



## MONTHLY KANSAS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

# WORKERS TOGETHER

JULY 2025

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



## Abiding in the Word

The 75th Kansas District Convention was held **June 5-6** at the Tony's Pizza Event Center 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, was the Synod guest. **Rev. William Weedon**, host of the podcast *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever*, was the plenary speaker.

*Convention photos and election results are found on pages 3-4.*

## Regular Features

President's Office	2-4
Calls & Vacancies / Prayer Requests	5
Missions & Stewardship	6-7
Education & Youth	8-10
Caring Ministry	11
Business Office	12
LCEF	13
District Meetings & Events	14
Synod & Partners	15
Around the District / Staff Directory	16-17

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>God's Work in Campus Ministry</b>	6
Read about Campus Ministry in the Kansas District.	
<b>Saints Alive After 55 Conference</b>	11
The Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55) Conference will be held July 13-14 at Christ the King, Salina.	
<b>LFL-KS Essay Contest Winners</b>	16
Read about the student winners of the Lutherans For Life of Kansas 2025 Essay Contest.	

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Kansas District Convention



Pastoral Installations



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



**“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” (Psalm 100:1-2)**

**Do you like to sing?** Now, I know that not everyone does. Whether or not you have a big, beautiful voice or a small, squeaky, off-beat one, it all sounds beautiful to the Lord. The psalmist directs us to a song that's bold, loud and immediate. **“All the earth”** is invited to participate in this worship which is solely focused and centered on the Lord.

The psalms are songs. They are hymns of praise in prayer-like form that the people of God use to call attention to His wonderful deeds of mercy and love. They are prayers that plead for forgiveness and strength. They are compassionate prayers that ascend to the heavenly throne.

We sing because of God's love shown to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. *Romans 8:31-32, “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”* God has given us everything we need for life and salvation with Him. Now, we are called to join in an anthem of praise and to invite others to hear that Good News as well. We want them to sing the same song of salvation as we do! If we look at ourselves, our life, our pulls and pressures, it's easy to

rationalize and justify neglecting intense and continual praise of the Lord. But the psalm writer moves all those distractions aside.

**The Lord Himself is our reason to praise. He is Yahweh—the Lord—the God of the psalmist and the Father of Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of all the earth, the One who created the times and the seasons for our comfort and pleasure. He is the One who gives us the summer sunshine; the One who made all those beautiful places we visit these lazy summer days.**

Yahweh—the Lord—is our creator. This we know! Now, this word “know” in Hebrew runs far deeper than merely having heard a particular name on a previous occasion. For example, we might make the comment, “Oh, yeah, I *know* such and such” because we've casually met them before. The thought that the psalmist has in mind here is that we “know” Yahweh because we can attach our entire personal

well-being to Him. He has an exclusive claim on us because He is our Creator. We did not come into being by chance. We are not the victims of blind fate, and our existence is not senseless, though at times our hearts may feel it is.

God made you, knows you, and provides for your needs in this life. The time away, the friends and family you're enjoying this summer, and the means to pay for your trip are all gifts from Him. The protection as you travel through the air or on busy highways is by His hand.

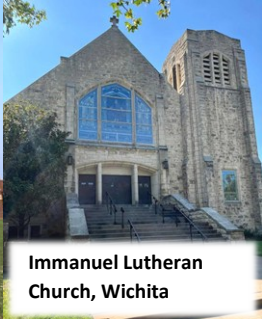
Our distracted summer life in this affluent land is a real faith test, isn't it? Like all tests, it carries with it the risk that we could stumble and fall. But under God, it can be one of those tests that is almost like doing spiritual push-ups; it can be a hurdle that makes us stronger and more devoted than we were before.

**God give us the grace to crawl into the words of Psalm 100, to make those words our own, and to blast our praise to the Lord, whose kindness never ends!**





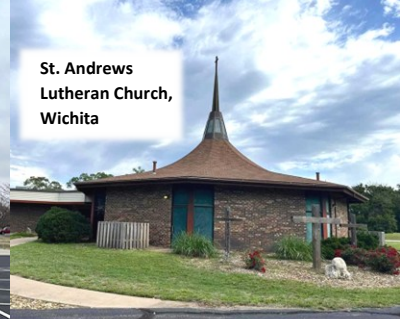
Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School, Wichita



