



WORKERS TOGETHER

APRIL 2025

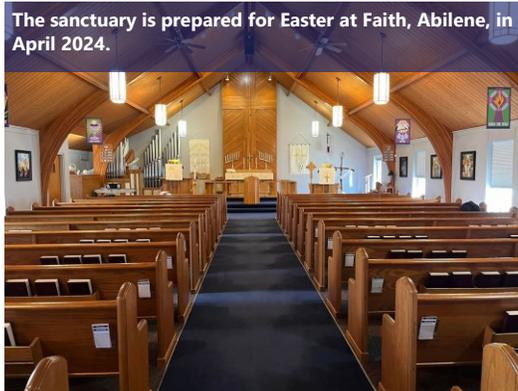
Our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.



The sanctuary is prepared for Easter at Holy Cross, Dodge City, in May 2024.



The sanctuary is prepared for Easter at Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, in April 2024.



The sanctuary is prepared for Easter at Faith, Abilene, in April 2024.

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He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

She [Martha] said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (John 11:25-27)

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Pastoral Installations



Convention Nominations Ballot



Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



“For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.”

(Romans 14:7-9)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is concerned about our salvation. If He had not had this great care for us, there would have been no need for the incarnation. Christ took the form of a servant and died on our behalf — the sinless for the sinful. Will He now despise us after we have become His own? Not at all!

Think of the cost of our freedom. What a great price Christ has offered as a guarantee for our lives. He offered His precious blood for us. He died that we might be freed from the custody of the law. He purchased us at full price, even though we were not worthy of its enormous value.

And now that it has been given once and for all, how could you doubt the certainty of the One who offered it, or think that He would just abandon you? How could you imagine that once

purchased by so great a price that the Lord would cast off His dearly won possession? How could anyone dream that such a Shepherd would abandon the one lost sheep and stay behind with the ninety-nine? If He cares so intensely for us poor sinners, what would make us think that He would not send out messengers calling us back to the fold which He created when He died? Once the price has been paid, the Master wants to retain possession of that for which He paid the price. That’s you. That’s me. That’s everyone!

Christ has died and Christ is risen! He is the Lord of the dead and certainly of the living. No one can snatch us out of His hand (*John 10:28-29*). We are His — the sheep of His pasture. And, He offers us the precious food of His Word and Sacrament Sunday after

Sunday. Why would we ever want to miss out on the feast that He provides? He is jealous for us. We are called to be zealous for what He gives.

Dear Christian friends:

rejoice, live in, and receive frequently what the crucified and risen Christ delivers to you, now in the Divine Service for your forgiveness, life, and salvation. He has clothed you with Himself in your baptism. He feeds you with the fruits of His cross in the Supper. He gives you His precious Word of Law and Gospel. Don’t take it for granted. Come and receive, for it yours now and always!

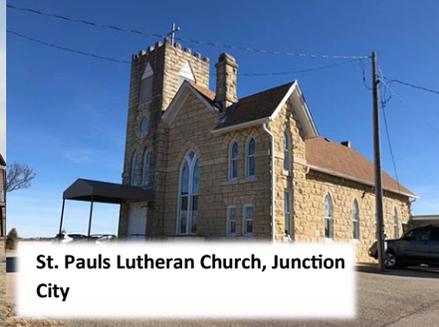
Yes, the bodily resurrection of Christ changes everything — now and eternally. Thanks be to God for the salvation He has brought and continues to bring to us!



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jetmore

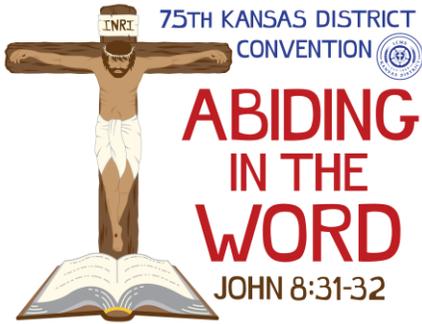


Immanuel Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center, Junction City



St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Junction City

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Convention Nominations Ballot

June 5-6, 2025 | Tony's Pizza Event Center, Salina

The individuals below have been nominated to serve in the Kansas District for the 2025-2028 triennium. The slate is current as of March 27. The Convention Workbook will soon be available on the 2025 Convention page on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/2025-convention>. As our Bylaws currently state, the term of office for District President is three years, and he may serve four terms. The Vice-Presidents, Secretary, members of the Board of Directors, and Circuit Visitors are elected for three-year terms; an incumbent may succeed himself twice (for a total of nine years). The members of the Nominating Committee only serve one term. **There is a resolution before the Convention that proposes extending the term limits for all elected positions (except the**

