



**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

### OCTOBER 2025



(Above) LCMS Youth Gathering participants at the Superdome in New Orleans for a Gathering event. (Below) Kansas District youth and adult leaders gather for the Kansas District Event at the Bayou Barn on Saturday, July 19.



## 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering

**ENDURE**  
2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING  
HEBREWS 12:1-3

The LCMS Youth Gathering was held **July 19-23, 2025**, in New Orleans, La. The theme of the Gathering was "Endure" based on Hebrews 12:1-3. **37 Kansas District congregations** (including four congregations from

the Kansas City, Mo. area and one congregation from Nebraska) registered for the Kansas District options. The overall numbers for the Kansas District were higher than three years ago!

Visit **Page 8** for more LCMS Youth Gathering photos and highlights!

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See photos and highlights from the LLL/LHM presence at the Kansas State Fair, Sept. 5-14.

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Learn more about the annual Kansas District Reformation Offering and the Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation in October.

### Upcoming Oct. - Dec. Events 15

Learn more about upcoming events happening around the Kansas District!

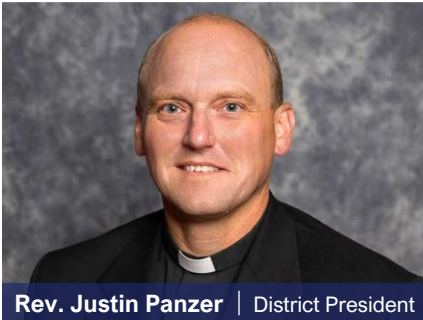
# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Monthly Devotion



Joint Church Workers 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 3 of 3)

What do we now do with this Word of God? He uses us to proclaim His Word, and He Himself gives the promise that it will do exactly what it was sent forth to do. God's Word goes out for the purpose of saving. It condemns the damned sinner and brings to life those who have been crushed in their sins. What joy the forgiveness of sins brings! What peace that surpasses all human understanding. What mercy God gives to us now and forever. What privilege God has given to His baptized people, His royal priests, to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light **(1 Peter 2:9)**! The Gospel goes out to all people, to all nations **(Matt. 28:18-20)**. God wants all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth **(1 Tim. 2:4)**. He wants us to witness the Gospel to the family member or neighbor, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest. Invite and bring them to the Divine Service, where ears hear the preaching of Christ crucified. The cross shows God's loves for us! Problems, disappointments, struggles and sin continue in this world and in our lives. But there is one truth we and our loved

ones can cling to for absolute assurance — *Matt. 24:35: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."* This same Word became flesh, lived among us, and went to the crucifixion cross to forgive our sins. And this same Word bodily rose from the dead to proclaim victory over sin, death and the devil for us and all people. By faith, Christ and His Word now live in us and we in Him.

**Therefore, as we daily feed on the bread and water of life God has given us in His living and active Word, we are enabled by faith to say with Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68.**

Dear friends of the LCMS Kansas District, the time of the covid pandemic is over. The time for excuses is over. **The time to plan and plant and grow is right now!** Let us be those people "abiding in the Word" to now live out and share the living Word.

To that end, we must continue to develop a better "kingdom attitude" when it comes to helping our

fellow brothers and sisters in the LCMS. To be sure, we do have active ministries helping one another out right now, to which we give thanks to God. However, so many other opportunities exist that we must be willing to have conversation about. We must actively reach out. We must actively invite. We must actively identify and do "works of mercy" in our contexts. We can't be idle and expect people to come to us. We must go to them. We certainly have a great charge in front of us — to be His priests, His baptized, His salt and light, and His body in this world.

**WE PRAY:** "Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a Word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."





Christ Our Savior  
Lutheran Church,  
Louisburg



Grace Lutheran Church, Lyons



Christ Lutheran Church,  
Manhattan



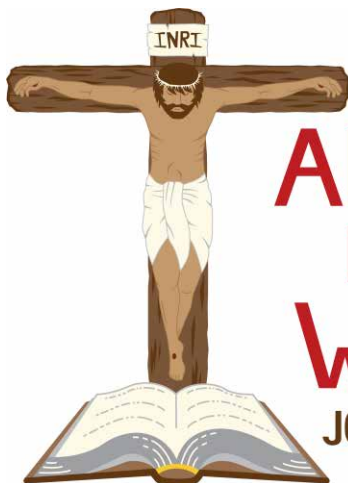
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
& Preschool, Manhattan

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## Out and About in Kansas

### President Panzer's Oct. Travel Schedule

- Oct. 1** Joint Church Worker Conference at Hope (Shawnee)
- Oct. 12** Charter Service at Redeemer (Lake Wabaunsee)
- Oct. 14** Circuit 16 Winkel at Holy Cross (Dodge City)
- Oct. 18** Concordia Seminary, St. Louis "Called to Serve" at Mt. Calvary (Wamego)
- Oct. 30** 2026 Pastors' Church Worker Conference Committee meeting at District office (Topeka)



## Joint Church Workers Conference

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

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.