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wichita



Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita



St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Wichita

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## Out and About in Kansas

### President Panzer's July Travel Schedule

- July 6** 150th Anniversary at St. Paul (Duluth)  
Rev. John Werner installation at St. John (Palmer)
- July 13** Rev. Rocky Mease installation at Christ (Overland Park)  
100th Anniversary at Trinity (Hunter)  
Saints Alive After 55 Conference at Christ the King (Salina)
- July 19-21** LCMS Youth Gathering (New Orleans, La.)
- July 27** Rev. Matthew Vathauer installation at St. Paul (Clay Center)
- July 29** New Worker Orientation (Topeka)



**Rev. James Bender** was installed as pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Kan., on Sunday, June 22. From left, (front row) Revs. Jason Boetcher, Jacob Heine, Philip Cook, James Bender, Dan Siedenburgh, Dr. Edward Kettner, Thomas Krause, Justin Panzer; (back row) Revs. John Kastner, Daniel Grams, Thomas Harries, Jacob Mueller, Robert Weinkauff and Zachariah Burgdorf.



**Above left:** Rev. Benjamin Ball, LCMS Second Vice-President, presents at the Convention.

**Above right:** The installation of Rev. Justin Panzer, Kansas District President.

**Left:** The installation of newly elected LCMS Kansas District officers.

The 75th Kansas District Convention was held **June 5-6** at the Tony's Pizza Event Center in Salina, under the theme of "Abiding in the Word" based on John 8:31-32.

There were 43 officers elected to serve in the Kansas District for the 2025-2028 triennium. 24 resolutions were passed, including two omnibus resolutions.

**We thank and praise God for all who helped to lead and organize this gathering of believers!**





Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Wichita



Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Winfield

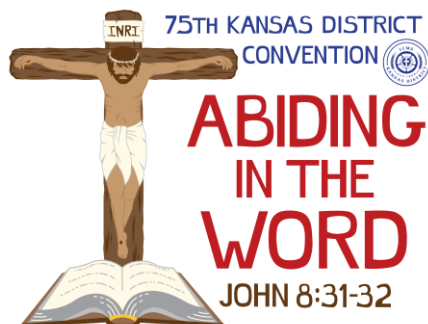


Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene



St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



## Convention Election Results

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

The 75th Kansas District Convention Resolutions are available on the Convention webpage, on the District website <https://kslcms.org/2025-convention>. The Convention Business, Workbook, and Commemoration of the Faithfully Departed video are also available on the webpage. For questions, please email [ksdconvention@kslcms.org](mailto:ksdconvention@kslcms.org).

### ◆ PRESIDENT

Rev. Justin Panzer – Christ, Manhattan

### ◆ VICE-PRESIDENTS (4)

#### First Vice-President

Rev. Alan Stahlecker – St. John, Lincolnville (Region 2)

#### Second Vice-President

Rev. Michael Hageman – Trinity, Garden City (Region 4)

#### Third Vice-President

Rev. Michael Schotte – St. Paul, Preston (Region 3)

#### Fourth Vice-President

Rev. Andrew Wehling – Immanuel, Lawrence (Region 1)

### ◆ SECRETARY

Rev. Joshua Woelmer – Trinity, Paola

### ◆ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (3)

Christopher Dehning – Trinity, Winfield  
Rachel Goodpasture – Trinity, Atchison  
Deac. Bethany Stoeber – Immanuel, Hepler and Good Shepherd, Erie

#### REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

##### Region 1

David Bruns – Christ, Overland Park

##### Region 2

Dr. Bruce Schultz – St. John, Alma

##### Region 3

Curtis Engelbrecht – Trinity, Wichita

### Region 4

Mark Wolters – Redeemer, Atwood

#### LAY MEMBERS AT LARGE

Scott Bokelman – Zion, Linn  
Marvin Schulteis – Redeemer, Lawrence  
Kara Titus – Christ, Manhattan

### ◆ DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

#### CLERGY (3; no two from same region)

Rev. Ed Mease – Emeritus (Region 3)  
Rev. Michael Schmidt – Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville (Region 4)  
Rev. Andrew Wehling – Immanuel, Lawrence (Region 1)

#### COMMISSIONED MINISTER (1 position)

Sue Kleber – Holy Cross, Wichita

#### REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS (4; one from each region)

Michael Bachelor – First, Sabetha (Region 1)  
Jay Meyer – Trinity, Garden City (Region 4)  
Daniel Snyder – Immanuel, Wichita (Region 3)  
Stephen Weller – Grace, McPherson (Region 2)

### ◆ SYNOD CONVENTION NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

#### DELEGATE and ALTERNATE (church worker, ordained or commissioned)

(Delegate) Rev. Daniel Grams – Beautiful Savior, Olathe  
(Alternate) Rev. Alan Stahlecker – St. John, Lincolnville

