



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

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Proverbs 31 Quilters

"She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy." Proverbs 31:20

For over a century the Proverbs 31 women of Zion Lutheran Church in rural Offerle, Kansas, have been utilizing their sewing skills in serving the poor and needy. Monthly, women from Zion and from the Offerle community gather in the fellowship hall of the church to sew and tie quilts for both domestic and foreign missions. On October 19, 1921 the Ladies Aid Society of Zion first began quilting with the intent to serve others. One of the women quilting

today is the third generation in her family to serve in this capacity. Various sizes of quilts are created including baby, youth and full size. They are distributed to Lutheran World Relief, Hospice, Orphan Grain Train, and the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. The quilts are sent out with a prayer for **Psalm 4:8** to be made manifest in the lives and hearts of the recipients: *"In peace I will both lie down and sleep."*

IN THIS ISSUE

Joint Church Workers Conference 4

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

2025 Reformation Offering, Circuit 8 Reformation Service 6

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

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation 10-11

Learn more about KLSSF and how to promote its mission across the Kansas District.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



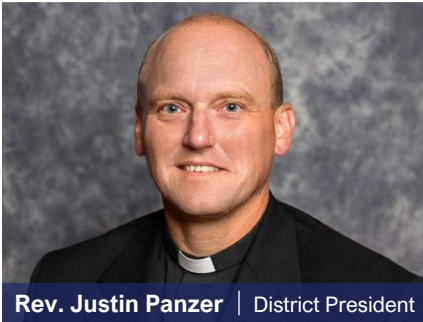
Monthly Devotion



Pastoral Installations



Joint Church Workers
Conference



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



September Devotion

**"If you abide in my word,
you are truly my disci-
ples, and you will know
the truth, and the truth
will set you free."**

(John 8:31-32)

(Part 2 of 3)

It is through the simple preaching of the crucified and risen Christ that people are converted from unbelief to faith in Christ; from darkness into light; from the world into the church; and from death into life.

Jesus wants pastors to preach the Word of God. Jesus commanded His apostles saying in **Luke 24:47** that **"repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations."** Jesus wants His Word preached because this is how faith is created and nurtured. In his 1879 address, "Duties of an Evangelical Lutheran Synod," C.F.W. Walther writes: "Pastors must direct people to Christ and say, 'You see, we proclaim the pure Word of God, which contains the eternal Gospel. That is why you should cling to us, and that is why we maintain that the moment we no longer do that, you should leave us! For salvation is not in any way dependent on us, nor the Missouri Synod. So, if it does not proclaim the pure Word of God, it is worthless, and you should leave it.'"

Just as the human body cannot long exist without food and water, so also the human spirit needs nourishment

to survive. That food and water for the spirit comes from the Word of God. Spiritual food is so important that the Bible describes God's Word as *"bread of life"* and *"living water"* (**John 6:35**). Jesus explained in **Matthew 4:4**, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

The baptized "abide in the word" as we are gathered at the pulpit, font, and altar to receive the gifts of Christ in Word and Sacrament. This is real, life-sustaining food. Receiving these gifts gives you a good conscience before Christ (Heb. 10:22; 1 Tim. 1:5). With sins forgiven and faith in Christ strengthened, you are set on the path to serve the living God.

Dear friends, abide in God's Word. How? Be regular for every Sunday worship. Commit yourself to giving two-hours at worship—one hour in the Divine Service and one hour in Bible study. Go to Bible study. Continue this pattern of receiving the Word of God at home throughout

the week. Commit yourself to a time of the day when you can do devotions and personal study of God's Word. There are many resources that you can use including the *Portals of Prayer*. Use it and read the Scriptures that go along with the daily reading. If you would like to pursue something more advanced, I encourage you to purchase the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. Commit yourself to a yearly Bible reading plan. There are many to choose from. Fathers, teach your children the Word of God and how to pray in the home. Have that weekly faith then further nurtured on Sunday morning.

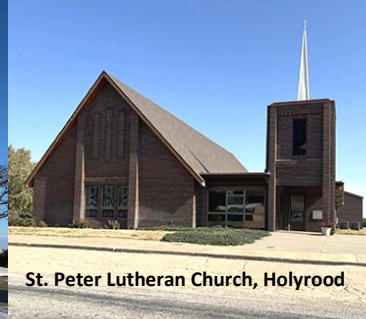
If we are a church body that prides itself in having the true Word of God, then we must be in and abide in the Word of God. **1 Peter 5:8**, *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* **2 Peter 3:18**, *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* **1 Peter 3:15**, *"Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."*