Visit the 2025 Joint Church Workers Conference webpage to access the Conference Booklet and schedule, <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/church-workers-conference>.

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## LLL/LHM Presence at the State Fair



John and Carol Kratzer and Keren Comfort Dog from Immanuel, Ellsworth volunteered at the LLL/LHM booth.



Rev. CJ Luttinen, senior pastor of Risen Savior, Wichita, led the Sept. 7 worship service. Music was provided by the choir of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson.

The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries booth at the 2025 Kansas State Fair was a blessed opportunity to share in witness to our Lord through conversation and Christian materials! Volunteers representing seven congregations worked in the LLL/LHM booth. Keren Comfort Dog and handlers from Immanuel, Ellsworth also helped out at the booth for five days. Many congregations donated Bibles, *Portals of Prayer*, and other Christian materials.

The LLL worship service was held on Sunday, Sept. 7 at the People's Bank and Trust Arena. **Rev. CJ Luttinen**, senior pastor of Risen Savior, Wichita, led the worship service. Music was provided by the choir of Our Redeemer, Hutchinson.

***Thank you to everyone who contributed time, talent, and resources to make the LLL/LHM presence at the State Fair a huge success!***

# CALLS & VACANCIES

## PASTORAL CALLS

**Rev. John Philipp Augustine**, Plainview, MN to Christ, Augusta & Grace, El Dorado – **pending**

**Rev. Albert Bader**, St. John, Ogallala, NE to Immanuel & Bethlehem, Bremen – **pending**

**Rev. Joseph Crosswhite III**, St. Peter, Randal & St. Paul, Royalton, MN to First, Phillipsburg – **pending**

**Rev. Michael Hageman**, Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; Grace, Ulysses to LCMS Office of International Mission, Tanzania – **accepted**

**Rev. Caleb Schewe**, St. John, Monticello, IA to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **pending**

## PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

**DCE Heather McCormick**, Faith, Topeka to St. Paul, Pipestone, MN – **pending**

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

<b>Augusta, Christ &amp; El Dorado, Grace</b> (sole)	<b>Hays, Messiah</b> (sole)
<b>Bremen, Bethlehem &amp; Immanuel</b> (sole)	<b>Hoisington, Concordia</b> (sole)
<b>Chanute, Zion</b> (sole)	<b>Medicine Lodge, Trinity &amp; St. John, Nashville</b> (sole)
<b>Dodge City, Holy Cross</b> (sole)	<b>Paola, First</b> (sole)
<b>Ellinwood, St. John</b> (Senior)	<b>Phillipsburg, First</b> (sole)
<b>Emporia, Messiah</b> (sole)	<b>Wichita, St. Andrews</b> (sole)

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

**Cheney, St. Paul's** (Teacher)  
**Leavenworth, St. Paul** (Principal)  
**Ottawa, Faith** (Director of Church Ministries)  
**Shawnee, Hope** (5th grade Teacher)

## OCTOBER PRAYER REQUESTS

### Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- ♦ **Family and friends of Vickie Doughty**, sister of Rev. Van Edward Mease, pastor emeritus. Vickie entered her heavenly rest September 13.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Rev. Daniel Matasovsky**, brother-in-law of Rev. Dennis Hill, pastor emeritus. Rev. Matasovsky entered his heavenly rest September 13.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Leeanne Stenson**, mother of Rev. Sherman Stenson, who is the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Downs. Leeanne entered her heavenly rest August 30.
- ♦ **Family and friends of Joy Lovett**, mother of Rev. Mark Lovett, who is the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wichita. Joy entered her heavenly rest August 28.

### Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- |  |                             |                               |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ♦ <b>Kevin Adams</b>                   | ♦ <b>Rev. Dean Christ</b>   | ♦ <b>Rev. David McCloskey</b> |
| ♦ <b>Rev. Richard Andrus</b>           | ♦ <b>Rev. David Gruoner</b> | ♦ <b>Carrie Meyers</b>        |
| ♦ <b>Simon Begley</b>                  | ♦ <b>Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan</b> | ♦ <b>Rev. Kevin Peterson</b>  |
| ♦ <b>Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer</b> | ♦ <b>Cindy Hammons</b>      | ♦ <b>Lori Reed</b>            |

### Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ♦ **Rev. Michael and Lindsey Schmidt** (daughter Annabelle Claire, Sept. 9).
- ♦ **Rev. Travis and Heather Orr** (twin daughters Lydia Joy and Rebecca Grace, Aug. 31).
- ♦ **Rev. Matthew and Amy Goltl** (daughter Hadley Grace, Aug. 20).

## Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ♦ Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, & Grace Lutheran Church, El Dorado – <b>Oct. 6</b> | ♦ St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Haven – <b>Oct. 20</b>   |
| ♦ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Arkansas City – <b>Oct. 13</b>                            | ♦ Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth – <b>Oct. 27</b> |



# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Reformation Offering



Kansas District Mission Grants



Circuit 8 Reformation Service



Jesus Door-2-Door

## Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' Oct.  
Travel Schedule

- Oct. 3-4** Fall Confirmation Retreat  
(Junction City)
- Oct. 5** Stewardship Sunday at  
Trinity (Girard)
- Oct. 15** School visit to  
St. John Lutheran School (Alma)
- Oct. 19** First Lutheran Church (Paola)
- Oct. 21** Kansas City Hispanic Winkel  
(Kansas City)
- Oct. 29** School visit to  
Zion Lutheran School  
(Independence)

## 2025 Reformation Offering

The annual Kansas District Reformation Offering will take place in October, which supports the Rev. Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund for mission outreach right here in Kansas.

The LCMS Kansas District has been awarded a \$20,000 matching grant from the Bolick Foundation for this mission offering. Every dollar raised will be matched up to \$20,000 in support of Kansas District Missions, specifically, church planting, church revitalization, and campus ministry. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift in support of these ministries and for the matching grant opportunity. Reformation Offering materials can be found on the District website via the section Missions Funding, along with a Donation button to make an online gift. The link to the Missions Funding webpage is <https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund>.

If you'd like to contribute to this special offering, you can donate online through the Kansas District website by following this link: <https://kslcms.org/kansas-district-offerings>. Click the red "Donate" button and select "Reformation Offering" from the dropdown menu on the payment page.

You may also send a check with "2025 Reformation Offering" in the memo line to LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604-1104.



## Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation

You are invited to the Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation the week-end of **Oct. 25-26** in Manhattan. Flint Hills Lutherans For Life will host a workshop from **9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25**, at Christ Lutheran in Manhattan (4592 Green Valley Road). The topic of the workshop is "What is a Gospel-Motivated Voice?" The presenter is **Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske**, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life.

The Reformation Service & Presentation, which includes worship and Holy Communion, will be held **2:00-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26**, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Junction City (9719 Clarks Creek Road). Rev. Dr. Fenske will be the preacher and presenter.

## Blessings with Grants!

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

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, LCMS  
Kansas District



The Kansas District 2026 mission grant application deadline is **Tuesday, Sept. 30**. Mission grant materials are found on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/mission-fund>.

## Circuit 8 Reformation Service Schedule

- 2:00 p.m.** Worship with Holy Communion
- 3:00 p.m.** Break / Refreshments
- 3:30 p.m.** Presentation: Can Churches Speak About Abortion and Other Life Issues Publicly or are These Issues Political, with the Church Remaining Silent?
- 4:30 p.m.** Adjournment





Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion



Good Shepherd Lutheran School Association, Marysville



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville



Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## Jesus Door-2-Door: August & September



On Saturday, August 23, 13 people representing four different LCMS congregations gathered at Zion Lutheran Church (*church plant*) in Concordia for a **Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) event**.

The large group divided into six canvassing teams and knocked on 160 doors. 55 people answered the door and 42 of them took the survey. Of those who took the survey, exactly 50% of them were confident of their salvation through Jesus Christ alone. 24% of those who took the survey were unchurched. The groups did not find anyone who desired a follow-up visit this time, although three people said they hoped to drop by and visit the Zion congregation soon.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, 13 people gathered at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence for a **Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D) event**.

After training in the survey and witnessing methods, the group broke into five teams and went out canvassing the neighborhood near the church. The teams knocked on 148 homes. 45 people answered the door, and 19 of them took the survey.