### ◆ CIRCUIT VISITORS

*Elected at 2024 fall circuit forums (or appointed thereafter); list to be ratified by the Kansas District Convention on June 5, 2025.*

### ◆ CHAIR, CIRCUIT VISITORS

*Elected by circuit visitors.*

Rev. James (Andy) Keltner – Christ Our Savior, Louisburg

#### Region 1

Circuit 1 Rev. Ian Kinney  
Circuit 2 Rev. Jason Boetcher  
Circuit 3N Rev. Joel Schultz  
Circuit 3S Rev. James (Andy) Keltner  
Circuit 4 Rev. Timothy Booth  
Circuit 6 Rev. Sean Kilgo

#### Region 2

Circuit 7 Rev. William Wingfield  
Circuit 8 Rev. James Woelmer  
Circuit 9 Rev. Kurt Letcher  
Circuit 12 Rev. Troy Slater

#### Region 3

Circuit 5 Rev. Matthew Jennings  
Circuit 10 Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer  
Circuit 11 Rev. Michael Brockman

#### Region 4

Circuit 13 Rev. Christopher Craig  
Circuit 15 Rev. Michael Schmidt  
Circuit 16 Rev. Jason Toombs

# CALLS & VACANCIES

## PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. Albert Bader**, St. John's, Ogallala, NE to Trinity, Hanover – **declined**

**Rev. Jesse Burns**, Redeemer, Ventura, IA to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **declined**

**Rev. Aaron Fenker**, Bethlehem & Immanuel, Bremen to Our Father's, Greenfield, WI – **accepted**

**Rev. Avery Hjulberg**, Candidate to Christ, Topeka – **pending**

**Rev. Travis Orr**, Breckinridge, OK to Zion, Chanute – **pending**

**Rev. David Strable**, Onida, SD to First, Phillipsburg – **declined**

**Rev. Thomas Thierfelder**, St. John, Ellinwood to St. Paul, Bishop and St. Paul, Kingsville, TX – **accepted**

**Rev. Aaron Wagner**, Christ the King, Salina to St. John, Pembroke, Ontario – **declined**

## PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

**Rev. John Werner**, Zion, Hillsboro & Our Savior, Marion to St. John, Palmer – **accepted, installation Sunday, July 6, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

**Rev. Matthew Vatthauer**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to St. Paul, Clay Center (associate) – **installation Sunday, July 27, 2025, 4 p.m.**

**Candidate Robert Choate**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Bethany, Overland Park (associate) – **ordination & installation Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

**Rev. Shawn Fenske**, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, MI to Holy Cross, Wichita (senior) – **accepted, installation Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

**DCE Korey Danley**, Candidate to Holy Cross Lutheran Academy, Sanford, FL – **accepted**

**Amy Duever**, St. Paul, Beatrice, NE to Linn Lutheran – **accepted**

**Candidate David Manning** to St. Paul, Leavenworth (principal) – **declined**

**Deaconess Candidate Alyssa Choate**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Bethany, Overland Park – **commissioning and installation Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025**

**Teacher Corrie Clatt**, Calvary, Kansas City to Redeemer, Olathe – **accepted, installation Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025**

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

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

**Teacher Candidate Sofia Sandcork**, Concordia, St. Paul to Bethany, Overland Park – **commissioning and installation Sunday, Aug. 24, 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)

**Hillsboro, Zion & Our Savior, Marion** (sole)

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

**Phillipsburg, First** (sole)

**Topeka, Christ** (sole)

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

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

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

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

**Overland Park, Christ** (DCE)

## JULY PRAYER REQUESTS

### Those grieving the loss of loved ones

♦ **Family and friends of Connie Jean (Anschutz) Dickinson**, mother of Tiffany Harders, who is the wife of Rev. Daniel Harders, Zion, Claflin and St. Peter, Holyrood. Connie entered her heavenly rest June 28.

♦ **Family and friends of Charles Jedele**, teacher emeritus. Charles entered his heavenly rest June 2.

### Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

♦ <b>Kevin Adams</b>	♦ <b>Rev. Dean Christ</b>	♦ <b>Carrie Meyers</b>
♦ <b>Rev. Richard Andrus</b>	♦ <b>Sven Goodroad</b>	♦ <b>Rev. Kevin Peterson</b>
♦ <b>Simon Begley</b>	♦ <b>Cindy Hammons</b>	♦ <b>Lori Reed</b>
♦ <b>Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer</b>	♦ <b>Rev. David McCloskey</b>	♦ <b>Rev. Gary Wolf</b>

### Those celebrating the gift of new life

♦ **Rev. John and Beatrice Kastner** (daughter Theodosia Grace, June 12).

