



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

May 2025

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

First Quarter Meetings and Events. Events over the first quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, service boards, and various committees; Constitution & Bylaws Committee meetings; Council of Presidents meetings; Church Worker Care Committee and Older Adult Ministry meetings; Urban Kansas City LCMS meeting/church tour; Kansas House of Representatives opening session prayer, and multiple Circuit Winkel visits.

Ordinations and Installations. In the first quarter there was one pastoral installations (Rev. Nathan Harkins, Faith, Abilene – Region 2).

Visits/Travel. In the first quarter President Panzer drove 9,138 miles as he traveled to ordinations, installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the first quarter there were 11 calling congregations in the Kansas District, with 10 churches seeking a sole pastor and one an associate/assistant. Eight call lists were completed in the past quarter.

Congregational & School Services

Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services

Missions and Stewardship. Rev. Grams reported ongoing meetings with the De Soto and Zion, Concordia church plants. There is potential for a church plant in the Spring Hill area. Hispanic ministry has stopped at Trinity in Wichita and First, Sabetha; bi-lingual worship continues with Rev. Daniel Jordan at Immanuel, Kansas City, Kan. Beautiful Savior, Olathe is exploring the possibility of a Hispanic worship service. There was a meeting/church tour with Urban KCK congregations. Between the four congregations, only Immanuel has significant ministry occurring in its space. Combined attendance of all congregations is less than 30 at in-person worship services held twice a month.

2025 Mission Grant Cycle (Preliminary Discussion): Current categories for funds include Church Planting, Congregational Revitalization, Hispanic Ministry, and Campus Ministry. Additional categories include Partnerships, Schools/Early Childhood Centers, and Witness/Outreach Training. There are plans for upcoming Stewardship Workshops around the Kansas District, including June 15 (Mt. Calvary, Marysville); August 23 (Treasurers' Workshop TBA); September 28 (Trinity, Burlington), and TBD (Redeemer, Lawrence).

Lutheran Schools. Rev. Grams attended multiple meetings in the first quarter, including but not limited to: numerous school visits; Fairmount Ministries visit; Linn Lutheran school board meeting; KAIRS Administrators Conference and board meetings; accreditation meetings with Mindy Sanders-Miller and the District Leadership Team; Lutheran Administrators in Kansas City, and the Kansas District Middle School Huddle.

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. Rev. Grams presented some highlights regarding the KLSSF, including \$154,000 available for scholarships. The SGO board officially adopted the bylaws and a mission statement.

Youth Ministry. The KSD Lutheran Valley Retreat is June 1-6. The LCMS Youth Gathering is July 19-23 in New Orleans. The KSD Confirmation Retreat will be held October 4-5 at Rock Springs in Junction City. The KDYG will be held November 14-16 at Rock Springs in Junction City.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Financial Update

- Through March 2025, LCEF Kansas District has a loan of **\$24,351,584**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **3,370** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$68,267,854**.

Loans Approved in Quarter.

Approved 3-4-2025 by BOD email vote.

Resolution 25A-05-01 approves the loan for Trinity Family of Faith in Basehor, KS in the amount up to \$1,500,000. Interest rate at 6.635% adjusted annually over a 25-year term/amortization.

Loans Paid Off in Quarter. None to report.

LCEF Marketing Focus. A term note at LCEF allows you to grow your funds while making a real difference. Choose the term that fits your goals and enjoy peace of mind knowing your investment is supporting LCMS ministries. Start building your financial future and strengthening ministries nationwide—all with one powerful choice.

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

Human Resources/Personnel. The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for 14 call documents and planning scenarios this quarter.

District Office. The kitchen floor was replaced, and the new dishwasher was installed. Awnings damaged in a windstorm were repaired. Projects are pending for the elevator, outdoor light, and outdoor stairwell. St. John's Classical School has requested an extension on their lease term for the next school year.

Retreat Center. No significant issues, repairs or improvements this quarter. In anticipation of upcoming projects, new reservations are not being taken after September 1, 2025.

Accounting/Finance. Congregational giving is beyond year-to-date commitments and came in at 27.41% of budget for the first quarter ended. Expenses are reported at 25.57% of budget. There were no LCEF accounts that matured this quarter. Using a 12-quarter rolling market value average, the endowment payout for 2025 is \$63,524 from investment earnings. The District 1/15/25 audit has been extended to 6/30/25. Convention assessments are due from 36 congregations, and the due date is May 15.

Planned Giving. Please encourage your congregations and schools to reach out to the District office for a presentation.

