



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

August 2025

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

Second Quarter Meetings and Events. Events over the second quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, service boards, and various committees; Constitution & Bylaws Committee meetings; Council of Presidents meetings; 75th District Convention in Salina; LWML National Convention in Omaha, Neb.; LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, La.; Church Worker Care Committee; Older Adult Ministry Committee, and multiple Circuit Winkel visits.

Ordinations and Installations. In the second quarter there were five pastoral installations (Rev. Richard Schneider, Redeemer, Atwood – Region 4; Rev. James Bender, Our Saviour, Kansas City – Region 1; Rev. John Werner, St. John, Palmer – Region 2; Rev. Rocky Mease, Christ, Overland Park – Region 1; Rev. Matthew Vathauer, St. Paul, Clay Center – Region 2).

Visits/Travel. In the second quarter President Panzer drove 8,952 miles as he traveled to ordinations, installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the second quarter there were eight calling congregations in the Kansas District, with all eight churches seeking a sole pastor. Eight call lists were completed in the past quarter.

Congregational & School Services

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

Missions and Stewardship. Rev. Grams provided updates regarding the LOTW, De Soto and Zion, Concordia church plants, as well as ongoing church planting efforts in Spring Hill and Immanuel, Kansas City, Kan. There is an LCMS International Mission resource available called "Expanding the Spanish Footprint." This resource is available on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund>.

2026 Mission Grant Cycle. The application cycle will start from roughly August 15-September 30. Some additional proposed categories include Partnerships, Schools/Early Childhood Centers, Witness/Outreach Training, Microgrants of \$500 for SEO (article available at <https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund>), and Expanding the Spanish Footprint Training.

Lutheran Schools. Rev. Grams attended multiple meetings in the second quarter, including but not limited to: numerous school visits; commissionings and installations; 75th District Convention in Salina; KAIRS Executive Committee; KLSSF presentations; Early Childhood Conference at Trinity, Shawnee; LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, La.; New Worker Orientation; NLSA National Accreditation Council in St. Louis, Mo., and GOSPEL (LCMS Education Executives) in St. Louis.

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. Rev. Grams presented some highlights regarding the KLSSF, including ~\$160,000 available for scholarships. There are 34 students from six of the Kansas District schools who have been qualified for scholarships.

Youth Ministry. The KSD Lutheran Valley Retreat took place June 1-6. The LCMS Youth Gathering was held July 19-23 in New Orleans. The KSD Confirmation Retreat will be held October 3-4 at Rock Springs in Junction City. The KDYG will be held November 14-16 at Rock Springs in Junction City.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Financial Update

- Through June 2025, LCEF Kansas District has a loan of **\$23,119,404**.

- LCEF Kansas District has **3,379** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$67,908,736**.

Loans Approved in Quarter.

The Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor loan closed July 31, 2025.

Loans Paid Off in Quarter. None to report.

LCEF Business Notes. LCEF Operating Revenue Distribution will be paid again for fiscal 2025.

Current Investment Interest Rates. LCEF strives to consistently provide competitive interest rates. We believe that every dollar should work harder for you, and at LCEF, your dollars work twice as hard, growing your investment and growing LCMS ministries.

Fixed Rate Term Note

Minimum	Term	Rate	APY
\$500	6 mos.	4.000%	4.060%
\$500	1 yr.	4.000%	4.060%
\$500	18 mos.	4.000%	4.060%
\$500	2 yrs.	4.000%	4.060%
\$500	3 yrs.	4.000%	4.060%
\$500	4 yrs.	4.000%	4.060%
\$500	5 yrs.	4.000%	4.060%

Fixed Rate Jumbo Note

Minimum	Term	Rate	APY*
\$100,000	5 yrs	4.250%	4.318%

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

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

Property. District Office – The office air conditioning system is failing. It is 26 years old and reliant on R22 freon. District staff are soliciting updates for its replacement. The second floor currently has no air conditioning. The office external doors have also had some concerns as well.

Retreat Center – No significant issues, repairs or improvements this quarter. Due to its potential sale, there will be no new reservations after September 1, 2025. Seller disclosures and photos have been completed, and the listing should be live by the beginning of August.

