



WORKERS TOGETHER

MAY 2026

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

Regular Features

Monthly Devotion	2
President's Office	3-4
Calls & Vacancies / Prayer Requests	5
Missions & Stewardship	6-7
Education & Youth	8-10
Caring Ministry	11
Business Office	12
LCEF	13
District Meetings & Events	14
Synod & Partners	15
Around the District / Staff Directory	16



PICTURED ABOVE: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guinea (ELCG) provided aide for those families who lost their homes in a tornado.



PICTURED ABOVE: There are currently six students enrolled at CLET-Dapaong, and three students will complete their training in May.



PICTURED ABOVE & BELOW: 2025-2026 marks the second academic year that students enrolled in the pastoral program are using the CLET-Guinea seminary facilities and campus grounds.



2026 Pentecost Offering

The annual Kansas District Pentecost Offering will take place the **weekend of May 24**. Prayerfully consider making a gift to help with the continuation of theological education and resources in Guinea

and French-speaking West Africa. Visit **Pages 2 and 6** for more information about the Pentecost Offering and West Africa!

IN THIS ISSUE

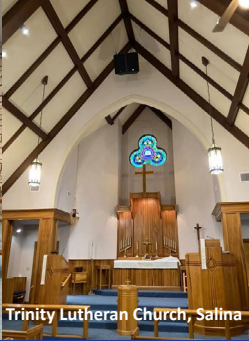
2026 Call Day Assignments to Kansas	3
Learn more about the candidate calls and vicarage assignments to Kansas.	
LCMS U Campus Ministry Staff Conference	7
Learn more about the Campus Ministry Staff Conference, June 4-5, at Redeemer, Lawrence.	
Middle School Huddle Highlights	8
The 2026 Middle School Huddle was held April 17-18 at Rock Springs Ranch. Read more highlights and see photos!	



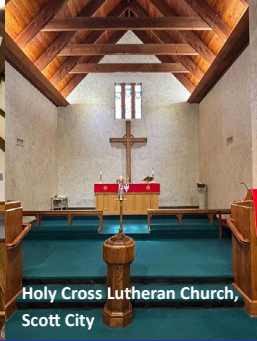
First Lutheran Church & Pre-school, Sabetha



Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina



Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Scott City



Trinity Lutheran Church, Waterville

MONTHLY DEVOTION



Rev. Daniel Grams

District Executive for Congregational & School Services



May Devotion

Philip ran to him [the eunuch] and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Acts 8:30-31

Led by the Spirit ... The Gospel is Carried Forward

One of my favorite narratives in the book of Acts is the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (*Acts 8:26–40*). Unlike the dramatic demonstration of the Holy Spirit’s work on the Day of Pentecost—when thousands believed and were baptized through the apostles’ preaching—Acts 8 tells a quieter story. **The Spirit leads Philip to a desolate place to preach the Gospel and baptize just one man.**

As the Ethiopian official reads from Isaiah 53, Philip explains the Scriptures and proclaims the good news about Jesus. The Ethiopian believes, is baptized, and continues on his way rejoicing—carrying the Gospel home with him. Christian tradition holds that he became the “founding father” of ancient African Christianity. This account reminds us that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the church as the Gospel is carried from place to place and from person to person by those whom the Spirit sends to proclaim it!

That same Spirit-led mission is reflected in the Kansas District’s ongoing relationship with French-speaking Lutheran church bodies in West Africa. For nearly three decades, congregations of the Kansas District have supported the continued preaching of the Gospel through

their prayers and through their financial support of the Pentecost Offering.

In Guinea West Africa, Lutheran mission work began in the early 1990s when pastors and evangelists fleeing conflict arrived in refugee camps. There, in the midst of hardship, the Holy Spirit was at work, carrying the Gospel forward. Much like the Ethiopian returning home with the good news, the message of Christ did not remain confined to the refugee camps. By God’s grace, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guinea was established.

Pastoral formation is central to the mission of the church and to the carrying forward of the Gospel. The Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip, “How can I understand unless someone guides me?” (*Acts 8:31*). Likewise, the Apostle Paul writes in *Romans 10:17* “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” People cannot believe in Christ unless they hear the Gospel proclaimed, and they cannot hear unless pastors are sent to preach it.

