



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

APRIL 2026

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ABOVE LEFT: The sanctuary is prepared for the Easter season at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincolnville.
ABOVE RIGHT: The sanctuary is prepared for the Easter season at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence.
BELOW: The sanctuary is prepared for the Easter season at Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro.





Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland

Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson

St. John Lutheran Church, Meade

Trinity Lutheran Church, Medicine Lodge

MONTHLY DEVOTION



Rev. Justin Panzer
Kansas District President



April Devotion

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. It proves that He is the Son of God. It proves that His message is true. Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (*Romans 4:25*).

I believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus because I recognize that I am a sinner. Because of His death on the cross and His third day bodily resurrection from the dead, righteousness and salvation have been obtained, won, paid for. How is this blessing given to each of us? By faith. Faith grabs hold of the blessings of Christ — indeed, of Christ Himself. Or perhaps it is better to say, in faith Christ grabs hold of us.

The significance of Christ’s resurrection runs through the New Testament. Baptism connects us to Christ’s death and resurrection! (*Romans*

6:3-5). Peter says, “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (*1 Peter 3:21*). Baptism is that “appeal,” which is a result of the resurrection! The resurrected Christ delivers the keys to His disciples: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven” (*John 20:23*). Jesus said time and again of those whom the Father gives Him, “I will raise him up on the last day!” (*John 6:39, 44*). And in a grand reference to the Lord’s Supper, Jesus says, “Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (*John 6:54*).

Finally, St. Paul wrote: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen

asleep” (*1 Cor. 15:20*). Christ is the first one raised, and we too shall be raised from the dead at the Last Day. And “sleep” is not some mere euphemism for the horror of death. No, death for us Christians, as Luther described it, shall be like falling asleep and then waking refreshed from a short nap. “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ” (*1 Cor. 15:22-23*).

Worship this Christ who has died and been raised for you. Extend an invitation to those who need to hear that same saving message with you especially during this time of year. Yes, Christ is risen and so shall we!

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

2026 Pastors Fall Conference:
Call for Papers

Pastoral Reading Groups

2026 Call Day Information

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's
April Travel
Schedule

April 7
Circuit 10/11 Winkel at
Trinity (Wichita)

April 12
Preach at Zion (Vassar)

April 12
Installation of Rev.
David Weaver at St.
John (Ellinwood)

April 13-15
CUS visit at Concordia,
St. Paul (Minn.)

April 18
Kansas District
LWML Convention
(Manhattan)

April 19
Preach at St. John
(Aliceville)

April 24-30
Council of Presidents
meeting in St. Louis,
Mo., and Fort Wayne,
Ind.

2026 Pastors Fall Conference: Call for Papers

The 2026 Pastors Fall Conference will be held **Oct. 5-6, 2026**, at Zion Lutheran Church in Newton. Kansas District Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors will meet on Sunday evening, Oct. 4.

The theme of the Pastors Conference is "Truth: Abiding in the Word in Cases of Conscience" based on Psalm 86:11. The keynote speakers are **Rev. Dr. Brian German**, Assistant Professor/Chair of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, and Director of the Concordia Bible Institute; and **Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford**, President of the LCMS Minnesota South District, and Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Farmington, Minn.

The Pastors Conference Planning Committee is requesting abstract papers from Kansas District pastors, to be presented as breakout sessions at the Pastors Conference. Six breakout sessions need to be filled. Papers are encouraged to be related to the conference theme; those papers on topic will be given preference.

Pastors: please submit your abstract paper to **Tami Lierz** at tami@kslcms.org no later than May 1, 2026.

2026 Call Day Information

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
(CSL)

Tuesday, April 28, 3 p.m. (CDT)
- Assignment of Vicarages &
Deaconess Internships

Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m. (CDT) -
Assignment of Calls

Services will be livestreamed in
the Chapel of St. Timothy and
St. Titus. Visit <https://www.csl.edu/academics/call-day-services>
for more information.

Concordia Theological Semi-
nary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)

Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m. (EST)
- Assignment of Vicarages &
Deaconess Internships

**Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m.
(EST)** - Assignment of Calls

Services will be livestreamed in
Kramer Chapel. Visit [https://cts-
fw.regfox.com/2026-call-day](https://cts-fw.regfox.com/2026-call-day)
for more information.