Concordia Lutheran Church,
Hoisington



Trinity Lutheran
Church, Holton



St. Peter Lutheran Church, Holyrood



Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Hoxie

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's Sept. Travel Schedule

- Sept. 5-9** Council of Presidents (St. Louis, Mo.)
- Sept. 14** Preaching at Immanuel (Hoxie) and Immanuel (Oakley)
100th Anniversary at Holy Cross (Scott City)
- Sept. 16** Circuits 4 & 5 Winkel at Grace (Iola)
- Sept. 21** Preaching at St. Paul, 125th Anniversary (Preston)
- Sept. 28** Preaching at Faith, 75th Anniversary (Abilene)
- Sept. 29-30** Joint Church Workers Conference at Hope (Shawnee)

Rev. Travis Orr was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover, on Sunday, August 17. From left, (front row) Revs. William Wingfield, Paul Tessaro, Travis Orr, Rodney Fritz, Justin Panzer; (back) Revs. Timothy Koch, Matthew Vathauer, Randy Jahnke and Mark Gaschler.



Rev. Shawn Fenske was installed as senior pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita, on Sunday, August 10. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Cliff Winter, Scott Goltl, Ryan Ankersen, Shawn Fenske, Scott Snow, Nick Cordt, Dr. Michael Bingenheimer; (back) Revs. Christopher Warneke, Michael Schotte, Dean Von Strohm, Daniel Myers, Van Edward Mease, Keith Kohlmeier, John Einem and Timothy Gordish.

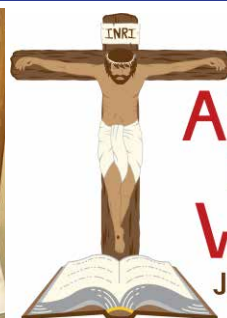




PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Dr. Frank Johnson was installed as pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion, on Sunday, August 24. Dr. Johnson also serves as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Hillsboro. From left, (front row) Revs. Nathan Harkins, Dr. Frank Johnson, Justin Panzer, Kurt Letcher; (back) Revs. Jaron Melin, Clark Davis, Alan Stahlecker and John Werner.



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://kslcms.org/presidents-office/church-workers-conference>.



Rev. Avery Hjulberg was installed as pastor to Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka, on Sunday, August 31. From left, (front row) Revs. Sean Kilgo, Nathan Harkins, Andy Wright, Sam Aizenberg, Avery Hjulberg, Justin Panzer, Kevin DeHope, Jacob Heine, Jeffrey Lane; (back) Revs. Martin Albrecht, Andrew Wehling, Daniel Grams, Michael Ada, Joel Schultz, Matthew Vathauer, John Kastner and Benjamin Ockree.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

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

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

Rev. Christopher Jackson, Saint John, Algoma & Saint Peter, Forestville, WI to St. Andrews, Wichita – **declined**

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

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

Rev. Matthew Nelson, Our Redeemer, Columbia Falls, MT to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **declined**

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

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

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Augusta, Christ & El Dorado, Grace (sole)
Bremen, Bethlehem & Immanuel (sole)
Chanute, Zion (sole)
Dodge City, Holy Cross (sole)
Ellinwood, St. John (Senior)
Emporia, Messiah (sole)

Hays, Messiah (sole)
Medicine Lodge, Trinity & St. John, Nashville (sole)
Paola, First (sole)
Phillipsburg, First (sole)
Wichita, St. Andrews (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)

SEPT. 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 Sprech**, 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.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ♦ Kevin Adams | ♦ Rev. Dean Christ | ♦ 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 |

Those celebrating the gift of new life

- ♦ **Rev. Matthew and Amy Goltl** (daughter Hadley Grace, Aug. 20.)

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- | | |
|---|---|
| ♦ Zion Lutheran Church, Chanute – Sept. 2 | ♦ St. Paul's, Alta Vista; St. Paul's, Junction City; Redeemer Lutheran Mission, Lake Wabauunsee – Sept. 22 |
| ♦ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence – Sept. 8 | ♦ Calvary Lutheran Church, Council Grove; Faith Lutheran Church & Lord's Lambs Preschool, Emporia – Sept. 29 |
| ♦ St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool, Clay Center – Sept. 15 | |

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP



Campus Ministry



Circuit 8 Reformation Service



Reformation Offering



Kansas District Mission Grants

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; redeemer.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@stlukemanhattan.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

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 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604-1104.

Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation

You are invited to the Circuit 8 Reformation Service & Presentation the weekend 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 in Junction City (9719 Clarks Creek Road). Rev. Dr. Fenske will be the preacher and presenter.



