



# WORKERS TOGETHER

JULY 2026

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

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(above) Spring Hill participants gather for a Bible study. (below) Volunteers clean up the Spring Hill church property in late April.



## Spring Hill LCMS Church Plant

The Kansas District celebrates its newest church plant in Spring Hill! This provides a great opportunity to reach the community of Spring Hill, which is one of the fastest growing cities in the state.

The church plant is led by a core team of lay leaders, and weekly Bible studies are being held at the church property on Sunday afternoons.

**Visit Pages 5-6 to read more!**

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Zion Lutheran Church, Downs



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Duluth



St. John Lutheran Church, Easton



Grace Lutheran Church, El Dorado



St. John Lutheran Church & Child Development Center, Ellinwood



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth

# MONTHLY DEVOTION



Rev. Justin Panzer  
District President



But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

**The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** will be held July 18-23 in Phoenix, Arizona. The convention theme is “Christ Is Risen, Indeed” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20-22. *“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

From Convention Bible Study Introduction, note these words:

“The importance of the resurrection cannot be overstated. If Christ is not risen from the dead, there is no Christian church and no Christian faith. There is no hope, and life is reduced to an ongoing scramble of sinful self-preservation. But in fact Christ is risen from the dead, and this news changes everything for you in time and eternity.”

“Christ is risen from the dead. The Lord has faithfully kept His promises and sacrificed Himself for the

salvation of sinners.”

“Christ will raise you from the dead on the Last Day. This life is not all that there is. In your mourning for others who have died in the faith and as you contemplate your own mortality, there is certain comfort in the words of the Nicene Creed that ‘we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.’”

“Already, Christ has joined you to His death and resurrection in Holy Baptism. The resurrection is not merely about your future, as if that wouldn’t be enough of a gift; but your life is already transformed as a new creation, and that should have a profound effect every day.”

“In other words, for the sake of Christ, the Living One, you are already the living among the dead — because He is risen, and risen for you.”

<https://www.lcms.org/convention/national/worship/bible-study>

Convention delegates will take up a variety of issues through overtures submitted that have been turned into resolutions by the ten different floor committees that met in St. Louis from May 29-31. Sixty-eight (68) elections for various offices and committees will also take place.

Finally, as at every Convention, an offering is taken. For 2026-2029, offerings collected will support the work of congregations, districts and RSOs vigorously to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ among families, young people and children.

Individuals, groups, and congregations who are interested in donating should visit this link: <https://www.lcms.org/convention/national/offering>

**Christ is risen, indeed ... Alleluia!**

And because Christ is risen, so will we! We pray for our beloved church body, especially as we gather for Convention this year!

# CALLS & VACANCIES

## PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Dr. Kristopher Morris, CUNE to Christ, Overland Park – pending

## PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Jacob Harding (CSL) to First, Paola (Pastor) – installation Sunday, July 12, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Rev. Daniel Kinley, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne, IN to T.I.G. – installation Sunday, August 2, 2026

Candidate Jacob Anderson (CSL) to Holy Cross, Wichita (Associate Pastor) – ordination / installation Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026

Rev. Euder Paul (CSL) to St. Andrews, Wichita (Pastor) – installation pending

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

Nancy Jankowski, Hope, Shawnee to LCMS School Ministry – declined

DCE Heather McCormick, Faith, Topeka to Immanuel, Olivette, MO – declined

DCE Heather McCormick, Faith, Topeka to University Lutheran Chapel, NE – declined

Rachel Ada, Hope, Shawnee (Teacher) – commissioning / installation Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026

Dan Snyder, Concordia Academy, Wichita – commissioning / installation Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026

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

Hoisington, Concordia (sole)      Overland Park, Christ (senior)  
Leavenworth, St. Paul (sole)      Vassar, Zion (sole)  
Mission & Shawnee, Trinity  
(associate)

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Teacher)  
Overland Park, Christ (Part-Time Teacher)

## EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN POSITIONS

## JULY PRAYER REQUESTS

### Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- **Family and friends of Jennifer Engelbrecht**, daughter of Curt Engelbrecht, who is a member of the Kansas District Board of Directors. Jennifer entered her heavenly rest April 23.
- **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.