Of the 19 survey takers, 10 (53%) were unchurched. When asked, "Where do you believe you will go when you die?" five people (26%) said, "I don't know." Five others replied, "To heaven because of Jesus."

Although the teams canvassed within walking distance of the church, 11 out of 19 people (58%) said they were not familiar with Redeemer Lutheran Church. *(This highlights how difficult it is for congregations to be 'visible' in the community, especially in population dense areas.)*



**The next JD2D event (for high schoolers) will be held in St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 10-12. There will also be another JD2D event at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton on Saturday, Nov. 15th. Come one, come all!**



# EDUCATION & YOUTH

 Youth Ministry

 Principals' Conference

 LCMS Youth Gathering Highlights

 Kansas Lutheran Schools  
Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)

## Confirmation Retreat

CONFIRMATION RETREAT



The middle school Fall Confirmation Retreat will be held **October 3-4** at Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City. This re-

treat 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 contact **Rev. David Kahle** (Redeemer, Olathe) at [pastorkahle@redeemerolathe.org](mailto:pastorkahle@redeemerolathe.org) or by phone 913-764-2359.



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



## Kansas District Youth Ministry Events 2025-2026

[kslcms.org/education-youth/youth-ministry](https://kslcms.org/education-youth/youth-ministry)





**Youth Lead Training**  
March 19-22, 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/dcrh/](https://higherthings.org/dcrh/)



**LCMS Youth Gathering 2028**  
July 3-7, 2028

## 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 is open.** 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>.





Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson



St. John Lutheran Church,  
Meade



Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Medicine Lodge

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

## LCMS Youth Gathering: July 19-23, 2025

(Pictured here and middle photo) Kansas District youth and adult leaders gather for the Kansas District Event at the Bayou Barn on Saturday, July 19.



Participants gather at the Superdome in New Orleans for an LCMS Youth Gathering event.



### GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ **378** Gathering participants rode the seven charter buses, which left from Overland Park, Topeka, Kansas City, Mo., Salina, Hays and Wichita.
- ♦ **519** people participated in the Kansas District Event at the Bayou Barn in New Orleans on Saturday, July 19.
- ♦ **399** Kansas District registrants participated in the swamp tour.
- ♦ **423** people bought Kansas District shirts.

The Kansas District event at the Bayou Barn was very enjoyable! Participants ate a Cajun style buffet meal, held an alligator, listened and danced to music and played outside games.

***Special thanks to Debbie Dennett and Karen Thurnau, the Kansas District Coordinators, for their leadership and organization!***

The 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering will be held **July 3-7, 2028**, in San Antonio, Texas.





Trinity Lutheran Church  
& Preschool, Mission campus



Trinity Lutheran Church &  
Preschool, Shawnee campus



St. John Lutheran Church,  
Nashville

## EDUCATION & YOUTH



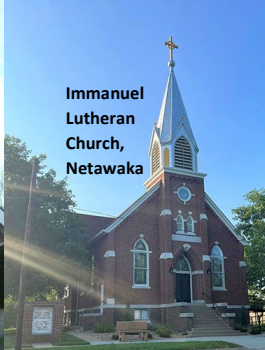
**Rachel Kathman** was installed as a teacher of St. John's Classical Lutheran School in Topeka on Wednesday, Sept. 3. She is pictured with Rev. Andy Wright, senior pastor of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church and Classical School.

**The Kansas District Principals' Conference** was held Sept. 4-5 at the District office in Topeka. Special guests were **Rev. Andy Wright**, senior pastor of St. John's, Topeka; **Chris McKenna**, founder of Protect Young Eyes, and **Sarah Everson**, Education Program Consultant of the Kansas State Department of Education. From left (front row), Chris Dehning (principal, Trinity Lutheran School, Winfield), Sharon Fries (principal, Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park), Karen Boettcher (principal, Holy Cross Lutheran School, Wichita), Kelsey Hatesohl (principal, Linn Lutheran School Association, Linn), Nancy Jankowski (principal, Hope Lutheran School, Shawnee), Pamela Robinson (interim principal, St. Paul Lutheran School, Leavenworth); (back) David Birnbaum (principal, Trinity Lutheran School, Atchison), Harmon Butler (principal, St. John Lutheran School, Alma), Rev. Daniel Grams (District Executive for Congregational & School Services), Eric Pralle (principal, Zion Lutheran School, Independence), Dr. Patti Hoffman (District School Ministry Coordinator), Jane Limback (District Accreditation) and Kyle Erickson (principal, Good Shepherd Lutheran School Association, Marysville).





Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Netawaka



Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool, Newton



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton

# 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)

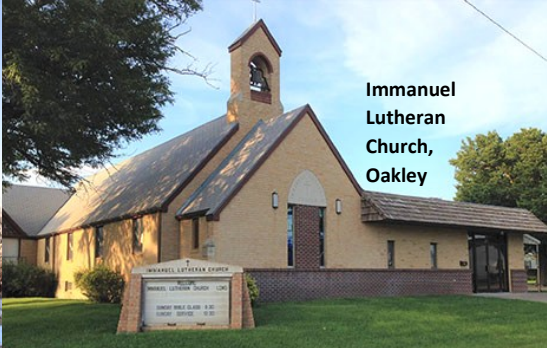
[dgrams@klssf.org](mailto:dgrams@klssf.org)

(Continued on Page 11)





St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oakley



St. John's Lutheran Church, Oberlin

# 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



Two Kingdoms & The  
Champions Network



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

Members of the Kansas District LERT Leadership Team recently attended the National LCMS Disaster Response Conference in St. Louis, Mo., where we were introduced to the new LCMS LERT Training material due to roll out by the first part of October this year. It has a fresh look, with new elements to address topics most requested by our LERT Training participants.

Also in the planning stage are new additions

that will include online modules for continuing training and education. One of the most frequent concerns has been how to keep teams engaged outside of a disaster, in the everyday life of the church. The Kansas District Training teams will be offering suggestions and encouragement during our training events that will help congregations / teams answer this question as they begin to develop their focus and purpose. How do we serve our

neighbor EVERY day, not just in times of crisis? Remember: it's not about the disaster, it's about the people.

*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' - Matthew 25:40*

### LERT Basic Training

**October 18, 2025**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church,  
Overland Park

Details and registration:

<https://www.lcms-lert.org>

Blessings,

**Donna Williams**

[ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com)

## October is Bullying Prevention Month

Bullying is a serious issue that affects individuals of all ages, especially children and teens. It involves repeated aggressive behavior—verbal, physical, or social—that aims to intimidate or harm others. Bullying can occur in schools, workplaces, communities, and online (cyberbullying), often leaving deep emotional scars.

Victims of bullying may experience anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and difficulty trusting others. In some cases, bullying can lead to academic struggles, social withdrawal, or even self-harm. Recognizing the signs—such as sudden changes in behavior, avoiding social situations, or declining performance—is key to early intervention.

Preventing bullying starts with fostering a culture of respect, empathy, and inclusion. Schools, families, and communities should promote open communication, educate about the effects of bullying, and encourage bystanders to speak up. No one should suffer in silence. Together, we can create safe environments where everyone feels valued and protected. If you see something, say something—kindness matters.

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

## Two Kingdoms & The Champions Network

There will be a Liberty weekend held **Saturday, November 15, 8:30 a.m. - noon** at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Liberty, Mo. (205 N. Forest Avenue, Liberty, MO 64068).

There will be three sessions led by **Rev. Mark Firth**, Network Director of Champions for Religious Liberty.

Lunch is provided. Please RSVP by Nov. 10 by completing the following registration: [Two Kingdoms Workshop Registration](https://www.lcrlfreedom.org/champions).

For questions please contact [championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com](mailto:championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com) or call 913-732-1090. For more information about The Champions Network, visit <https://www.lcrlfreedom.org/champions>.



# 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 Luebke**. 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 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

- ♦ **October 11 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kansas**
- ♦ **November 1 - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Columbus, Nebraska**

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

## 2026 Kansas District Salary, Benefit Guidelines

The 2026 Kansas District Salary and Benefit Guidelines are available on the [District Resources](#) page of our website. The guidelines provide congregations with an objective approach to developing a suitable compensation plan for church workers.

If you have any questions about the guidelines, call the Business Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1002, or email **Heather Williams** at [heather@kslcms.org](mailto:heather@kslcms.org).

## Congregational Commitments

Every fall, congregations are given the opportunity to make a commitment to support our joint work in the Kansas District and the Synod for the upcoming year. We appreciate your prayerful consideration for your 2026 commitment!