Accounting/Finance. Congregational giving is beyond year-to-date commitments and came in at 53.12% of annual budget for the second quarter. Expenses are reported at 48.99% of budget. The investment plan that was passed at the 23B Board of

Directors meeting continues to be worked through. There were no LCEF accounts that matured this quarter. The draft budget includes payouts from the 12-quarter rolling market value average for endowments. The 1/15/25 audit is underway and should be completed by September. There was a small net gain on the 2025 Convention financial results.

Stewardship. Planned Giving – Please encourage your congregations and schools to reach out to Heather Williams or Jeffrey Maltz for a presentation. Presentations currently being planned will be held at St. Luke’s, Manhattan; Redeemer, Lawrence; Good Shepherd, Marysville, and Hope, Shawnee.

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

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

Other. The District grant application to the Bolick Foundation was approved and \$20,000 was received to match the annual Reformation Offering. These dollars can also benefit *Faith at Work*, Campus Ministry, and Church Planting.

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Kansas District Website. Website projects this quarter included posting the Convention Business, Election results and Resolutions, the proposed Convention Proceedings, the Convention evaluation link and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed video link to the 2025 Convention webpage; updating the Vice-Presidents/Circuit Visitors webpage and the Board of Directors webpage with 2025-2028 elected officers; updating the 2025-2028 triennium placemat, under the “Mission Overview” webpage; created the Joint Church Workers Conference webpage and added the registration link and necessary information; updated the Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) webpage with 2025 photos and the LVR video; updated the Kansas District Youth Gathering (KDYG) webpage with Nov. 14-16 information and the logo; updated the Confirmation Retreat webpage with the registration link, brochure, and forms; continue to add new one-year and three-year CAP prayers to the *Congregation at Prayer* webpage.

Social Media. Facebook postings included posts with 2025 District Convention photos and highlights, Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF) posts, 2025 Pentecost Offering posts, upcoming events in the Kansas District, “Prayers for Congregations and Schools,” and weekly memory Bible verses from the LCMS Synod.

Workers Together. Highlights from *Workers Together* (WT) publications this past quarter included ongoing worker installations, events/conferences around the District, 2025 District Convention election results, photos and highlights, Rev. Mark Boxman’s Campus Ministry article and KSD directory, 2025-2026 Mission Grants article, KLSSF article and information, Congregational Treasurers upcoming workshops, upcoming Youth Ministry events, Pentecost Offering, announcements and friendly reminders, and District and Synod available resources.

Lutheran Witness Kansas Insert. Highlights from *Lutheran Witness* inserts this past quarter included ongoing worker installations, President Panzer’s part 1 of 3 District Convention article, Rev. Mark Boxman’s Campus Ministry article and KSD directory, 2025-2026 Mission Grants article, 2025 Call Day results, 2025 District Convention election results, District available resources, and upcoming events/conferences around the District.

2025 District Convention. Jackie prepared the District Convention Report for LCMS Reporter and edited the Convention timeline used by the Convention Planning Committee to reflect the new triennium leading up to the 2028 Convention. She also updated the 2025-2028 triennium placemat, posted it on the District website, and ordered large placemats to hang around the District office.

2025-2028 Resolutions Tracker. Jackie updated the Resolutions Tracker to be used by District staff and the BOD service boards to track their assigned resolutions for the 2025-2028 triennium.

2025 Reformation Offering materials. Jackie updated the 2025 Reformation Offering materials, which will be sent out mid-September.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Co-Chair and Mark Wolters, Co-Chair

2025 Convention Resolutions. The below resolutions are assigned to the Board of Missions for 2025-2028. The Board of Missions had discussion for each resolution:

- Resolution 25-01-04 – To Support LCMS Mission Work in Francophone West and Central Africa
- Resolution 25-02-04 – To Plant Schools and Lutheran Early Childhood Centers in the LCMS Kansas District
- Resolution 25-03-01 – To Plant Churches in the LCMS Kansas District
- Resolution 25-03-02 – To Promote Partnership in the Gospel in the LCMS Kansas District
- Resolution 25-03-03 (also CVs/VPs) – To Engage in Training for Witness and Outreach

2026 Mission Grants. The Board of Missions reviewed the 2026 Mission Grant Application and Cover letter and made some changes. The goal is to send out these materials in mid-August. The mission grant cycle will be from August 15-September 30. Rev. Daniel Grams highlighted “Additional Proposed Categories” in his report (Partnerships, Schools/Early Childhood Centers, Witness/Outreach Training, Microgrants of \$500 for SEO, expanding the Spanish Footprint Training) and encouraged awarding mission grants in some of these areas. He proposed making these changes to the 2026 Mission Grant Application before it is sent out. The Board of Missions agreed with making the proposed edits to the 2026 Mission Grant Application.

