



2025 Kansas District Convention

June 5-6 | Salina, Kansas

April 2, 2025

Dear Convention Delegates:

The 2025 Kansas District Convention will be held June 5-6 at the Tony's Pizza Event Center under the theme "Abiding in the Word," based on John 8:31-32. Rev. Benjamin Ball, Second Vice-President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Senior Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Hamel, Ill., will preach for our worship service on Thursday evening. Rev. Ball will give the Synod report on Friday. We are looking forward to this special opportunity for our congregations, ministries, and workers to engage in our common work as a district of the LCMS.

The convention will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 6. **Check-in begins Thursday at 8:00 a.m.** You can find more details about the convention schedule in the [Convention Workbook](#) which is now available on the 2025 convention webpage, <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/2025-convention/>.

Please read the following information in this letter carefully, as it provides details about next steps and what to expect at the convention.

Special note to lay delegates: You are receiving this letter because we have your name on file as the lay delegate for your congregation. If you are NOT serving as your congregation's lay delegate, please send an email to ksdconvention@kslcms.org as soon as possible. Include your name and congregation, and if known, the name of the person who *will* be serving. If you don't know who the lay delegate is, we will contact the church directly. The alternate delegate will need to complete an Alternate Delegate Form, available on the [convention webpage](#).

DELEGATE INFORMATION FORM

All delegates need to register emergency contact and dietary restrictions online. You can access a link to the short information form on the convention webpage, <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/2025-convention/>. Please register no later than **May 15, 2025**. Check-in tables will be located outside the main Convention room and will open Thursday morning, June 5, at 8:00 a.m. Check-in should be completed by 9:30 a.m. to allow time to find your assigned table and be seated before the convention opens at 10:00 a.m.

ADVISORY DELEGATES

Synod Bylaw 4.2.3 (2023 Handbook) states: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod within the district shall serve as advisory delegates.

- (a) They are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if appointed, and to voice in the convention.
- (b) All advisory members are expected to attend all sessions of the convention.
- (c) Those advisory members whose office in the Synod, district, or other agency imposes professional or service requirements on which full and regular convention attendance makes undue demands, shall nevertheless, in consultation with their supervisory boards, arrange for their own partial or occasional attendance and participation in accordance with policies established by their supervisory boards.

An Excused Absence Request Form for Synod-rostered ministers, ordained and commissioned, is available on the [convention webpage](#). If you are not able to attend the convention, this form must be completed and submitted to the District President.

CONVENTION WORKBOOK

The [Convention Workbook](#) is available online on the convention webpage in pdf format. Please download a copy of the workbook to your personal computer. Wi-Fi may not be readily available; therefore, the link may be unavailable in the convention room. If you are unable to download the document, please call Tami Lierz at (785) 357-4441, ext. 5001. Voting delegates: If you are unable to attend, please pass on all materials to the alternate delegate.

FLOOR COMMITTEES

Convention floor committees will meet on April 5, 2025, at the District Office in Topeka to review overtures that have been submitted. Open hearings for the floor committees will be Thursday, June 5, from 9:00-9:45 a.m. at the event center.

PLENARY SPEAKER

This year's convention speaker is Rev. William Weedon, Assistant Pastor and Catechist of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Hamel, Ill. Rev. Weedon previously served as Director of Worship and Chaplain for the LCMS. He is the author of the books *Celebrating the Saints*, *Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey* and *See My Savior's Hands*. He also hosts the podcast, *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever*. Rev. Weedon holds a Master of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. In his presentation to the convention, Rev. Weedon will explore the following: "If you abide in my Word..." Our Lord Jesus has given us His Word (all of it!) to be our home, the place where we live. It is our "Father's house" in this foreign land, where we may learn who we are, why we're here, where we're headed, and even enjoy here and now a taste of those coming joys. Satan is no dummy. He knows that when God's baptized people truly live in and from the Word, they know the truth that sets them free from his tyranny. His aim is always to have some other story inhabit them, and to have them inhabit some other story. He doesn't much care what that other story is, provided it is not God's Word. To defeat the devil's schemes the Church knows she must never move an inch from God's Word but let it fill her heart, her mind, her imagination, inspire her song and shape her will. It's truly the greatest gift that God has ever given to the children of men. For in it we find our true home, a home we will never lose. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will never pass away."

You can find more information about Rev. Weedon and his presentation in the [Convention Workbook](#).

CONVENTION WORSHIP SERVICE & OFFERING

The convention worship service is Thursday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Hall of the Event Center. Trinity Lutheran Church of Salina is the host congregation. The convention offering, received at the worship service, aligns with the convention theme of "Abiding in the Word." The offering will be designated to providing "*Theological Education Books for our Kansas District Lutheran Schools*" and "*Theological Education in West Africa – Books, Materials, and Visiting Professors.*"

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

The President's Reception will be Thursday evening, June 5, immediately following the convention worship service in the Event Center. Delegates and guests will have the opportunity to greet President Panzer and his family. The 2023 LCMS Convention passed Resolution 6-09, "To Recognize and Honor the Pastor's Wife." June 13 is the 500th wedding anniversary of Martin and Katharina Luther. In honor of this anniversary and in the spirit of keeping the resolution, we will honor the anniversaries of our Kansas District church workers with cake and punch. Everyone is invited to join us at the President's Reception following the service to celebrate the occasion.

MEALS

Several meals are included in your convention registration, including lunch on Thursday, a continental breakfast on Friday, and lunch on Friday. Meals are for registered delegates only; due to budget and space limitations, we cannot accommodate family or guests. Thursday night dinner is on your own.