District Pastoral Reading Groups

There are study groups for pastors located around the Kansas District! Please email the listed contact if you are interested in joining one of these study groups.

Cross Connections

(meets the last Tuesday of the month)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2200 3rd Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801

Contact:

jason.toombs@gmail.com

Oratio Meditatio Tentatio

(meets every third Tuesday of the month)

Trinity Lutheran Church
611 S. Erie St.
Wichita, KS 67211

Contact:

pateraaron@gmail.com

Ora. Labora. Lege.

(meets the last Tuesday of the month)

Calvary Lutheran Church
4211 NW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66617

Contact:

pastoripkinney@gmail.com

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Nathan Misch, St. Paul, Plainview, TX to T.I.G. Partnership – **declined**

Rev. Joshua Reber, Faith, St. Cloud and Trinity, Clear Lake, MN to First, Paola – **declined**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. David Weaver, Trinity, Stewardson, IL to St. John, Ellinwood – **accepted, installation Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 3 p.m.**

Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, St. Peter's, Swanville, MN to Trinity, Medicine Lodge and St. John's, Nashville – **accepted, installation Sunday, April 26, 2026**

Rev. Robert Leiste, Intentional Interim Pastor to Faith, Derby – **accepted, installation Sunday, May 3, 2026**

Rev. Nathan Neugebauer, St. John's, Revillo and Bethlehem, Milbank, SD to Holy Cross, Dodge City – **accepted, installation Sunday, May 3, 2026**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Ellsworth, Immanuel (sole) **Overland Park, Christ** (senior)

Garden City, Trinity (senior) **Paola, First** (sole) (seminary)

Hoisington, Concordia (sole) **Wichita, Holy Cross** (associate) (seminary)

Leavenworth, St. Paul (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Principal) (Teacher)

Manhattan, Christ (Teacher)

Wichita, Ascension (Teacher)

APRIL PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- **Family of Diane Christ**, daughter of Rev. Dean Christ. Diane entered her heavenly rest March 21.
- **Family of Josiah Robert Woelmer** (parents Rev. David and Elizabeth Woelmer; grandparents Rev. Peter and Marcia Lange and Rev. James and Rachel Woelmer). Josiah entered his heavenly rest February 27.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- **Rev. Richard Andrus**
- **Rev. James Kirschenmann**
- **Simon Begley**
- **Rev. David McCloskey**
- **Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer**
- **Carrie Meyers**
- **Rev. Dean Christ**
- **Rev. Kevin Peterson**
- **Rev. David Gruoner**
- **Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz**
- **Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan**
- **Rev. Jody Walter**

Those celebrating the gift of new life

- **Rev. Ian and Hannah Kinney** (son Jeremiah Patrick, March 26).

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn – **April 7**
- Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro & Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion – **April 20**
- Immanuel Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center, Junction City – **April 13**
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church & School, Wichita – **April 27**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Kansas District Scholarships

2026 Pentecost Offering

2026 Jesus Door-2-Door

LCMS U Campus Ministry
Staff Conference

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams'
April Travel Schedule

April 2, 3, 5
Holy Week and Easter at Zion
(Vassar)

April 12
St. John's Lutheran Church
(Topeka)

April 12-13
Commissioned Worker Retreat

April 14
Circuit 12 Winkel (Ellinwood)

April 17-18
Middle School Huddle at Rock
Springs (Junction City)

April 18-19
LWML Convention (Manhattan)

April 20
Open Arms at King of Kings
(Gardner)

April 21
Circuit 4 Winkel (Erie/Hepler)

April 24
Concordia Academy (Wichita)

April 25
Faith at Work service project
(Spring Hill)

Scholarships Available

Our LCMS congregations and schools need church workers, and the Kansas District is ready and willing to help. The district is once again offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at one of the Synod's universities or seminaries. Last year, the Kansas District awarded \$62,787.45 in scholarships to future church workers!

Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of applicants received. The application deadline is June 1.

The 2026-2027 Scholarship Application is available on the District website, <https://kslcms.org/kansas-district-stewardship/education-grants>.

Other organizations offering scholarships to church work students include the Kansas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Lutheran Laymen's League, and St. John's Alumni Association.

