



MONTHLY KANSAS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WORKERS TOGETHER

MAY 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 Holy Spirit at Work in West Africa

Construction was completed on the two main seminary buildings in Guinea. Six students are currently enrolled in the pastoral program for the 2024-2025 academic year at the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques (CLET) Guinea seminary. This is the first year of classes with the students using the newly constructed seminary buildings and campus grounds.

An abundance of mission work is taking place in Guinea and West Africa, and there is still much to be done! Please consider participating in this year's Pentecost Offering, and supporting the great work being accomplished.

More information about the 2025 Pentecost Offering is found on Page 5.

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Kansas District Convention



2025 Call Day



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



"While [Jesus] blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God."

(Luke 24:51-53)

**1 On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of mine ascension,
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well
I know his members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.**

**2 Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall rest in him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.
(LSB 492, On Christ's Ascension I Now Build, Sts. 1-2)**

Ascension Day is always on a Thursday 40 days after Easter (Acts 1:3). This year, it falls on May 29. The bodily ascension of

Christ back to the right hand of His Father is one of great joy. Why? Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus guarantees that our salvation is complete and secure. Hebrews 1:3b, *"After making purification for sins, [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."*

Jesus now rules the world for the sake of His Church. Ephesians 1:20, 22, *"[God the Father] seated [Christ] at his right hand in the heavenly places ... And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church."*

Jesus is praying for us. Romans 8:34, *"Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."*

Finally, Jesus is still present with us. Matthew 28:20b, *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Yes, our salvation is complete

and secure in Christ. He is King over all things for the sake of His Church. He is now interceding for us before the throne of His Father. And, He is with us now in Word and Sacrament to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith. Worship this Christ on Ascension Day. After all, it is one of the major festivals of the Church Year!

"For in Him the divine and the human nature are personally united with one another, so that in Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Col. 2:9, and in this personal union have such a sublime, intimate, ineffable communion that even the angels are astonished at it, and, as St. Peter testifies, have their delight and joy in looking into it [1 Pet. 1:12]; all of which will shortly be explained in order and somewhat more fully." (Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord, VIII 30)



St. Luke's Lutheran Church & Preschool,
Manhattan



Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion



Good Shepherd Lutheran School Association,
Marysville

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

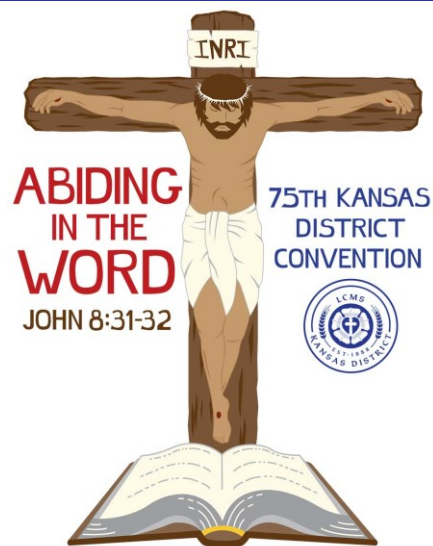
Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's May Travel Schedule

- May 4** Preach at Christ
(Topeka)
- May 8-9** Board of Directors
at the District of-
fice (Topeka)
- May 17** Installation of Rev.
Rick Schneider at
Redeemer
(Atwood)
- May 18** Preach at St.
John's (Lincolnville)

Welcome to Kansas!

2025 Call Day services were held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) in late April. The Kansas District was blessed to receive **two pastoral candidates, two deaconesses, and two vicars.**



The 75th Kansas District Convention will meet **June 5-6** in Salina under the theme of "Abiding in the Word" based on John 8:31-32. **Rev. Benjamin Ball**, Second Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will be the Synod guest. **Rev. William Weedon**, host of the podcast *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever*, will be the plenary speaker.

The Convention Workbook, the Delegate Emergency/Special Need Form, and the Delegate Cover Letter are available on the District website: <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/2025-convention>.

The Delegate Cover Letter was also mailed out. Please note in the letter relevant information including the Convention Offering, meals, worship service, and lodging. For questions visit the Convention webpage, email ksdconvention@kslcms.org or call the District office at 785-357-4441.



Ryan Milbrath (CSL) is the vicar to Zion, Linn.