Nominating Committee) to four terms. Resolutions go into effect the moment they are passed, so there will be some termed-out incumbents who will be eligible for a fourth term if (and only if) the resolution passes. **(If overture 25-04-01 passes) Incumbent members are noted with (I) following their name. Those added due to the overture passing are noted with * before their name.**

◆ PRESIDENT

Rev. Justin Panzer, Christ, Manhattan (I)

◆ VICE-PRESIDENTS (4)

Region 1

Rev. David Kahle, Redeemer, Olathe

Rev. Andrew Wehling, Immanuel, Lawrence

Region 2

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville (I)

Region 3

Rev. Scott Golt, Ascension, Wichita

Rev. Michael Schotte, St. Paul, Preston (I)

Region 4

Rev. Michael Hageman, Trinity, Garden City (I)

◆ SECRETARY

Rev. Christian Schultz, First, Paola

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Trinity, Paola (I)

◆ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTE: Candidates for regional lay members of the Board of Directors who are not elected shall be on the ballot for the at-large lay positions on the Board of Directors.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (3)

Christopher Dehning, Trinity, Winfield

Rachel Goodpasture, Trinity, Atchison (I)

Whitney Howard, St. John, Alma

*Sue Kleber, Holy Cross, Wichita (I)

Deac. Bethany Stoeber, Immanuel, Hepler and Good Shepherd, Erie

Paul White, Mt. Calvary, Wamego

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

Region 1

*David Bruns, Christ, Overland Park (I)

Michael (Duke) Koerperich, First, Sabetha

Marvin Schulteis, Redeemer, Lawrence (I)

Region 2

Scott Bokelman, Zion, Linn

David Meisinger, Grace, McPherson

*Bruce Schultz, St. John, Alma (I)

Region 3

Curtis Engelbrecht, Trinity, Wichita (I)

Region 4

Jay Meyer, Trinity, Garden City

Mark Wolters, Redeemer, Atwood (I)

LAY MEMBER AT LARGE

Brian Smith, Immanuel, Canton

Kara Titus, Christ, Manhattan

◆ DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

CLERGY (3; no two from same region)

Rev. Ed Mease, Region 3, Emeritus

Rev. Michael Schmidt, Region 4, Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville

Rev. Andrew Wehling, Region 1, Immanuel, Lawrence

COMMISSIONED MINISTER (1 position)

Kathy Bartels, St. John's, Topeka

Sue Kleber, Holy Cross, Wichita

REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

Michael Bachelor, Region 1, First, Sabetha

Jay Meyer, Region 4, Trinity, Garden City

Daniel Snyder, Region 3, Immanuel, Wichita

Stephen Weller, Region 2, Grace, McPherson

◆ SYNOD CONVENTION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

DELEGATE and ALTERNATE (church worker, ordained or commissioned)

Rev. Daniel Grams, Beautiful Savior, Olathe

Rev. Ed Mease, Emeritus

Rev. Michael Schmidt, Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, St. John, Lincolnville

◆ CIRCUIT VISITORS

Elected at 2024 fall circuit forums (or appointed thereafter); list to be ratified by the District Convention.

Region 1

Circuit 1 Rev. Ian Kinney (I)

Circuit 2 Rev. Jason Boetcher (I)

Circuit 3N Rev. Joel Schultz (I)

Circuit 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner (I)

Circuit 4 Rev. Timothy Booth

Circuit 6 Rev. Sean Kilgo (I)

Region 2

Circuit 7 Rev. William Wingfield

Circuit 8 Rev. James Woelmer

Circuit 9 Rev. Kurt Letcher (I)

Circuit 12 Rev. Troy Slater

Region 3

Circuit 5 Rev. Matthew Jennings

Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer (I)

Circuit 11 Rev. Michael Brockman

Region 4

Circuit 13 Rev. Christopher Craig (I)

Circuit 15 Rev. Philip Hoppe

Circuit 16 Rev. Jason Toombs (I)