2026 Pentecost Offering

We give thanks to God for last year's completion of the two main buildings for the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques (CLET) seminary in Guinea! The first year of classes was held with the seminary students using the newly constructed buildings and campus grounds.

Others news from last year included the celebration of new graduates from Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone, and a number of seminarians and deaconesses being trained at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ghana.

Pentecost this year is May 24. Please consider participating in the LCMS Kansas District Pentecost Offering. Donations to the Pentecost Offering can be made through your congregation, by mailing a gift to the District office (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1104; write "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line), or online at <https://kslcms.org/donate> (choose "Pentecost Offering" from the "Fund" dropdown menu.)

Check the West Africa/Guinea page on the District website for upcoming 2026 Pentecost Offering bulletin inserts and announcements: <https://kslcms.org/guinea-westafrica>.



On Saturday, February 21, **Jesus Door-2-Door (JD2D)** participants gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Greenleaf and canvassed the nearby town of Waterville. On Saturday, March 7, JD2D participants gathered at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Shawnee and canvassed a nearby neighborhood. Between these two events, the groups knocked on 293 homes and took 66 canvassing surveys. 38% of those who took the survey were unchurched. 41% were certain of their salvation on account of Jesus. Through canvassing efforts, there were six people identified with whom follow-up visits will be made. The next JD2D event will be **Saturday, April 25**, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clay Center.



Trinity Lutheran Church,
Mission and Shawnee
(Mission Campus)



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool,
Mission and Shawnee (Shawnee Campus)



St. John Lutheran Church,
Nashville



Peace Lutheran Church,
Natoma

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

LCMS U Campus Ministry Staff Conference: June 4-5, 2026



University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis, Minn.), Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe (director of LCMS Discipleship Ministry), Rev. William Max Mons (pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center, Iowa City, Iowa) and more!



Registration for the conference is free! Lunch and dinner on June 4, plus lunch on June 5 will be included at no charge, thanks to the generosity of LCMS Campus Ministry. There will also be complimentary single-occupancy hotel rooms available to attendees for the night of June 4. This is on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be covered by LCMS Campus Ministry only for the night of June 4. Additional nights will be paid by the attendee(s) directly to the hotel.

Visit <https://calendar.lcms.org/event/lcms-u-campus-ministry-staff-conference-2026> to register, find more information and a schedule.

Click on the provided link to go directly to the registration page: <https://lcms.regfox.com/lcms-u-campus-ministry-staff-conference-2026>.

This conference will fill up quickly, so be sure to register ASAP! For questions, please contact **Rev. Sean Kilgo**, pastor of Redeemer, at kilgosr@gmail.com.

The LCMS U Campus Ministry Staff Conference will be held **Thursday, June 4 - Friday, June 5, 2026**, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence (2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047). The conference will begin at 9:30 a.m. on June 4 and will conclude at 3 p.m. on June 5.

This conference is for pastors, DCEs, deaconesses and others who are leading campus ministries in the LCMS.

The theme for the conference is "From Generation to Generation," and will feature plenary presentations, breakout sessions and roundtable discussions. LCMS Campus Ministry leaders will have opportunities to network, share ideas, and engage in theological education and discussion.

Speakers include **Rev. Michael Schuermann** (pastor of University Lutheran Church and Student Center, Champaign, Ill.), **Rev. David Kind** (pastor of



EDUCATION & YOUTH

2026 Kansas District Youth Ministry

Concordia Academy — Wichita Gala

2026 Concordia Early Childhood Conference

MinistrySafe Webinar and Resources

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)



2026 Middle School Huddle

The 2026 Middle School Huddle will be held **April 17-18, 2026, at Rock Springs Ranch!** The keynote speaker will be **Rev. Seth Meyer**, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Winfield. This year's theme is "Hesed – Steadfast Love, Lovingkindness, Mercy." Visit <https://kslcms.org/middle-school-huddle> to find more information.

The Middle School Huddle is a Kansas District youth event specifically designed for youth who are currently in grades 5-8. For questions, contact **DCE Samantha Wagner** (*Christ the King, Salina*) at dcesamanthawagner@gmail.com or at phone number 785-827-7492.

It is the expectation of the Kansas District that congregations have a current background check on file for all adults attending District youth events. The District recommends running background checks through **MinistrySafe**. The District has partnered with MinistrySafe to provide free child safety resources and training to all member congregations and schools. Background checks through MinistrySafe do have a cost per individual screened.