CONVENTION OFFERING

The 2025 Kansas District Convention offering is being designated to "Supporting Theological Education." There are 15 Lutheran Schools (Elementary and High School) in the Kansas District, and the Kansas

District is celebrating its 28th year of partnership with the West Africa mission in 2025. The Board of Directors has set a goal of raising \$24,000 for the Convention Offering or \$1500 per the 16 receiving entities to go towards the support of “Theological Education Books for our Kansas District Lutheran Schools” and “Theological Education – Books, Materials, Visiting Professors” in West Africa. Thank you for your prayers and generous support!

EXHIBIT ROOM

All exhibitors will be in the lobby area of the Event Center. Exhibits are tentatively scheduled to be open from 8:00 a.m. through the President’s Reception on Thursday and 7:15 a.m. through lunch on Friday. Delegates are encouraged to visit the exhibit area during lunches and breaks but should make every effort to remain in the convention hall during sessions.

LODGING – HOTEL OPTIONS IN SALINA

Four blocks of rooms have been reserved for the convention. Location and contact information are included below. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations at whichever hotel you prefer. The room block reference at all the hotels is “2025 Kansas Lutheran Convention.” The cut-off date for contracted rates and room availability varies with each hotel and is also included below.

<p>Comfort Inn & Suites \$119/night plus tax 715 W. Schilling Road Salina, KS 67401 (785) 404-6944 <i>Book before May 18, 2025</i></p>	<p>Best Western Plus \$110/night plus tax 745 Schilling Road Salina, KS 67401 (785) 493-9800 <i>Book before May 20, 2025</i></p>	<p>Super 8 \$95/night plus tax 705 W. Schilling Road Salina, KS 67401 (785) 404-2771 <i>Book before May 20, 2025</i></p>	<p>Country Inn & Suites \$95/night plus tax 2760 S. 9th Street Salina, KS 67401 (785) 502-8062 <i>Book before June 1, 2025</i></p>
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CELL PHONES & LAPTOPS

Cell phones will be permitted in the Event Center; however, we ask that you set the notification to vibrate or on silent. Direct your family and ministries to use the Event Center number (785) 826-7200 as an emergency contact number. Callers should mention they are with the Kansas District LCMS Convention. **Laptops are permitted on the convention floor; however, no electrical connections and limited Wi-Fi connections will be available.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to make an announcement or need to locate a delegate, please see one of the District staff or stop by the check-in table in the foyer.

RESTROOMS & VENDING

Restrooms and vending machines are located in the Event Center lobby area on the first and second floors.

POST-CONVENTION: DELEGATES AS LIAISONS

We are inviting lay delegates to continue their service throughout the triennium, acting as a liaison between the District and their congregation (consistent with LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2.2, which notes that voting delegates serve three-year terms). This service is voluntary, but we are hoping for widespread participation. You can find details about the job of liaison on the back page of this letter.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Visit the [convention webpage](#), send us an email at ksdconvention@kslcms.org, or call the District Office at (785) 357-4441.

We pray that God’s blessings be with you as we assemble in June in the name of the Holy Trinity, with the prayer that our time together in worship, study, and deliberation will deepen our commitment to Christ’s mission, inform our newly elected leaders, and guide us into the future for which God’s Spirit is already preparing us.

DELEGATES AS LIAISONS

Who: Lay delegates to the 2025 Kansas District Convention.

What: Delegates will serve (voluntarily) throughout the triennium as liaisons between the Kansas District and their congregation, similar to Synod convention delegates. (See Synod bylaw below.)

Why: To strengthen the LCMS network in Kansas.

Benefits:

- Increases congregational knowledge of District and Synod resources and activities available to support their ministry.
- Increases communication during the triennium between the District and congregations.
- Supports the pastor, who is often the sole conduit of information about District business.
- Identifies a District “go-to” person in the congregation for parishioners who have questions or need to get in touch with District staff.
- Parallels the Synod’s practice with their delegates.

Liaison Responsibilities:

- Stay informed about District resources and activities (e.g., subscribe and read the monthly newsletter *Workers Together*, be familiar with the District website, <https://kslcms.org/>).
- Check in with the pastor regularly about news of interest to the congregation.
- Report information to the congregation (e.g., the church newsletter; reporting at a meeting; forwarding information to appropriate boards or committees).
- Assist parishioners with making connections with the District (e.g., informing them where they can send congregational news items).
- Attend the circuit forum (typically held in the fall prior to the District convention).

Time Commitment: Minimal (an hour or two per quarter).

Next Steps

- At the convention, we will confirm our list of congregational liaisons. If you are willing to serve, we will check your name, confirm your email address, and ask for permission to add your name to the District mailing list.
- If you would like to conclude your service after the convention, we would welcome your suggestions for alternates who would be willing to serve as a liaison for your congregation in 2025-2028.
- After the convention, the District Office will contact liaisons to confirm their participation and get them started.

Synod Reference: Bylaw 3.1.2.2

Voting delegates shall serve a three-year term beginning with the convention, shall function as advisory members of the circuit forum, shall serve as resource persons in the circuit, and shall assist in the dissemination and implementation of resolutions of the Synod in the circuit.

- (a) Delegates are responsible to the circuits they represent and shall attempt to discover the sentiment of the members thereof.
- (b) Congregations shall not require their delegates to vote in accordance with specific instructions, but every delegate shall be permitted to vote according to his or her own conviction.
- (c) Delegates are expected to be faithful in attendance at all sessions of the convention. All duly elected voting delegates shall attend all sessions regularly until the close of the convention. Delegates who arrive late or leave early or who do not attend at all shall present a written excuse.
- (d) Delegates shall report the actions of the Synod to their circuits after each convention, preferably appearing before each of the congregations they represent.