The Kansas District’s Pentecost Offering support the formation of future pastors for the church in French-speaking West Africa. These gifts provide necessary financial resources for the Centre Luthérien d’Études Théologiques (CLET) in Guinea. Local men complete their first year of pastoral formation before traveling to CLET Togo to complete their sem-

inary education. Through the training of faithful pastors, the Holy Spirit continues to ensure that the Gospel moves forward throughout West Africa.

This year, we rejoice that the Holy Spirit opens new doors for mission in Africa by sending Rev. Michael and Shanna Hageman from Kansas to begin missionary service with the LCMS in Tanzania. Rev. Hageman, formerly the District’s Second Vice-President and senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City, now serves as a theological educator, helping to train pastors and church workers who will proclaim Christ throughout East Africa. His wife, Shanna, will serve by teaching English.

Just as Philip was sent to explain the Scriptures and proclaim Christ, the work of training pastors ensures that faithful servants of the Gospel continue to be sent wherever the Spirit leads.

As Pentecost approaches, we invite Kansas District congregations and members to prayerfully consider supporting the Pentecost Offering. Through your support the good news of Jesus Christ continues to be carried forward in Africa as pastors are formed, congregations are strengthened, new churches are planted and the Holy Spirit raises up new believers who confess – with the Ethiopian eunuch – that Jesus Christ is Lord. **To Christ alone be all the glory!**

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

2026 Call Day Assignments

Pastoral Reading Groups

Pastoral Installations

2026 Pastors Fall Conference:
Call for Papers

Welcome to Kansas! 2026 Call Day Assignments

Call and vicarage/deaconess intern assignment services were held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW), and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) April 28-29, 2026. The Kansas District was blessed to receive three pastoral candidates, two vicars, and two deaconesses, all from CSL.

LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT

CALL DAY APRIL 28, 2026



JACOB ANDERSON



BRIAN FISH



PEGGY GOTT



NOLA GRAY



JACOB HARDING



EUDER PAUL



MATTHEW SHIPMAN

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS



Candidate calls from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL):

Jacob Harding, pastor-elect to First Lutheran Church and Preschool, Paola; **Euder Paul**, pastor-elect to St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Wichita; **Jacob Anderson**, associate pastor-elect to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Wichita; Deaconess candidate **Peggy Gott** to Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe, and Deaconess candidate **Nola Gray** to Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe.

Vicarage and intern assignments from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL):

Vicar Brian Fish to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool, Olathe, and **Vicar Matthew Shipman** to Zion Lutheran Church, Linn.

Photos were taken during April 2026 Call Day, courtesy of CSL.



Rev. David Weaver was installed as senior pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Ellinwood on Sunday, April 12, 2026. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Kenton Abbott, David Weaver, Dennis Kootz, Nathan Dudley; (back) Revs. Timothy Booth, Mark Boxman, Troy Slater, Alan Stahlecker and Dale Dumperth.



Rev. Timothy Schmeisser was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Medicine Lodge and St. John's Lutheran Church, Nashville on Sunday, April 26, 2026. From left, Revs. Dean Christ, Michael Schotte, Kirk Schmeisser, Matthew Schultz, Timothy Schmeisser, Timothy Gordish, Michael Brockman, Nick Cordt and David Erslund.



Augsburg Lutheran Church,
Shawnee



Hope Lutheran Church
& School, Shawnee



Grace Lutheran Church,
Strong City

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's May Travel Schedule

May 3

Immanuel 100th Anniversary
(Junction City)

May 3

Installation of Rev. Nathan Neugebauer at Holy Cross *(Dodge City)*

May 7-8

Kansas District Board of Directors at the District office *(Topeka)*

May 10

Preach & Installation of Rev. Tom Johnson at Immanuel *(Ellsworth)*

May 23-24

Preaching at Mt. Calvary *(Wamego)*

May 28 - June 1

Floor Committee meetings
(St. Louis, Mo.)

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 11, 2026.