### Special Prayers

- **Rev. Benjamin Ockree** (Calvary, Topeka). Please pray for Rev. Ockree as he receives Spanish immersion training in the Dominican Republic.

### Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

- **Rev. Richard Andrus**
- **Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer**
- **Rev. Dean Christ**
- **Rev. Rodney Fritz**
- **Rev. David Gruoner**
- **Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan**
- **Rev. David McCloskey**
- **Carrie Meyers**
- **Cheryl Price**
- **Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz**

## Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- Zion Lutheran Church & Linn Lutheran School Association, Linn – **July 6**
- St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincolville – **July 13**
- St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Wichita – **July 20**
- Calvary Lutheran Church, Wellington – **July 27**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellsworth

Faith Lutheran Church & Lord's Lambs Preschool, Emporia

Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Erie

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool, Fairview

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's July Travel Schedule

- July 12  
Preach at First Lutheran Church (Paola)
- July 12  
Installation of Rev. Jacob Harding at First Lutheran Church (Paola)
- July 16-23  
69th Regular Synod Convention (Phoenix, Ariz.)
- July 26  
Preach at St. Paul Lutheran Church (Fairview) and Zion Lutheran Church (Hiawatha)
- July 27  
New Worker Orientation at District office (Topeka)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pastoripkinney@gmail.com)

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## LCMS National Hispanic Convention

The National Hispanic Convention will be held **July 28-31, 2026**, at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif. This convention will be celebrating 100 years of Hispanic Ministry in the U.S.A. English-speaking congregations are invited to be part of what God is doing by serving and supporting this convention.

Whether you already serve in Hispanic ministry or are looking to get involved, this is a meaningful opportunity to step in.

Visit <https://hispanicoslcms.com/en/inscripcion-convention>.

Come alongside Spanish-speaking pastors and leaders and help create a welcoming, impactful experience for all.

Also consider volunteering! Your presence truly makes a difference. Sign up [HERE](#).

No Spanish is required for most roles (*only the registration team requires Spanish*).

## VIII National Hispanic Convention - LCMS

July 28-31, 2026

Concordia University Irvine  
1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA

*Celebrate 100 years of LCMS Hispanic Ministry in the USA*





Trinity Lutheran Church & Precious Lambs Preschool, Fort Scott

Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Garden City

King of Kings Lutheran Church & Open Arms Child Development Center, Gardner

Trinity Lutheran Church, Girard

# SPRING HILL CHURCH PLANT



## Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Purchases Spring Hill Property for New LCMS Congregation

*Mission church to establish the first Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation in one of Kansas' fastest-growing communities*

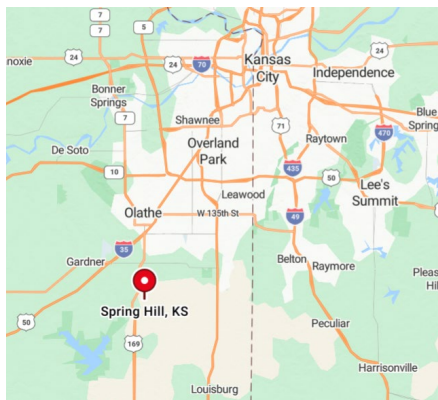
**SPRING HILL, Kan.** — The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has completed the purchase of a church property at **800 S. Webster St., Spring Hill, KS 66083**, marking a significant milestone in the establishment of a new LCMS congregation in one of Kansas' fastest-growing communities.

The property officially transferred to the Kansas District on June 18, 2026. The nearly six-acre campus will become the permanent home of a new congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, bringing an LCMS presence to a community that currently has none.

The acquisition follows the decision of Hillside Community

Lutheran Church, a congregation affiliated with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), to dissolve and sell its property so the facility could continue serving the community as a Lutheran church. Through the purchase by the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the campus will transition from its former NALC affiliation to become the home of a newly established LCMS mission congregation serving Spring Hill and the surrounding area.