Board of Education & Youth

Dr. Bruce Schultz, Chair

The Board of Education & Youth moved to present the following resolutions to the Board of Directors for adoption:

25C-03-01 – To extend a contract to fill the position of District National Lutheran School Accreditation Commissioner for the 2025-2026 school year

Resolved, that a contract be extended to Ms. Jane Limback to fulfill the duties of the position of District National Lutheran School Accreditation Commissioner for the 2025-2026 school year, as outlined in the district operating manual and stipulated by contract, with a stipend of \$2,500.

25C-03-02 – To extend a contract to fill the position of Professional Development Coordinator for the 2024-2025 school year

Resolved, that a contract be extended to Ms. Lottie Lee to fulfill the duties of the position of Professional Development Coordinator for the 2024-2025 school year, as outlined in the district operating manual and stipulated by contract, with a stipend of \$1,500.

25C-03-03 – To extend a contract to fill the position of Early Childhood Consultant for the 2025-2026 school year

Resolved, that a contract be extended to Mrs. Amy Schultz to fulfill the duties of the position of Early Childhood Consultant for the 2025-2026 school year, as outlined in the district operating manual and stipulated by contract, with a stipend of \$1,500.

25C-03-04 – To extend a contract to fill the position of KSD Accreditation Coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year

Resolved, that a contract be extended to Mrs. Mindy Sanders-Miller to fulfill the duties of the position of KSD Accreditation Coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year, as outlined in the district operating manual and stipulated by contract, with a stipend of \$1,000.

25C-03-05 – To adopt the position description for Lutheran Schools of Kansas State Accreditation Coordinator

Resolved, to adopt the attached position description and include it in the DOM.

Board of Caring Ministry

Curtis Engelbrecht, Chair

Reports. Reports were received and reviewed from District Disaster Response, Older Adult Ministry, Parish Nurse Ministry, Pastors Wives Retreat, Life Coordinator, Church Worker Care, and *Faith at Work*.

Business. DOM Position Description – Curtis Engelbrecht assigned the Caring Ministry Board members to evaluate the position description, particularly the Summary of Purpose, for more efficient wording and focus.

2025 Convention Resolutions Tracker. The Caring Ministry Board reviewed Resolution 25-01-02 (below).

Resolution 25-01-02

(Overture 25-01-02)

To Cultivate a Culture of Life in the Congregations and Schools of the LCMS Kansas District

WHEREAS, All life is valuable to God especially the most vulnerable (John 3:16–17; Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41–44; Psalm 31:14–15; Job 10:9–12; Matthew 6:26; 18:10; Psalm 82:3–4; Small Catechism [SC] III, First Article); and

WHEREAS, God created us to care about other people and to help them in their times of need (SC I, Fifth Commandment); and

WHEREAS, Mothers, fathers, and children are a gift from God entrusted to each other's care to form a family and serve Him through their love for each other (Genesis 1:27–28; Ephesians 5:22–6:4; Psalm 127:3); and

WHEREAS, Christians are called "to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, The "Value Them Both Amendment" was defeated in the State of Kansas on August 2, 2022, thereby preserving a constitutional right to personal autonomy which includes determining whether to continue a pregnancy thus making the State of Kansas a safe-haven and destination place of abortion for many women in Kansas and surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has long worked to promote a culture of life; and

WHEREAS, There are many pro-life organizations in the State of Kansas which work to build a culture of life; and

WHEREAS, Establishing a culture of life begins in our churches, schools, and communities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District in convention give thanks to God for His unending mercies, especially in overturning *Roe v. Wade*, thus preserving the lives of many unborn children; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations and schools be encouraged to use Synod Life Ministry support and training materials, including but not limited to resources for policy manuals, guidance to Life Ministry agencies, and encouragement to access grants from allied institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District leadership encourage congregational and school involvement with life ministry in ways such as education, advocacy, and human care efforts such as forming a Life Team through Lutherans for Life of Kansas, participating in sidewalk counseling, contacting legislators, etc.; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District congregations and schools be encouraged to work to provide care for those suffering from the effects of abortion and encourage God's people to show mercy by providing options to abortion such as adoption, pre- and postnatal care, housing support, offerings to support the purchase of an ultrasound machine for local pregnancy service centers, etc.; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District encourage all pastors, teachers, congregations, and schools to teach and proclaim human life as sacred and, in word and deed, live out mercy, life, and forgiveness in Jesus Christ our Savior (John 10:10).