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. Benjamin Francisco, Faith, York, NE to St. Paul, Leavenworth – **pending**

Rev. Daniel Kinley, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne, IN to Trinity, Garden City – **pending**

Rev. Timothy McCall, Immanuel, Junction City to Faith, Mountain Home, Idaho – **pending**

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

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**

Rev. Tom Johnson, Faith, Derby to Immanuel, Ellsworth, Intentional Interim Pastor – **accepted, installation Sunday, May 10, 2026**

Rev. Bob Allmann, Holy Cross, Dodge City to St. John, Meade (IIM) – **accepted, installation Sunday, May 17, 2026**

Candidate Jacob Anderson (CSL) to Holy Cross, Wichita (Associate Pastor) – **ordination / installation pending**

Candidate Jacob Harding (CSL) to First, Paola (Pastor) – **ordination / installation pending**

Candidate Euder Paul (CSL) to St. Andrews, Wichita (Pastor) – **ordination / installation pending**

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

DCE Brian Amey, Holy Cross, Wichita to Cornerstone, Carmel, IN – **pending**

Deaconess Candidate Peggy Gott (CSL) to Redeemer, Olathe – **commissioning / installation pending**

Deaconess Candidate Nola Gray (CSL) to Redeemer, Olathe – **commissioning / installation pending**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

Garden City, Trinity (senior) Overland Park, Christ (senior)
Hoisington, Concordia (sole) Vassar, Zion (sole)
Leavenworth, St. Paul (sole)

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Manhattan, Christ (Teacher)
Overland Park, Christ (Teacher)
Wichita, Ascension (Teacher)

MAY PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- **Family and friends of Esther Heiden**, sister of Rev. Bob Allmann. Esther entered her heavenly rest April 20.
- **Family and friends of Timothy Schneider**, brother of Rev. Matthew Schneider. Timothy entered his heavenly rest April 20.
- **Family and friends of Diane Christ**, daughter of Rev. Dean Christ. Diane entered her heavenly rest March 21.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

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

- Faith Lutheran Church & School, Derby – **May 4**
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Hunter – **May 18**
- Grace Lutheran Church, Lyons and St. John Lutheran Church & Child Development Center, Ellinwood – **May 11**
- First St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool, Kensington – **May 26**

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

2026 Pentecost Offering

Kansas District Scholarships

LCMS U at KSU Highlights

LCMS U Campus Ministry
Staff Conference

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams' May
Travel Schedule

May 3

Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church (Hutchinson)

May 3

Holy Cross Lutheran
Church (Dodge City)

May 4

Preschool visit at St.
John Lutheran Church
(Ellinwood)

May 10

First Lutheran Church
(Paola)

May 12

Circuits 13, 15, 16 Win-
kel at Messiah Lutheran
Church (Hays)

May 19

Circuit 5 Winkler
(Humboldt)

May 29-31

LCMS Floor Committee
meetings (St. Louis, Mo.)



We give thanks to God for the six students who are currently enrolled in the pastoral program for the 2025-2026 academic year at the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques (CLET) Guinea seminary in Guéckédou. This is the second year of classes using the newly constructed seminary buildings and campus grounds.

Other West Africa updates include The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guinea (ELCG) aiding those affected by a tornado in the Lutheran community of Gbandekamadou, in April 2025. As of March 2026, several of the damaged houses were under construction, including the village church. More than 122 people from the 12 affected families have received assistance. In addition, over 120 patients and 200 prisoners in various locations were visited by the ELCG in the past year. The church body makes monthly visits to prisons

and hospitals to share the Gospel, pray, and tend to needs like food, water, or medicine. There are also currently six students at CLET-Dapaong, and three of the students will complete their training in May.

Pentecost is the weekend of 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.)

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

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.



LCMS U at KSU has been active this spring! Along with regular Bible Studies, special events have included a March Regional Campus Ministry Gathering in Nebraska, a BBQ at St. Luke's, Manhattan, and other fun activities.

Pastors and church workers: please connect your students to this ministry at this very important time in their life. You are encouraged to visit your KSU student on a Monday, and bring them to the Bible Study.

