



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

MONTHLY KANSAS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WORKERS TOGETHER

AUGUST 2025

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2025 *Higher Things*

121 Kansas District participants attended *Higher Things*, July 8-11 at Concordia University in Seward, Neb. There were over 900 total attendees for the Concordia, Seward week. Two additional weeks of *Higher Things* were held in Amherst, Mass. and Grand Rapids, Mich.

The 2025 theme for *Higher Things* was "All Things New,"

based on Rev. 21:5.

The mission of *Higher Things* is to make the Gifts of Jesus Christ known to youth and young adults.

To learn more about *Higher Things* and find information about the 2026 conferences, please visit the *Higher Things* website at <https://higherthings.org>.

IN THIS ISSUE

Joint Church Workers Conference 5

The 2025 Joint Church Workers Conference will be held Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 at Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee.

God's Work in Campus Ministry 7

Read about Campus Ministry in the Kansas District.

New Worker Orientation 17

New Worker Orientation was held Tuesday, July 29, at the District office in Topeka.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Joint Church Workers



Pastoral Ordinations & Installations

Conference



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

(John 8:31-32)

(Part 1 of 3)

"Abiding in the Word" (John 8:31-32). This was the theme for our recently concluded 75th Kansas District Convention.

God's Word is living and active (Heb. 4:12) because it is the Word of the living and life-creating God Himself. The Scriptures teach that all people *"are dead in their trespasses and sins"* (Eph. 2:1). In Christ, God makes us, who are spiritually dead, alive (Col. 2:13). The apostle Peter writes, *"Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God"* (1 Pt. 1:23). Yes, God makes us alive through His living Word, and this same living Word continues to work in us and bring blessing to us.

God's living Word is at work within believers (1 Th. 2:13). As you are a believer in Christ, feed on His living, life-giving, life-transforming Word. Peter writes, *"...like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation"* (1 Pt. 2:2). Psalm

1:3 says that all who feed on God's Word will be like a tree planted by streams of water.

We must understand that God's living Word contains both the Law and the Gospel. The word of the Law kills, but the word of the Gospel gives life (2 Cor. 3:6). We must not confuse the two. When these two Biblical teachings are mixed, the clear teaching of what God has graciously done for us in Christ then becomes confused, and our hearts are filled with anxiety. Mixing Law and Gospel causes the precious, life-giving medicine of the Gospel to be diluted, losing the power to overcome the sickness of sin. On the other hand, the Law can be diluted to the point where we do not see ourselves as deathly sick, in need of the life-giving Gospel. Confusing or mixing the Law and Gospel robs us of the blessing God promises in Romans 5:1, *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The greatest blessing of all is that through His Spirit, God's living Word enables us to believe and be connected to Jesus, who is the living and incarnate Word of God. Jesus Himself clearly stated in John 5:39 that the Scriptures "bear witness" to Him.

God's Word is inspired (2 Pt. 1:21) and inerrant (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is entirely reliable and gives us everything we need to know and believe for Christian faith and life.

God's Word accomplishes that which it commands (Isa. 55:11). It creates faith in a person which enables them to repent and to trust in Jesus for salvation (Mark 1:15; Rom. 10:17).

By faith, Christians trust these claims. Jesus stands as the center and object of our faith. In Him, *"all the promises of God find their Yes"* (2 Cor. 1:20).



Zion Lutheran Church, Concordia (church plant)



Calvary Lutheran Church, Council Grove



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's August Travel Schedule

- August 3** Preaching at Christ (*Topeka*)
Candidate Robert Choate ordination & installation at Bethany (*Overland Park*)
Deaconess Candidate Alyssa Choate commissioning & installation at Bethany (*Overland Park*)
- August 7-8** Board of Directors at District office (*Topeka*)
- August 9** Official Visitation at Grace (*Iola*)
- August 10** Rev. Shawn Fenske installation at Holy Cross (*Wichita*)



Rev. John Werner was installed as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Palmer, on Sunday, July 6. From left, (front row) Revs. William Wingfield, Philip Miller, Timothy Koch, John Werner, Aaron Fenker, Rodney Fritz, Justin Panzer; (back row) Revs. Frank Johnson, Mark Boxman, Randy Jahnke, Paul Tessaro, Alan Stahlecker and Mark Gaschler.