"This acquisition provides something every church plant needs but rarely receives at the beginning—a permanent ministry space with room to grow," said Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational & School Services for the Kansas District. "Securing a church building and more than five acres of property at 800 S. Webster Street gives this mission congregation an immediate presence in the community and creates a strong foundation for Word and Sacrament ministry in Spring Hill."



The new LCMS church plant comes as Spring Hill continues to experience rapid residential and commercial growth. Once a small rural community, Spring Hill has become one of the fastest-growing cities in Kansas, with thousands of new residents and new housing developments transforming Johnson and Miami Counties in recent years.

Despite that growth, Spring Hill has never had a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The nearest LCMS congregations are located approximately eight to twelve miles away, requiring many Lutheran families living in Spring Hill to travel to neighboring communities for worship.

"Spring Hill is one of the fastest-growing communities in Kansas, attracting young families, professionals, and new residents every year," Grams said. "As the community continues to expand, we have a unique opportunity to establish a strong LCMS witness that can serve both current residents and the thousands of people who will call Spring Hill home in the years ahead."

The mission congregation's vision is to proclaim forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ through the faithful preaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments while building a confessional Lutheran community that reaches the lost, teaches the faithful, and cares for all people.

*(Continued on Page 6)*



# SPRING HILL CHURCH PLANT



*Spring Hill church plant participants.*

Leaders say the new Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation is intended not only for Lutherans already living in the area, but also for families moving into Spring Hill, community members seeking a historic Christian faith rooted in Scripture, and those who are currently without a church home.

The church planting effort is currently led by a core team of lay leaders working through the LCMS's four-phase church planting process. Weekly Bible studies are already being held at the property on Sunday afternoons, with participants preparing for the eventual public launch of regular worship services later this year.

The campus includes approximately 3,500 square feet of indoor space featuring a sanctuary, a meeting room, an office, and classrooms. In addition to worship and Bible study, district leaders envision the property serving the wider Spring Hill community by hosting organizations and events such as Scout troops, 4-H groups, blood

drives, educational programs, and other community gatherings.

Several neighboring LCMS congregations are actively supporting the church plant, including congregations in Louisburg, Olathe, and Paola, along with Lutheran families from throughout southern Johnson and Miami Counties who have been praying and planning for an LCMS congregation in Spring Hill.

The Kansas District intends to deed the property to the congregation once it is formally organized and chartered, establishing a permanent Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation that can continue serving the region for generations.

"Throughout Scripture, God's people are called to recognize and respond when He opens doors for His mission," Grams said. "Opportunities to plant new congregations in growing communities with an established facility are uncommon in Kansas, making this a remarkable gift. We are grateful to invest in a mission that will proclaim Christ, make disciples, and extend the reach of the Gospel to the people of Spring Hill and beyond."

Community members interested in learning more about the new congregation are invited to attend the weekly Bible study on **Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at 800 S. Webster St., Spring Hill, KS 66083.**

Additional information is available at <https://lutheranspringhill.church>. The website allows visitors

to learn about the church planting effort, sign up to receive notifications about future activities, Bible studies, outreach events, and worship services, and express their interest in becoming part of the new congregation.

Those wishing to speak with someone directly may also call 913-408-7489.

*(Article written by Rev. Dr. Christopher Jackson, pastor of Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, Forestville, Wis. and Saint John's Lutheran Church, Algoma, Wis., and founder of [ChurchSEO.io](http://ChurchSEO.io))*

## About the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod supports and strengthens Lutheran congregations, schools, ministries, and mission efforts throughout Kansas. Through church planting, education, leadership development, and congregational support, the district works to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and establish faithful Lutheran ministries across the state.



### Media Contact

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

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

785-357-4441

[daniel@kslcms.org](mailto:daniel@kslcms.org)

<https://kslcms.org/about-us/district-staff/>

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

2026 Principals' Conference

2026 Youth Ministry Events

2026 Educators Conference

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)



Join the Kansas District [Youth Ministry Facebook page!](#)



The Kansas District Principals' Conference will be held **July 30-31, 2026**, at Ascension Lutheran Church and School in Wichita.