♦ **Rev. Christopher and Shelby Craig** (daughter Natalie Grace, June 6).

## Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

♦ Zion Lutheran Church, Argonia – <b>July 7</b>	♦ Zion Lutheran Church, Downs – <b>July 21</b>
♦ Immanuel Lutheran Church, Canton – <b>July 14</b>	♦ Redeemer Lutheran Church and God's Little Saints Preschool, Atwood – <b>July 28</b>

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



## Campus Ministry



## Kansas District Mission Grants



**Rev. Mark Boxman**

Campus Ministry Coordinator  
Senior Pastor at Trinity, Salina

The Word of God sown into the human heart is powerful. It enlivens faith and transforms the minds and hearts of those who hear. Those involved in campus ministry throughout Kansas witness God at work

## God at Work in Campus Ministry

strengthening the faithful, reclaiming the prodigals, reaching the lost, and growing young adults to be faithful in all their vocations.

Campus ministry studies and conversations are never dull. Students are curious. They want solid and reliable answers to the puzzling topics on their minds. How do dinosaurs, cavemen, and millions of years fit into the biblical record? What does the Bible say about gender, abortion and homosexuality? What are fasting and ashes all about? Where did the

devil come from? Who decided which books are in the Bible and which aren't? What do Muslims believe? What can I say to my friend who does not believe that Jesus is God? How does one overcome an addiction? How do we apply Old Testament laws to our lives today? What does the Bible say about tattoos?

Each of these questions lead us into the treasury of God's Word and to Christ *"in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"* (Col. 2:3). Thanks be to God for

every valuable moment in which the Word of God is sown and the fruit it produces!

**We Pray:** Lord God, as our young people leave their church homes and go off to college, lead them into the loving arms of a congregation that will receive them, love them, and through which they may be blessed with a growing faith in Jesus Christ. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Help college students find a new church home by visiting the Campus Ministry page at <https://kslcms.org/campus-ministry>. Please share with pastors and parents the campus ministry student contact form at the bottom of the Campus Ministry page, or directly contact the names, emails and/or websites listed below.

## Kansas District Campus Ministry Directory

### Cowley County Community College

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City  
Rev. Christopher Warneke  
620-442-5240; [rlcarkcity.com](mailto:rlcarkcity.com)

### Emporia State University

Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia  
620-342-8181; [messiahlutheran.org](mailto:messiahlutheran.org)

### Fort Hays State University

Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays  
785-625-2057; [messiahlutheranhays.com](mailto:messiahlutheranhays.com)

### Garden City Community College

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City  
Rev. Michael Hageman  
620-276-3110; [trinitygcks@gmail.com](mailto:trinitygcks@gmail.com)

### Kansas Wesleyan / Bethany College /

Kansas State University Salina

Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina

Rev. Mark Boxman

620-441-8342; [markdboxman@gmail.com](mailto:markdboxman@gmail.com)

### University of Kansas / Haskell University

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence

Rev. Sean Kilgo

785-843-8181; [redemer.lutheran@att.net](mailto:redemer.lutheran@att.net)

### University of Kansas / Haskell / Baker University

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence

Rev. Andrew Wehling

785-843-0620; [revwehling@hotmail.com](mailto:revwehling@hotmail.com)

### Kansas State University (KSU)

Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan

Rev. Jim Woelmer

972-704-6722; [jwoelmer@verizon.net](mailto:jwoelmer@verizon.net)

### KSU / Manhattan Area Technical College

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan

DCE William Prann

785-539-2604;

[wprann@stlukesmanhattan.org](mailto:wprann@stlukesmanhattan.org)

### Pittsburg State University

Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburg

Rev. Ted Cook

620-231-4267; [zionpitt@ckt.net](mailto:zionpitt@ckt.net)

### Pittsburg State University

Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard

Rev. Michael Hofmann

620-724-8895; [pastorhofmann@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhofmann@gmail.com)

### Kansas University Medical Center /

Rockhurst University

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Kansas City

913-236-6228; <https://oskc.org>

### Washburn University

Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka

Rev. Jacob Heine

785-272-4214;

[pastorheine@faithlutherantopeka.com](mailto:pastorheine@faithlutherantopeka.com)

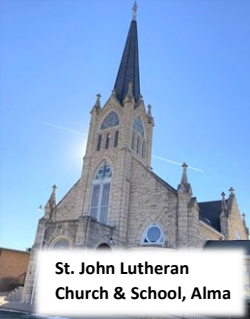
### Wichita State / Friends University /