Rev. Rocky Mease was installed as transitional interim minister of Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park, on Sunday, July 13. From left, Revs. Justin Panzer, Lee Hovel, Rocky Mease and Jeff Meyers.



Faith Lutheran Church, Derby



Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
Dodge City



Zion Lutheran Church,
Downs



St. John Lutheran Church,
Easton

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



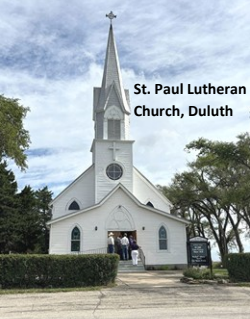
Rev. Matthew Vathauer was installed as associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center, on Sunday, July 27. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Randy Jahnke, Paul Tessaro, Matthew Vathauer, Jacob Heine, William Wingfield; (back) Revs. Nathan Harkins, Alan Stahlecker, James Woelmer and Mark Gaschler.

Vicar Ryan Milbrath was installed as vicar of Zion Lutheran Church, Linn, on Sunday, July 27. A welcome luncheon hosted by Zion was held following the worship service.

Vicar Milbrath (left) is pictured with Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor of Zion, Linn, who performed the installation.



Rev. Robert Choate was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park, on Sunday, Aug. 3. From left, (front row) Revs. Craig Otto, Brett Arrasmith, Lee Hovel, Andy Keltner, Robert Choate, Sean Baker, Ronald Lehenbauer, Joel Heckmann, Joe Rodriguez, Dr. Thomas Manteufel; (middle) Revs. Justin Panzer, Joel Schultz, Nathan Harkins, Andrew Lehenbauer, Sean Kilgo, Thomas Krause, Philip Cook, Scott Holder; (back) Revs. Daniel Grams, Matthew Vathauer, Brock Stockland, John Kastner, Jacob Mueller, Michael Hofmann, Joshua Woelmer, Thomas Harries and Paul Hoemann.



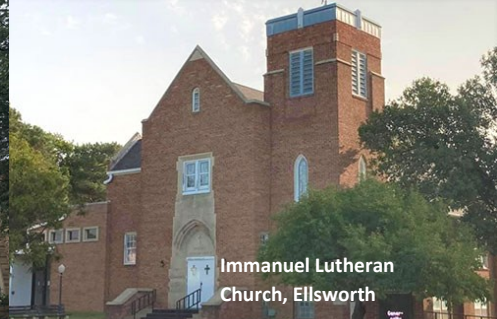
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Duluth



Grace Lutheran Church, El Dorado

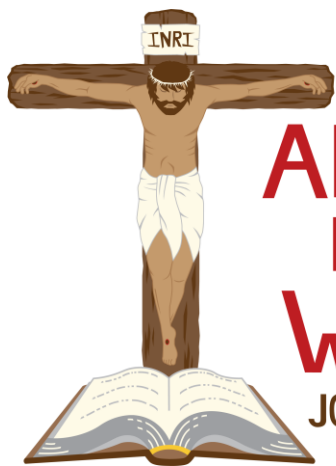


St. John Lutheran Church & Child Development Center, Ellinwood



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



**ABIDING
IN THE
WORD**
JOHN 8:31-32

Joint Church Workers Conference

The 2025 Joint Church Workers Fall Conference will be held **Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2025**, at Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee. The theme for this year's conference is "Abiding in the Word – as Workers in Christ's Kingdom," based on John 8:31-32.

The keynote speakers are **Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann**, Waldemar A. and June Schuette Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and **Rev. Dr. Peter Jurchen**, Assistant Professor of Lutheran Education and Faith Formation at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Registration is open. Visit the 2025 Joint Church Workers Conference webpage to register and find more information, <https://ksclcms.org/presidents-office/church-workers-conference>.



Pictured from left to right: Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle (CTSFW), Rev. Professor Joel Fritsche (CSL), Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger (President—CSL), Rev. D. Jon Bruss (President—CTSFW), Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador (President—South Wisconsin District), Rev. Kris Whitby (Northern Illinois District), Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb (Central Illinois District), Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe (LCMS Office of National Mission), Rev. Dan Galchutt (LCMS Office of National Mission), Rev. Dr. Kevin Golden (CSL), Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith (CTSFW), Rev. Jim Woelmer (Christ Lutheran, Manhattan, Kan.) and Rev. Detlev Schulz (CTSFW).

