conferences around the District, important announcements and reminders, and monthly articles from TEC21.

2025 District Convention Reports. Jackie has been collecting convention reports for the Board of Directors service boards, Regional Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors, LCEF, Communications, and Archives. These reports are edited as necessary and added to a working draft of District Convention Reports.

KLSSF Communication. After receiving the article about the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF), Jackie sent mass emails to the District with the information, the KLSSF website and instructions. Information about the KLSSF has also been included in both *Workers Together* and the monthly KSD Principals newsletters.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The Board of Missions reviewed the fourth quarter mission grant reports. Some highlights included Hope, Shawnee looking into receiving Thrivent funds to help with community outreach; Trinity, Mission and Shawnee's Hispanic ministry continues with weekly bilingual worship services at Immanuel, KCK; Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) continues to help people with the food pantry and purchased a new box truck; Beautiful Savior, Olathe's outreach at the Fieldstone Apartment Complex continues; Trinity, Wichita's Hispanic ministry continues Word and Sacrament services; Risen Savior, Wichita's grant goals have been met for outreach at the apartment complex; Redeemer, Lawrence's Crimson & Blue Lutheran Crew has connected with eight college students; LCMS U at KSU's campus ministry events are taking place, and the Table Talks are popular; Fairmount Ministries, Wichita has an emphasis on missions and gospel through the weekly Bible studies and community service projects; Concordia Academy, Wichita's Concordia Cordis Urbis is working in the surrounding community; Immanuel, Hepler completed the comfort care shower station; Lord of Life, Leawood's neighborhood outreach ministry has helped to add almost 50 new members; Christ Lutheran, Topeka handed out Bibles at their Drive-Thru Trunk-or-Treat event in October; Older Adult Ministry held two planned events and continue to work on promoting older adult ministry in Kansas; Bethany, Wichita opened their infant room and it is 75% full, and KansaSEED had new people attend the Santa Bowl, and the group is helping a family in need.

Witness and Outreach Training. The Philippians Conferences and regional conferences (e.g., congregational treasurers' workshops, marriage enrichment seminars) have been well received around the Kansas District. There could also be a potential model developed for Stewardship & Mission/Outreach Workshops.

New Campus Ministry at Washburn University in Topeka. The new campus ministry at Washburn was organized by DCE Amanda Adams (Christ, Topeka) and DCE Heather McCormick (Faith, Topeka). This new ministry will serve students attending the five LCMS congregations in Topeka. The initial group of students totaled 9-10 and is growing rapidly. The campus ministry has already hosted a couple of events.

Potential Convention Overtures.

Overture 25-01-06 – To Encourage Church Planting in the LCMS Kansas District

Overture 25-01-06 – To Encourage Partnership in the Gospel in the LCMS Kansas District

Overture 25-01-06 – To Encourage Training in Witness and Outreach

Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

Reports. Rev. Daniel Grams presented his Executive report to the Board of Education & Youth. Some highlights included Rev. Grams being awarded the Masters of Nonprofit Administration by the University of Notre Dame; school starts moving forward at Ascension, Wichita, and at Christ, Manhattan (classical); the Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team (DLT) was formed and met to address KESA 2.0 requirements; the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF) has been designated a scholarship granting organization (SGO) by the Kansas Department of Education. The website (<https://klssf.org/>) is live and substantial donations have been received. Rev. Grams attended CONFEDX, the Conference of Educational Executives, where he received Concordia University System information on professional church worker training and placement.

Business. Three District Convention overtures were reviewed by the Board of Education & Youth. The overtures focus on 1) support of the KLSSF (scholarship foundation); 2) NLSA; and 3) *Set Apart to Serve*.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Reports. Reports were received from the District Disaster Response Coordinator, Parish Nursing, Older Adult Ministry, Pastors' Wives, Life Coordinator, and the *Faith at Work* Task Force.