The keynote speaker is **Dr. Eugene Kim** from Concordia University Irvine, who will present on "Faithful & Flourishing in the Age of AI."

The principals from the Oklahoma District have been invited to join us! Register today at <https://kslcms.org> or at the provided link: [2026 Principals' Conference Registration](#).

	<b>KANSAS DISTRICT YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS (2026-2027)</b> <a href="https://kslcms.org/education-youth/youth-ministry">KSLCMS.ORG/EDUCATION-YOUTH/YOUTH-MINISTRY</a>	
	<b>HIGHER THINGS</b> HIGHER THINGS 2026 DATES <a href="https://highertthings.org/dcrh/">HIGHERTHINGS.ORG/DCRH/</a>	
	<b>CONFIRMATION RETREAT</b> OCTOBER 2-3, 2026 ROCK SPRINGS 4-H CAMP (JUNCTION CITY, KS)	
	<b>KANSAS DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING (KDYG)</b> NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026 DRURY INN (WICHITA, KS)	
	<b>YOUTH LEAD TRAINING</b> SPRING 2027 (ST. LOUIS, MO) -- REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 2026 --	
	<b>LCMS YOUTH GATHERING 2028</b> JULY 3-7, 2028 (SAN ANTONIO, TX)	

*Heit's Point Lutheran 2026 summer camps at Lake of the Ozarks*



**Family Camps:**

**Aug. 2-7**



**Basketball Week: July 5-10**

**Water Week: July 19-24**



**HS/MS Servant Event: July 12-17**



**2026 theme:**  
*Seek God first*

[heitspointlutheran.org](https://heitspointlutheran.org)

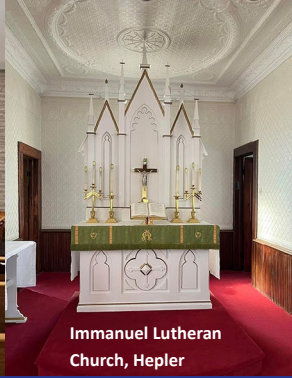




St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Haven



Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hepler



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Herington

# EDUCATION & YOUTH

## —GREAT PLAINS— LUTHERAN EDUCATORS —CONFERENCE—

The Great Plains Lutheran Educators Conference (GPLEC) will be held **October 17-19, 2026!**

**July 31** – Early Registration ends (*Early registration includes snacks, coffee, Sunday lunch and Sunday banquet for \$175. After July 31, registration is \$225*)

**September 30** – Registration closes

Note: There will be a registration limit to 700 attendees.

Visit the Great Plains Lutheran Educators Conference (GPLEC) webpage to register and find a tentative schedule and session proposal information:

<https://www.cune.edu/events/conferences/great-plains-leadership-education-conference-gplec>

Hotel rooms for Kansas District participants have been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express Lincoln Airport and the Fairfield Inn.

**Holiday Inn Express – Lincoln Airport (1101 W. Commerce Way, Lincoln, NE 68521)** \$129 / night – includes breakfast

Reserve by phone: 402-464-0588, group code is **LKD**

Reserve online: [Kansas District Holiday Inn Reservation Link](#)

**Fairfield Inn – Lincoln Airport (1000 W. Bond, Lincoln, NE 68521)** \$129 / night – includes breakfast

Reserve by phone: 402-413-9003, group code is **LKD**

Reserve online: [Kansas District Fairfield Inn Hotel Reservation Link](#)



**Calling all Kansas District families!** Registration is now open for the Kansas District Family Retreat, a weekend set apart for fellowship, renewal, and celebrating the incredible ways God is at work in your everyday vocations as parents, spouses, workers, and neighbors!

The Family Retreat will be held **August 9-11, 2026**, and is hosted by the Parish Education board at the beautiful Timber Lakes Camp & Retreat Center in Williamsburg, Kan. This gathering brings families across our district together for meaningful conversation, devotion, laughter around the table, and time to breathe deep in God's creation. Parents won't have to choose between connection and their kids, as engaging children's activities run during every session!

