



Kansas District Board of Directors

November 7, 2025

President: Rev. Justin Panzer
Vice-Presidents: Rev. Alan Stahlecker, First Vice-President, Region 2
Rev. Michael Schotte, Second Vice-President, Region 3
Rev. Andrew Wehling, Third Vice-President, Region 1
Rev. Philip Hoppe, Fourth Vice-President, Region 4
Secretary: Rev. Joshua Woelmer
Circuit Visitor Chair: Rev. Andy Keltner
Commissioned Ministers: Mr. Christopher Dehning
Deac. Bethany Stoever
Laity: Mr. Scott Bokelman
Hon. David Bruns
Mr. Curt Engelbrecht
Dr. Bruce Schultz
Mrs. Kara Titus
Lead Staff: Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services
Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President
Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager
Excused: Rachel Goodpasture, Marvin Schulteis, Mark Wolters, Brad Brunkow

Hon. Dave Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed Scott Bokelman and Rev. Philip Hoppe.

Rev. Alan Stahlecker led our devotions, based upon Matthew 6:24–34 and the First Petition of the Lord’s Prayer. He preached on God’s care for our bodies and souls. We can trust God to take care of our lives, because He upholds all creation and cares that even the lilies of the field are clothed and birds are fed, both of which are insignificant compared with the value He places on us, whom He has purchased and redeemed by Jesus’s blood.

The minutes for the previous regular Board meeting and two special Board meetings were approved as sent.

Several items were proposed for inclusion on the consent Agenda:

Resolution 25D-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

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

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$55,611.85
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$100.00
LERT/Disaster	\$625.00
Scholarship	\$32,520.90
Church Worker Care	\$347.00
Reformation Offering	\$335.00
Total	\$89,539.75

Resolution 25D-01-02 – 2026 Housing Allowance Designation

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors establish the staff housing allowances for 2026 for: Rev. Justin Panzer and Rev. Daniel Grams.

Resolution 25D-01-03 – 2026 Auditor Appointment

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors appoint the LCMS auditors for 2026.

Resolution 25D-05-02 – To Board Designate Unspent Funds for Kansas District Hispanic Ministry

Resolved, that unspent 2025 mission grant funds earmarked for Kansas District Hispanic Ministry be moved to a new board-designated fund called “Kansas District Hispanic Ministry.”

Resolution 25D-06-01 – Risen Savior, Basehor

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Risen Savior, Basehor Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25D-06-02 – Immanuel, Bremen

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Immanuel, Bremen Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 25D-06-04 – District Operations Manual: Eliminate Position Descriptions

- Assistant to the President for Education & Youth
- Assistant to the President for Missions & Stewardship

Resolution 25D-06-05 – District Operations Manual: Add Position Descriptions

- Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team
- Lutheran Schools of Kansas State Accreditation Coordinator

Resolution 25D-06-06 – District Operations Manual Revisions

- Board of Administration
- Board of Directors
- Board of Stewardship
- Board of Education and Youth
- Board of Missions
- Campus Ministry Coordinator
- Church Planting Committee
- Church Planting
- Church Worker Care Committee
- Church Worker Conference Planning Committee
- Deaf Ministry
- District Youth Ministry Committee
- Executive Committee
- Older Adults Committee
- Parish Education Committee
- Board of Caring Ministry

- Congregational Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Secretary

Action: Consent agenda adopted

Staff and Board Reports

Rev. Justin Panzer, President, presented his report. He highlighted the two congregations that are chartering as LCMS member congregations: Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee and Zion, Concordia. He noted that the Retreat Center has been sold, and an ad hoc committee will be set up to consider the wise stewardship of the funds from that sale. Partnership conversations continue apace throughout the District. There are many good examples of congregations choosing to partner and work together in the mission field.

Mr. Curt Engelbrecht, chair of the Board of Caring Ministry, presented the report from their meeting yesterday. He noted their conversations with Donna Williams, the Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator. She has lost two of her three chainsaw trainers, so she is looking to onboard new leaders. Also, LERT is looking to purchase a small Bobcat skid steer that can go into backyards to clean up debris. There may be a grant from the Synod to help purchase a skid steer with a dump trailer. The MT-100 version is also used across other LCMS districts, which would help with its maintenance and sharing with other LERT teams for joint disaster relief operations.

Rev. Grams began by informing us of his discussions with the State of Kansas Board of Education to allow accreditation for our Lutheran schools in Kansas through KESA 2.0, and to use NLSA for our accreditation body. He hopes to have an agreement in place by February. Dan has given presentations to a number of schools, winkels, and conferences about the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. He noted that so far KLSSF has received 17 donations totaling \$78,127.

Dr. Schultz, chair of the Board of Education and Youth, delivered its report on Lutheran schools, youth ministry, and parish education. He noted that hotels are becoming too expensive for our youth events; the Board is looking to host youth at Rock Springs or at various congregations to be better stewards of the money to host these youth events.

Rev. Dan Grams gave the report for the Board of Missions. He highlighted his discussions with Hillside Community Lutheran Church (NALC) in Spring Hill, Kansas. The congregation is small and is open to entertaining a sale of their property. He has discussed with them the difference between the LCMS and the NALC. Although their church would not be folded over into an LCMS congregation, we are hopeful that the LCMS can plant a brand-new church in Spring Hill and work with the Hillside members as much as can be possible. He also highlighted the work at Immanuel, KCK by Daniel Jordan. They have received District funds to support the Hispanic ministry in KCK. He is working with area pastors to mentor Daniel and support his work with local funds. He reported on West Africa / Africa missions and what the future might be for our support of international missions.