To access MinistrySafe, visit https://safetyssystem.ministrysafe.com/auth/sign_up and use the coupon code **KSLCMS** (you will be asked to put in billing information, but won't be charged unless you run a background check). For additional details, please review the [Kansas District Youth Protection Policy and Guidelines](#).

Concordia Academy — Wichita: Phoenix Rising Annual Gala

The Concordia Academy Phoenix Rising Gala will be held **Friday, April 24, 2026**, in Wichita (909 S. Market St. Wichita, KS 67211). Doors open at 5:45 p.m. for social hour and dinner is served at 7 p.m. The program will begin at 7:45 p.m.

The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Thomas Korcok**, Associate Professor of Theology and Director of Development, Field Education, Vicarage and Placement. Dr. Korcok encouraged the establishment of Concordia Academy in Wichita several years ago.

Seating is limited and ticket sales will close by April 17. Visit <https://cawichita.org/annual-gala> to find more information.



2026 Lutheran Valley Retreat

The 2026 Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) will be held **May 31-June 5, 2026, at Woodland Park, Colorado!** This year's theme is

"Summit" which invites students to explore the mountains of the Bible: places where God reveals His greatness and meets His people. Throughout Scripture, mountains mark moments where heaven and earth come together, not because we climb up to God, but because He comes down to us. Each day highlights a biblical mountain, paired with a Psalm of Ascent, showing how God meets us in His Word and Sacraments, and ultimately reveals His love and power in Jesus Christ.

Registration is open! Visit <https://kslcms.org/lvr> to register and for more information. LVR is for high school youth who have completed grade 8. Click on the provided link to learn more: [What to Expect at LVR](#).



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





Immanuel Lutheran Church, Netawaka



Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool, Newton



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton



St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville

EDUCATION & YOUTH

2026 Higher Things Dates & Locations

June 23-26, 2026

Washington University
St. Louis, MO

June 30-July 3, 2026

Washington University
St. Louis, MO

July 14-17, 2026

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO

Visit the *Higher Things* website

<https://higherthings.org/dcrh>

Pricing

February 1 - April 30, 2026:

WashU - \$605

CSU - \$625

On or after May 1, 2026:

WashU - \$655

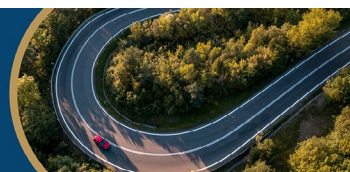
CSU - \$675

A nonrefundable deposit of \$150 is required to secure every attendee's spot at their desired conference, especially if said site reaches capacity and the waitlist policy is implemented.

MinistrySafe

Journey to a Safer Ministry

MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES



There is a new MinistrySafe Webinar Series offered in 2026 titled *The Journey to a Safer Ministry*. This free webinar is a monthly, one-hour series designed to help ministry leaders take meaningful steps toward stronger child protection. Through practical teaching from MinistrySafe experts, you'll learn what it means to move toward a safer ministry. Topics include understanding risk, identifying vulnerabilities, implementing safeguards, and building a culture of protection for children and volunteers.

Journey to a Safer Ministry Webinar Schedule:

April 21, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. CT

Protecting Kids from Kids: Understanding and Preventing Peer Sexual Abuse [REGISTER HERE](#)

May 21, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. CT

Policies That Protect: Writing and Implementing Effective Policies & Procedures [REGISTER HERE](#)

August 27, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. CT

Reporting Abuse: Understanding Reporting Requirements and Overcoming Obstacles [REGISTER HERE](#)

September 29, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. CT

Screening That Protects: Identifying High-Risk Applicants Before They Serve [REGISTER HERE](#)

October 27, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. CT

Creating Background Check Strategy – Part 1 [REGISTER HERE](#)

November 17, 2026 - 10:00 a.m. CT

Creating Background Check Strategy – Part 2 [REGISTER HERE](#)

Visit the [MinistrySafe](https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/congregation-resources/ministrysafe) page on the District website <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/congregation-resources/ministrysafe> to learn more about how your congregation and school can protect your children and ministries.