Questions? Please Contact:

DCE William Prann (St. Luke's, Manhattan)
wprann@stlukesmanhattan.org
(602) 930-7870

Rev. Michael Schmidt (St. Luke's, Manhattan)
srpastor@stlukesmanhattan.org
(785) 370-9790

Rev. Jim Woelmer (Christ, Manhattan)
jwoelmer@verizon.net
(972) 704-6722





Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove



St. John's Lutheran Church, Tampa



Calvary Lutheran Church & Learning Center, Topeka

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.

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.

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

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 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 Middle School Huddle Highlights
 Kansas District Early Childhood Summer
 Conference
 Concordia Early Childhood Conference

MinistrySafe Webinar and Resources

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship
 Foundation (KLSSF)



The 2026 Kansas District Middle School Huddle was a great time of learning about God's Hessed. The Old



Testament talks about God's steadfast love, lovingkindness, and mercy. Rev. Seth Meyer from Trinity, Winfield helped the group dig into "Hessed" and what it means for us.

The event was filled with God's Word, fellowship, group challenges, tasty food and a break from everyday life. The band from Concordia University, Nebraska was a blessing! Although there was a chance for severe storms, the weather ended up being beautiful as the group played group games and a scavenger hunt throughout the Rock Springs campus. *We look forward to the 2027 Middle School Huddle!*

Visit the Middle School Huddle webpage
<https://kslcms.org/middle-school-huddle> to see more photos!



	<p>KANSAS DISTRICT YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS (2026-2027)</p> <p>KSLCMS.ORG/EDUCATION-YOUTH/YOUTH-MINISTRY</p>	
	<p>LUTHERAN VALLEY RETREAT (LVR) MAY 31-JUNE 5, 2026 (WOODLAND PARK, CO) -- REGISTRATION OPEN --</p>	
	<p>HIGHER THINGS HIGHER THINGS 2026 DATES HIGHERTHINGS.ORG/DCRH/</p>	
	<p>CONFIRMATION RETREAT OCTOBER 2-3, 2026 ROCK SPRINGS 4-H CAMP (JUNCTION CITY, KS)</p>	
	<p>KANSAS DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING (KDYG) NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026 DRURY INN (WICHITA, KS)</p>	
	<p>YOUTH LEAD TRAINING SPRING 2027 (ST. LOUIS, MO) -- REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 2026 --</p>	
	<p>LCMS YOUTH GATHERING 2028 JULY 3-7, 2028 (SAN ANTONIO, TX)</p>	



Join the Kansas District
Youth Ministry
 Facebook page!



Christ Lutheran Church, Topeka

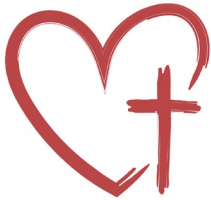


Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool, Topeka

EDUCATION & YOUTH



2026 Early Childhood Summer Conference

The Kansas District Early Childhood Summer Conference will be on **Saturday, June 27**, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Open Arms Child Development Center at Ascension Lutheran Church in Wichita (12885 W. Maple Street, Wichita, KS 67235). There will be a continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks with 5 total clock hours. Directors can receive two program administration hours during afternoon breakout sessions.

There is also an optional Director Train the Trainer event on **Friday, June 26**, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Play-Based Learning with dinner and snacks included.

Register for the conference at <https://kslcms.org> or click on the provided link: [2026 Early Childhood Summer Conference Registration](#). For more information, call Erica Mason at 316-721-5675.



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 is open at www.cune.edu/ecc.

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.



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.

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** 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.



St. John's Lutheran Church
& Classical Lutheran School,
Topeka



Grace Lutheran Church,
Ulysses



Zion Lutheran Church,
Vassar



Mt. Calvary Lutheran
Church, Wamego

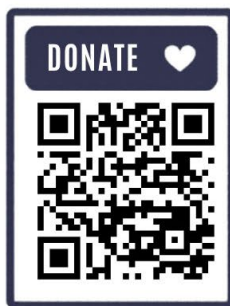
EDUCATION & YOUTH

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
Parish Nurse Ministry

Faith at Work Photos &
Highlights



Lutheran Early Response Teams: Local Disaster Response

On April 13, 2026, an EF2 tornado caused significant damage in Franklin County, especially in the communities of Ottawa and Hillsdale. With the heavy presence of city and county staff and

Lutheran Early Response Team

resources, Kansas LERT teams responded. A deployment was posted on the volunteer website (<https://www.lcms-lert.org>) for Wednesday through Saturday (April 15-18). LERT volunteers assisted at several properties, offering debris cleanup and chainsaw work. Work was scattered throughout the Hillsdale community and rural areas, involving a lot of hands-on labor due to the need to move debris and cuttings by hand to designated areas for pickup.