Congregational commitment forms were mailed to congregations in September, along with an updated "Mission and Ministry" document and a 2025 Kansas District budget summary. Please submit your 2026 form by **Nov. 30** (January 15, 2026, at the latest) in any of the following ways:

- ♦ Email / scan your form to **Shannon Fender** at [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org) or call 785-357-4441, ext. 1001. You can also fax your form to 785-357-5071.
- ♦ Mail your form to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104.

## Lutheran Witness Billings

Billing statements for 2025-2026 *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions will be mailed to all subscribing congregations the first week in October.

**Congregations:** Be sure to watch your mail for the statements!

Payment is due to the District office no later than **December 31, 2025**.

Include a [remittance voucher](#) with payment, noting the check is for *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions.

Make checks payable to the LCMS Kansas District and send to LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104, Attn: Shannon Fender.

*\*Please note that no additional additions or cancellations will be taken for this subscription year. You can, however, still make address changes.*

If you need to update an address on your subscription list, please contact **Shannon Fender** at 785-357-4441, ext. 1001 or [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org) for a change form.

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



Dear Kansas District Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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



Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

[jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org](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.*

## Invest with Purpose *Serve with Peace*

A Church Worker StewardAccount® makes it simple to invest and manage your funds at your own pace and on your own time. If you work for an LCMS church, school or organization, you are eligible to open an account. **Start earning 3% on your investment today!**



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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EXTENSION FUND

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

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. 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. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. Rates as of March 2025. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](https://lcef.org) for details.



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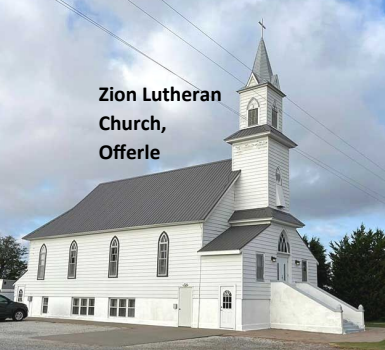


**LCEF offers  
fixed-rate  
term notes  
for 6  
months, 1  
year, 3 years,  
and 5 years –  
all at 4%.**

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.





Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & Preschool, Olathe



Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool, Olathe

# DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

### OCTOBER

### OCT. - NOV.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

Joint Church Workers Conference  
(Hope, Shawnee)

Oct. 2-4 LEA Convocation (St. Louis, Mo.)

Oct. 11 Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Our Redeemer, Hutchinson)

Oct. 13 Board of Education and Youth, 4:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Oct. 15 Board of Missions, 4:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Oct. 18 LERT Basic Training, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Bethany, Overland Park)

Oct. 23 Board of Caring Ministry, 1-2:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Oct. 30 2026 Pastors' Conference Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m. (District office, Topeka)

Nov. 1 LERT Quarterly meeting, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)

## NOV. - DEC.

Nov. 1 Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Immanuel, Columbus, Neb.)

Nov. 3 Board of Administration and Stewardship, 10-11 a.m. (Zoom)

Nov. 3 Executive Committee, 1-2 p.m. (Zoom)

Nov. 6 President's Council, 1-5 p.m.

Nov. 7 Board of Directors, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

Nov. 7-8 LCEF Annual meeting (St. Louis, Mo.)

Nov. 10-13 Council of Presidents (St. Paul, Minn.)

Nov. 14-16 KDYG (Rock Springs Ranch, Junction City)

Nov. 18 Older Adult Committee, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)

Nov. 18 Middle School Huddle planning, 1-2:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Nov. 18-21 Joint Business Administration Conference (St. Louis, Mo.)

Nov. 26-30 Thanksgiving Break (District office closed at 2 p.m. Wednesday the 26th; District office closed the 27th - 30th)

Dec. 2 Kansas District Leadership Team School Improvement Day (Salina)

Dec. 2-3 Office of National Mission meetings (St. Louis, Mo.)

## "Called to Serve" CSL Presentation

"Called to Serve" is a Concordia Seminary, St. Louis presentation which will be held **6:30-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025**, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego (17535 Say Rd., Wamego, KS 66547).

The keynote presenter is **Rev. Joel Heckmann**, CSL Admissions Officer. Rev. Heckmann will focus on the doctrine of vocation and an update on enrollment at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This presentation will be beneficial for those who are interested in pursuing pastoral ministry and LCMS clergy and laity interested in helping recruit the next generation of church workers.

A free meal is included. There is no cost to attend this event, but space is limited. Please register by visiting <https://www.csl.edu/event/called-to-serve-2025-10/> or call 800-822-9545.