Early Childhood Conference



SAVE THE DATE

June 7-8, 2026



WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
DUSTIN LAPPE AND RAELENE OSTBERG

Join us as Raelene shares how to decrease stress, increase success and enhance joy in our work.

The 2026 Concordia Early Childhood Conference will be held June 7-8 on CUNE's campus in Seward, Neb. Registration information will be available in early April at www.cune.edu/ecc. The conference theme is "Unshakable!"

Rev. Dustin Lappe will be the Sunday Dinner Keynote Speaker, and Raelene Ostberg from Thriving Together will lead the Monday Keynote sessions. Learn more about Raelene via her website, www.thriving-together.com.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oakley



Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & Preschool, Olathe



Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool, Olathe



Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool, Ottawa

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Empowering Futures
Formed by Faith



Give the gift of Christ-centered education and help us reach our goal for the 2026/27 school year: **\$500,000 to fund scholarships for 125 children!**


Why Donate Now?



- 63 scholarships were awarded in 2025-26 and the need is growing.
- Give by June 30th to fund scholarships for the 2026-27 school year.
- Give now and ensure you are able to claim a 75% state tax credit. (In 2025, available credits were exhausted by December 15th.)



REV. DANIEL GRAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

 (785) 357-4441

 www.klssf.org

 dgrams@klssf.org

CARING MINISTRY

LERT / Disaster Response

2026 Faith at Work

Parish Nurse Ministry



Lutheran Early Response Teams in the Community

As we prepare to enter the heart of Storm Season in Kansas, it is important to remember we have a mission field right at our fingertips, and that is our communities. Our local communities are vital not only during Storm Season, but every day! It comes down to relationships

Lutheran Early Response Team

and who you know:

- A local agency or organization who might need volunteers for short-term projects.
- A church member who needs a little help, such as elderly and older adults, single parents, those suffering with illness, etc.
- City and County departments readying for summer projects.

Use your imagination and contacts to see how your LERT team and/or congregation might reach out with the hands and feet of Jesus. Disaster

Response in the Kansas District isn't only about a disaster, but about people and meeting them where they are. LERT fits nicely in our practices of the everyday life of the church. Jesus said, *"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."* (Matt. 25:40). What does that look like in your congregations and community?

- **April 2026 Faith at Work, LCMS Kansas District.** Create or attend an event that engages you and your congregation with your community in service to

those who need a helping hand.

- **April 19-25, 2026: Volunteer Appreciation Week.** The month of April is recognized as National Volunteer Month. Thank a volunteer!

What is Mercy? "Mercy is an act of love that enters into misery and brings consolation, relief and help. Mercy is love responding to need."

- Wilhelm Loehe

Blessings,

Donna Williams

ksddrc@gmail.com

April is National Humor Month

April is recognized as **National Humor Month**, a time to celebrate the gift of laughter and the joy it brings to everyday life. Humor can be seen as one of God's blessings that lifts our spirits and strengthens community. The Bible reminds us in the Book of Proverbs that **"a joyful heart is good medicine"** (Proverbs 17:22a). Laughter helps reduce stress, brings people together, and reminds us not to take ourselves too seriously. Joy is rooted in the assurance

of God's grace through Jesus Christ. Because we are loved and forgiven, we are free to experience life with gratitude and even light-heartedness. Sharing a smile, a kind joke, or a moment of laughter can brighten someone's day and reflect God's love.

During National Humor Month, consider spreading joy within your church and community. A little humor can be a simple but meaningful way to care for one another and celebrate the goodness of God's creation.

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



This month kicks off the third annual **Faith at Work service projects!**

Faith at Work is a district-wide service event

in which groups of all ages and skill sets from our congregations, schools and RSOs find needs within their communities to serve throughout the month.

We want to see your service projects! Please send photos and highlights of your *Faith at Work* projects to faithatwork@kslcms.org.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Kansas District Resources

Announcements and Reminders

Automatically Created GoFundMe Non-Profit Accounts

Recently, GoFundMe has begun automatically creating donation pages for nonprofits using publicly available IRS data—without the organizations' direct consent. This development directly affects many non profit organizations, including congregations, schools, and other ministries.