Whether you're craving rest, community, or a fresh reminder that your calling matters, this retreat is for you. Pack the family, lace up your hiking shoes, and come ready to be encouraged. Spots fill quickly, so register today!

Visit the District website at <https://kslcms.org> for more information.



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool, Herington

St. John's Lutheran Church, Herington

Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha

Grace Lutheran Church, Hill City

Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro

# 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.klssf.org)

[dgrams@klssf.org](mailto:dgrams@klssf.org)

# CARING MINISTRY

LERT / Disaster Response  
Parish Nurse Ministry

2026 Saints Alive After  
55 Conference



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters, working through LCMS districts and congregations, international Lutheran churches and other partners. We build partners' capacity to respond with Christian care to the needs

## Lutheran Early Response Team

within the church and their communities by providing:

- Onsite assessment
- Emergency, relief and development grants
- Pastoral care for LCMS church workers and members
- Congregational preparedness and Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training
- Resources, volunteer coordination, donation and equipment management

As Mercy is the hallmark of the church, so it is with Disaster

Response. Throughout history, Christians have been known by the world around them as a generous people, as a people whose good works are motivated by their faith in God, who has prepared these works for His people (Eph. 2:10).

Disasters are tragic and life changing, yet it is in the aftermath that the church can take the opportunity to truly care for the greatest treasures of the world – people.

*"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down*

*our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

*- 1 John 3:16-18*

Grace and Peace,

**Donna Williams**, District Disaster Response Coordinator

[kssddrc@gmail.com](mailto:kssddrc@gmail.com)

## Social Wellness: Living in Community

Social wellness is the ability to build meaningful relationships and maintain a supportive network of family, friends, and community. Healthy social connections help us feel valued, reduce stress, and improve our overall well-being. Spending time with others, offering encouragement, and listening with compassion are simple ways to strengthen these relationships.

Social wellness reflects God's design for us to live in community. We are encouraged to love one another, support each other, and share both joys and burdens.

When we reach out to others – through conversation, acts of kindness, or service – we reflect Christ's love in everyday life.

Practicing social wellness can include joining church or community activities, volunteering, calling a friend, or sharing a meal with someone who may feel alone. Even small moments of connection can bring great encouragement.

By nurturing relationships and caring for one another, we create stronger communities and experience the joy of living as God intended – together.

**Mary Hume**, Kansas District Representative for Parish Nurse



## Saints Alive After 55 Conference!

The 2026 Saints Alive After 55 (SAA55) Conference will be held **September 20-21, 2026**, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina (111 W. Magnolia Rd. Salina, KS 67401).

The theme for this year's conference is "Fruit Bearing Christians." The keynote speakers are **Rev. David Beauchamp** from Church Ambassador Network of Kansas (CAN-KS) and **Brittany Jones**, President of Kansas Family Voice. The SAA55 Conference Bible Study leader is **Rev. CJ Luttinen**, lead pastor of Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Wichita. Interest session speakers are representatives from LCMS Foundation and Good Shepherd Hospice.

*Registration for the 2026 SAA55 Conference is coming soon!*

# BUSINESS OFFICE

## Kansas District Resources

## Announcements and Reminders

### Shawnee County Lutheran Education Foundation

The mission of the **Shawnee County Lutheran Education Foundation (SCLEF)** is to provide financial assistance for adults preparing to become ordained or commissioned LCMS church workers, for current called workers, and for Lutheran education programs for children and families within Shawnee County LCMS congregations.

SCLEF is offering scholarships for students enrolled in

one of the LCMS universities or seminaries, with the intent to become ordained or commissioned LCMS church workers. Per SCLEF Eligibility Guidelines, scholarship applicants must be a member of good standing within an LCMS congregation of Shawnee County, Kansas.

SCLEF is also offering partial loan repayment grants for active called church workers serving in a Shawnee County LCMS congregation.

Visit <https://sclef.org> to access application forms and the eligibility guidelines.

### 2026-2027 Lutheran Witness Renewal Packets



The 2026-2027 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets for the Kansas District will be sent to congregations in July. Please check your mail for the packets to make additions, changes, or deletions to your subscriptions. Renewals will be due in the District office in late August.