Congregational Treasurer Workshops. For 2025, Heather Williams will be offering Congregational Treasurer Workshops alongside Nebraska District Business Manager, Elijah Luebke. The dates and locations are:

- August 23 – LCMS Kansas District Office, Topeka, KS
- September 12 – Nebraska District Office, Seward, NE
- October 11 – Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, KS
- November 1 – Immanuel, Columbus, NE

Other. Heather Williams has been appointed to be on an Alliance for Defending Freedom (ADF) District Council along with nine representatives from other districts. This is a working relationship between ADF and LCMS to serve, support, and protect LCMS congregations and schools and provide them with the guidance, resources, and education they need. A grant has been submitted to the Bolick Foundation and the hope is to receive a grant of \$20,000 to match the Reformation Offering. If awarded, these dollars will benefit *Faith at Work*, Campus Ministry, and Church Planting.

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Kansas District Website. Website projects this quarter included the 2025 Convention Workbook, Delegate Emergency/Special Need Form, and the Delegate Cover Letter going live on the Convention webpage; 2025 Pentecost Offering materials and updates posted to the Guinea/West Africa webpage; updated the Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) webpage with the registration link and information; added youth ministry pdf fillable forms to the main Youth Ministry webpage; posted the Commissioned Minister DOXOLOGY Retreat registration link and schedule to the homepage; posted the Early Childhood Summer Conference registration link to the homepage; posted the Saints Alive After 55 Conference registration link and schedule to the homepage; updated the 2025 Life Conference page with highlights and photos; updated the Middle School Huddle page with

highlights and photos; posted new information to the LCMS Youth Gathering, KDYG, and Confirmation Retreat webpages; added new Call Day pastoral candidates and vicars to the Call and Vacancies webpage; continue to add new one-year and three-year CAP prayers to the *Congregation at Prayer* webpage.

Workers Together. Highlights from *Workers Together* (WT) publications this past quarter include ongoing worker installations, events/conferences around the District, 2025 Life Conference highlights, 2025 District Convention Nominations Ballot and reminders, Call Day results, KLSSF article and information, upcoming Youth Ministry events, Campus Ministry articles/photos from congregations involved in campus ministry, Ash Wednesday and Pentecost District Offerings, Jesus Door-2-Door highlights, announcements and friendly reminders, and District and Synod available resources.

Lutheran Witness Kansas Insert. Highlights from *Lutheran Witness* inserts this past quarter include ongoing worker installations, President Panzer's State of the District article, Rev. Joshua Woelmer's Lenten article, Rev. Daniel Gram's West Africa article, 2025 District Convention Nominations Ballot and reminders, Jesus Door-2-Door 2024 statistics, District available resources, and upcoming events/conferences around the District.

Monthly Newsletter to School Principals / Lead Teachers. Jackie continues to assemble the monthly newsletter for Kansas District school principals and lead teachers. Included in the newsletter are highlights from educator events/conferences around the District, important announcements and reminders, and monthly articles from TEC21.

2025 District Convention. Jackie edited the Convention Workbook sections, including District reports, nomination profiles, etc. The Convention Workbook and delegate materials are posted on the 2025 Convention webpage, <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/2025-convention>. After the Convention, Jackie will update Convention webpage with election and resolution results; update the Board of Directors and Vice-Presidents/Circuit Visitors webpages with new officer names and photos; prepare the District Convention Report for *LCMS Reporter* and update the triennium strategic plan document and post on the website.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The Board of Missions reviewed the first quarter mission grant reports. Some highlights included Trinity, Mission and Shawnee: KC Hispanic ministry continues with Rev. Daniel Jordan leading bilingual in-person worship at Immanuel, Kansas City, KS; Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA): ICOA continues to serve the Argentine community and support Rev. Jordan's bilingual worship services. Their citizenship class size has increased 3-4 times the normal amount; Beautiful Savior, Olathe: The Fieldstone Apartment Complex Ministry continues, with weekly delivery numbers having increased to 28 families per week, totaling over 100 people; Trinity, Wichita: The main family attending Hispanic services left Trinity. The decision was made to discontinue the Hispanic ministry at Trinity; Christ, Topeka: The Washburn Lutheran Bods started meeting twice a month on campus for Bible study, fellowship and service; Redeemer, Lawrence: The Crimson & Blue Lutheran Crew continues to connect with more students, and five new Lutheran students have joined for worship and events; LCMS U at KSU: A retreat will take place April 25-27 at Rock Springs Ranch, with Rev. Matthew Goltl as the guest speaker; Fairmount Ministries, Wichita: Fairmount Ministries is reaching out to international students through food projects and relationship-building events; Concordia Academy, Wichita (CAW): The park is almost complete, and CAW has participated in some outdoor art events; Risen Savior, Wichita: Risen Savior purchased Life Recovery Bibles and devotionals to distribute to the clients at CrossOver; Lord of Life, Leawood: The new neighbor outreach continues, and there is preparation for the big August "back-to-school" event; Hope, Shawnee: Hope, Shawnee participated in a Jesus Door-2-Door event in February; Christ, Topeka: Early meetings are taking place for the Christ, Topeka Breakfast in Bethlehem event, to be held in December 2025; Trinity, Caney: Early preparations are being made for Christmas Community Outreach, to be held in November 2025; Christ, Manhattan: Members of Christ, Manhattan installed nine raised bed gardens for the unchurched in the local community, with six more to install. There is an average of 10 KSU students attending church on Sunday mornings; St. Paul, Clay Center: The "You Matter" tour will be held on April 23; KansaSEED: More activities are being planned to draw in deaf individuals to learn about Christ.