Bethel Lutheran Church, Kansas City



Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City



Grace Lutheran Church, Kansas City

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's April Travel Schedule

- April 1** **Circuits 10 / 11 Winkel at Zion (Argonia)**
- April 5** **Floor Committee meetings at the District Office (Topeka)**
- April 6** **Preaching at Christ (Topeka)**
- April 9** **Preaching at Christ (Topeka)**
- April 17** **Preaching at Christ (Topeka)**
- April 18** **Preaching at Christ (Topeka)**
- April 25-May 1** **Council of Presidents (Fort Wayne, Ind., St. Louis, Mo.)**



Rev. Nathan Harkins was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Abilene on Sunday, March 16. (From left, front row) Revs. Matthew Goltl, John Werner, Nathan Harkins, Justin Panzer, Kurt Letcher, Dennis Kootz; (back row) Revs. Mark Gaschler, Mark Boxman, Leroy Pralle, Clark Davis, Dr. Mart Thompson, Alan Stahlecker and Frank Johnson.

Fall Joint Conference: Request for Papers

The 2025 Fall Joint Conference will be held **Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2025**, at Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee. The theme of the conference will be "Abiding in the Word as Workers in Christ's Kingdom." The keynote speakers are **Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann**, professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and **Rev. Dr. Peter Jurchen**, assistant professor of Lutheran Education and Faith Formation at Concordia University, Nebraska.

The Conference Planning Committee is officially requesting papers from Kansas District pastors, to be presented at the conference. There are slightly fewer slots for papers than in former years. Papers are encouraged to be related to the conference theme; those papers on topic will be given preference.

Paper abstracts must be submitted to **Heather Williams** heather@kslcms.org no later than May 1.

Call Day Services, April 2025

April 28-29, 2025: Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)

Vicarage and Diaconess Internship Assignments: Monday, April 28, 7 p.m. (EDT)

Candidate Call Service: Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m. (EDT)

Visit <https://ctsfw.regfox.com/2025-call-day> for more information.

April 30, 2025: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL)

Vicarage and Diaconess Internship Assignments: 3 p.m. (CDT)

Candidate Call Service: 7 p.m. (CDT)

Visit <https://www.csl.edu/call-day-2025> for more information.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Shawn Ethridge, St. Paul's, Fulda, MN to Christ, Topeka – **declined**

Rev. Brian Flamme, Immanuel, Roswell, NM to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **declined**

Rev. Conrad Oehlert, St. John, Hooker, OK to Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **pending**

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, St. Paul, Concordia, MO to Holy Cross, Wichita – **declined**

Rev. Caleb Stoeber, Immanuel, Hepler & Good Shepherd, Erie to Trinity, Hanover – **declined**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Rick Schneider, St. Paul, Ronan, MT to Redeemer, Atwood – **accepted, installation pending**

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Teacher Samuel Fishburn, First, Fort Smith, AR to Hope, Shawnee – **pending**

Teacher Christina Heiss, Holy Cross, Cary, IL to Hope, Shawnee – **pending**

Principal Nancy Jankowski, Hope, Shawnee to Zion, New Palestine, IN – **declined**

DCE Olivia Johnson, Concordia, Nebraska to Lord of Life, Leawood – **accepted, installation pending**

DCNS Candidate Lara McCormick, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Calvary, Topeka – **pending**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

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)

Phillipsburg, First (sole)

Shawnee, Trinity (associate)

Topeka, Christ (sole)

Wellington, Calvary (sole)

Wichita, Holy Cross (senior)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

**Congregations /
Schools Facebook
Prayer List**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

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

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Principal) (Teacher – Kindergarten)

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)