Every month, *The Lutheran Witness* brings you news, stories,

and essays that aim to encourage you in your faith, clarify God's Word, keep you informed, and spark a question or two.

If you subscribe through your congregation, your issue also includes the Kansas District edition, which brings you news about LCMS people and places right here in Kansas.

## Communications Announcements

### Workers Together Survey

It's been five years since a survey was taken about the monthly *Workers Together* publication, and it's time to hear from subscribers!

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey at the provided link below. Your feedback will help make *Workers Together* even better!

You can also send feedback to Jackie Schaefer at [jackie@kslcms.org](mailto:jackie@kslcms.org).

[Workers Together Survey](#)

### 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.

Learn more at <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 at [jackie@kslcms.org](mailto:jackie@kslcms.org).

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)

Kansas District Resources

Announcements and Reminders



Dear Kansas District Members,

Summer Blessings! We hope you have had a wonderful summer break, enjoying extended time with family, vacations, camps, sports, and taking in God's creation and beauty that the wonderful weather brings us. School will be back in session soon enough, with kids hitting the books, sports, and other extra-curriculars.

LCEF's goal is to make the most of God's blessings to serve the needs of the LCMS, both in Kansas and throughout the Synod. A way we like to show things that are happening throughout the LCMS and the work being done in ministry is through our digital resource, *Interest Time*.

**Inform. Connect. Inspire.**

Your ministry doesn't grow in isolation. Neither does our. *Interest Time* is a digital resource by LCEF looking at how LCMS communities across the country are sustaining and strengthening their ministries.

Subscribe for free at [interesttime.org](https://interesttime.org)

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Read stories that document the work in our communities to strengthen and sustain the ministries of the church and how LCEF is blessed to be a part of this.

Subscribe for free at <https://interesttime.org/subscribe>.

Blessings,

**Frank Kremer**  
Assistant Vice President, District Solutions  
[frank.kremer@lcef.org](mailto:frank.kremer@lcef.org)  
314-644-8668



Concordia Lutheran Church,  
Hoisington



Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Holton



St. Peter Lutheran  
Church, Holyrood



Immanuel Lutheran  
Church, Hoxie

# DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

## AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

### JULY / AUGUST

**July 14** KLSSF meeting, 5 p.m. (Zoom)

**July 15** Board of Caring Ministry, 1-2:30 p.m. (Zoom)

**July 18-23** 69th LCMS Synod Convention (Phoenix, Ariz.)

**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 27** Board of Education & Youth, 4:30 p.m. (Zoom)

**July 28** Board of Missions, 4 p.m. (Zoom)

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

**Aug. 3** Board of Administration & Stewardship, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Zoom)

**Aug. 3** Executive Committee, 1-2 p.m. (Zoom)

**Aug. 3-5** CTSFW Continuing Education (Immanuel 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)

**Aug. 18** Older Adult Committee, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

**Aug. 29** District Youth Ministry Committee, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina)

**Sept. 7** Labor Day (District office closed)

**Sept. 10-12** CTSFW Continuing Education (Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence)

**Sept. 17-21** Council of Presidents (St. Louis, Mo.)

**Sept. 20-21** Saints Alive After 55 Conference (Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina)

**Sept. 24** Church Worker Care Team, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (District office, Topeka)

### CSL 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 of the workshop 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.

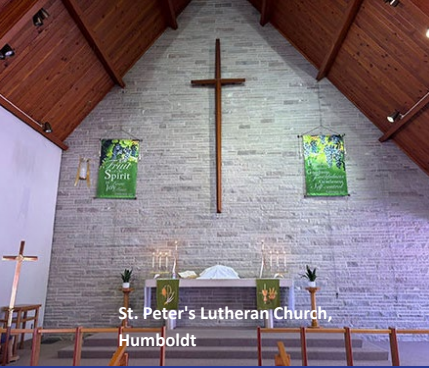
### CTSFW Continuing Education in Kansas

There will be two Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW) Continuing Education courses held in Kansas. The first continuing ed course will be **Aug. 3-5** at Immanuel, Wichita (909 S. Market St. Wichita, KS 67211). The title of the course is "Fathers and Heretics: The Apostolic Fathers," presented by **Rev. Dr. James Bushur**, The Carl and Erna Weinrich professor of New Testament and Early Church Studies.