Not pictured: Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Robinson (Indiana District).

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Robinson organized an **Evangelism Specific Enclave**, which was held July 1-2 on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Attendees included representatives from the LCMS Office of National Mission, Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, and the Indiana, South Wisconsin, Central Illinois, Northern Illinois, and Kansas Districts.

The enclave began by discussing and coming to agreement upon "Seven Theses on Evangelism" as written and presented by Dr. Ken Schurb. This was followed by a discussion of current seminary instruction in the area of evangelism, with the presidents and faculty of both seminaries presenting on their current efforts. During the next portion of the Enclave, Rev. Dan Galchutt and Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe shared the efforts of the Office of National Mission to promote evangelism throughout the Synod. This discussion included ways that Districts can support evangelism efforts. On the second day, discussion turned to teaching evangelism on a congregational level. The Enclave concluded with a discussion of former and potential future partnerships to promote evangelism. These include internships for seminary and CUS students as well as inter-district partnerships. With this in mind, tentative plans have already been made for another Enclave to occur in June of 2026 in Springfield, Illinois.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Albert Bader, St. John, Ogallala, NE to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **pending**

Rev. Bradley Ferch, Immanuel, Davenport, IA to Zion, Chanute – **pending**

Rev. Justin Kumfer, St. John's Lutheran Church, Stewartville, MN to Messiah, Emporia – **pending**

Rev. Joshua Lowe, Trinity, Hawarden, IA to Messiah, Hays – **pending**

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

Rev. Adam Reichart, Faith, Emporia & Calvary, Council Grove to St. Matthew, Gulfport, MS – **pending**

Rev. Christian Schultz, First, Paola to CTSFW, Admissions Counselor – **accepted**

Rev. Jody Walter (Emeritus) to Trinity, Medicine Lodge & St. John, Nashville – **pending**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

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

Rev. Travis Orr, Immanuel, Breckinridge, OK to Trinity, Hanover – **accepted, installation Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

Rev. Avery Hjulberg, Candidate to Christ, Topeka – **accepted, installation Sunday, August 31, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

Rev. Frank Johnson to Zion, Hillsboro and Our Savior, Marion – **accepted, installation pending**

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

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

Teacher Amy Duever, St. Paul, Beatrice, NE to Linn Lutheran – **installation Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025, at 5 p.m.**

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, at 3 p.m.**

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

Bremen, Bethlehem & Immanuel (sole)

Chanute, Zion (sole)

Dodge City, Holy Cross (sole)

Emporia, Messiah (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)

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

Phillipsburg, First (sole)

Wichita, St. Andrews (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Cheney, St. Paul's (Teacher)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Principal)

AUGUST PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ♦ **Family and friends of Rev. Robert Hill**, father of Rachel Woelmer (wife of Rev. James Woelmer, Christ, Manhattan) and grandfather of Rev. Joshua Woelmer (Trinity, Paola) and Kantor Bethany Johnson (St. John's, Topeka). Rev. Hill entered his heavenly rest July 29.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Peter Hubbard**, father of Julee Slater (wife of Rev. Troy Slater, Immanuel, Canton). Peter entered his heavenly rest July 25.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Jacqueline Sprecht**, mother of Cheryl Voss (teacher at Faith Lutheran School in Derby). Jacqueline entered her heavenly rest July 14.
- ♦ **Family and friends of John Macy**, teacher emeritus. John entered his heavenly rest July 8.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Connie Jean (Anschutz) Dickinson**, mother of Tiffany Harders (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

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

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

- ♦ Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; Grace, Ulysses (T.I.G. Partnership); Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Garden City – **Aug. 4**
- ♦ Bethel, Kansas City; Faith, Kansas City; Grace, Kansas City; Immanuel, Kansas City – **Aug. 11**
- ♦ Christ Lutheran Church & School, Overland Park – **Aug. 18**
- ♦ Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Burlington – **Aug. 25**

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

Emporia State University

Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia
620-342-8181; messiahlutheran.org

Fort Hays State University

Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays
785-625-2057; messiahlutheranhays.com

Garden City Community College

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City
Rev. Michael Hageman
620-276-3110; trinitygcks@gmail.com