Potential Board Overtures for the 2025 District Convention. Draft overtures were sent to Board members for review. A few potential overtures were still being prepared and were provided to Board members prior to the next full Board meeting.

Convention Reporting. A draft of the Board’s committee summaries for the Convention report was gathered.

Herington Retreat Center. The BOD sponsored task force led by Rev. Grams continues to review the use and future of the Herington Retreat Center.

Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

2024 Congregation Receipts Review. The year ended with about \$1,605,000 in gift receipts. To God be the glory!

2024 Budget and Financials Review. Income is 105% of the projected congregational gifts. The special projects budget also came in strong. The District budget was over for the pledge to the LCMS Synod due to extra gifts. The District gave about \$24,000 more than what was originally pledged. It appears many of the circuit visitors are not turning in their mileage to be reimbursed. The District did send them each a \$100 check and a thank you note for their services to the District.

Discussion took place regarding *Resolution 22D-05-03 – Kansas District Mileage Reimbursement Rate Resolved, that the Kansas District mileage rate be set at 10 cents below the IRS rate.

Resolution 25A-05-01 – Kansas District Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Resolved, that the Kansas District mileage rate be set at 15 cents below the IRS rate.

It was moved, second and carried to present Resolution 25A-05-01 to the Board of Directors.

Planned Giving Updates. There is a planned giving presentation scheduled at Trinity, Burlington in February.

Stewardship Board Sub Committee Updates. Scholarship and Education Loan Committee – eight applicants were awarded a total of \$30,400 in loan repayments this year. That is about \$3,600 less than budgeted.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

The Board of Administration moved, seconded, and passed the following resolutions to go before the Kansas District Board of Directors:

Resolution 25A-01-01 – Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from October 16, 2024, to January 15, 2025, with the designation as follows:

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$14,437.40
Church Worker Care	\$20.00
Reformation Offering	\$300.00
Ash Wednesday	\$735.00
LERT/Disaster	\$500.00
Education Loan Endowment	\$19,659.40
Total	\$35,651.80

Business. Congregational giving came in beyond the year-to-date commitments, at 105.6% of budget. Expenses are reported at 94.7% of budget. The SGO is now able to receive gifts, and tax credits were issued to donors for those who gave in December 2024. The Business Office has been especially busy the last few weeks working on closing the year-end finances, preparing for the audit, issuing 1099s, and learning how to move forward with the SGO tax credit system.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee proposed, seconded, and approved the following resolutions to go before the Kansas District Board of Directors:

Resolution 25A-06-01 – Standing Rules for the 2025 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the edited Standing Rules for the 2025 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District.

Resolution 25A-06-02 – To Prioritize “Abiding in the Word” as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2025-2028 Triennium

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the overture, “To Prioritize “Abiding in the Word” as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2025-2028 Triennium.

Resolution 25A-06-03 – Request Exception for Circuits 3N and 3S and 4 and 9

Whereas, Circuits 3N (4,098 communicants) and 3S (2,336 communicants), each far exceed the required number of aggregate communicant membership requirement, but each are one congregation short of the seven (7) member congregation requirement. (This is caused because the 2nd campuses or satellites of these two circuits are not counted as qualifying.); and

Whereas, the aggregate communicant membership is twice as large as most circuits, giving Circuits 3N and 3S a lower proportionate representation than other circuits; and

Whereas, Circuit 4 (1541 communicants) and 6 congregations is below the requirement of 7-20 congregations (Bylaw 3.1.2 (a)). This was caused by the closing of Trinity, Garnett in January 2024; and

Whereas, Circuit 9 (1405 communicants) is below the requirement of 1500 confirmed members (Bylaw 3.1.2 (a)); and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District will not be realigning visitation circuits at its 2025 District Convention until the work of the 2026 Synod Convention regarding the 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 9-06A takes place; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors request an exception to the circuit size requirement be granted by the President of Synod to the electoral circuits of 3N, 3S, 4, and 9 for the upcoming 2026 convention of Synod.