Thank you, LERT volunteers, for reaching out in Christian love to

our neighbors in these communities! Also thanks to Rev. Timothy Roth, pastor of Faith, Ottawa, and staff and trustees Mike and Sally Crane for helping to identify homeowners we were able to help in Ottawa on Monday and Tuesday. We also thank the youth and families of Faith, Ottawa, for helping to clear debris from yards so that homeowners could mow safely.

LWML Spring Convention

Thank you to our Kansas LWML Chapter for inviting me to speak and represent LERT at their recent convention in Man-

hattan. I enjoyed three days of sharing the LERT story with these inspiring women. We are beyond grateful for their continued partnership and support in Disaster Response in the Kansas District.

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

May is Mental Health Month

May is recognized as **Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time to focus on the importance of caring for our emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. Caring for mental health is part of caring for the whole person — body, mind, and spirit — as gifts from God.

Life can bring stress, grief, loneliness, and uncertainty. In these moments, we are reminded that we are never alone. God walks with us through every challenge, offering comfort, hope, and strength. Scripture encourages us to share our burdens and support

one another in love. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to listen, care, and lift one another up in prayer and compassion.

Taking care of one's mental health may include talking with a trusted friend, seeking professional help, praying, spending time in God's Word, and finding rest in the promises of Christ. Reaching out for help is not a sign of weakness but a step toward healing.

During Mental Health Month, let us remember that God values our well-being and calls us to care for ourselves and others with grace, understanding, and love.

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



Send Faith at Work Photos!

It has been wonderful seeing all the *Faith at Work* projects taking place around the Kansas District during the month of April!

We want to continue seeing your projects and how you are sharing Christ with your local communities! Send photos and highlights to faithatwork@kslcms.org.

Visit the District Facebook page to see *Faith at Work* projects happening around the District: <https://www.facebook.com/kslcms>.

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



Invest with Purpose
Serve with Peace

Dear Kansas District Members,

April 28th and 29th were wonderful days for the LCMS and for the Kansas District. Every year, our seminaries in Saint Louis, MO, and Fort Wayne, IN, place candidates as pastors, deaconesses, and vicars throughout the church.

From Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, the Kansas District received assignments of three pastors, two deaconesses, and two vicars.

Thanks be to God for these laborers in the harvest, and we pray for more to be provided throughout our church body in the years ahead.

Their service to the church is just beginning. At LCEF, we strive to help align their financial goals and values through our Church Worker Steward Account. This account is available to both rostered church workers and lay workers at LCMS churches, schools, and organizations.

Our church workers are a blessing to the LCMS ministry and the work of LCEF. If you desire a faith-based investment with a trusted partner, please reach out. Start earning 3% on every dollar.

Visit <https://lcef.org/cwsa> to learn more!



\$100 MINIMUM



INTEREST COMPOUNDED
AND PAID MONTHLY



UNLIMITED
CHECKS



OPTIONAL VISA®
DEBIT CARD



ONLINE ACCESS
AND MOBILE APP

Church Worker StewardAccount[®]

A faith-based investment for LCMS church workers.

Align your financial goals with your values and choose an investment that reflects your Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) beliefs. A Church Worker StewardAccount makes it simple to contribute and manage your funds at your own pace and on your own time.

If you work for an LCMS church, school or organization, you are eligible to open a Church Worker StewardAccount.

Start earning 3% on every dollar.

Open your Church Worker StewardAccount today.

Contact us today.

800-843-5233
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT



lcef.org/cwsa



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. Rates as of May 2026. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

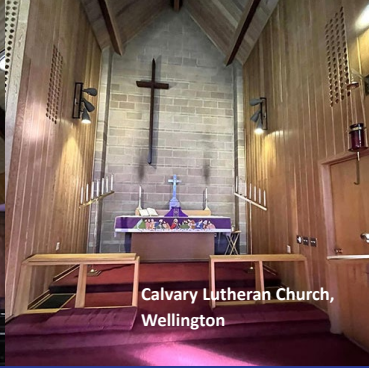
Blessings,

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

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. Rates as of May 2026. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.