Kansas Wesleyan / Bethany College /

Kansas State University Salina

Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina

Rev. Mark Boxman

620-441-8342; markdboxman@gmail.com

University of Kansas / Haskell University

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence

Rev. Sean Kilgo

785-843-8181; redemer.lutheran@att.net

University of Kansas / Haskell / Baker University

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence

Rev. Andrew Wehling

785-843-0620; revwehling@hotmail.com

Kansas State University (KSU)

Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan

Rev. Jim Woelmer

972-704-6722; jwoelmer@verizon.net

KSU / Manhattan Area Technical College

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan

DCE William Prann

785-539-2604;

wprann@stlukesmanhattan.org

Pittsburg State University

Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburg

Rev. Ted Cook

620-231-4267; zionpitt@ckt.net

Pittsburg State University

Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard

Rev. Michael Hofmann

620-724-8895; 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;

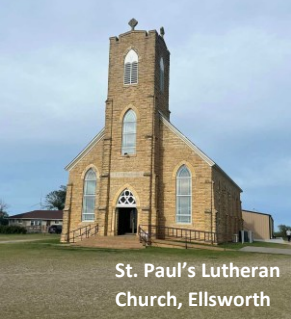
pastorheine@faithlutherantopeka.com

Wichita State / Friends University /

Butler Community College

Fairmount Ministries, Wichita

316-684-5224; fairmountministries.org



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellsworth



Faith Lutheran Church & Lord's Lambs Preschool, Emporia



Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairview

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' August Travel Schedule

August 3 Preaching at St. John (Aliceville)

Ordination and installation of Pastoral Candidate Robert Choate, and commissioning and installation of Deaconess Candidate Alyssa Choate at Bethany (Overland Park)

August 10 Installation of Teacher Corrie Klatt at Redeemer (Olathe)

Hispanic Celebration at Immanuel (Kansas City)

August 17 Teacher installations at Hope (Shawnee)

Commissioning and installation of Deaconess Candidate Lara McComack at Calvary (Topeka)

August 23 Treasurers Workshop at the District office (Topeka)

August 24 Installation of Teacher Sofia Sandcork and KLSSF presentation at Bethany (Overland Park)



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



Blessings with Grants!

Need some extra support with sharing Jesus? Want to witness more for Him?

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



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.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Youth Ministry



Commissionings & Installations



Kansas Lutheran Schools
Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)

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."**

Registration is open! Visit the Confirmation Retreat page on the District website to register and for more details, <https://kslcms.org/confirmation-retreat>.

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

Kansas District Youth Gathering



The Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) will be held **November 14-16, 2025**, at Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City. The theme for this year's KDYG is **"FearLESS"** based on

Joshua 1:9. The keynote speaker is **Chad Janetzke**, theology teacher and Theology Department Chair of Martin Luther High School in Greendale, Wis.

Registration opens September 1. The KDYG is designed for youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders. Visit the KDYG page on the District website for more details, <https://kslcms.org/kdyg>.

Join the **Kansas District Youth Ministry Facebook page!**



Deaconess Alyssa Choate was commissioned and installed as deaconess of Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park, on Sunday, Aug. 3. From left, (front row) Rev. Craig Otto, Rev. Brett Arrasmith, Rev. Lee Hovel, Rev. Andy Keltner, Deac. Alyssa Choate, Rev. Robert Choate, Rev. Sean Baker, Rev. Ronald Lehenbauer, Rev. Joel Heckmann, Rev. Joe Rodriguez, Rev. Dr. Thomas Manteufel; (middle) Revs. Justin Panzer, Joel Schultz, Nathan Harkins, Andrew Lehenbauer, Sean Kilgo, Thomas Krause, Philip Cook, Scott Holder; (back) Revs. Daniel Grams, Matthew Vathauer, Brock Stockland, John Kastner, Jacob Mueller, Michael Hofmann, Joshua Woelmer, Thomas Harries and Paul Hoemann.