APRIL PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ◆ **Family and friends of Rev. Eugene Stohs**, emeritus pastor of Immanuel, Kansas City. Rev. Stohs entered his heavenly rest March 15, 2025.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Keith Jopp**, emeritus principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School, Cheney. Keith entered his heavenly rest March 10, 2025.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Ronald Haselhuhn**, father of Rev. Don Haselhuhn, pastor of St. John, Lincoln, and St. Paul's, Lincoln. Ronald entered his heavenly rest March 6, 2025.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Evelyn Komm**, mother-in-law of Rev. David McCloskey, pastor of Peace, Greensburg. Evelyn entered her heavenly rest Feb. 11, 2025.
- ◆ **Family and friends of former Topeka Lutheran School principal Gerhardt (Gery) Pralle**, uncle of Eric Pralle, principal of Zion Lutheran School, Independence, and brother of Rev. Leroy Pralle, pastor emeritus. Gery entered his heavenly rest Feb. 11, 2025.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Lena Woelmer**, mother of Rev. Jim Woelmer, pastor of Christ, Manhattan, and grandmother of Rev. Joshua Woelmer, pastor of Trinity, Paola, and Bethany Johnson, kantor of St. John's, Topeka. Lena entered her heavenly rest Feb. 4, 2025.
- ◆ **Family and friends of Dolores Palmer**, mother of Rev. Stanley Palmer, pastor of Our Redeemer, Kinsley, and Zion, Offerle. Dolores entered her heavenly rest Feb. 2, 2025.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| ◆ Kevin Adams | ◆ Sven Goodroad | ◆ Rev. Kevin Peterson |
| ◆ Rev. Richard Andrus | ◆ Cindy Hammons | ◆ Lori Reed |
| ◆ Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer | ◆ Rev. David McCloskey | ◆ Paul Schmidt |
| ◆ Harmon Butler | ◆ Carrie Meyers | ◆ Rev. Gary Wolf |
| ◆ Rev. Dean Christ | ◆ Rev. Howard & Marilyn Patten | |

◆ RSO: Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) – **April 7**

◆ RSO: Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries (LLL/LHM) – **April 14**

◆ Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Atchison – **April 21**

◆ Risen Savior Lutheran Church & Classical Academy, Basehor – **April 28**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Jesus Door-2-Door



Pentecost Offering



Kansas District Scholarships



Light of the World, De Soto



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.

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.

The next Jesus Door-2-Door event will take place on **Saturday, April 26**, at Trinity, Holton. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Timothy Koch at revtimkoch@gmail.com.

Scholarships Available!

Our LCMS congregations and schools need church workers, and the Kansas District is ready and willing to help. The District is once again offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at one of the Synod’s universities or seminaries. Last year the Kansas District awarded \$66,353 in scholarships to future church workers!

Caylen McCoy, who is currently a student at Concordia University Nebraska, shared a thank-you to the Kansas District for continued financial support:

“I thank God often for the amazing gift of your support. It allows me to attend the perfect university to equip me for my calling and the Christian life, so that I may show the depth of the wonders of God to my future family and congregation, thereby enriching their lives in turn. Please pray along with me that myself and the students around me grow in this knowledge and ability. Thank you for your continued prayers, and I pray for you in your lives and callings, and in your duties of stewardship.”

Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of applications received. **The application deadline for 2025-26 scholarships is June 1.** The application is available on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/kansas-district-stewardship/education-grants>.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City



Our Saviour Lutheran Church & Preschool, Kansas City



First St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool, Kensington

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' April Travel Schedule

- April 3** Good Shepherd school visit (Marysville)
- April 4-5** Middle School Huddle (Junction City)
- April 6** Our Saviour (Kansas City, Kan.)
- April 6-8** Commissioned Worker Retreat (Kansas City, Kan.)
- April 16** Zion school visit (Independence)
- April 22** Circuit 5 Winkel at Trinity (Girard)
- April 27** Confirmation at Beautiful Savior (Olathe)



Pentecost is June 8, and there will be a District-wide offering to support mission work in Guinea and West Africa. Last year, \$50,000 was given to sustain the work of the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques (CLET) seminary in Guinea.

This year's Pentecost Offering will continue to help support the mission work in West Africa, and the CLET-Guinea seminary.

Visit the Guinea/West Africa page on the District website to access 2025 bulletin inserts and announcements, <https://kslcms.org/guinea-westafrica>.



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.

Light of the World Lutheran Church held their first worship service at the new location in De Soto on Sunday, March 2.



Light of the World Lutheran Church in De Soto has moved! The group's new location is **33391 Lexington Ave. Suite B, De Soto, KS 66018**. Worship began at the new location on Sunday, March 2.

To find out more information about Light of the World, visit their website at <https://www.lightoftheworldlcms.org>.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Youth Ministry



Kansas Lutheran Schools
Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)



Lutheran Education & Schools



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. Visit <https://www.lcmsgathering.com>.

Registration for the Kansas District busing, T-shirts, and the Kansas District event and swamp tour is closed. Any requests to add or cancel participants after that date may not be honored due to contracts with the companies being finalized. Visit <https://kslcms.org/national-youth-gathering> for more information about the Kansas District events.

It has been exciting to watch the participant numbers go up over the past few months. 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/>.