The cost is \$175 for pastors and professional church workers and \$125 for retired pastors and laypersons. There is no cost for CTSFW students and vicars. Visit <https://www.ctsfw.edu/CE/Wichita-Kansas> to register.

The second continuing ed course will be **Sept. 10-12** at Redeemer, Lawrence (2700 Lawrence Ave. Lawrence, KS 66047). The title is "Ministry and Discipline in the Midst of the Digital Age," presented by **Rev. Dr. David Petersen**, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The cost is \$175 for pastors and professional church workers and \$125 for retired pastors and laypersons. There is no cost for CTSFW students and vicars. Visit <https://www.ctsfw.edu/CE/Lawrence-Kansas> to register.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church,  
Humboldt



Trinity Lutheran Church, Hunter



Our Redeemer Lutheran  
Church, Hutchinson



Zion Lutheran Church &  
School, Independence

# SYNOD & PARTNERS

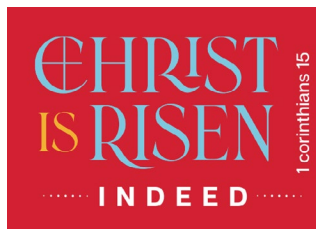
## CSL Faith and Writing Workshop

The annual Faith and Writing Workshop will be held **July 28-30** on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL). This recurring event explores how to create and communicate as persons of faith.

Designed to strengthen communication and writing skills, this workshop will also provide ways for attendees to share their faith more clearly in ministry, teaching and everyday life. Writers of all abilities, including pastors, church workers and laypeople, will explore various forms of creative writing.

**The registration deadline is July 13.** The fee for the workshop is \$190 per person and \$95 for Seminary students. The maximum number of participants is 18. Meals are not included but may be paid in advance. Register at <https://concordiasemregfox.com/faith-and-writing-workshop-2026>.

For more information, visit [csl.edu/faith-writing-workshop](https://csl.edu/faith-writing-workshop) or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).



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 the Convention Workbook, Today's Business, Nominee Bios and Statements, and more information.

## Kansas LWML: Web Manager

The LWML Kansas District is looking for a Web Manager to manage [www.kansaslwml.org](http://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](mailto:communication@kansaslwml.org).

## Concordia University Chicago Newsletter

**Rev. Dr. Chad Kendall**, Associate Vice President for Church Relations and Mission at Concordia 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>



## Live from Lutheran Summer Music

Join online through Live from LSM and enjoy more than 30 free concerts, recitals, and worship services streamed live from Lutheran Summer Music at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Highlights include a special guest performance by Cantus, Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the Bach Cantata Eucharist, the Festival of Hymns, and joyful performances by the Festival Band, Choir, and Orchestra.

View the full schedule and watch live at [LSMacademy.org/calendar](http://LSMacademy.org/calendar).



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## 2026 Worship Conference: St. John's, Topeka

The St. John's Worship Conference will be held **Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026**, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Topeka (901 SW Fillmore, Topeka, KS 66606). The cost is \$40 (lunch included).

The conference will include Matins, a keynote presentation, breakaway sessions, a speaker panel Q&A, Vespers, and an organ recital around the theme of Luther's Deutsche Messe (celebrating

500 years). The keynote speaker is **Rev. Timothy Frank**, the Associate Pastor and Kantor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluff, IA. Rev. Frank will be presenting on "Confessing the Faith through Music."

Musicians, pastors, and lay members are welcome to attend! Visit the St. John's Worship Conference webpage for more information, <https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/worship/worship-conference/>.

To register for the conference, please fill out the [Registration Form](#).

## Lutherans for Life of Kansas Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Lutherans for Life of Kansas (LFL-KS) Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence (2700 Lawrence Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047). The speakers will be **Dr. Ryan MacPherson** and his daughter, **Grace MacPherson**. Dr. MacPherson will speak on Biblical Principles for Christian Bioethics and Teaching Chastity to Your Children. Grace will speak about Pro-Life Project Management: Moving from Ideas to Implementation.