Butler Community College

Fairmount Ministries, Wichita

316-684-5224; [fairmountministries.org](http://fairmountministries.org)





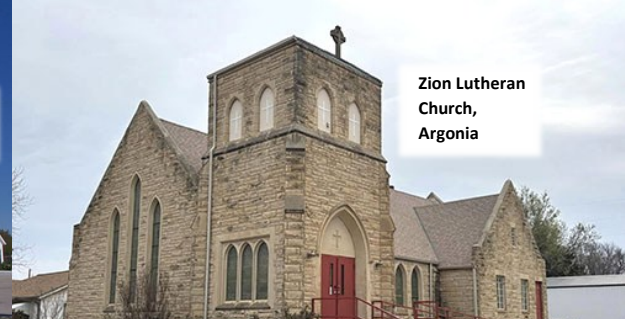
St. John Lutheran  
Church & School, Alma



St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church, Alta Vista



Peace Lutheran  
Church, Andover



Zion Lutheran  
Church,  
Argonia

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' July  
Travel Schedule

**July 18-23** LCMS Youth  
Gathering  
(New  
Orleans, La.)

**July 29-30** NLSA  
Accredita-  
tion Council  
(St. Louis,  
Mo.)

**July 30-Aug. 1**  
LCMS Education Execu-  
tives (St. Louis, Mo.)



(Left) Fairmount Ministries in Wichita hosts a ven-  
dor booth; (Below) Fairmount hosts an outreach  
event for international students.



## Blessings with Grants!

Students help at the Immanuel Community Outreach  
Association (ICOA) food pantry in Kansas City, Kan.



*Need some extra support with sharing Jesus?*

*Want to witness more for Him in your projects,  
gatherings, and coffee times?*

Remember that support is available through the grant applications that can be made to the Board of Missions in the LCMS Kansas District. You are welcome to apply now as the next round of applications will be reviewed for the 2026 calendar year. Any Bible study group, fellowship group, or church project group are welcome to apply! Church planting, Hispanic ministry, campus ministry, and church partnerships are welcome, too!

**We pray that the Lord rains His grace, love and  
mercy for you as you serve Him in your daily  
walk of faith!**

*Sue Kleber, Commissioned Minister, Board of  
Missions, LCMS Kansas District*

The Kansas District 2026 mission grant  
application window will take place from  
early August-late September. Be on the  
lookout for mission grant materials!

For questions, please contact **Rev.  
Daniel Grams**, [daniel@kslcms.org](mailto:daniel@kslcms.org).

# EDUCATION & YOUTH



Youth Ministry



Commissioned Recognition



Kansas Lutheran Schools  
Scholarship Foundation  
(KLSSF)



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 bus-ing, T-shirts, and the Kansas District event and swamp tour is closed. No refunds will be issued if there are changes. The bus schedule has been emailed to all participants. Please check it for accuracy. The T-shirts have been sorted and can be picked up at Risen Savior in Wichita, the District office in Topeka, or at the Kansas District Convention in Salina, based on your indicated preference. Visit <https://kslcms.org/national-youth-gathering> for more information about the Kansas District events.

If you have any questions about the Gathering, send an email to Debbie and Karen at [nygksdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:nygksdistrict@gmail.com).

## Higher Things Dates & Locations

**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/>.



On June 11, Commissioned Minister **Sue Kleber** was honored at the 50th Anniversary for 1975 graduates of Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Neb. *Congratulations!*

## 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](mailto:flcpastor1921@gmail.com) or by phone 785-313-4633.

Join the [Kansas District Youth Ministry Facebook page!](#)





Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City



Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Atchison



Redeemer Lutheran Church & God's Little Saints Preschool, Atwood



St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barnes

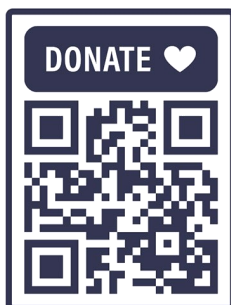
# EDUCATION & YOUTH

**Empowering Futures**  
*Formed by Faith*



Do you want to transform lives through Lutheran education? Support the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation and empower students with Christ-centered scholarships!

## Why Donate?



- 75% State Tax Credit
- 90% of your donation provides up to \$8,000 in scholarships per student
- Scholarships serve low-income students
- Strengthen Lutheran schools and support KLSSF in expanding their mission & impact.