The Mission Grant cycle had increased applicants. There were 37 total requests, including those who were not required to submit because of funds available from other sources. We had \$152,000 available, not including funds available from other sources. There were \$129,000 in requests, in addition to \$110,000 from other sources. He led us through the grant requests and the rationale for each.

Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President, presented his report. He and three delegates from Kansas are currently at the LCEF Annual meeting in St. Louis. There have been no loans approved or paid off in this quarter.

Mrs. Heather Williams gave her report. She noted the work done by Krause Mechanical to understand and diagnose the issues with the AC units. In studying the system, he discovered that half of our VAV boxes and the controls were inoperable. His suggested repairs will likely result in great energy savings. She noted the groundwater issues in the basement sprinkler riser room; investigations to the cause are continuing. She noted that the audit has been completed, and we received an unqualified (clean) opinion and no management comments or deficiencies. Synod Convention assessments are already arriving. She reported on Planned Giving presentations, Treasurer Workshops, and the Estates.

Heather also gave the Treasurer's report for Brad Brunkow. She presented the financial dashboard, the balance sheets, the statement of activities, the budget-to-actual tables, and the financial asset planning sheet.

Dave Bruns, chair of the combined Boards of Administration and Stewardship, gave its report. He noted the offer for the property of Hillside Community Lutheran Church as we look to plant a church in Spring Hill. He also noted that the allocation for the Ash Wednesday Offering will look slightly different, as 25% will be designated to support grants for potential future church workers to visit CUS schools and seminaries.

Heather presented the 2026 Draft Budget. She answered questions regarding the operating and special/project budget columns.

Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist, presented her report. Much of her work this quarter has involved updates to the website and setting up event sign-ups.

Rev. Joshua Woelmer gave a report on the upcoming Synod convention and the voting and advisory delegates that have been elected by circuit forums. He gave an update on the Congregational Constitutions & Bylaws Review Committee and the District Bylaws & Operations Manual Committee. He provided an update on the LCMS Task Force for Circuit Parameters, and he noted his attendance at the LCMS District Secretaries' Orientation.

Unfinished Business

The Board noted the sale of the Retreat Center and the ongoing conversation regarding the use of the funds from that sale.

New Business

Resolution 25D-01-04 – Purchase Hillside Community Lutheran Church Property and Land

Whereas, the mission opportunities for a congregation plant in the Spring Hill, Kansas, area are great, and

Whereas, Rev. Dan Grams has had multiple conversations with current members at Hillside Community Lutheran Church (NALC) about LCMS doctrine and practice, and

Whereas, Rev. Dan Grams held an information meeting at Hillside Community on October 26,

2025 with interested, local LCMS members with the intent of forming a congregation, and

Whereas, the current membership of Hillside Community Lutheran may be interested in joining the LCMS, and

Whereas, the current members of Hillside Community have requested an in-writing proposal with potential paths forward for them with the LCMS Kansas District, and

Whereas, it would be most beneficial for the current congregation to disband, for the LCMS Kansas District to purchase the property and land, to form a Church Planting Simplified (CPS) team, and to plant a LCMS church with a new name, mission, and vision, and

Whereas, Hillside Community has an outstanding debt of approximately \$230,000 to fulfill a current mortgage debt and from leaving membership in the ELCA, and

Whereas, the Hillside Community property and land is approximately 6 acres, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Directors authorize the District President, the Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services, the LCEF Vice-President, and the District Business Manager, to move ahead expeditiously to have further conversations with current Hillside Community membership to purchase the properties and land; and be it finally

Resolved, that the District leadership present a final purchase proposal to the Board of Directors to purchase the property and land with board designated dollars from the Doris Meyer Estate.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 25D-05-01 – Ash Wednesday Offering Designation for 2026

Whereas, there is need for identifying sources of funding for Scholarship Grants to students pursuing degrees in professional church work at LCMS universities and seminaries; and

Whereas, there is also need for identifying sources of funding for grants to church workers in the Kansas District who have education loan indebtedness; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the proceeds of the 2026 Ash Wednesday Offering be allocated 25 percent to award grants for future church worker recruitment visits to CUS schools and seminaries and 75 percent to the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Fund.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 25D-05-03 – 2026 Budget Adoption

Resolved, that the 2026 budget, as presented, be approved by the Board of Directors.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 25D-06-03 – Zion, Concordia

Whereas, Zion, Concordia began in 2017 to serve the people of Concordia and the surrounding area; and

Whereas, Zion, Concordia has presented its governing documents, and they have been approved by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and by the congregation members; and

Whereas, Zion, Concordia 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 Zion, Concordia Constitution and Bylaws and application for membership; and, be it further

Resolved, that Zion Lutheran Church be assigned to Circuit 7 with congregation number 707; 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.

Action: Adopted

The Board stood and sang the Common Doxology in praise to God for the chartering of Zion Lutheran Church in Concordia, Kansas.

Pres. Panzer continued with the announcements.

Announcements

- Future BOD Meetings
 - February 6, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Zoom BOD*)
 - May 8, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - August 7, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - November 6, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - February 5, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Zoom BOD*)
 - May 7, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - August 6, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - November 5, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - February 4, 2028 (*Zoom service boards; Zoom BOD*)
 - May 5, 2028 – BOD in person, District Office, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, May 4, 2028 (BOD farewell dinner)
- 69th LCMS Convention @ Phoenix, AZ
 - Floor Committee Weekend – May 29 – June 1, 2026 @ St. Louis
 - Convention Dates – July 18–23, 2026

The board adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Justin Panzer.

Respectfully,
Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer, Secretary