Church Planting / Revitalization.

Light of the World, De Soto church plant. LOTW is now worshipping in their new storefront location and has a consistent group of around 25 in worship. LOTW is close to accessing grant funds from LCMS.

Zion, Concordia church plant. Sunday worship attendance is getting closer to 50. Zion is progressing towards chartering as an LCMS congregation.

Spring Hill Developments. A preliminary meeting was held with four pastors from Circuit 3S, and an initial review of demographics are favorable for a church plant.

Trinity, Wichita Hispanic Ministry Mission Grant. The Trinity, Wichita mission grant of \$7,000 was unused. Rev. Grams suggested the \$7,000 could be an opportunity for some Wichita pastors to “expand the Hispanic footprint” by traveling to the Dominican Republic to learn Spanish and work with local pastors in leading Hispanic worship services.

Removal of West Africa Mission Committee from District Operations Manual.

Resolution 25B-04-01 – District Operations Manual: Eliminate Committees

- Church Planting Committee
- West Africa Committee

Resolved, that the Board of Missions recommend the West Africa Committee and Church Planting Committee be dissolved and removed from the District Operations Manual.

Preliminary Discussion – 2025 Mission Grants.

It was suggested that a list be created of rural congregations to be reached and encouraged to apply for mission grants this upcoming cycle.

Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

Reports. Rev. Daniel Grams submitted and distributed a written report prior to the meeting. Some aspects of the report were highlighted and formed the basis for discussion along with background for a business item. The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation has accepted applications for the 2024-2025 academic year and is now accepting applications for the coming school year. The accreditation plan submitted by the Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team, which was constituted as part of the KESA 2.0 accreditation process, was accepted by KSDE. The leadership team will review math scores are their first action item in the plan. A number of youth events are being planned and/or implemented: Lutheran Valley Retreat, LCMS Youth Gathering, Confirmation Retreat, and the Kansas District Youth Gathering.

Business. There was a resolution crafted for a Lutheran Schools Committee Restructuring, the rationale being that the Kansas District, as defined in the District Operations Manual (DOM) has a ‘Lutheran Schools Committee’ and a ‘Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team’ has been formed meet the requirements of KESA 2.0. There is substantial, but not complete overlap, in the compositions and activities of these groups. This resolution will amend the DOM to replace the Lutheran Schools Committee with the Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team.

Resolution 25B-03-01: To Replace the Lutheran Schools Committee with the Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the new accreditation model adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education, the Lutheran Schools of Kansas will be accredited as a single school district; and

WHEREAS, the new accreditation model (also known as KESA 2.0), requires the Lutheran Schools of Kansas to form a District Leadership Team for purposes of accreditation; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the District Leadership Team is to include the Superintendent of Schools as well as principals and teachers representing a cross-section of Lutheran schools in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, a Lutheran Schools Committee already exists with a membership that overlaps that of the District Leadership Team; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lutheran Schools Committee be replaced by the Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team shall consist of seven members and three advisory members, as well as representatives from District staff:

1. Four individuals appointed by the District President:
 - a. National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) Commissioner
 - b. State Board of Education Accreditation Coordinator
 - c. Professional Development Coordinator (PDC)