**REV. DANIEL GRAMS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(785) 357-4441

[www.klssf.org](http://www.klssf.org)

[dgrams@klssf.org](mailto:dgrams@klssf.org)

(Continued on Page 10)

Christ Lutheran  
Church, Augusta

Risen Savior Lutheran Church &  
Classical School, Basehor

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

**Empowering Futures**  
*Formed by Faith*



Do you want to transform lives through Lutheran education? Support the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation and empower students with Christ-centered scholarships!

## Support the Mission: Share!

Help spread KLSSF's mission through our downloadable PR Kit, including a bulletin insert, social media graphics, email template, and more!

[Download the PR Kit](#)

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

**REV. DANIEL GRAMS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

☎ (785) 357-4441

✉ [www.klssf.org](http://www.klssf.org)

🌐 [dgrams@klssf.org](mailto:dgrams@klssf.org)



# CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



Parish Nurse Ministry



Older Adult Ministry

## Lutheran Early Response Team News

**Donna Williams**

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

*LCMS Disaster Response provides an opportunity for the church to be visibly active in reaching out in mercy to serve the hurting with physical and spiritual care. Providing mercy care opens the door to Gospel proclamation.*

*- Deaconess Laura Seaman*

It was great to see everyone at the LCMS Kansas District Convention! Thank you for stopping by the Lutheran Early Response Team vendor table. I enjoyed reconnecting with "old" friends and visiting with those interested in learning more about Disaster Response in the Kansas District. You are a valuable part of what we do! Kansas LERT volunteers have

deployed to Missouri, Oklahoma and North Carolina in recent weeks to offer ongoing support to those impacted by wind and flooding. Those projects are ongoing. It's great to see LERT teams reach across state and district lines to lend aid when needed. In Kansas, most of our severe weather responses have been quickly covered as folks in our small farming communities have a tight network of folks willing to do what needs to be done to set their communities right after a storm event. That takes care of the immediate needs of the recovery itself. During and after cleanup we see an ongoing need for financial support. That's where

our Kansas congregations can bring relief to those affected without leaving home ... by contributing to the LERT/Disaster Response fund. Any financial gift you send will be used by KS LERT personnel to either respond to disasters or, in some cases, can go directly to individuals in the Kansas District as a grant to aid in the cleanup or restoration of their property.

If you have any questions related to Disaster Response in the Kansas District and/or how to respond financially to needs within the Kansas District, please do not hesitate to reach out to Donna Williams, [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com).



### 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 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.

Online registration is closed. Contact Tami Lierz for registration, [tami@kslcms.org](mailto:tami@kslcms.org). Visit the Kansas District homepage <https://kslcms.org> to find a schedule.

### Summer Care for Your Skin and Eyes

Skin cancer rates are rising in the United States. Exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can lead to sunburn, premature skin aging, eye damage, and skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the country. According to the National Cancer Institute, the number of new skin cancer cases has increased significantly in recent years. July is an ideal time to raise awareness about protecting your skin and eyes from sun damage.

#### Prevention Starts with Protection

- ◆ **Use Sunscreen:** Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30, 30 minutes before going outdoors. Use about 1 ounce (a shot glass full) to cover your entire body, and 1/4 to 1/3 teaspoon for your face.
- ◆ **Wear Protective Clothing:** Choose sun-safe clothing, wide-brimmed hats, and UV protective eyewear.
- ◆ **Protect Your Eyes:** Wear sunglasses that block 100% of UV rays—even on cloudy days—to help prevent long-term eye damage.

Helpful websites include: [www.allaboutvision.com](http://www.allaboutvision.com) and [Skincancer.org](http://Skincancer.org).

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

# BUSINESS OFFICE



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



## Congregational Treasurers Workshops

There will be District workshops offered that provide simple, straightforward help relating to clergy tax and church treasurer issues. The presenters will be Kansas District Business Manager **Heather Williams** and Nebraska District Business Manager **Elijah Luebbe**. Participants will also hear from Concordia Plan Services and meet fellow servants from their specific church region. A free lunch will be provided, sponsored by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Some of the topics that will be covered at the workshops include a review of the

**[Register Here](#)** for the workshops. For questions please call Heather Williams at 785-357-4441, or email [heather@kslcms.org](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).

Congregational Treasurers Manual, borrowing and investment options through LCEF, narrative budgets, salary guidelines, board governance, internal control, planned giving, clergy taxes, document retention, employer resources, and employees vs. contractors.

These workshops are geared towards new and returning congregational treasurers, bookkeepers, financial secretaries, office managers, stewardship leaders, pastors, church members and/or staff who have financial or administrative responsibilities.

