



# WORKERS TOGETHER

MARCH 2025

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

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The sanctuary is prepared for Lent at Trinity, Wichita, in March 2024.



The sanctuary is prepared for Lent at Bethany, Overland Park, in February 2024.

## Ash Wednesday: March 5

Ash Wednesday marks a Districtwide **Day of Repentance**. People of the Kansas District are encouraged to pray the Litany (found in *Lutheran Service Book*, pp. 288-289), worship, consider fasting, and give to someone in need.

The annual **Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering** also takes place on March 5. This offering supports scholarships for future church workers and education loan repayment grants for active church workers.

Visit Page 2 to read a special Lenten devotion from President Justin Panzer. More information regarding the Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering is found on Page 5.

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# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Announcements and Reminders



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



**“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”**

**(Joel 2:12)**

*“Return to the Lord Your God” (v. 13).* God’s people are not to just go through the motions of repentance. The prophet expects that they will let the Word sink into their hearts and consciences. He expects that the visible signs, fasting and weeping and mourning, will follow. Joel takes the very core of our self-idolatry and throws it away. The Lord calls His wandering people home through the Word. Let the law of Your holy God humble your pride and lead you to contrition, even though your broken heart may hurt. True repentance is appalled at sin because sin separates us from the Lord. And true repentance includes faith in the promised forgiveness of sins.

When Joel speaks God’s Word, he describes the God who has compassion and love for His people. *“He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (v. 13).* This is how God describes Himself. He is jealous for His people yet full of compassion, not wanting anyone to perish.

The mark of the ashes and the sign of the cross is placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Ashes remind us of our mortality in this life and of why we need a Savior – to rescue us from this present, evil age, and to bring us

life and light forever. Through the cross, God has sent His Son to save all people. **The blessings of His death and resurrection are given through the gift of faith.**

I invite the people of the LCMS Kansas District to once again join together on Ash Wednesday for a Districtwide **“Day of Repentance.”** We encourage you to pray the Litany, worship, fast, and give a financial contribution to your local congregation.

What is a fast? How does it fit in with what the Lord is trying to teach us as He calls us to repentance? If you have access to *The Lutheran Study Bible*, turn to page 189, where you’ll find a helpful article called, “When You Fast” (also available online on the *First Things* blog). Note especially these words:

“During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke against fasting as a means of salvation. Instead, **He commended fasting as a private, voluntary act of humility before (Matt. 6:16-18).** Take a few moments now to read His words and reflect on your own devotion. If you are like most people, you have thought more about dieting than fasting. It is hard to imagine a day-

long fast. No doubt fasting for 40 days like Jesus did after His baptism is out of the question. Yet our Lord’s words clearly reveal that fasting should be part of a Christian’s life: He said, “When you fast” (Matt. 6:16), not “If you fast” (cf. Matt. 9:14-15). The early Christians fasted (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23). Why shouldn’t a 21st-century Christian do likewise?”

A simple fast might involve going without one or two meals before receiving the Lord’s Supper and using the time to focus on God’s Word. If skipping a meal isn’t an option, think about taking a break from something else, like social media or web surfing. Whatever form it takes, fasting is a powerful reminder of Christ’s own obedience and sacrifice for us all.

Our Lord wants you to return to Him what is His in the first place. Everything belongs to the Lord, we only get to borrow it for a time. Everything we give back to Him belongs to Him. It never was ours.

**“Return to me,” the Lord invites through His prophet Joel (2:12) ... with your whole life. God bless our worship of Him, especially during the season of Lent!**



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool,  
Garden City



King of Kings Lutheran Church & Open  
Arms Child Development Center,  
Gardner



Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard



Our Saviour Lutheran  
Church, Great Bend

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## Out and About in Kansas

### President Panzer's March Travel Schedule

- March 2** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- March 5** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- March 12** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- March 16** Installation of Rev. Nathan Harkins at Faith (Abilene)
- March 19** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)
- March 26** Preaching at Christ (Topeka)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:kilgosr@gmail.com) or call 505-553-4829.