Robert Choate (CSL) is the associate pastoral candidate to Bethany, Overland Park.



Matthew Vathauer (CSL) is the associate pastoral candidate to St. Paul, Clay Center.



Lara McComack (CSL) is the deaconess candidate to Calvary, Topeka.



Alyssa Choate (CSL) is the deaconess candidate to Bethany, Overland Park.



Jonah Wilson (CSL) is the vicar to Beautiful Savior, Olathe.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. James Bender, Candidate to Our Savior, Kansas City – **pending**

Rev. Richard Bridgman, Faith, Appleton, WI to Messiah, Emporia – **pending**

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

Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL to Christ, Topeka – **pending**

Rev. Jeffrey Proctor, Hacienda Heights, CA to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **declined**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Rick Schneider, St. Paul, Ronan, MT to Redeemer, Atwood – **installation Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.**

Rev. Shawn Fenske, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, MI to Holy Cross, Wichita (senior) – **accepted, installation pending**

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Teacher Corrie Clatt, Calvary, Kansas City to Redeemer, Olathe – **pending**

Principal David Beikmann, Linn Lutheran School to Zion Lutheran Church and School, Pierce, NE – **accepted**

Deaconess Candidate Alyssa Choate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Bethany, Overland Park – **commissioning and installation pending**

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

Teacher Christina Heiss, Holy Cross, Cary, IL to Hope, Shawnee – **accepted, installation Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025**

DCE Olivia Johnson, Concordia, Nebraska to Lord of Life, Leawood – **accepted, installation Sunday, May 11, 2025**

Teacher Amy Kutz, Candidate, Wendell, NC to Holy Cross, Wichita – **declined**

Deaconess Candidate Lara McComack, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Calvary, Topeka – **commissioning and installation Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Chanute, Zion (sole)

Dodge City, Holy Cross (sole)

Emporia, Messiah (sole)

Hanover, Trinity (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

Kansas City, Our Saviour (sole)

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

Palmer, St. John (sole)

Phillipsburg, First (sole)

Shawnee, Trinity (associate)

Topeka, Christ (sole)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

**Congregations /
Schools Facebook
Prayer List**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Cheney, St. Paul's (Teacher)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Principal) (Teacher)

Linn, Linn Lutheran (Teacher – 7th and 8th grades)

Olathe, Redeemer (Early Childhood Director)

Overland Park, Christ (DCE) (Teacher – 6th grade)

Shawnee, Hope (Teacher – Math / Science)

Topeka, Calvary (Deaconess)

Topeka, St. John's Classical (Teacher)

Wichita, Holy Cross (Teacher – 2nd grade)

MAY PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ♦ **Family and friends of Elmer Schulz**, father of Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, pastor emeritus. Elmer entered his heavenly rest April 28, 2025.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Marilyn Mease**, mother of Rev. Rocky Mease, pastor emeritus. Marilyn entered her heavenly rest April 9, 2025.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Rev. Howard Patten**, former Kansas District President. Rev. Patten entered his heavenly rest April 2, 2025.
- ♦ **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.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ♦ Kevin Adams | ♦ Rev. Dean Christ | ♦ Carrie Meyers |
| ♦ Rev. Richard Andrus | ♦ Rev. Sarge Fritz | ♦ Rev. Kevin Peterson |
| ♦ Simon Begley | ♦ Sven Goodroad | ♦ Lori Reed |
| ♦ Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer | ♦ Cindy Hammons | ♦ Paul Schmidt |
| | ♦ Rev. David McCloskey | ♦ Rev. Gary Wolf |

Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ♦ **Rev. Andy and Rebekah Wright** (daughter Vera Augustana, April 10).
- ♦ **Rev. Magdiel and Megan Fajardo** (son Zechariah Reid, March 26).

- | | |
|--|--|
| ♦ King of Kings Lutheran Church & Open Arms Child Development Center, Gardner – May 5 | Aliceville – May 12 |
| ♦ St. John Lutheran Church, | ♦ Trinity Lutheran Church, Caney – May 19 |
| | ♦ Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence – May 27 |

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Pentecost Offering



Jesus Door-2-Door



Kansas District Scholarships



LCMS U Staff Conference



Pictured are CLET-Guinea seminary students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

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 CLET-Guinea seminary, as well as the provision of Lutheran education and resources to the people of Guinea and West Africa.