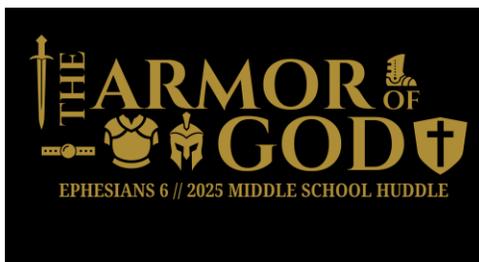
LVR



Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) will be held **June 1-6, 2025**, at Woodland Park in Colorado. This event aims to encourage students currently in grades 8-12 to make new friends and identify more closely with the body of Christ by participating in outdoor physical activities. The theme for this year's LVR is "Restored," based on Jeremiah 30:17.

Registration is open. Visit the LVR page on the District website to register, <https://kslcms.org/lvr>.

For questions contact **DCE Beth Counts** (Trinity, Mission and Shawnee) at beth@tlcms.org.



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.

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

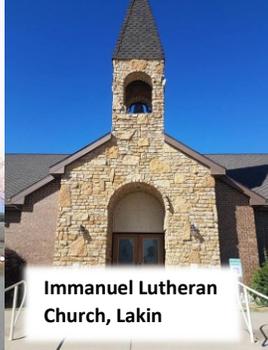
For questions contact **Rev. Dennis Kootz** (associate pastor of Trinity, Salina) at pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com.



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley



Redeemer Lutheran Mission, Lake Wabaunsee



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakin



Grace Lutheran Church, Larned

EDUCATION & YOUTH



KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF) is to provide life-changing scholarships, empowering families to access quality Lutheran education and fostering Christ-centered academic excellence across Kansas.

OUR PURPOSE

To provide scholarships for children attending K-12 Lutheran schools of the LCMS Kansas District, under the provisions of the Kansas Tax Credit Scholarship program.

ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ New students to a LCMS school in Kansas who are either entering kindergarten, or transferring from a public school.
- ◆ Family income is 250% of federal poverty guidelines or less.

HOW TO APPLY

- ◆ A parent or guardian completes an application through the Kansas State Board of Education website by June 1.

- ◆ Visit <https://www.ksde.gov/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/School-Finance/Tax-Credit-for-Low-Income-Students-Scholarship-Program/Online-Application> to fill out the online application.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- ◆ The amount of the scholarship awarded will be determined annually by a number of factors including the amount of donated funds available and the number of eligible applicants.
- ◆ By law, scholarships cannot exceed \$8,000 and can be used to cover tuition and other education-related expenses.
- ◆ If the tuition charged does not cover the cost to educate, the school must publicize that number along with its annual tuition rates.

SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENTS

Scholarships will be paid directly to the school by August 1, before each academic year.

(Continued on Page 10)



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Leavenworth

EDUCATION & YOUTH

A DONATION TO THE KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION...

- ◆ Helps children and families receive a Christ-centered education, who otherwise could not afford one.

- ◆ Sustains Lutheran schools and assists them as they expand their mission and impact.
- ◆ Ensures that more people come to know wisdom, knowledge, and salvation in Jesus Christ.

HOW THE KANSAS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM WORKS

\$500,000

Individuals and businesses with a state tax liability may donate up to \$500,000 each year.

75 percent

Donations may be eligible for a 75 percent credit on state income tax liability. Unused credits can be carried over.

\$10 million

KLSSF staff processes your donation and secures your tax credit certificate. Credits are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the \$10 million cap is reached.

90 percent

By state law, at least 90 percent of your donation must be used to grant scholarships up to \$8,000.

HOW TO DONATE

- ◆ Consult your tax advisor to determine your state tax liability and gift strategy (*the KLSSF does not provide tax, accounting, or legal advice.*)
- ◆ Complete the [Donor Information Form](#) and submit it with a check made payable to the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. Please include "Tax Credit Scholarship" in the memo line. Mail to the address included.
- ◆ To donate electronically, please go the <https://klssf.org> (available soon!) To donate stocks or other appreciated securities, please call us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive Director
Phone: 785-357-4441
Email: dgrams@klssf.org
Website: <https://klssf.org>

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CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



Parish Nurse Ministry



Church Worker Appreciation

Lutheran Early Response Team News

Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator
ksddrc@gmail.com

Recently several states experienced severe weather outbreaks that included multiple tornadoes ranging from EF1 to EF4. These storms were unprecedented for several reasons and caused widespread damage, and sadly, injury and loss of life. "Prepare to Adapt" to our ever-changing weather patterns. I hope you will continue to look to the needs of your family, church and community and create ways to be involved in preparedness in the event of a severe weather event. Here is a list of resources for you to access as you prepare for storm season in Kansas:

- ◆ [Weather.gov/top/swaw](https://www.weather.gov/top/swaw): Resources include Kansas Weather Spotters Field

Guide and the 2025 Kansas Severe Weather Preparedness Packet.