- d. The District Early Childhood Consultant
2. Three principals serving the Lutheran schools of the District, one from each region, elected annually by the business meeting at the District Educators Conference.
 - a. NE Region (Atchison, Leavenworth, Overland Park)
 - b. North-Central (Alma, Linn, Marysville, Topeka)
 - c. Wichita-area (Cheney, Derby, Independence, Wichita, Winfield).
3. Advisory: three teachers serving in a Lutheran school of the District, one from each region (as defined above), who shall be elected annually by the business meeting at the District Educators Conference to serve as advisory members of the District Leadership Team for the purposes of State Board of Education accreditation only.
4. District staff
 - a. Superintendent of Schools
 - b. School Ministry Coordinator.

and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the District Operations Manual be updated as necessary to reflect these changes and presented to the Board of Directors for approval at a future meeting.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Reports. Reports were received from the District Disaster Relief Coordinator, Parish Nurse, the Church Worker Care Committee, Older Adult Ministry, Pastors' Wives, Life Coordinator, and the *Faith at Work* Service Task Force. Regarding *Faith at Work*, as of March 18 there were 40 events registrations and 1,117 T-shirts requested, which is approximately 30% less than last year. Anecdotal evidence from the BOCM members suggested activity could be at least at a level comparable to 2024, even if registrations seem lower. There will be an evaluation survey sent to congregation leaders this summer.

Business. There was a wording change requested in "A Guideline for a Sequence of Disaster Response," which the BOCM moved and approved. The BOD sponsored Retreat Center Task Force continues to review the use and future of the Herington Retreat Center.

Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

Reports. Rev. Daniel Grams reported that he attended the LCMS Steward Leaders Conference held at Messiah Lutheran in Plano, Texas. Phil Krupski presented a study on the word Generous and Carl Vaders, the author of *De-Sizing the Church* presented on how to encourage stewardship for smaller congregations. Rev. Grams felt he will be able to use some ideas here in Kansas. LCEF DVP Jeffrey Maltz reported that investment dollars in Kansas are up, and loans are continuing to be paid off. For the first time in fourteen years, term notes are at a 4% interest rate.

Business. Discussion was held regarding the combining of the Board of Stewardship and Board of Administration. President Panzer prefers to start this in August with the new Board. There are three main reasons for the proposal of this combination:

- These boards have a lot of overlapping duties.
- The Executive Staff has been restructured from four to three.
- This will be helpful for District staff regarding workload.

2025 Budget Review. Heather Williams reported in the first quarter budgeted items are at around 25%. Gift giving is 27.41% of what was predicted; this was the best first quarter in the past three years. Total expenses have come in right at 25.57%.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

The Board of Administration moved, seconded, and passed the following resolutions to go before the Kansas District Board of Directors:

It was moved, seconded, and passed to acknowledge gifts received by the District during the second quarter, from January 16, 2025, to April 15, 2025.

Resolution 25B-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from January 16, 2025, to April 15, 2025, with the designation as follows:

West Africa	\$100.00
Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$12,515.54
Ash Wednesday	\$2,725.00
LERT/Disaster	\$300.00
Education Loan Repayment	\$15.00
Scholarship	\$40,015.00
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$215.00
Planned Giving Endowment	\$20,000.00
Kansas Missions	\$40,000.00
Total	\$115,885.54

Business. Congregational giving is beyond the year-to-date commitments, at 27.41% of budget. Expenses are reported at 25.57% of budget. The 2025 audit has been extended from January 15 to June 30. Convention assessments continue to come in. Heather Williams is planning four Congregational Treasurer Workshops for the late summer and fall along with the Nebraska District Business Manager, with workshops in both states. She has also been appointed to be on Alliance for Defending Freedom (ADF) District Council along with nine representatives from other districts. A grant application was submitted to the Bolick Foundation to receive a grant of \$20,000 to match the KSD Reformation Offering, which will support *Faith at Work*, Campus Ministry, and Church Planting. KSD Board Treasurer Brad Brunkow provided the Kansas District General Strategy of Financial Flows, as updated February 2025. It summarizes how funds coming into the District are allocated (Restricted Funds, Temporarily Restricted Funds, or Operating Budget), and how investments are managed.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee proposed, seconded, and approved the following resolutions to go before the Kansas District Board of Directors:

Resolution 25B-06-01 – Calvary, Wellington

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Calvary, Wellington Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25B-06-02 – Designation of the October 2025 Pastors & Educators Church Joint Worker Conference offering for the Worker Care Fund

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the designation of the October 2025 Pastors and Educators Joint Church Worker Conference offering for the Worker Care Fund.