Pentecost Offering: June 8

Other West Africa updates include reports of The Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone celebrating new seminary graduates; a growing number of seminarians and deaconess trainees currently being trained at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ghana, and seminary students at the Jonathan Ekong Memorial Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria manage a fish farm for their own meals, to increase support from the LCMS.

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

Give to the 2025 Pentecost Offering

- ♦ **Give** during your church's offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.
- ♦ **Donate online** by visiting <https://kslcms.org/donate> (choose "Pentecost Offering" from the dropdown fund menu.)
- ♦ **Mail a check** with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104).

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:

"The time, effort, and finances that you contribute to the District – which surely involve personal sacrifices – help to maintain a remarkable, interwoven

community of support within the LCMS, without which myself and many others would never be able to pursue our callings and dreams. You are truly indispensable, and I pray our Father will continue to provide for the LCMS and the Kansas District, give you endurance through the challenges of your work, bless your families, and give you wisdom in the stewardship with which you are entrusted."

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](#).



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church,
Marysville



Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland



Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson



St. John Lutheran Church, Meade

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' May Travel Schedule

May 4 Preach at Our
Saviour

(Kansas City,
Kan.)

May 13 Circuits 13, 15,
16 Winkel at
Messiah (Hays)



Jesus Door-2-Door

On Saturday, April 26, **Trinity Lutheran Church in Holton** hosted a Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) event, where seven individuals from two LCMS congregations gathered. A Bible study over Proverbs 18:1-16 was discussed, and afterwards the group broke into three teams to canvass an area of Holton. Altogether, the groups knocked on 63 doors. 25 people answered the door, and 22 of them agreed to take the survey. Eight people (36%) who took the survey were unchurched. Only 10 (45%) were confident of their salvation because of what Jesus did for them.

Contact **Rev. Timothy Koch** (pastor of Zion, Linn) to schedule a JD2D event, revtimkoch@gmail.com. You can also visit jd2d.org to learn more.

LCMS Campus Ministry Staff Conference

The LCMS U Campus Ministry Staff Conference will be held **May 28-30, 2025**, at Concordia University Irvine (CUI) in Irvine, Calif.

Under the theme "Baptized: Identity and Vocation in Campus Life," the conference will feature plenary presentations by Rev. Dr. Scott Stiegemeyer, Rev. Dr. David Loy, and Rev. Dr. Oesch.

This conference is for pastors, DCEs, deaconesses and others who are leading campus ministries in the LCMS.

There is no fee to attend. Lunch and dinner on May 28 and 29 as well as lunch on May 30 are included at no charge. The conference capacity is 70 participants.

Visit <https://calendar.lcms.org/lcms-u-campus-ministry-staff-conference-2025> to register and find a schedule and more information.



Revs. Joel Hiesterman, David Gruoner and Dean Christ (pictured 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.

KANSAS DISTRICT MISSION ADVOCATES

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.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Youth Ministry



Kansas Lutheran Schools
Scholarship Foundation
(KLSSF)



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

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 closed. Visit the LVR page on the District website for more details, <https://kslcms.org/lvr>. For questions contact **DCE Beth Counts** (Trinity, Mission and Shawnee) at beth@tlcms.org.

Fall Confirmation Retreat

CONFIRMATION RETREAT



WATER DOES GREAT THINGS

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior

The middle school Fall Confirmation Retreat will be held **October 3-4, 2025**, at Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City. This retreat is designed for youth in grades 5-8 and their adult leaders. The theme for this year's Confirmation Retreat is "**Baptism**."

Visit the Confirmation Retreat page on the District website for more details, <https://kslcms.org/confirmation-retreat>.

For questions, please contact **Rev. Christian Schultz** (First, Paola) at flcpastor1921@gmail.com or by phone 785-313-4633.



Trinity Lutheran Church, Medicine Lodge



Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Shawnee

EDUCATION & YOUTH



KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation provides life-changing scholarships to eligible students, 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 9)



St. John Lutheran Church, Nashville



Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma



Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Netawaka



Zion Lutheran Church &
Preschool, Newton

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 to <https://klssf.org>. 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>

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



Older Adult 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.