If your congregation or school appears on Go-FundMe, please note:

- No action is required unless you wish to manage the page directly.
- Claiming a page allows your organization to link a bank account, control the content, view donor information, and ensure proper handling of gifts—but it also brings responsibilities for oversight, donor acknowledgment, and recordkeeping.
- Not claiming the page avoids these responsibilities, but it's wise to check the site occasionally to make sure your organization's name and information are used appropriately.
- GoFundMe's terms allow nonprofits to request removal of an automatically created page if they do not wish to be listed.

You can search to see whether your church or school has a GoFundMe page by visiting: <https://www.gofundme.com/s?nonprofits=1>. Many LCMS Kansas District ministries are listed here.

While these pages may provide another way for supporters to give, the automatic setup can cause confusion or reputational risk if left unmanaged. We encourage you to check whether your ministry has a GoFundMe page and take action as appropriate.

For more information, see GoFundMe's non-profit terms: <https://www.gofundme.com/gofundme-pro-terms>

2026 IRS Mileage Rate

Effective January 1, 2026: The IRS new mileage rates are 72.5¢ per mile for business and 20.5¢ per mile for medical. The Kansas District mileage rate, set by the Board of Directors, is 15 cents below the IRS rate, or 57.5¢ per mile. These new rates apply to mileage reimbursements paid to an employee on or after January 1, 2026, with respect to transportation expenses paid or incurred by the employee on or after January 1, 2026.

The rate used for charitable deduction purposes remains at 14¢ per mile.

2026 Kansas 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, call the Business Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 1002, or email [Heather Williams](mailto:heather@kslcms.org) at heather@kslcms.org.

A Note from Communications: Microsoft Publisher

The desktop publishing software Microsoft Publisher will be discontinued in October 2026. Microsoft suggests a few different alternatives to transition Publisher documents before October, including saving documents as PDFs and converting documents that need to be edited into Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

Click on this link to learn more: <https://support.microsoft.com/>

There are also other publishing and design program options, including Canva, Adobe products, and Affinity. If you have any questions, email [Jackie Schaefer](mailto:jackie@kslcms.org) at jackie@kslcms.org.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)

Kansas District Resources

Announcements and Reminders

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Scholarship Opportunity

High school seniors who have a Young Investors StewardAccount® with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) are eligible to apply for the Take Heart Scholarship. Answer this question, and you could receive up to \$3,000:

Other than Jesus, which person in the Bible would you love to talk with?



- Recipients awarded up to \$3,000
- Apply by May 1, 2026
- Visit lcef.org/scholarship



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. The recipients of this scholarship award will be notified by LCEF. Funds are awarded to be used to defray expenses for tuition, books, laboratory expenses and/or related educated expenditures. The award amount will be deposited into the student's LCEF investment. Any amount awarded will be taxable as ordinary income to the recipient to the extent it is not used for "qualified tuition and related expenses" under Section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code. Some expenses, such as room and board, will not qualify. The recipient should consult with his or her tax advisor regarding what expenses are "qualified tuition and related expenses" and to determine whether any part of the award will be taxable. If the recipient misrepresents any information, LCEF reserves the right to revoke the scholarship.



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 a LCEF [Ministry Improvement Loan](#) is what your congregation needs.

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz
jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org
785-230-4112

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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. 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.

LCEF offers fixed rate term notes for 1 year and 18 months 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.

Visit the LCEF website <https://lcef.org/term-notes> to see all current rates.



DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

APRIL

April 2 Maundy Thursday
(District office closes at 2 p.m.)

April 3 Good Friday (District office closed)

April 5 Easter

April 6 Easter Monday (District office closed)

April 10-11 Pastors Wives' Retreat (Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan)

April 12-14 DCE Retreat

April 15 Confirmation Retreat planning meeting, 10 a.m. (Zoom)

April 16 Board of Caring Ministry, 1-3 p.m. (Zoom)

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

April 17-19 Kansas District

LWML Convention (Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan)

April 20 Board of Education and Youth, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Zoom)

April 21 Older Adult Committee, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)

April 21 Board of Missions, 4-6 p.m. (Zoom)

April 22 Administrative Professionals Day

April 24-30 Council of Presidents (St. Louis, Mo.; Fort Wayne, Ind.)

April 28 Call Day (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis)

April 29 Call Day (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.)