Grace Lutheran Church, Iola



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jetmore



Immanuel Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center, Junction City

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' Sept. Travel Schedule

- Sept. 4-5** Principals' Conference (District office, Topeka)
- Sept. 9** Circuit 9 Winkel at Calvary (Council Grove)
- Sept. 13** Mission Festival at St. Paul (Clay Center)
- Sept. 14** Mission Festival at St. John (Aliceville)
- Sept. 14** 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed at Risen Savior (Basehor)
- Sept. 21** Circuit 3N/3S Winkel at Christ (Overland Park)
- Sept. 28** Stewardship Sunday at Trinity (Burlington)



The LCMS U Campus Ministry at Kansas State University would like to invite members and staff of the Kansas District to a tailgate to be hosted before the September 27 K-State football game against UCF. Please pass the word along to alumni, fans, and prospective students in your congregations to stop by this come-and-go event, beginning three hours before kickoff.

More details will be shared via the [LCMS U at Kansas State University Facebook page](#) as gameday approaches. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

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, LCMS Kansas District

The Kansas District 2026 mission grant application deadline is **Tuesday, September 30.**

Mission grant materials are found on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/mission-fund>.

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Youth Ministry



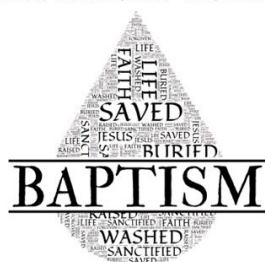
Commissionings & Installations



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. David Kahle** (Redeemer, Olathe) at 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



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)

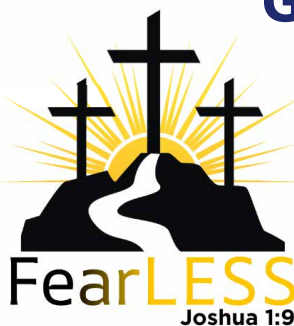


Higher Things 2026 Dates
higherthings.org/dcrh/



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 to register and for more details, <https://kslcms.org/kdyg>.



St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Junction City



Bethel Lutheran Church,
Kansas City



Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City



Grace Lutheran Church, Kansas City

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Corrie Klatt was installed as the Preschool Director of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe, on Sunday, Aug. 10. From left, Rev. David Kahle, Corrie Klatt and Dan Klatt.



Christina Heiss was installed as a teacher of Hope Lutheran Church and School, Shawnee, on Sunday, Aug. 17. Pictured with Christina is Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services.



Sofia Sandcork was commissioned and installed as a teacher of Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Overland Park, on Sunday, Aug. 24. Pictured with Sofia is Rev. Daniel Grams, District Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services.



Deaconess Lara McComack was commissioned and installed as deaconess of Calvary Lutheran Church, Topeka, on Sunday, Aug. 17. From left, Rev. Daniel Grams, Deac. Lara McComack, Rev. Benjamin Ockree and Rev. Paul McComack (*Lara's father*).



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City



Our Saviour Lutheran Church & Preschool, Kansas City



First St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool, Kensington



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley

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)



Redeemer Lutheran Mission,
Lake Wabaunsee



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakin



Grace Lutheran Church, Larned



Immanuel Lutheran
Church, Lawrence

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

🌐 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

In the early morning hours of June 22 a powerful windstorm powered through Wichita with

Lutheran Early Response Team

winds clocked at 101mph at Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport. Kenneth and Vickie Lessman, members at Trinity Lutheran Church, suffered significant damage to a 100-year-old Hackberry tree that fell across their backyard over two buildings. The estimate to remove the tree from the buildings was cost prohibitive, so they contacted me. I assessed the work and made some calls. Thanks to the generosity of LCMS Disas-

ter Response, Orphan Grain Train, LCMS Kansas District and Trinity Lutheran Church, grants were issued to cover the removal of the tree and restoration of the property. Hosted by Trinity, Wichita, a LERT Approved Chainsaw team worked Aug. 22-23 to remove the tree from the buildings, cut it up and move it into position to be removed by a private individual.

With Phase 1 completed, we can now focus on Phase 2 – restora-

tion. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our LERT partners in Tulsa, Okla., St. Peters, Mo., King of Kings, Gardner, Kan., and Zion, Newton, Kan. The lending of your skills and equipment has made all the difference in the success of this project.

Thank you for being a blessing!

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

Blessings,

Donna Williams

ksddrc@gmail.com

Healthy Aging: Living a Longer, Stronger Life

Healthy aging is about nurturing your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being as you grow older. While aging is a natural part of life, the way you experience it can be shaped by your daily choices and mindset.

Stay physically active with regular exercise to support strength and mobility. Eat a balanced diet filled with fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains to fuel your body and brain.

Mental and emotional health are equally important—stay socially connected, challenge your mind, and seek joy in everyday moments. Don't skip regular health checkups and recommended screenings.