25C-02-01 – To extend a contract to fill the position of District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) for the 2025-2028 triennium

Resolved, that a contract be extended to Mrs. Donna Williams to fulfill the duties of the position of District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) for the 2025-2028 triennium, as outlined in the district operating manual and stipulated by contract, with a stipend of \$4,800 per year.

Board of Administration & Board of Stewardship

David Bruns, Chair

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

Resolution 25C-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

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

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$1,123.60
West Africa	\$75.00

LERT/Disaster	\$150.00
Conv. Offering-Theological Education	\$3,210.00
Total	\$4,558.60

The board discussed the need to replace the AC units and air handler at the Lutheran Center. The following resolution was made, seconded, and passed to go before the Board of Directors:

Resolution 25C-01-02 To Replace the District Office Air Conditioning Units and Air Handler

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors approve up to \$140,000 to replace the air conditioning units and air handler at the Lutheran Center; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Board authorizes the Business Manager to execute the project.

Congregational giving is beyond the year-to-date commitments, at 53.12% of budget. Expenses are reported at 48.99% of budget. Business Manager Heather Williams presented the Financial Dashboard, balance sheets, the statement of activities, and the budget-to-actual tables. She also presented the draft operating budget and draft special/project budget. District Treasurer Brad Brunkow distributed the Financial Asset Planning sheet for July 2025.

Executive Committee

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

Resolution 25C-06-01 – Appointment of a Presiding Officer for meetings of the Kansas District Board of Directors

Resolved, that Dave Bruns be appointed as the Presiding Officer of the Kansas District Board of Directors for the 2025-2028 triennium.

Dave Bruns recused himself from voting on this Resolution.

Resolution 25C-06-02 – Appointment of Service Boards and Chairs for the Kansas District

Resolved, that the following appointments for the 2025-2028 triennium be approved:

Board of Administration and Stewardship: Dave Bruns (chair; chair of Salary Review Committee), Rev. Alan Stahlecker Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Scott Bokelman, Brad Brunkow, Heather Williams, Rev. Justin Panzer, Rev. Dan Grams, Jeff Maltz

Board of Education & Youth: Bruce Schultz (chair), Rev. Michael Hageman, Rachel Goodpasture, Kara Titus, Rev. Dan Grams

Board of Caring Ministry: Curt Engelbrecht (chair), Rev. Andy Keltner, Rev. Andrew Wehling, Bethany Stoevers, Rev. Justin Panzer

Board of Missions: Marvin Schulteis (co-chair), Mark Wolters (co-chair), Rev. Michael Schotte, Christopher Dehning, Rev. Dan Grams, Jackie Schaefer

Resolution 25C-06-03 – Appointment of Kansas District Treasurer

Resolved, that Brad Brunkow be appointed as the Kansas District Treasurer for the 2025-2028 triennium.

Resolution 25C-06-04 – Appointment of 2025-2028 Kansas District Committee Members

Resolved, to appoint the following committee members for the 2025-2028 triennium:

District Operating Manual Committee and Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Rev. Dave Meier, Rev. Rodney Fritz, Rev. Bob Grimm, Rev. Ben Ockree

Parish Education Committee: Rev. Phil Hoppe (chair), Rev. Matthew Goehring, Rev. CJ Luttinen, Amber Goeglein, Rachel Goodpasture, Bethany Stoevers, Jim Bauck, and D.J. Johnson

Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team: National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) Commissioner – Jane Limback; State Board of Education Accreditation Coordinator – Mindy Sanders-Miller; Professional Development Coordinator (PDC) – Lottie Lee; The District Early Childhood Consultant – Amy Schultz

Education Loan Repayment and Scholarship Committee: Rev. Dennis Kootz, Jim Duitsman, Joyce Duitsman, Heather Meyer, and Brad Brunkow

Church Worker Care Committee: Rev. David Kahle, Bethany Johnson, Lara McComack

Older Adult Committee: Sharon Kolanowski (chair), Bill Evans, Barb Geuy, Betty Amey, Clayton Kinnett