### Workshop Dates & Locations

- ♦ **August 23** - Kansas District Office, Topeka, Kan. (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- ♦ **September 12** - Nebraska District Office, Seward, Neb.
- ♦ **October 11** - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kan.
- ♦ **November 1** - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Columbus, Neb.



# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EXTENSION FUND

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](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.*

## Align Your Investments with Your Faith

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you not only work toward your financial goals but also provide vital resources that empower Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries.



ALL ACCESS  
ACCOUNTS



TERM  
NOTES



YOUNG  
INVESTORS



RETIREMENT  
ACCOUNTS



HEALTH SAVINGS  
ACCOUNTS



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EXTENSION FUND

View rates online and invest today.



[lcef.org/ViewRates](https://lcef.org/ViewRates)



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-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 for the LCEF IRA/HSA programs. All Access Account is known as "StewardAccount" for investors in Washington. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a.

# 4%

Pick Your  
Term



**LCEF offers  
fixed-rate  
term notes  
for 6  
months, 1  
year, 3 years,  
and 5 years –  
all at 4%.**

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 and churches.

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



Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church & Learning Center, Basehor



Peace Lutheran Church, Beaver, OK



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bremen

# DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

### JULY

- 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 28** SGO Foundation meeting, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- July 29** New Worker Orientation, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Topeka)

### AUGUST

- August 5** Older Adult Ministry meeting, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- August 7-8** Board of Directors, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- August 12** Middle School Huddle Planning Meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- August 21** DYMC Executives, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Zoom)

### AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

- August 23** Congregational Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- Sept. 1** Labor Day (District office closed)
- Sept. 3** Lutheran Schools of Kansas Leadership Team, 6-8 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- Sept. 4-5** Principals Conference (Location TBD)
- Sept. 5-14** LLL/LHM booth at Kansas State Fair (Hutchinson)

### SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

- Sept. 6** District Youth Ministry Committee, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Christ, Topeka)
- Sept. 29** Circuit Visitors Meeting, 4-8:30 p.m. (Hope, Shawnee)
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1** Joint Church Workers Conference (Pastors) (Hope, Shawnee)
- Oct. 1** Joint Church Workers Conference (Educators) (Hope, Shawnee)

### 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](mailto:revschmidt@yahoo.com).

### CE Course: Risen Savior, Basehor

There will be a Continuing Education (CE) course held **August 18-20, 2025**, at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Basehor (14700 Leavenworth Rd., Basehor, KS 66007). The theme of the course is "History & Spirit, Life Here and in Eternity: Medieval Christian Preaching." The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle**, assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, and director of Field Education at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW).

Click on the provided link to register and for more information: <https://ctsfw.edu/ce/basehor-kansas>. This is a 1.5 CEU course. The cost is \$175 for pastors and professional church workers, and \$125 for retired pastors and laypersons.

If you have any questions please contact **Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf** (associate pastor of Risen Savior, Basehor) at [revburgdorf@gmail.com](mailto:revburgdorf@gmail.com) or call 636-328-2610.

### Lutherans For Life of Kansas Annual Meeting: July 26

Lutherans For Life of Kansas will host its Annual Meeting from **10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 26**, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wichita (909 S. Market St.). The new Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, will be the featured speaker. There will also be board elections during the meeting. All are welcome to attend. Voting is limited to LFL-KS members.

For more information, email [secretary@lflofkansas.org](mailto:secretary@lflofkansas.org).

LFL of Kansas has a monthly newsletter with upcoming life events, resources, pastoral articles, and more! You are invited to subscribe by emailing [info@lflofkansas.org](mailto:info@lflofkansas.org). There are also guest authors invited to share reflections on life issues and news (email the editor at the above email address). Upcoming topics include surrogacy (August); medical ethics (September); promoting life in the public square (October); pregnancy resource centers (November); and infertility and infant loss (December).





Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bremen



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Burlington



Trinity Lutheran Church, Caney

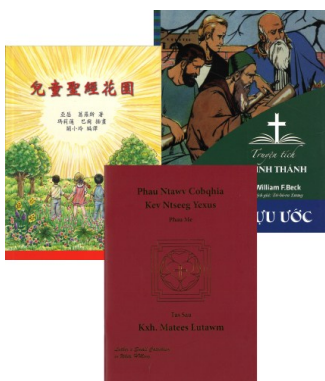
# SYNOD & PARTNERS

## National Development Grants

The LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM) offers **national development grants** for LCMS congregations, Recognized Service Organizations and districts to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within their churches and communities.

**Grant applications will be accepted June 1 - August 1, with awards announced in October. Grant amounts range from \$1,000-\$20,000.** National Mission encourages innovative proposals that others can use to advance the national mission work of the LCMS.