## 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](mailto:heather@kslcms.org) no later than May 1.

## 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.

**April 4:** 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.

# CALLS & VACANCIES

## PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. Michael Ada**, Beautiful Savior, Olathe to Messiah, Emporia – **declined**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

**Rev. Nathan Harkins** to Faith, Abilene – **installation Sunday, March 16, 2025**

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

**Teacher Morgan Dunst**, Holy Cross, Wichita to Trinity, Wausau, WI – **declined**

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

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

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

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

**Atwood, Redeemer** (sole)

**Clay Center, St. Paul**

(associate – seminary)

**Dodge City, Holy Cross** (sole)

**Ellsworth, St. Paul's** (sole)

**Emporia, Messiah** (sole)

**Hanover, Trinity** (sole)

**Hays, Messiah** (sole)

**Hoxie, Immanuel & Oakley, Immanuel** (sole)

**Kansas City, Our Saviour** (sole)

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

**Overland Park, Bethany**

(associate – seminary)

**Shawnee, Trinity** (associate)

**Topeka, Christ** (sole)

**Wellington, Calvary** (sole)

**Wichita, Holy Cross** (senior)

**Wichita, St. Andrews** (sole)

**Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List**

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

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

**Leavenworth, St. Paul** (Teacher)

**Leawood, Lord of Life** (DCE)

**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)

## MARCH PRAYER REQUESTS

### Those grieving the loss of loved ones

◆ **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 Gerhard (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.

◆ **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**

◆ **Cindy Hammons**

◆ **Rev. Kevin Peterson**

◆ **Rev. Richard Andrus**

◆ **Rev. David McCloskey**

◆ **Lori Reed**

◆ **Harmon Butler**

◆ **Carrie Meyers**

◆ **Rev. Dean Christ**

◆ **Rev. Donald Miller**

### Those celebrating the gift of new life

◆ **Rev. Aaron and Sarah Fenker** (son Matthew Gerhard, Feb. 21).

◆ **Rev. Joshua and Brianna Woelmer** (daughter Zoe Brielle, Feb. 13).

◆ Zion Lutheran church plant, Concordia – **March 3**

◆ RSO: Fairmount Ministries, Wichita – **March 24**

◆ RSO: LeadaChild, Olathe – **March 10**

◆ RSO: St. John's College Alumni Association, Winfield – **March 31**

◆ RSO: Concordia Academy, Wichita – **March 17**

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Jesus Door-2-Door



Mission Advocates



Ash Wednesday Offering



Light of the World, De Soto



## Jesus Door-2-Door

Of those who took the canvassing survey, 16 (44%) were unchurched, 21 (58%) were unfamiliar with Hope Lutheran Church & School, and 13 (36%) were confident of their salvation on account of Jesus Christ.

Through the group's canvassing efforts, two (5%) individuals desired a follow-up visit from Hope Lutheran Church, as well as a gentleman who desired additional information about Hope Lutheran Church & School. Please keep Hope Lutheran Church & School in your prayers!

The next JD2D event will take place **Saturday, March 15** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Holton. For more information please contact Rev. Timothy Koch at [revtimkoch@gmail.com](mailto:revtimkoch@gmail.com).

On February 8, **27 people** from seven different LCMS churches representing four states (*Kan., Mo., Fla., Ill.*) and two countries (*U.S. and Latvia*) gathered at Hope Lutheran Church & School in Shawnee for a Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) event.

The group divided into nine canvassing teams and knocked on 199 homes (*skipping over an additional 87 homes with "No Soliciting" signs.*) Sixty-five people answered the door and 36 people agreed to take the survey.

## 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.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenleaf



Peace Lutheran Church, Greensburg



Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' March Travel Schedule

**March 6 Visiting Kansas City congregations**

*(Kansas City, Kan.)*

**March 11 Circuits 7 & 8 Winkel at St. Luke's**

*(Manhattan)*

**March 12 School visit at St. John**

*(Alma)*

**March 24-25**

**LCMS Steward Leaders Conference**  
*(Plano, TX)*

## 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](mailto:tami@kslcms.org) or 785-357-4441, ext. 5001.

Light of the World Lutheran Church holds 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 closes on March 3.** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

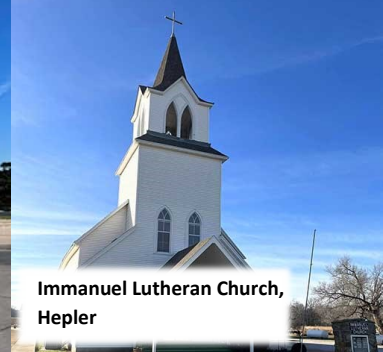
For questions contact **Rev. Dennis Kootz** (associate pastor of Trinity, Salina) at [pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com](mailto:pastordennis.kootz@gmail.com).