Spiritual wellness can bring purpose, peace, and resilience. Whether through faith, meditation, prayer, or time in nature, remaining connected to God can ease stress and offer deeper meaning to life's journey.

Healthy aging isn't just about living longer; it's about living fully, with intention and grace. Learn more at nia.nih.gov/health.

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 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

- ♦ **September 12 - Nebraska District Office, Seward, Nebraska**
- ♦ **October 11 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Kansas**
- ♦ **November 1 - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Columbus, Nebraska**

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 will be 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 **November 30** (January 15, 2026, at the latest) in any of the following ways:

- ♦ Email / scan your form to **Shannon Fender** at 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.

2026 Kansas District Salary and 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, please call the Business Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1002, or email **Heather Williams** at heather@kslcms.org.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)



Kansas District Resources



Announcements and Reminders



Dear Kansas District Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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



Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org

785-230-4112

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.

Everyday Access

Faithful Purpose

An **All Access Account** from LCEF offers easy access, online convenience and the opportunity to grow your investment while supporting LCMS ministries.

**SUPPORT LCMS MINISTRIES**

**INTEREST COMPOUNDED AND PAID MONTHLY**

**NO MONTHLY OR MEMBERSHIP FEES**

**OPTIONAL VISA* DEBIT CARD**

**ONLINE ACCESS AND MOBILE APP***

**LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND**

 lcef.org/AllAccess

*App access restricted to individual investors. Online access available for all others. 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. All Access Account is known as "StewardAccount" for investors in Washington.



4%

Pick Your Term

**LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND**

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.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence



St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Leavenworth



Trinity Lutheran Church, Leavenworth



Grace Lutheran Church, Liberal



DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

2025 Blocktoberfest: Trinity, Paola

Trinity Lutheran Church in Paola (34868 Block Rd., Paola, KS 66071) will be holding their annual **Blocktoberfest** 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.

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

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

SEPTEMBER

- 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 (District office, Topeka)
- 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. - OCTOBER

- Sept. 9** KDYG planning, 9-11 a.m. (Zoom)
- Sept. 12** Treasurers Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Nebraska District office, Seward, Neb.)
- Sept. 29** Circuit Visitors / Vice-Presidents Meeting, 4-8:30 p.m. (Hope, Shawnee)
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 1** Joint Church Workers Conference (Hope, Shawnee)

SEPT. - OCTOBER

- 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. 23** Board of Caring Ministry, 1-2:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Oct. 30** 2026 Pastor's Conference Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m. (District office, Topeka)

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

Two Kingdoms & The Champions Network

There will be a Liberty weekend held **Saturday, Nov. 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](#).

For questions please contact championsnetworkoffice@gmail.com or call 913-732-1090.

For more information about The Champions Network, visit <https://www.lcrlfreedom.org/champions>.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church & Early Education Center, Leawood



St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lincoln

SYNOD & PARTNERS

Concordia, St. Louis Symposium

The Concordia, St. Louis (CSL) seminary will be hosting their 35th annual Theological Symposium from **Sept. 16-17** at the seminary (801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105).

The topic of this year's Symposium is "**Nicaea 1700**" and will discuss the Council of Nicaea, how Christians can live out the Creed, and how Nicaea provides a framework for issues facing the church today.

Visit <https://www.csl.edu/event/theological-symposium-2025> to register and learn more. You can also call 314-505-7286 or email ce@csl.edu. The registration deadline is September 2.



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 for more information.

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.



St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincolnville



Linn Lutheran School Association, Linn



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn



Zion Lutheran Church, Linn

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Pictured from left to right: Ella Goehring, Megan Goehring, Rev. Matthew Koterba, Rev. Matthew Goehring, Rev. Dr. John Genter, Sue Ann Stutheit, Rev. Jeff Lane, Rev. Philip Hoppe, Krista Ulrich and Rev. Michael Schmidt.



On August 4-6, Circuit 15 hosted a Concordia Seminary Continuing Education Workshop at Messiah Lutheran Church in Hays. The class was entitled "The Apocrypha: Origins, Import and Use Among Lutherans." The presenter was **Rev. Dr. John Genter**, associate professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE). Dr. Genter discussed the history of the Apocrypha, and how it was used throughout the years in the Church. The class also examined several texts from the Apocrypha, and engaged in discussion. The workshop was a time of great learning, growth and fellowship.

DISTRICT STAFF / COORDINATOR DIRECTORY

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District President

Rev. Daniel Grams

Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services

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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

Phone

785-357-4441

Website

<https://kslcms.org>

Fax

785-357-5071

Facebook

facebook.com/kslcms/

COORDINATORS

Dr. Patti Hoffman

School Ministry Coordinator

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