Saints Alive After 55 Conference

The 2025 Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55) Conference will be held **July 13-14, 2025**, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina (111 W. Magnolia Road, Salina, KS 67401).

The keynote speaker is **Lisa Hellyer**, Senior Ministry Advancement Counselor for Lutheran Hour Ministries. The Bible study leader is **Rev.**

Quentin Nuttmann, Senior Pastor of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson.

Registration cost is \$50, and registration closes on June 30. Visit the Kansas District homepage <https://kslcms.org> to register and find a schedule.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

A mental illness is a condition that affects a person's thinking, feeling, behavior or mood. These conditions deeply impact day-to-day living and may also affect the ability to relate to others. Mental health conditions are far more common than you think: 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness each year, and 1 in 6 youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorders each year.

A mental health condition is not the result of one event. Research suggests multiple, linking causes including genetics, environment, and lifestyle contribute to someone developing a mental health condition. A stressful job or home life makes some people more susceptible, as do traumatic life events. Biochemical processes, circuits, and basic brain structure may play a role, too.

A treatment team can develop a well-rounded and integrated recovery plan that may include counseling, medications, support groups, education programs and other strategies that work for you. A primary physician can make a referral to an appropriate counselor.

Learn more by visiting <https://www.nami.org/about-mental-illness/mental-health-conditions/>.

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

2025 Church Worker 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!

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

LCEF's goal is to meet your congregations where they are at and to meet their needs, both immediate and long-term.

You may know that LCEF offers [large construction and renovation loans](#), but did you know we offer smaller loans designed specifically for immediate needs?

Have a leaky roof? Broken organ? Need new carpet? LCEF's [Ministry Improvement Loan](#) may be just what your church needs.

The Ministry Improvement Loan is ideal for repairs, upgrades and enhancements that create a welcoming and functional space for your congregation and visitors. Enjoy features like:

- ♦ Interest-only payments for the first two years
- ♦ Funding up to \$150,000
- ♦ Quick approval process for most unsecured loans

If you find yourself needing a quick fix with a trusted partner, please reach out. I would love to see if an [LCEF Ministry Improvement Loan](#) is what your congregation needs.



Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org

785-230-4112

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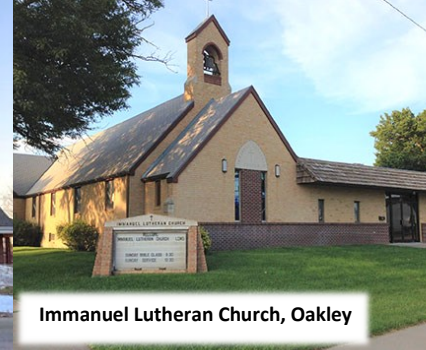
Please visit the LCEF website <https://lcef.org/term-notes> to see all current rates.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton



St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oakley

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

MAY

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)
June 30 Convention debrief meeting, 12-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
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 (Christ the King, Salina)
July 19-23 LCMS Youth Gathering (New Orleans, La.)

July 29 New Worker Orientation, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (location TBD)

AUG. - SEPT.

August 5 Older Adult Ministry meeting, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
August 7 President's Council, 1-5 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
August 7-8 Board of Directors, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
August 23 Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
Sept. 1 Labor Day (District office closed)
Sept. 5-14 LLL/LHM booth at Kansas State Fair (Hutchinson)

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 Lee-Anna 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.

Prof Insights Workshop: Messiah, Hays

There will be a Prof Insights Faculty-Led Workshop held **August 4-6, 2025**, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays (2000 Main Street, Hays, KS 67601). The theme of the course is "The Apocrypha: Origins, Import and Use Among Lutherans." The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. John Genter**, associate professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE). Topics include the origins and content of the Apocrypha, early Christian views on the status of these books and their usage among Lutherans.

Click on the provided link to register and for more information: <https://www.csl.edu/prof-insights-genter-in-hays-ks>. The cost is \$150, which includes Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits for pastors. The registration deadline is July 21.

If you have any questions please contact **Rev. Michael Schmidt** (pastor of Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville) at revschmidt@yahoo.com.



LLL Booth at the State Fair!