Christ Lutheran Church, Wathena



Calvary Lutheran Church, Wellington



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Westfall



St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wheaton

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

MAY

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

Aug. 7 Board of Directors, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

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 Seminary, 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

JOIN US FOR A

FAMILY RETREAT

Family Vocation: God's Calling in Marriage and Parenting
Pastor Jim Woelmer

TIMBER LAKES CAMP & RETREAT CENTER
WILLIAMSBURG, KANSAS
AUGUST 9-11, 2026
\$525/FAMILY



Ascension Lutheran Church & School, Preschool, & Open Arms Child Development Center, Wichita (Tyler Campus)

Ascension Lutheran Church & School, Preschool, & Open Arms Child Development Center, Wichita (Maple Campus)

Bethany Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center, Wichita

Concordia Academy High School, Wichita

SYNOD & PARTNERS



Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) is offering foundational training events, follow-up cohorts and coaching options to train Family Discipleship Facilitators. This training opportunity is for called and commissioned leaders of LCMS congregations and schools, along with lay family ministry leaders.

- **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 sure to sign up today!

Other training options include 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 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.

The **2026 LWML Kansas District Convention** was held April 17-19 in Manhattan. Bear Fruit That Will Last (John 15:16) inspired wonderful Bible study, worship and song. A Mission Goal of \$160,600 was adopted for the 2026-2028 biennium, including \$53,000 for Mission Grants to continue support of work in missions and \$35,000 for Student Financial Aid to help meet the need for full-time church workers. **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

The LWML Kansas District is looking for a Web Manager to manage www.kansaslwml.org, including creating, updating and monitoring the established website. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact communication@kansaslwml.org.

Concordia University Chicago Newsletter

Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall, Associate Vice President for Church Relations and Mission at Con-

cordia University Chicago, is starting a newsletter for the university through the Office of Church Relations called **Quodlibet**. Quodlibet is Latin that means, "A scholastic argumentation almost chosen at will but almost always theological."

The newsletter will have one article of substance and reflective thought that intersects academics, theology, and society. Visit the following link to sign up for the newsletter: <http://bit.ly/4uJ4NZ9>



2026 LCMS National Convention

The 69th LCMS National Convention will be held July 18-23, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme for the Convention is "Christ is Risen Indeed," based on 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

The 2026-2029 National Offering theme is "Christ is Risen! Tell the Next Generation." The National Offering theme is taken from Psalm 78:4 and is an extension of the 2026 Synod Convention theme.

Gifts to the National Offering will directly benefit ongoing domestic work carried out by LCMS congregations, districts and RSOs.

Visit the LCMS Convention webpage <https://www.lcms.org/convention/national> to find more information about the 2026 National Convention and Offering.



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 a warm-up for the choir on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m.

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.



Over 20 participants attended the annual Pastors' Wives Retreat, held April 10-11 at Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan.

This year's keynote presenter was **Deaconess Dr. Jennie J. Asher**, Director of Deaconess Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

DISTRICT STAFF & COORDINATORS

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Justin Panzer

District President

Rev. Daniel Grams

Executive Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services

Jeffrey Maltz

DVP, LCEF Kansas and Oklahoma

Heather Williams

Business Manager

Jackie Schaefer

Communications Specialist

Tami Lierz

Administrative Assistant
President's Office / Missions / LCEF

Shannon Fender

Administrative Assistant
Business Office / Stewardship

COORDINATORS

Rev. Sean Kilgo

Campus Ministry
Coordinator

Lottie Lee

Professional
Development
Coordinator

Jane Limback

Accreditation

Amy Schultz

Early Childhood
Consultant

Rev. Caleb Stoeber

Life Coordinator

Donna Williams

Disaster
Response Coordinator



LCMS Kansas District Office

1000 SW 10th Ave.

Topeka, KS 66604-1104



785-357-4441



<https://kslcms.org>



facebook.com/kslcms