



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries

May 2026

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

First Quarter Meetings and Events. Events over the first quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, and various committees; Council of Presidents meetings, including Call Days at CSL and CTSFW; Pre-Lent in Lawrence; Constitution and Bylaws Committee; Kansas District LWML Biennial Convention in Manhattan, and multiple Circuit Winkel visits and preaching engagements.

Ordinations and Installations. In the first quarter there were five installations (Rev. Matthew Jennings – Zion, Chanute – Region 3; Rev. Adam Bridgman – Messiah, Emporia – Region 1; SMP Andrew Gunzelman – Lord of Life, Leawood – Region 1; Rev. David Weaver – St. John, Ellinwood – Region 2; Rev. Timothy Schmeisser – Trinity, Medicine Lodge and St. John, Nashville – Region 3).

Visits/Travel. In the first quarter President Panzer drove 8,825 miles as he traveled to ordinations, installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the first quarter there were five calling congregations in the Kansas District, with three churches seeking a sole pastor and two churches seeking a senior pastor. Two call lists were completed in the past quarter.

Congregational & School Services

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

Missions and Stewardship. Rev. Grams provided updates regarding Zion, Concordia, as well as ongoing church planting efforts in Spring Hill and Immanuel, Kansas City, Kan. There are 20-30 Spanish worshippers at the Immanuel worship service. There are 20-30 people attending the Spring Hill Sunday afternoon Bible studies. The Spring Hill church plant website is <https://lutheranspringhill.church>.

\$15,000 of the 2025 Pentecost Offering went to Guinea and West Africa, and \$15,000 went towards Rev. Michael and Shanna Hageman as new missionaries in Tanzania.

Rev. Daniel Grams spoke about the 2026-2029 LCMS National Offering, which will benefit ongoing domestic mission work in LCMS congregations, districts, and other LCMS ministries. Regarding Campus Ministry, there will be an LCMS U Staff Conference at Redeemer, Lawrence, June 4-5.

Lutheran Schools. The 2026 Principals' Conference will be July 30-31 at Ascension, Wichita. The topic will be AI tools for Lutheran schools.

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. In February, the KLSSF Board approved the Executive Director to submit an application for RSO status with the LCMS. Scholarship information includes 63 students, \$103,000. The goal for 2026 is to receive \$500,000 in donations, gain 100+ donors, and grant 125 scholarships.

Youth Ministry. DCE Amanda Adams agreed to serve as the District Youth Ministry Coordinator. 120 youth registered for the Middle School Huddle, April 17-18 at Rock Springs Ranch. Upcoming youth events include Lutheran Valley Retreat, May 31-June 5, 2026; *Higher Things* Conferences, St. Louis, Mo. June 23-26 and June 30-July 3, Fort Collins, Colo. July 14-17; Confirmation Retreat, Oct. 2-3, 2026, at Rock Springs, and the Kansas District Youth Gathering, Nov. 20-22, 2026, at the Drury Inn in Wichita.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Financial Update

- Through March 2026, LCEF Kansas District has 74 loans with a balance of \$22,805,431.
- LCEF Kansas District has 3,180 investors.
- Total amount invested: \$62,957,800.

Loans Approved in Quarter. None to report.

Loans Paid Off in Quarter. None to report.

LCEF Business Notes. Frank Kremer is the new AVP for Jeff's team. Higher rate notes maturing in 2026: 6.25% for 2.5 years, currently renewing at 4.25%. Current loan rate- Adjustable 6.50%. Loan rates did drop in January by 1/8th. Real Estate Solutions continues to expand with brokerage and other services. LCEF Outreach Ministry Grants application opens in May-June. LCMS Convention and LCEF requested bylaw changes. The investment highlights are that 1-year and 18-month Term Notes are at 4%.

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

Financial Management and Stewardship. Congregational giving is beyond year-to-date commitments and came in at 123% of the year-to-date budget and 31% of the total annual budget. Expenses are reported at 26% of the annual operating budget. Synod Convention assessments were mailed out at the end of September. Congregations were given the option of paying the full assessment rate or the subsidized rate approved by the Board of Directors. Assessments have been received by 101 congregations, and of those, 62 have chosen to pay the full assessment. Assessments are due June 30.

Grants and External Funding. The Business Manager completed a 2026 grant application to the Bolick Foundation, requesting \$75,000 to benefit campus ministry, *Faith at Work*, church planting and revitalization, and Hispanic ministry. Included in the application process for 2026 was completion of a 2025 Impact Report.

Property and Transactional Matters. The Business Manager gave an update on the Spring Hill church property. The District Office's new HVAC control system has been installed, however, there have been some delays with the supplier and shipping of the AC rooftop packaged units. The new target installation date for the AC units is the week of June 1. St. John's Lutheran Classical School will be moving out of the District Office on May 27 following the end of the school year, with plans to be on the church campus for the 2026-2027 school year. The Business Manager will pursue restoring the space back into conference use, along with some technology updates.