Dr. Ryan MacPherson is co-author with his wife Marie of *Teaching Children Chastity for Life*. His publications include Ten

Principles of Christian Bioethics and Studying Luther's Large Catechism. Dr. MacPherson served as academic dean of Lutheran Classical College.

Grace MacPherson is daughter to Ryan and Marie MacPherson, and the author of the Christian fantasy novels *The King's Sword* and *Domitian*. She has been involved with two college pro-life groups, including starting the Luther Classical College pro-life group with the assistance of Y4Life.

The conference will also feature a service project and ingathering for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that provides beds for children in need. The hope is to have enough registrants to build 15-20 beds.

The business meeting will take place during the conference and is open to all Lutherans For Life members. All members-at-

large of the national Lutherans For Life organization who (1) reside in Kansas and (2) are members in good standing of a Lutheran congregation are considered members of Lutherans For Life of Kansas. Visit <https://lflorkansas.org> for further details.

To become a member of LFL, visit the LFL Donate page at <https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/lutherans-for-life/donate>. A membership donation is required (*you choose the amount*). Make sure to check the box "Select if Membership Gift" before submitting the donation.

If you are not a member but wish to be, there are same-day signups. All members of Life Teams and Life Chapters are encouraged to make sure they are members of Lutherans For Life as well. We want your active participation in voting for board members and in the direction of the organization!

For more information, please email [info@lflorkansas.org](mailto:info@lflorkansas.org).



Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Kansas City

Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
& Preschool, Kansas City

1st Saint John Lutheran Church  
& Preschool, Kensington

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## LLL at the Kansas State Fair!



The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries will be presented with a 40 Year Longevity Award at the 2026 Kansas State Fair!

Once again, Kansas District LLL/LHM will have a booth during the fair, to be held **Sept. 11-20** in Hutchinson. The LLL/LHM booth will be located in the northwest part of the Meadowlark Building.

**Rev. Shawn Fenske**, senior pastor of Holy Cross, Wichita, will lead the worship service on **Sunday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m.** at the Peoples Bank

and Trust Arena. The choir from Holy Cross, Wichita will provide music for the Sunday worship service.

Volunteers are needed to work at the booth to greet visitors and hand out Christian materials. Donations of *Portals of Prayer*, *My Devotions*, and other materials are appreciated.

Contact Mike Tonn at 316-640-3918 or [tonn.mike@yahoo.com](mailto:tonn.mike@yahoo.com) if you and your congregation can provide Christian materials and/or volunteer at the booth.

## Our Saviour Centennial Celebration!

You are invited to attend the 100th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Kan.!

The Centennial Celebration will be held the weekend of **Sept. 25-27, 2026**. It will begin on Friday, Sept. 25, with a reunion meet-and-greet and stained-glass window lighting from 6-9 p.m. at Our Saviour (4153 Rainbow Blvd. Kansas City, KS 66103).

On Saturday, Sept. 26, Our Saviour will host an open house and a prayer/hymn service from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. On Saturday evening there will be a banquet and program from 5-8 p.m. at the Vox Theater (1405 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, KS 66103).

The Centennial Celebration will continue Sunday, Sept. 27, with a worship service at Our Saviour from 10-11:30 a.m. Rev. Travis Ferguson, son of the congregation and senior pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, La Mesa, Calif., will preach. Following worship will be a dedication of the new church cornerstone and a cake reception.

Visit <https://www.oskc.org> to RSVP for these events!

## 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

**DCE Amanda Adams**

Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Sean Kilgo**

Campus Ministry Coordinator

**Lottie Lee**

Professional Development Coordinator

**Jane Limback**

School Ministry Coordinator, Accreditation

**Amy Schultz**

Early Childhood Consultant

**Rev. Caleb**

**Stoever**

Life Coordinator

**Donna**

**Williams**

Disaster Response Coordinator



**LCMS Kansas District Office**  
1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604-1104



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