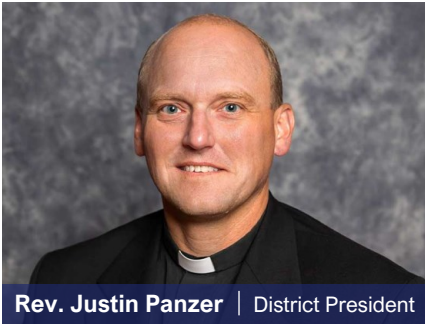


PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



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!

Devotions written by President Justin Panzer are the exclusive property of the LCMS Kansas District. Permission is granted to Kansas District congregations and schools to share these devotions with their members.