Planned Giving and Synod Partnerships. The District is under contract for a new planned giving partnership with the LCMS Foundation. As communicated at the 26A Board of Directors meeting, the LCMS Foundation will dedicate to the Kansas District a half-time planned giving counselor, which will also serve Western Missouri. The Kansas District President and the Business Manager were invited to and participated in two final interviews for the candidates, which were held at the Kansas District office. A candidate was selected and will be announced within the next couple of weeks.

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

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Special Projects. In late March, Jackie completed the process of identifying, reviewing, and converting Microsoft Publisher documents in the Kansas District files. A total of 655 Publisher files were identified and reviewed. 615 of those Publishes files were saved in PDF format (if not already saved as PDFs). 40 of the identified Publisher files were converted into editable formats (e.g., Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, Canva). Throughout February-April, Jackie created several Canva templates and PowerPoint presentations for District staff, as well as a number of social media posts in Canva to promote various ministries and activities in the District. Jackie attended an online Canva keynote event in mid-April, which revealed new Canva features being launched. The 2026 Pentecost Offering materials are available on the Guinea/West Africa webpage, <https://kslcms.org/missions/guinea-westafrica>

Kansas District Website. Some noteworthy website projects included adding "Quick Links" to subpages for main sections throughout the website (i.e., About Us, President's Office, Missions, Stewardship, Education & Youth, Caring Ministry, Business Office, LCEF); updating extension numbers for District staff throughout the website after switching to a new phone system; adding and updating District event webpages with new information and registration links. From April 7-May 7, there

were 5,593 page views on the website (up 29% from the previous 30 days) and 1,407 new users on the website (up 13% from the previous 30 days).

Social Media, Email Communications. As of April 30, 2026, there were 2,024 total followers on the Kansas District Facebook page. There were 454 new follows to the District Facebook page in the span of one year (April 30, 2025-April 30, 2026). The District Facebook page was visited over 20,000 times in that selected time period. Noteworthy social media posts/email communications this quarter included 2026 Call Day assignments to Kansas; Ash Wednesday Offering and Pentecost Offering; LCMS National Convention and Offering; *Faith at Work* reminders, photos and highlights; Concordia Center for the Family training sessions in June and the LCMS U Campus Ministry Staff Conference in June.

Upcoming Projects. Jackie is working on a Communications resource for Kansas District congregations and schools. She is also planning to send out a *Workers Together* survey to subscribers and recipients this summer.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

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

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The Board of Missions reviewed the past quarter's mission grant reports. Highlights include Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) launched an outreach team at Faith, Quindaro; Hope Lutheran School, Shawnee identified several families who would benefit from scholarships for low-income students and is working with Immanuel Lutheran Church's Hispanic ministry; Christ, Manhattan had 15 members write letters to 147 unchurched families inviting them to Holy Week and Easter services, and members of the congregation were interviewed by the *Lutheran Witness* magazine for a future article; Light of the World, De Soto will offer a financial literacy class in the fall; Redeemer, Arkansas City contacted Rev. Christopher Jackson who created a new website for Redeemer. It has also been optimized to appear high up in search engines. There are several other congregations who have been improving their websites through the SEO Microgrants.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Hispanic Ministry, Kansas City, Kan. Rev. Daniel Grams has visited Immanuel a few times and Rev. Stephen Heimer, Manager of LCMS All Nations Ministry, visited as well. The goal is to have full-time Hispanic Ministry at Immanuel and to replicate their model for other Kansas District congregations.

Spring Hill, Kansas – New LCMS Church Plant. The Spring Hill LCMS church plant has a new website, <https://lutheranspringhill.church>. Since March there have been weekly Bible studies in Spring Hill on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. 20-30 people have been participating. A properties team has been organized to mow the Spring Hill property. There will also be a *Faith at Work* service project on April 25.

LCMS Convention Offering. The LCMS National Offering: Tell the Next Generation will benefit ongoing domestic mission work carried out at local levels by LCMS congregations, districts and RSOs. The National Offering will need to be promoted in the Kansas District. It is also another opportunity for congregations to receive mission grant funding.

2027 Mission Grant Cycle. The Board of Missions had discussion about the upcoming meeting in July and preparing for the 2027 mission grant cycle. It was discussed that keeping the SEO Microgrants and website development part of the mission grants would be beneficial, as there are several congregations currently taking advantage of this. It was also discussed continuing with the Expanding the Spanish Footprint training program and having a debrief from Deac. Lara McComack and Rev. Benjamin Ockree on their experiences with the program. Rev. Daniel Grams encouraged the promotion of circuit convocations with witness and outreach training emphasis for the 2027 mission grant cycle.

Board of Education & Youth

Dr. Bruce Schultz, Chair

Reports. Rev. Daniel Grams presented his written report to the board. Some highlights include a good report regarding the Kansas District Lutheran schools; the Principals' Conference will be held the end of July at Ascension in Wichita. The Oklahoma District principals are also invited to attend.