St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
Haven



Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays



Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Hepler

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

## 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.



## “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.

There is no cost for participants to attend, but please register by **March 23**. Register at <https://kslcms.org>.

## 2025 KAIRS Early Childhood Conference

The annual KAIRS Early Childhood Conference will be **Saturday, March 15** from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Father Quigley Faith Formation Center, located at Holy Trinity Catholic Church (9201 Summit St., Lenexa, KS 66215). This year's presenter is musician and author **Jim Gill**. During the sessions Mr. Gill will discuss literacy development, developing school readiness abilities (such as self-control and self-regulation) and inclusion of children of all abilities and backgrounds.

Visit <https://kairs.org/early-childhood-education-workshop> to register and find a flyer. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch. Registration ends March 7. If you have any questions please contact **Dr. Jamie Finkeldei**, KAIRS President, at [finkeldej@catholicdioceseofwichita.org](mailto:finkeldej@catholicdioceseofwichita.org) or **Nichole Karungu**, KAIRS Communications Director, at [kansas.kairs@gmail.com](mailto:kansas.kairs@gmail.com).

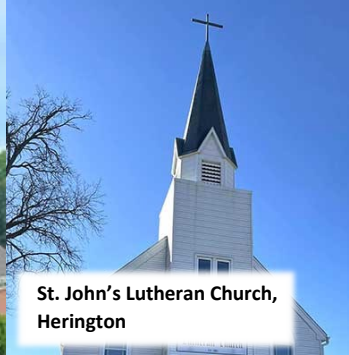




Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Herington



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church &  
Preschool, Herington



St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Herington

# 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)*



Zion Lutheran Church,  
Hiawatha



Grace Lutheran Church, Hill  
City



Zion Lutheran Church,  
Hillsboro

# 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](mailto:dgrams@klssf.org)  
Website: <https://klssf.org>

*KLSSF, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 99-3778196. All donations are tax deductible.*

# CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



Parish Nurse Ministry



Faith at Work

## Lutheran Early Response Team News

Donna Williams

Disaster Response Coordinator  
[ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com)

**KANSAS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK** will be held March 3-7, 2025, with the **STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL** on March 5. This is a good time to review your evacuation or shelter plans and practices in your churches. If you don't have a plan in place, contact your local Emergency Management office and see if there is someone who can walk through your building with you and make recommendations.

**WEATHER RADIOS:** Do you have a Weather Radio in your church building? If not, you might consider purchasing one that can be accessed any time your building is in use. This is one more layer of preparation for our unpredictable Kansas weather.

Storm clean-up in North Carolina is still ongoing. Deployments are scheduled through July 2025. Visit <https://www.lcms-lerc.org> for all the details and requirements.

**April 26, 2025**

### Assessments Training

Location: King of Kings Lutheran Church (306 E. Madison St., Gardner, KS 66030)

Training will include classroom instruction with tabletop scenarios and field work at on-site locations. For LERT volunteers who are interested in expanding their reach and ability to assist in the event of a disaster by becoming approved LERT Assessors. Visit <https://www.lcms-lerc.org> for details or contact Donna Williams, [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto: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 opportunities, please reach out to Donna Williams [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto: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 contact Donna.

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

<https://lcms-lerc.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 provided link to register your *Faith at Work* service project: [2025 Faith at Work Registration](https://www.flatlandthreads.com/faith-at-work).

Click on this link to order your *Faith at Work* free T-shirts: <https://www.flatlandthreads.com/faith-at-work>.

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

## Parish Nurse Ministry

**Regular eye exams** can catch problems before it is too late. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends having a vision screening each year after the age of 40. It is an essential step toward preserving vision and keeping eyes healthy. More than 43 million Americans are at risk for significant vision loss or blindness from age-related eye diseases, such as cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and macular degeneration.

The first step in preventing vision loss is to get a baseline eye exam at the age of 40. This is the age when early signs of eye disease and changes in vision may first occur. For individuals at any age with symptoms of, or at risk for, eye disease, such as those with a family history of eye disease, diabetes or high blood pressure, the Academy recommends seeing your ophthalmologist to determine how frequently your eyes should be examined. Based on the results of the initial screening, your ophthalmologist will prescribe the necessary intervals for follow-up exams.