Campus Ministry Coordinator: Rev. Sean Kilgo

Life Ministry Coordinator: Rev. Caleb Stoever

Parish Nurse Coordinator: Mary Hume

Pastors Wives Retreat Coordinator: Shelli Panzer

District Archivist: *vacant*

Approval of District President's Appointment to the **Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee (DYMC)**: Mr. Lester Tacha, lay representative (St. John, Meade)

Approval of District President's Appointment to the **Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors**: Mr. Mark Wolters (3-year term as President Panzer's designee). And, Dr. Bruce Schultz, KSD BOD member, (3-year term) approval to be elected by the KLSSF Board.

Resolution 25C-06-05 – Appointment of Rev. Justin Panzer and Rev. Caleb Stoever

Resolved, that Rev. Justin Panzer and Rev. Caleb Stoever be appointed as the two "Members" to Lutheran Social Services, Inc. to represent the LCMS Kansas District for 2026.

Resolution 25C-06-06 – Reappointment of Rev. Dan Grams

Reappointment of Rev. Dan Grams to a 3-year term as the Assistant to the President for Congregation and School Services

Resolution 25C-06-07 – Reappointment of Jeff Maltz

Reappointment of Jeffrey Maltz to a 3-year term as Kansas District LCMS Vice-President of LCEF

Resolution 25C-06-08 – 2025 Convention Proceedings

Whereas, Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Secretary of the Kansas District, has submitted the 2025 Proceedings of the LCMS Kansas District Convention, and

Whereas, the members of the President's Council have read and offered corrections, and

Whereas, the members of the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors have read and offered corrections; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 2025 Proceedings of the LCMS Kansas District Convention be approved by the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors.

Resolution 25C-06-09 – Selection of Lay BOD Representative and Alternate to the 2026 Synod Convention

Resolved, that Bruce Schultz be selected as the Lay BOD representative and Mark Wolters as the Lay BOD alternate representative to the 2026 Synod Convention (July 18-23, Phoenix, AZ).

(2026: BOD – Lay; 2029: BOD – Ordained; 2032: BOD – Commissioned)

Resolution 25C-06-10 – Appointment of District Staff Advisory Delegate to the 2026 Synod Convention

Resolved, that Rev. Dan Grams be appointed as an advisory delegate to represent the District staff at the 2026 Synod Convention

Resolution 25C-06-11 – Christ, Manhattan

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Christ, Manhattan Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25C-06-12 – Christ, Topeka

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Christ, Topeka Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25C-06-13 – Faith, Topeka

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Faith, Topeka Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25C-06-14 – Christ Our Savior, Louisburg

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Christ Our Savior, Louisburg Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25C-06-15 – Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee

Whereas, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Mission (RELM) began almost 25 years ago to serve the people of Lake Wabaunsee, Eskridge, and the surrounding area; and

Whereas, Redeemer Lutheran Church, a.k.a RELM has presented its governing documents and they have been approved by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and by the congregation members; and

Whereas, Redeemer Lutheran Church has also formally presented its application for membership; and

Whereas, the District President is now presenting these items to the Board of Directors for formal approval; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Redeemer Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws and application for membership; and, be it further

Resolved, that Redeemer Lutheran Church be assigned to Circuit 8 with congregation number 811; and, be it finally

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors give thanks to God for this new member congregation of the LCMS Kansas District by standing and singing the Doxology.

Resolution 25C-06-16 – Circuits 4 and 9 Electoral Circuit for the 2026 Synod Convention

Whereas, according to the LCMS Handbook 3.1.2(a), an electoral circuit “shall be determined by the district board of directors”; and

Whereas, Kansas District Bylaw 5.4 says: “Electoral Circuit Meetings: The congregations of a visitation circuit or two adjacent visitation circuits, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall meet once triennially to carry out the responsibility of electing delegates to the general convention of the Synod and to consider sending overtures to the Synod convention, according to the Synod Bylaws.”; and

Whereas, the Kansas District Board of Directors requested exception for Circuits 3N and 3S and 4 and 9 at the January 31, 2025 meeting, and the exception for Circuits 4 and 9 was not granted by the Synod President; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Directors, acting in accord with Bylaw 5.4, make Circuits 4 and 9 an Electoral Circuit for the 2026 Synod Convention with this information shared with the respective Circuit Visitors by the District Secretary.