May 4 Board of Administration and Stewardship, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)

May 4 Executive Committee, 1-3 p.m. (Zoom)

May 7 President's Council, 1-5 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

May 8 Board of Directors, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

May 14 Ascension Day

May 19 Pastors' Conference meeting, 1:30-2:30 p.m. (Zoom)

May 24 Pentecost

May 25 Memorial Day (District office closed)

May 26 KSD Synod Convention Delegate Orientation, 6-7:30 p.m. (Zoom)

May 28 Lutheran Schools of Kansas DLT meeting, 10 a.m. (Zoom)

May 29-June 1 Synod Convention Floor Committee meetings (St. Louis, Mo.)

May 31-June 5 Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) (Woodland Park, Colo.)

July 3 Independence Day observed (District office closed)

July 23-25 CSL Prof Insights Workshop (Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina)

July 27 New Worker Orientation, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

July 30-31 Principal's Conference (Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita)

Aug. 9-11 Kansas District Family Retreat (Timber Lakes Camp & Retreat Center, Williamsburg, Kan.)

Aug. 10-12 CSL Prof Insights Workshop (Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays)

Prof Insights Workshops in Kansas

There will be two Concordia University, St. Louis (CSL) Prof Insights workshops held in Kansas. The first workshop will be **July 23-25** at Trinity, Salina (702 S. 9th Street, Salina, KS 67401). The title is "The Book of Psalms and the Christ," presented by **Rev. Dr. Adam Hensley**, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology.

The cost is \$160, and the registration deadline is July 9. Visit <https://www.csl.edu/event/professor-hensley-in-salina-kansas> to register.

The second Prof Insights workshop will be held **Aug. 10-12** at Messiah, Hays (2000 Main Street, Hays, KS 67601). The title is "Reading and Preaching the Gospel of Mark," presented by **Rev. Dr. David Lewis**, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology and Director of the Master of Divinity and Residential Alternate Route Programs.

The cost is \$160, and the registration deadline is July 27. Visit <https://www.csl.edu/event/professor-lewis-in-hays-ks> to register.

Save the Date!

Kansas District Family Retreat



Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola

Trinity Lutheran Church, Parsons

First Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg

Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsburg

SYNOD & PARTNERS



Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS, is uniting homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus.

Through foundational training events, follow-up cohorts and coaching options, Family Discipleship Facilitators are being equipped and inspired to strengthen the marriages and families served by our LCMS congregations and schools.

CCF wants you as a Family Discipleship Facilitator! This training opportunity is for called and commissioned leaders of LCMS congregations and schools, along with lay family ministry leaders.

There are two nearby training sessions scheduled this 2026 summer:

- **June 1-3: St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, Mo.** (*registration deadline is May 1*).
- **June 15-19: Family Camp Training at Heit's Point Lutheran Camp in Lincoln, Mo.** (*registration deadline is May 15*).

Members of LCMS Kansas District congregations will receive **\$250 off the registration fee** through a grant from the Kansas District! Enter the code **"KS26"** when registering at <https://www.concordiafamilystore.org/ccf-facilitator-training/p/foundations>. Grants are given on a first-come, first-served basis up to \$5,000; be sure to sign up today!

Other training options include April 20-22 at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Aug. 6-8 in Irvine, Calif. and Nov. 12-14 in Rockledge, Fla. Register for these trainings at <https://www.concordiafamilystore.org/ccf-facilitator-training/p/foundations>.

Congregations should also consider the **Faith & Life Survey** tool to assess how effectively members are being served in their daily faith growth. LCMS Kansas District members will receive a district-supported **\$250 discount** off the regular survey fee. Find out more by visiting <https://concordiafamily.org/Faith-Life-Survey>. For questions, email office@concordiafamily.org or call 1-888-553-5133.



The **DOXOLOGY Classic Series** is a continuing education program for pastors, their wives, and congregational lay leaders to experience a

time of study, renewal, worship, and growth. The DOXOLOGY Classic Program offers advanced training designed to strengthen pastors for the holy calling of shepherding souls, ground learning in the cura animarum—the classic care of souls, integrate insights from contemporary Christian psychology, and provide time for meaningful conversation, encouragement, and worship. The DOXOLOGY Classic consists of three retreats: the Gathering (for pastors), the Encore (for pastors and congregational lay leaders), and the Grand Reunion (for pastors and their wives).