- ◆ Connect with your local County, Township and/or City Emergency Management office. Many will be scheduling Storm Spotter classes in the coming weeks. Most are free to attend and do not require an RSVP.
- ◆ National Emergency Preparedness Month: September 2025.

In the event of a destructive storm or critical event, do you have a list of resources to call to request help? Prioritize your list and be intentional in updating and distributing your list

to those responsible for taking the lead on any cleanup or recovery effort. Be sure to include the District Office (President Panzer) and your DDRC (Donna Williams) on your list.

Faith at Work: We invite our LERT teams and congregations to participate in this annual District-wide service event where groups of all ages and skill sets identify needs within their local communities to serve throughout the month of April.

If your LERT team has been looking for ways to stay active and engaged in mercy work, this is a great place to start! Find more information at <https://kslcms.org/disaster-response>.



The LCMS Kansas District invites our congregations, schools, and RSOs to participate in the second annual *Faith at Work* service projects! Visit <https://kslcms.org/faith-at-work> for additional resources.

For questions, please email faithatwork@kslcms.org.

2025 Church Worker Appreciation

For 2024-2025 the Synod is highlighting the many different types of church workers all year round!

- ◆ **April 28 – [Director of Parish Music Appreciation](#)**
- ◆ **May 5-9 – [Teacher Appreciation](#)**
- ◆ **June 26 – [Director of Christian Education Appreciation](#)**

Click the links above to find resources on the LCMS website and show church workers how much they are appreciated!

Parish Nurse Ministry

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. One in every 12 adults or 17.6 million people experience alcohol disorder or alcohol dependence.

Alcohol Awareness Month provides a focused opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of alcohol addiction, including the causes, effective treatment, and recovery. It is an opportunity to decrease stigma and misunderstanding to dismantle the barriers to treatment and recovery and thus make help more available to those who suffer from this disease.

The Surgeon General has made a statement that excessive and chronic use of alcohol can be a contributing factor in many cancers, in the upper GI system, the liver, and the pancreas. It can be deterrent in driving, family problems, marital breakups and so much more.

Alcohol addiction is a chronic, progressive disease, genetically predisposed and fatal if untreated. However, people can and do recover. In fact, it is estimated that as many as 20 million individuals and family members are living lives in recovery from alcohol use. If you or a loved one cannot live without drinking an alcohol beverage routinely, additional information is available at www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohols-effects-health.

Mary Hume, Parish Nurse and Kansas District Representative for Parish Nurses

BUSINESS OFFICE



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders

MinistrySafe: 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://ministrysafes.com/the-risk/>. You can also learn more about our partnership with MinistrySafe at <https://ministrysafes.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.

2025 IRS Mileage Rate

Effective January 1, 2025: The IRS new mileage rates are 70¢ per mile for business and 21¢ per mile for medical.

The Kansas District mileage rate, set by the Board of Directors, is 15 cents below the IRS rate, or 55¢ per mile. These new rates apply to mileage reimbursements paid to an employee on or after January 1, 2025, with respect to transportation expenses paid or incurred by the employee on or after January 1, 2025. The rate used for charitable deduction purposes remains at 14¢ per mile.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



Dear Kansas District Members,

Do you know who your church is banking with? It might be a local place just down the road, or perhaps a state or even national bank. They may be offering quality customer service and high rates, but they can never offer what LCEF does:

A bank where your dollars work for you and the Church.

Consider opening an **All Access Account with LCEF** today. With the All-Access Account, you can earn up to 4% with:

- ◆ ZERO monthly maintenance fees.
- ◆ Online account services, including electronic bank statements.
- ◆ Optional Visa debit card.

And best of all, an account with LCEF doesn't just mean your savings are working for just your church: they're also

working for countless Lutheran churches and schools nationwide!

Take a moment today to consider how best you can steward the resources God has blessed your church, and reach out if you think LCEF might be a valuable partner to you in that stewardship. We'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 Are IC-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.