The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries will sponsor a booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, **September 5-14** in the Meadowlark Exhibition Hall. There will also be a worship service at the Peoples Bank and Trust Arena at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 7, with **Rev. C.J. Luttinen** preaching (senior pastor of Risen Savior, Wichita). Volunteers are needed to work at the booth greeting visitors and sharing Christian materials, including *Portals of Prayer*, *My Devotions*, LHM resources, and gifts for children.

Contact **Mike Tonn** at 316-640-3918 or tonn.mike@yahoo.com if you and your congregation can provide Christian materials and serve as volunteers.



St. John's Lutheran Church, Oberlin



Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & Preschool, Olathe

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.

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

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.





Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Olathe

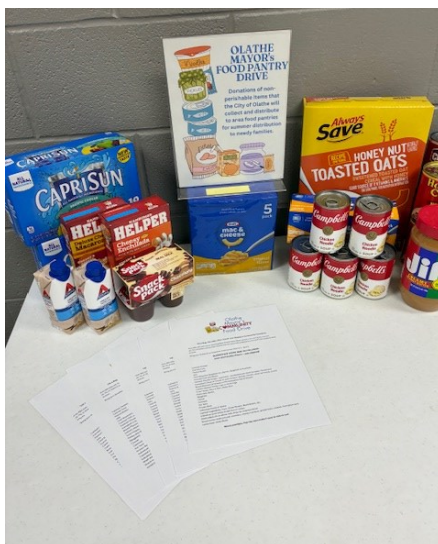


St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Oswego



Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool,
Ottawa

AROUND THE DISTRICT



On Saturday, April 26, members of **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence** served at the O'Connell Youth Ranch by doing yard cleanup, weeding, and fence clearing!

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Olathe participated in five weeks of *Faith at Work*, with four successful projects. Rev. David Kahle served as Redeemer's *Faith at Work* mascot!

- ◆ Redeemer, Olathe supplied 57 Units of blood to the Red Cross (*this saves up to 141 lives!*)
- ◆ Church members loaded two cars from top to bottom with diapers/wipes for LFCS.
- ◆ Many cards of well-wishes and a monetary gift were sent to seminarian Craig Wenzlick (*he received his convertible vicarage in late April.*)
- ◆ Redeemer members provided 54 bags of groceries, one case of Cheez-its, one case of popcorn, and four flats of canned items to the Olathe Mayor's Food Drive.

Faith at Work Additional Highlights

- ◆ On April 25, **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hutchinson** hosted a blood drive and served a free meal to the local community.
- ◆ On Palm Sunday, April 13, the members of **Bethany Lutheran Church in Overland Park** gathered between services to assemble 510 Hygiene Kits benefiting Orphan Grain Train!
- ◆ On April 6, **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Topeka** had an intergenerational event where one child or youth was paired with an adult and together made a craft, colored a card, and filled a gift bag with baby items. Members assembled 30 bags and delivered them to the Lifeline Women's Resource Center in Topeka. The bags will be given to new and expectant mothers.
- ◆ Seventh and eighth graders from **Hope Lutheran School in Shawnee** sorted and bagged vegetables at Harvesters Food Bank in Kansas City, Mo.



On Wednesday, April 30, members of **Trinity Lutheran Church in Atchison** helped move children's clothing and toys at the Pregnancy Resource Center of Atchison. The group also donated diapers and wipes to the center.



Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola



Trinity Lutheran Church, Parsons



First Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg

AROUND THE DISTRICT



The annual **Pastors' Wives Retreat** was held March 21-22 at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington.

The keynote presenter was speaker and teacher Renee Gibbs, who led a Bible study on 1 Thessalonians called "Living in Hope: Eyes on the Goal."



The **Commissioned Minister DOXOLOGY Retreat** was held April 6-8 at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City. The theme was "Take Heart: Renewed to Be a Blessing," and keynote speakers were **Rev. David Fleming**, DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Spiritual Care, and **Dr. Beverly Yahnke**, DOXOLOGY Executive Director for Christian Counsel. This retreat was provided by a church worker care grant from the LCMS Office of National Mission and the Kansas District.

DISTRICT STAFF / COORDINATOR DIRECTORY

STAFF DIRECTORY

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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
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Miriam Wehling

Youth Ministry Coordinator & School
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