## 85th LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention

The annual LLL/LHM Kansas District Convention will be held **Saturday, November 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe (13145 S. Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS 66062).

The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour."

There will be a Reformation Worship Service **Friday, October 31, 7 p.m.** at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Light refreshments will be provided after the service in the fellowship hall.

**Convention Details (Kansas District LLL website):** <https://www.lhm-ks.org/III-ks-district-convention.htm>

**Online Registration:** <https://give.lhm.org/event/III-kansas-district-convention-beautiful-savior-lutheran-church-olathe-ks-november-1-2025/e714787>

**Mail-in Registration Form:** <https://www.lhm-ks.org/docs/85th-LLL-LHM-Kansas-District-Convention-Registration.pdf>

## Concordia Academy – Wichita Concert Series

Concordia Academy – Wichita will be hosting their third annual Concert Series on **Friday, November 14, 7 p.m.** at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Wichita (6770 E. 34th Street North, Wichita, KS 67226). This event will celebrate Lutheran musical heritage while building community through music, art, and fellowship.

This year's feature is Felix Mendelssohn's **Te Deum**, presented in partnership with the Wichita Grand Opera. The evening will also include a student art show and reception.

Donations will be accepted at the door to benefit the growth Concordia Academy – Wichita and the students.

Visit [CAWichita.org](http://CAWichita.org) for event updates.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
Oswego



Faith Lutheran Church  
& Preschool, Ottawa



Bethany Lutheran Church & School, Overland Park

# SYNOD & PARTNERS

## Every One His Witness Evangelism Program

The *Every One His Witness*® Lutheran evangelism program combines sound doctrine and practical actions for sharing the faith with people in everyday situations. Participants will learn the “how-to” of witnessing using the LASSIE approach — Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage — with non-churched friends, co-workers, neighbors and family members. This program consists of two parts, with on-site core module training led by a local leader and online module training that focuses on specific contexts.

Visit <https://resources.lcms.org/every-one-his-witness-lutheran-evangelism-program> to learn more and find resources.



Does your church or school have families whose first language isn't English? Why not share a Lutheran book about Jesus with them in their heart language? Get **FREE** resources from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, including children's Bible storybooks and Luther's *Small Catechism* in more than 180 languages! Visit [www.LHFmissions.org](http://www.LHFmissions.org) for more information.



The resources from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) are intended to encour-

age youth — and adults — to consider becoming a pastor, deaconess, Lutheran school teacher, director of Christian education, director of parish music, director of family life ministries, director of church ministries or director of outreach.

The resources, which include conversation guides, Bible studies, and journey maps, will help you talk about church work and guide young people on their journey to a church work vocation.

Visit <https://resources.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve> to find resources.

## 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).





St. John Lutheran Church, Palmer



First Lutheran Church & SonShine Preschool, Paola



Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola



Trinity Lutheran Church, Parsons

# AROUND THE DISTRICT



**Hannah Magill**, organist of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wichita, is pictured with her infant son, David, playing the organ on Sunday, Aug. 24, during Trinity's Divine Service. ***We give thanks to God for all of the families and parishioners in the Kansas District!***



## New Crucifix at Immanuel, Wichita

For four years, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wichita has been working towards the installation of a crucifix. Through discussion, catechesis, and conversation among the congregation, the Board of Elders recommended installing a crucifix above the altar. The voters



voted and approved it this past June. The carved corpus was purchased and one of Immanuel's members fashioned the cross. It was finished in time to consecrate it by the Word of God and prayer, and install it above the altar during the Divine Service on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Holy Cross Day, Sept. 14).

The congregation of Immanuel gives thanks to God our Father for such a beautiful symbol of the faith given by the Spirit in the name of Jesus. To God be all glory! Visit <https://www.ilchurch.org> to view more photos of the new crucifix.

# 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

## COORDINATORS

**Dr. Patti Hoffman**  
School Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Sean Kilgo**  
Campus Ministry Coordinator

**Lottie Lee**  
Professional Development Coordinator

**Jane Limback**  
Accreditation

**Amy Schultz**  
Early Childhood Consultant

**Rev. Caleb Stoevers**  
Life Coordinator

**Donna Williams**  
Disaster Response Coordinator

## CONTACT US

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**Fax:** 785-357-5071

**Website:** <https://kslcms.org>

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/kslcms/](https://facebook.com/kslcms/)