Visit <https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/development> to learn more and apply. The National Development Grant program is funded by the generosity of John and Harriet Wiebe. For more information, visit the link provided above, contact [grants@lcms.org](mailto:grants@lcms.org) or call 888-THE LCMS.



## Lutheran Heritage Foundation

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has a wide variety of resources available to share the

Gospel with Asian immigrants, in languages like Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Vietnamese, and Hmong (Blue and White).

From the *Book of Concord* and the *Small Catechism* to children's Bible storybooks, these resources are free for our LCMS congregations.

Visit <https://LHFmissions.org> to see what LHF can send you!

## 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>.

## Concordia Technology Solutions

Churches in the Kansas District can now get \$100 off their first purchase of **Church360**— a suite of easy-to-use tools for managing members, tracking finances, and organizing church life.

This special offer is available through our partnership with Concordia Technology Solutions:

<https://www.concordiatechnology.org/church360-lcms-district-referrals>.

## 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).



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Canton



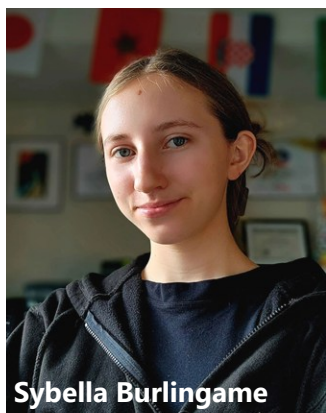
Zion Lutheran Church & SONshine Preschool, Chanute



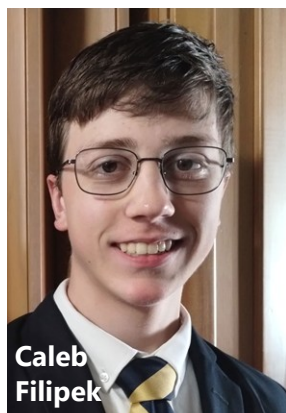
St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School, Cheney



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



Sybella Burlingame



Caleb Filipek



Maria Heimsoth



Jamie Schkade

### Lutherans For Life of Kansas: 2025 Essay Contest Winners!

Lutherans For Life of Kansas recently completed its 2025 Essay Contest, with a total of 22 entries! First-place winners are **Caleb Filipek** (10th grade, Concordia Academy-Wichita) and **Jamie Schkade** (7th grade, Hope Lutheran School, Shawnee). The second-place winners are **Sybella Burlingame** (9th grade, St. Paul Lutheran School, Leavenworth) and **Maria Heimsoth** (7th grade, Hope Lutheran School, Shawnee). The winners' essays have been forwarded to the national Lutherans For Life Essay Contest.

Six students also received Honorable Mentions: **Katie Haverkamp**, **Anna Megally**, **Esther Postier**, **Molly Schkade**, **Sophie Solt**, and **Eli Wertzberger**. Congratulations to all the winners! To learn more about Lutherans For Life of Kansas and to receive information about upcoming events, subscribe to the LFL-KS monthly newsletter by emailing [info@lflokansas.org](mailto:info@lflokansas.org).



On June 8 (Pentecost Sunday), **Trinity Lutheran Church in Holton** welcomed 11 new members into their congregation. Two were by adult instruction and the other nine by transfer. *Praise God for His blessings!*



On June 1, **Teacher Roberta Schemp** was honored for her years of service at a retirement celebration hosted at Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee. Pictured with Roberta is Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive Assistant for Congregational & School Services.





Zion Lutheran Church,  
Clafin



St. Paul Lutheran  
Church & Preschool,  
Clay Center



Zion Lutheran Church,  
Concordia



Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

2025

## WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Learning to Speak Liturgically:  
The Grammar of the Psalms

Saturday, August 16 | 8:30am-4:00pm

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
901 SW Fillmore, Topeka, KS

For more information and registration:  
<https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference/>



Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle

Keynote Speaker



## LLL Booth at the Fair!

The Kansas District LLL/LHM will sponsor a booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, **Sept. 5-14** in the Meadowlark Building. There will also be a worship service at the Peoples Bank and Trust Arena at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, with **Rev. C.J. Luttinen** preaching (*senior pastor of Risen Savior, Wichita*).

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

# 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

**LCMS Kansas District Office**  
1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604-1104

<b>Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>
785-357-4441	<a href="https://kslcms.org">https://kslcms.org</a>
<b>Fax</b>	<b>Facebook</b>
785-357-5071	<a href="https://facebook.com/kslcms/">facebook.com/kslcms/</a>

## 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