He is Risen!
Alleluia!

The tomb is empty. The victory is won.
Jesus has conquered sin and death—for you!

Happy Easter!

Jeffrey Maltz
District Vice President
Kansas & Oklahoma Districts
785-230-4112 | jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org



"He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and, on the third day, be raised again.'
Luke 24:6-7



TAKE HEART
SCHOLARSHIP

The LCEF Take Heart Scholarship is a special way to celebrate our young Lutheran investors. High school seniors who have a Young Investors (Y.I.) StewardAccount with LCEF can apply for a scholarship of \$500, \$1,000 or \$3,000.

The Take Heart Scholarship application is available on the LCEF website, <https://lcef.org/scholarship>. Applications close on May 1, and awards will be announced by May 30.



Trinity Lutheran Church, Leavenworth



Lord of Life Lutheran Church & Early Education Center, Leawood



Grace Lutheran Church, Liberal

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

APRIL

April 4-5	Middle School Huddle (Rock Springs, Junction City)	April 10	Board of Caring Ministry , 12-1 p.m. (Zoom)
April 5	Floor Committees Weekend (District office, Topeka)	April 13	Palm Sunday
April 5	LERT meeting , 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)	April 17	Maundy Thursday (District office closes at 2 p.m.)
April 6-8	"Take Heart" Commissioned Minister DOXOLOGY Retreat (Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, Kan.)	April 18	Good Friday (District office closed)
April 7	Convention Planning meeting , 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)	April 20	Easter Sunday
April 10	Educators Fall Conference Planning meeting , 4-5 p.m. (Zoom)	April 21	Easter Monday (District office closed)
		April 22	Older Adult Ministry Committee , 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
		April 23	Administrative Professionals Day
		April 24	Board of Education & Youth , 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Zoom)

APRIL-MAY

April 24	Board of Missions , 1-3 p.m. (Zoom)
April 25	Phoenix Rising Gala , 6-8 p.m. (Concordia Academy-Wichita)
April 26-May 1	Council of Presidents (St. Louis, Mo.)
May 2	Board of Administration , 12-1 p.m. (Zoom)
May 5	Board of Stewardship , 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
May 5	Executive Committee , 1-2 p.m. (Zoom)
May 8	President's Council , 1-5 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
May 8	Board of Directors Appreciation Dinner , 5:30-7:30 p.m. (location TBD)
May 9	Board of Directors meeting , 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
May 13	Saints Alive After 55 meeting , 10-11 a.m. (Zoom)
May 14	Pastors Fall Conference Planning meeting , 10-11 a.m. (Zoom)
May 19	Convention Planning meeting , 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
May 26	Memorial Day (District office closed)

JUNE-JULY

June 1-6	Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) (Woodland Park, Colo.)
June 5-6	75th Kansas District Convention (Tony's Pizza Event Center, Salina)
June 26-29	LWML National Convention (Omaha, Neb.)
June 28	Early Childhood Conference , 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Trinity Lutheran Church, Shawnee)
July 4	Independence Day (District office closed)
July 12	LERT meeting , 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
July 13-14	Saints Alive After 55 Conference
July 14	Convention Planning meeting , 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
July 19-23	LCMS Youth Gathering (New Orleans, La.)
July 29	New Worker Orientation , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (location TBD)

"TAKE HEART: RENEWED TO BE A BLESSING"
A RETREAT FOR COMMISSIONED WORKERS



"Take Heart" Commissioned Minister DOXOLOGY Retreat

There will be a Commissioned Minister DOXOLOGY Retreat held **April 6-8**, at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City (12601 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS 66109).

The name of the event is "Take Heart: Renewed to Be a Blessing," and is led by DOXOLOGY to provide respite, rest and renewal for dedicated DCEs, teachers and commissioned ministers.

This retreat is provided by a church worker care grant from the LCMS Office of National Mission and the Kansas District. Visit <https://kslcms.org> to find a schedule.

Continuing Education Course: Redeemer, Lawrence

There will be a Continuing Education (CE) course held **June 26-28, 2025**, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence (2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047). The theme of the course is "The History of the LCMS and Applications for Today." The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.**, professor of Historical Theology and president emeritus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW).

Click on the provided link to register and for more information: <https://concordiatheologicalseminary3.mysite.com/s/continuing-education-list>. This is a 1.5 CEU course. The cost is \$175 for pastors and professional church workers, and \$125 for retired pastors and laypersons. Current CTSFW students and vicars should contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or call 260-452-2204.