Kansas District
Youth Ministry
Events 2025-2026

kslcms.org/education-youth/youth-ministry



Youth Lead Training
March 9-22, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)



Middle School Huddle
April 17-18, 2026
Rock Springs Ranch (Junction City, KS)



Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) Camp
May 31-June 5, 2026 (Woodland Park, CO)



Higher Things 2026 Dates
higherthings.org



LCMS Youth Gathering 2028
July 3-7, 2028



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Erie



Trinity & Precious
Lambs Lutheran
Church, Fort Scott



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

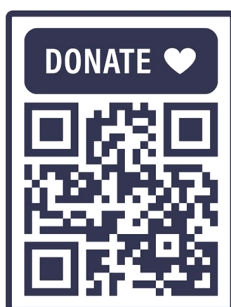
EDUCATION & YOUTH

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

dgrams@klssf.org

(Continued on Page 11)



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool,
Garden City



Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard



Our Saviour Lutheran Church,
Great Bend



Immanuel Lutheran
Church, Herington

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](#)

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

☎ (785) 357-4441

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🌐 dgrams@klssf.org

CARING MINISTRY



LERT / Disaster Response



Parish Nurse Ministry



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.

- Deac. Laura Seaman

Lutheran Early Response Team News

On July 17, LERT volunteer Sally Crane, saw a plea for help on social media from an LCMS member in Ottawa. Wind had knocked down a large tree and she needed help to remove it and clean up debris. Sally went by on her way to work and did an assessment, then called her husband, Mike. Mike is an approved LERT chainsaw operator and had the next morning free, so he loaded up his lift and equipment and recruited a friend to help. They were able to get the tree on the ground safely and cut it

up to be stacked. Is it a coincidence that Sally saw the post on social media? No. God put the right people in the right place to lend aid to someone who had a need. That's the way He works: in mysterious ways far beyond our comprehension. All around us, every day, there are situations where we can hold out our hand and lift someone up giving help, support and encouragement. If we are paying attention, He can use us in powerful ways.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

- Isaiah 6:8

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 me.

Blessings,

Donna Williams

ksddrc@gmail.com

August is National Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

August is recognized as Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, a time to focus on the importance of vision care for young ones. Healthy eyesight is vital for learning, development, and daily activities. Early eye exams can detect conditions such as nearsightedness, amblyopia, and strabismus, helping prevent long-term vision problems. Parents are encouraged to schedule routine checkups and teach children good eye habits, like limiting screen time and using proper lighting when reading. As church workers, we can encourage parents to have their child's eyes checked routinely.

In addition to physical care, a child's spiritual well-being is equally important. Faith-based families find comfort in praying for their child's growth, including their physical senses. Scriptures often speak of eyes as the "lamp of the body," reminding us that spiritual vision guides moral and emotional development. By nurturing both physical and spiritual health, we support the whole child—body, mind, and soul—for a brighter, clearer future.

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

BUSINESS OFFICE



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



Congregational Treasurers Workshops

Register Here for the workshops. For questions please call Heather Williams at 785-357-4441, or email heather@kslcms.org.

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 Congrega-

tional 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.

Education Loan Repayment Grants

The Kansas District provides grants to rostered church workers to help them repay college and/or seminary education loans. All rostered synodical graduates, as well as those who have completed the colloquy program, who are currently working in the Kansas District are eligible for the first 10 years after graduation or ordination to apply for this grant.

Application materials will be available on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/education-grants>.

Applications should be sent to **Heather Williams** (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104) or via email at heather@kslcms.org.

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

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.

Planting Seeds Of Faith

With the **Young Investors StewardAccount**, you can set your child up for financial stability while supporting LCMS ministries. They'll learn to budget, grow their money and give wisely, growing their faith and money simultaneously.



SUPPORT LCMS
MINISTRIES



AGES
0-18



INTEREST COMPOUNDED
DAILY AND PAID MONTHLY



NO MONTHLY
MEMBERSHIP FEES



LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND

lcef.org/future

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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.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
Greenleaf



Peace Lutheran Church,
Greensburg



Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover



St. John's
Lutheran
Church,
Herington

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

AUGUST

- August 5** Older Adult Ministry meeting, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)
- August 6** KYDG planning meeting, 9:30 - 11:30 a.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)

AUG. - SEPTEMBER

- August 21** DYMC Executives, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Zoom)
- August 23** 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 (Topeka)

SEPT. - OCTOBER

- Sept. 5-14** LLL/LHM booth at Kansas State Fair (Hutchinson)
- Sept. 6** District Youth Ministry Committee, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Christ, Topeka)
- Sept. 12** Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Nebraska District office, Seward, Neb.)
- Sept. 29** Circuit Visitors Meeting, 4:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Hope, Shawnee)
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1** Joint Church Workers Conference (Hope, Shawnee)
- Oct. 2-4** LEA Convocation (St. Louis, Mo.)