There are upcoming DOXOLOGY conferences at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita (7100 45th Street North, Wichita, KS 67226). **The Gathering will be held June 1-4, 2026; The Encore will take place Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2026; The Grand Reunion will be held July 30-Aug. 1, 2027 (location TBD).**

Registration is open through **May 17, 2026**. Visit <https://www.doxology.us/events/2026-kansas-classic/> for more information about registration, fees, and available grants.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis 2026 Multiethnic Symposium

Registration is open for the 2026 Multiethnic Symposium, "United in Praise: Celebrating God's Love and Faithfulness Across All Nations." The symposium will be held **May 5-6, 2026**, on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Through presentations given by a number of plenary speakers, this symposium brings together individuals from varied cultural backgrounds to share their unique perspectives and experiences to help equip future leaders with knowledge, skills and spiritual maturity to serve God's kingdom faithfully.

The 20th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology and Mission will also be held during the symposium. Participants are encouraged to stay and attend the **2026 Multi Asian Gathering**, set for May 6-7 on the Seminary campus. The registration fee for this additional event is \$25.

Registration closes April 20. The registration fee for the Multiethnic Symposium is \$85, but free for Concordia Seminary students and faculty.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.csl.edu/multiethnic-symposium> or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.edu.

Christ Academy Family Institute: June 11-13

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTS-FW) will host Christ Academy Family Institute (CAFI) **June 11-13, 2026**. This will also lead into the week of Christ Academy High School.

CAFI focuses on providing resources to parents, families, and youth-focused church workers interested in passing on the faith to future generations and growing in their care and love for one another. This year, CAFI will focus on "Faith in the Home," featuring sessions on family devotions, hymn singing, Christian hospitality, and more.

The cost is \$150 per family, which includes dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday and Saturday. Breakfast and dinner on Friday and Saturday are the responsibility of each family, and can be purchased from the CTSFW dining hall for \$7/person (breakfast) and \$10/person (dinner).

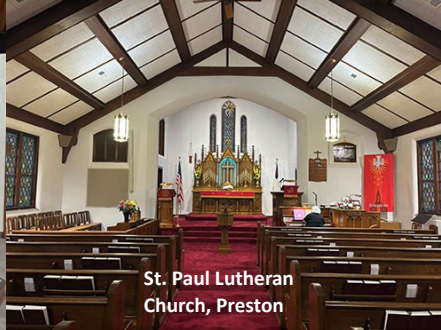
For more information and to register, visit <https://ctsfw.edu/CAFI>.



First Lutheran Church,
Plainville



Ascension Lutheran
Church, Pratt



St. Paul Lutheran
Church, Preston



Trinity Lutheran
Church, Ramona

AROUND THE DISTRICT

National Day of Prayer May 7, 2026



On Thursday, May 7, there will be a **Prayer Service** hosted at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Olathe (920 South Alta Lane, Olathe, KS 66061). The Prayer Service will start at 7 p.m.

Rev. David Kahle, pastor of Redeemer, will lead the prayer service, together with guest preacher **Rev. Mark Frith**, Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty's (LCRL) Champions for Liberty Network.

Following the Prayer Service, Kansas

State Representative **Timothy H. Johnson** will be the guest speaker. Rep. Johnson represents the 38th Kansas House District in southern Leavenworth County and parts of Wyandotte County. He is completing his third term in the legislature.

You are invited to join a multi-church choir singing the "First Song of Isaiah" by Jack Noble White. There will be one rehearsal at

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Olathe, which will be held Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m. There will be a warm-up for the choir on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code to register for the multi-church choir.



On May 7, there will also be a **Prayer Vigil** hosted at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe (13145 Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS 66062). Those who wish to participate may register for a 30-minute time slot from 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. More details will be coming soon!



Christ Lutheran Church and Education Center in Overland Park held a Benevolence Partner of the Month in February. Around 700 food items were collected for Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) in Kansas City, KS! Additionally, the students at Christ Lutheran School donated their chapel offerings to ICOA in February.

Dave and Shawn Bruns (right), members of Christ, Overland Park, help the ICOA Managing Director, DCE Deb Hartje (left) load up donated food items.



DISTRICT STAFF & COORDINATORS

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