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

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

## 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>.

Other organizations offering scholarships to church work students include [Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](#), [Lutheran Laymen's League](#) and [St. John's Alumni Association](#).

## 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,

You know as well as I do that it's never too early to start teaching children how to steward what God has given them.

Whether you are celebrating a new addition to the family or looking to help your current children or grandchildren start saving, consider opening a *Young Investors Steward Account* with LCEF. Visit <https://lcef.org/young-investors> for more information.

If you are looking for a savings account for a child, grandchild, niece or nephew, with...

- ◆ Premium rate of 3.00%
- ◆ Low opening minimum deposit (\$25)
- ◆ No monthly maintenance fees
- ◆ A seamless and quick application process

...then the LCEF Young Investor (Y.I.) account is for you!

This account grows with your young investor, building both their savings and their financial responsibility. By age 16, they can explore the freedom of a debit card and online account access (*with custodian approval*). Plus, high school seniors with a Y.I. StewardAccount can apply for the [Take Heart Scholarship](#) each February, giving them another step toward a bright future. More information on the Take Heart Scholarship is included below.

**Best of all, money invested in a Y.I. account goes directly to serving Lutheran churches and schools—the same churches and schools that want to serve you and your family!**

What child in your life could use a new savings account? Consider opening one for them today.

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

[jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org](mailto: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.

## InterestTime



### SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE

Read about how LCEF is supporting the church by subscribing to *Interest Time*, our **award winning** magazine.

Go to [interesttime.org](http://interesttime.org) to get started.



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EXTENSION FUND  
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS. TOGETHER IN FAITH.



## 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.



Concordia Lutheran Church,  
Hoisington



Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Holton



St. Peter Lutheran Church,  
Holyrood

# DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

### 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 5** Floor Committees Week-end (District office, Topeka)
- April 5** LERT meeting, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)
- April 6-8** "Take Heart" Commissioned Minister DOXOL-OGY Retreat (Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, KS)
- April 7** Convention Planning meeting, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

### APRIL

- April 13** Palm Sunday
- April 17** Maundy Thursday (District office closes at 2 p.m.)
- 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-MAY

- 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** 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, 5-7 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- 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 19** Convention Planning meeting, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- May 26** Memorial Day (District office closed)




## 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://lflofkansas.org/essay-contest>. Please encourage the youth of your churches and schools to participate!

Students are to submit their essay entries to [secretary@lflofkansas.org](mailto:secretary@lflofkansas.org) by or before March 15. Please submit essays digitally using Microsoft Word format.



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 is speaker and teacher Renee Gibbs, who will lead a study over 1 Thessalonians. Visit <https://kslcms.org> to register and find a schedule. Registration closes on March 19.



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.





Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Hoxie



St. Peter's Lutheran Church,  
Humboldt



Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Hunter

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Stephanie.Hovland@lcms.org).

## 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 22-25 - 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.





Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson



Zion Lutheran Church & School, Independence



Grace Lutheran Church, Iola

# AROUND THE DISTRICT



The LWML group of Calvary, Wellington, on January 12 collected requested cleaning supplies to support recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene devastated North Carolina. The supplies were packed in five-gallon buckets, also needed for clean up, and will be distributed through Orphan Grain Train (OGT). OGT is working with Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Asheville, NC, which is a distribution and feeding center for volunteers and families.



Becky Hillman, a teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Cheney, was presented the 2025 KAIRS Distinguished Lutheran Teacher of the Year Award on February 10, at the KAIRS awards banquet held at the Ramada in Topeka. Pictured with Becky is Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive for Congregational & School Services. *Congratulations!*

## 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 / Missions / LCEF

**Shannon Fender**

Administrative Assistant  
Business Office / Stewardship

**Miriam Wehling**

Youth Ministry Coordinator & School Services Assistant

### CONTACT US

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### COORDINATORS

**Rev. Mark Boxman**

Campus Ministry Coordinator

**Dr. Patti Hoffman**

School Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Ian Kinney**

Life Coordinator

**Lottie Lee**

Professional Development Coordinator

**Jane Limback**

Accreditation

**Amy Schultz**

Early Childhood Consultant

**Donna Williams**

Disaster Response Coordinator