New Business. The Board of Education & Youth had two resolutions to go before the Board of Directors:

School Ministry Coordinator (Resolution)

Resolved, the Kansas District Board of Directors issue a contract to Commissioned Teacher, Jane Limback, to serve as School Ministry Coordinator, pursuant to the position description in the District Operations Manual, at an annual amount of \$20,000, effective June 1, 2026.

Youth Ministry Coordinator (Resolution)

Resolved, the Kansas District Board of Directors issue a contract to Commissioned DCE, Amanda Adams, to serve as Youth Ministry Coordinator, pursuant to the position description in the District Operations Manual, at an annual amount of \$8,000, effective June 1, 2026.

Chairman Schultz noted there were 53 essays from four school submitted to the Lutherans for Life Essay Contest this year (to promote a culture of Life).

Board of Caring Ministry

Curtis Engelbrecht, Chair

Mary Hume – Parish Nurse. Mary Hume was invited to present at the Board of Caring Ministry meeting. Mary gave an overview of her recent trip to Ethiopia, where she and other parish nurses who traveled saw parish nurses at work in hospital and prison settings. The Ethiopian nurses visit about 1000 prisoners in this prison, providing basic medical and dental care to the inmates. Trained parish nurses assessed physical needs and provided some spiritual care. Hume said 12 inmates accepted Jesus as their Savior during the trip, and some were referred to the prison chaplain. Mary's group also took over 13 large suitcases full of medical supplies.

Mary also publishes a quarterly newsletter and writes articles for the *Workers Together*. She will talk about parish nursing at the LWML convention in Kansas this year and has been in contact with the Oklahoma parish nurse representative, trying to build up the Oklahoma program. She will also go to Panama in September with Lutheran Parish Nurse International.

Reports. Donna Williams, the District Disaster Response Coordinator, submitted two quotes for different MT Bobcats, one of which is a more advanced/heavy Bobcat, and for an enclosed trailer. The whole package for the upper end Bobcat would be a little more than \$67,000 for the first year. King of Kings in Gardner will house and maintain the equipment. Donna hopes to get half of the cost from the Synod Disaster Response, which has provided grants for this type of equipment. Once she has BOD approval, she will start the grant process. Disaster Response is also working on a conference.

Reports were also received from Church Worker Care, Older Adult Ministry, Pastors' Wives Retreat, Life Ministry, and 2026 *Faith at Work*.

New Business. The following Board of Caring Ministry resolutions were moved to go before the Board of Directors:

26B-02-01 – To Purchase a MT120 Bobcat and Trailer

Whereas, LCMS Kansas District LERT would greatly benefit from the purchase of a Bobcat to aid in disaster clean-up; and
Whereas, King of Kings, Gardner has offered to securely house the equipment for safe keeping and maintenance; and
Whereas, LCMS Disaster Response may provide a grant for up to 50 percent of the cost; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District expense up to \$35,000 from a contingency fund to purchase a MT120 Bobcat from Salina Bobcat and a trailer from KFour Sales; and be it finally
Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District make a financial appeal to LCMS Kansas District congregations and members to help offset this cost for disaster purposes.

26B-02-02 – To Provide a \$1500 Stipend to King of Kings, Gardner

Whereas, King of Kings, Gardner is the most active LERT chapter in the LCMS Kansas District; and
Whereas, King of Kings has agreed to securely house the equipment for safe keeping and maintenance; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District provide King of Kings with an annual stipend of \$1500 to help offset the cost of the insurance (\$1000) and annual maintenance (\$500) with monies for this year taken out of the contingency fund and then budgeted for in future years.

Board of Administration & Board of Stewardship

David Bruns, Chair

It was moved, seconded, and approved to acknowledge gifts received by the District during the first quarter, from January 16, 2026 to April 15, 2026.

Resolution 26A-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from January 16, 2026 to April 15, 2026 with the designation as follows:

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$831.79
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$250.00
LERT/Disaster	\$550.00
Ash Wednesday	\$510.00
Spring Hill Church Plant	\$2,900.00
Education Loan Repayment	\$15.00
Scholarship	\$15.00
Kansas Missions	\$150.00
West Africa	\$100.00
Total	\$5321.79

Reports. Jeffrey Maltz reported that the LCEF Kansas District has total loan amounts around \$23 million, with 3,180 investors, and a total amount invested just under \$63 million. There were no loans approved or paid off this quarter. Interest rates remain higher for both term notes and loans. Frank Kramer is a new Assistant Vice-President, assisting him on his team.

Heather reported that congregational giving came in beyond commitments at 123% of the year-to-date budget (31% of annual budget), and expenses are reported at 26% of the annual budget. Synod Convention assessments continue to come in; they are due June 30. The District Office’s new HVAC control system has been installed, but the AC units will be installed in the week of June 1. Heather reviewed financial compensation for nine call documents and planning scenarios this quarter.

Heather presented the District Resolution 25-10-03, “To Increase Faithful Stewardship in the LCMS Kansas District.” The Board considered different ways to thank those who donate to the District.