2025 Blockoberfest: Trinity, Paola

Trinity Lutheran Church in Paola (34868 Block Rd., Paola, KS 66071) will be holding their annual **Blockoberfest** on **Saturday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.**

Come celebrate with Trinity as they focus on the Christian faith, German heritage, and community spirit with fun, food, and fellowship! Kid activities are included, and families are welcome to attend.

Concessions and a full German meal will be served by the youth of Trinity. Food is available for purchase starting at noon on Sept. 20. Admission and parking is free.

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 or call 636-328-2610.

Circuit Forum Service: 1,700 Years of Nicaea

There will be a special Circuit Forum Service held on **Sunday, Sept. 14**, at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Basehor (14750 Leavenworth Rd., Basehor, KS 66007). This service will celebrate the 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed.

The special guest preacher is **Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien** (David P. Scaer professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology; Assistant Provost; program director of Doctor of Ministry). The main presenter is **Rev. Daniel Broaddus** (pastor of Holy Trinity, Mound City, Mo.)

Clergy are invited to process and vest in white.

Schedule

- 3:00 p.m. Divine Service
- 4:30 p.m. Gemütlichkeit
- 5:00 p.m. Supper
- 5:30 p.m. Presentation on the Legacy of Nicaea

Schedule of Events

- 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Heartland Revival - Folk and Gospel music
- 12:30 p.m.** Willkommen and Invocation
- 12:30-1:00 p.m.** Margo Rodewald Cyphers - musical favorites
- Noon-3:00 p.m.** German meal served in the Shelter House
- 1:00-5:00 p.m.** Loehnig German Band - Polka music
- 2:00 p.m.** Herr Windler's German sing-along songs
- 3:00 p.m.** Men's Masskrugstemmen (Stein Hoisting)
- 4:00 p.m.** Women's Masskrugstemmen
- 6:00 p.m.** Benediction and Auf Wiedersehen



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Haven



Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool, Herington

SYNOD & PARTNERS

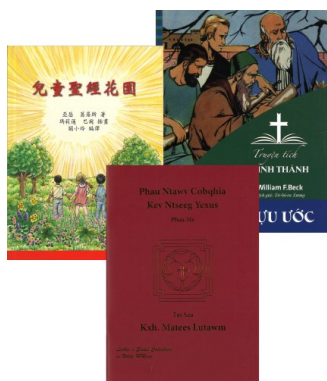
National Development Grants

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.

Awards will be 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. 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 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!

LWML 2026-2028 Mission Grants

LWML Kansas District Mission Grants are selected by convention delegates and paid during the 2026-2028 biennium in which they are selected. Mission grants are paid from mite offerings received during the biennium.

Choose which grant is appropriate for the mission needs:

- ♦ God's Gracious Gift Fund Grants are for projects costing \$5,000 or less.
- ♦ Mission Grants can be a larger amount but generally less than \$10,000.
- ♦ A proposal option 'Either Grant' is to allow the LWML Kansas District Gospel Outreach (GO) Committee to select the grant that best fits the application.

Click on the provided link for the grant application and instructions: [LWML 2026-2028 Mission Grant Application](#). The deadline to submit the LWML grant application is **September 1**.

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.



Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha



Grace Lutheran Church, Hill City



Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro

AROUND THE DISTRICT



New Worker Orientation was held Tuesday, July 29, at the LCMS Kansas District office in Topeka. Pictured are the new Kansas District church workers. From left, Rev. James Bender, Amy Schneider, Rev. Richard Schneider, Rev. Nathan Harkins, Tiffany Harkins, Rev. Matthew Vathhauer, Teacher Lisa Walton, Vicar Ryan Milbrath, Teacher Olivia Haley, Teacher Rebekah Heck, Teacher Emily Maurice, Deaconess Candidate Lara McComack, Deaconess Alyssa Choate, Rev. Robert Choate and Teacher Corrie Klatt.

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

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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