If you have any questions please contact **Rev. Sean Kilgo** (pastor of Redeemer, Lawrence) at kilgosr@gmail.com or call 505-553-4829.



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.





Light of the World Lutheran Church, De Soto



St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lincoln

SYNOD & PARTNERS

Lutheran Heritage Foundation



Great news! The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (a recognized service organization of the LCMS) has just gotten a huge shipment of books carrying two FREE new resources

available in Ukrainian, including the classic children's Bible storybook *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* and *Best of Portals of Prayer*.

These materials are available to any LCMS church, mission or individual who wants to share the Good News with their Ukrainian-speaking neighbors. To order, send an email to info@LHFmissions.org or call the LHF office at (800) 554-0723.

LCMS International Mission Resources

There are some wonderful resources offered by the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) for schools and youth.

Links to these resources are found below:

- ♦ Missions Unpacked and English Bible Camp Curriculum: <https://international.lcms.org/resources>
- ♦ Ideas for Chapel Donations and/or District Projects: <https://international.lcms.org/projects>
- ♦ Short-term Team Mission Trips for Teachers (or School Groups): <https://servenow.lcms.org>

For more information about these resources please contact **Stephanie Hovland**, Deaconess Intern with OIM, at Stephanie.Hovland@lcms.org.

Easter Media Kits Available

Media kits are available on the LCMS website for the Easter season. These free kits offer a variety of resources for congregations to use in reaching out to local communities to invite and provide details about their worship services. The kits include a newspaper opinion editorial and advertisement, social media shareable and reels, a Facebook advertisement, and post/note cards.

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

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 22-25 - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (registration deadline is March 23)

May 12-15 - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (registration deadline is April 13)

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





St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincolnville



Linn Lutheran School Association, Linn



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn



Zion Lutheran Church, Linn

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Rev. Daniel Grams preached at St. John Lutheran Church in Alma for a Mission Sunday on Sunday, Feb. 2. Rev. Grams also led a Bible study over mission activities in the Kansas District and gave a presentation on the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF).



About 100 participants from eight congregations attended a conference on religious liberty at Redeemer, Olathe, on Feb. 22. The event was titled "Two Kingdoms and the Champions Network."

Sessions were led by **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**, executive director of Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington, D.C., and **Rev. Mark Frith**, network director of LCRL Champions for Religious Liberty. Rev. Frith had previously served as an LCMS pastor and Kansas District assistant to the president for Missions and Stewardship (2007-2014).

For more information about the LCRL, visit <https://www.lcrlfreedom.org>.



Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz



Rev. Mark Frith



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Louisburg



Grace Lutheran Church, Lyons



Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan

AROUND THE DISTRICT



(Front row, from left) Rev. Timothy Koch (Zion, Linn), Rev. Joshua Hayes (St. John, Palmer), Camryn Beikmann, retired Lutheran teacher Linda Peters, retired Lutheran teacher Pam Werner (Linda and Pam are from Deshler, Nebraska, where Camryn was born and began her education at Deshler Lutheran School.) (Back row, from left) Linn Lutheran Principal David and Diane Beikmann, DCE Brian Amey (Holy Cross, Wichita) and Vicar Jacob Harding (Zion, Linn).

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, Linn Lutheran School hosted a special service to feature the LCMS Synod's *Set Apart to Serve* church worker recruitment initiative. Special guest **DCE Brian Amey** (Holy Cross, Wichita) gave the message on serving God in all vocations, and in church work vocations in particular. **Rev. Timothy Koch** and **Vicar Jacob Harding** (Zion Lutheran Church, Linn) spoke briefly about their current vocations. Linn High School senior, **Camryn Beikmann**, delivered a statement to the students of her former school about why she chose to become a Lutheran teacher and signed her Letter of Intent to attend Concordia University, Nebraska, in the fall as a church worker. Camryn quoted the prophet Isaiah, "*Here I am! Send me.*" (Isaiah 6:8) to the students as she encouraged them to consider church work. Linn Lutheran School **Principal David Beikmann** (Camryn's father) said of the event, "We sign letters of intent for athletic teams, so why not for church worker intent? It is a great way to promote church work and recognize those who choose to serve in the church as God calls us in many different ways."

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Rev. Daniel Grams

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