



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

MONTHLY KANSAS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WORKERS TOGETHER

AUGUST 2026

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(Above) College students participate in a work day to help an elderly couple in Spring 2026. These students are involved with The Crimson & Blue Lutheran Crew Campus Ministry at Redeemer, Lawrence.



Adults and college students from Redeemer, Lawrence, lead Christmas caroling in downtown Lawrence in December 2025.

Campus Ministry in Kansas

Young people are vital to the Church, and the Kansas District encourages college students to get involved with LCMS Campus Ministry!

There are many LCMS congregations across Kansas that offer Campus Ministry and provide a church home for college students.

See the full listing of Campus Ministries in Kansas at <https://kslcmcs.org/campus-ministry>.

Rev. Sean Kilgo, the District Campus Ministry Coordinator, speaks about the importance of Campus Ministry on **Page 2**. Additional Campus Ministry information is also found on **Page 6**.

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley

Redeemer Lutheran Mission, Lake Wabauunsee

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lakin

Grace Lutheran Church, Larned

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence

MONTHLY DEVOTION



Rev. Sean Kilgo
District Campus Ministry Coordinator



August Devotion

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Campus Ministry: Refining the Gold

St. Paul describes the life of the Christian as being "gold refined in the fire." I find this to be a very good description of not only the life of the Christian broadly, but especially of the work of campus ministry.

As many know, the college years are simultaneously exciting and fraught with peril. There's all sorts of opportunities for learning, growth, new friends, new experiences, and of course, the movement from being under the care of your parents to living as an adult. Along the way, many will also meet the person who will later become their spouse. These are all wonderful. However, there's another side, where campus life, classes, professors, friends, roommates, etc. will press hard on the faith of our sons and daughters, encourage them to question what they

know and believe, and ultimately to depart from the faith once delivered.

This is where campus ministry steps in. The local congregation and pastor provide not only the consistency of the gospel and sacraments, but a place where the faith can be nourished, strengthened, and refined. The questions and opposition that come from the world can be tackled through the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions and, instead of resulting in leaving these things, the student finds themselves on even more solid ground.

Through the conversations, studies, mutual fellowship and upbuilding provided in campus ministry, our sons and daughters become precisely what St. Paul describes: gold which has been refined through the fires of college and have come out even stronger, more faithful, and ready to step into the world with a good and bold confession of Jesus

crucified, raised, and ascended for sinners.

When you add into this the numerous students who are struggling with the faith broadly, are curious about the Lutheran confession, or have simply never heard the Gospel, we see an environment in which not only are our own sons and daughters strengthened, but those outside are brought into that same reality. And in the end, the church as a whole is both larger and stronger.

And then, these students scatter out to all sorts of other congregations around the country and act as an encouragement to faithfulness there too. What began in campus ministry continues in the larger church — a family growing stronger and stronger, being refined by the Gospel, and awaiting the blessed resurrection together.

Rev. Kilgo also serves as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lawrence.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Pastoral Installations

2026 Pastor's Conference

Out and About in Kansas

President Panzer's August Travel Schedule

August 1

Official Visitation at St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Preston)

August 2

Preach and Installation of Rev. Daniel Kinley
at Trinity Lutheran Church (Garden City)

August 6-7

Board of Directors at District Office (Topeka)

August 8

Installation of Rev. Joshua Cody at Zion
Lutheran Church (Concordia)

August 16

Ordination and Installation of Jacob Anderson
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Wichita)

August 18

Older Adult Committee at District Office
(Topeka)

August 22

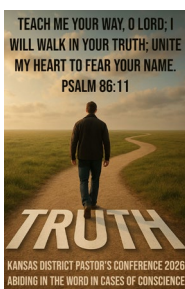
Official Visitation at Christ Lutheran Church
(Topeka)

August 29-30

Preach at Trinity Lutheran Church (Mission)



Rev. Jacob Harding was installed as pastor to First Lutheran Church in Paola on Sunday, July 12, 2026. From left, (front row) Pastor-elect Zachary Smith, Revs. Andy Keltner, Jacob Harding, Justin Panzer, Seminarian Ben Kuefner; (back) Revs. David Kahle, Henry Witte, Daniel Grams, Matthew Vathauer, Ken Nettling, John Kastner, James Woelmer, Mark Gaschler, Zachariah Burgdorf and Joshua Woelmer.



2026 Fall Pastor's Conference

The 2026 Fall Pastor's Conference will be held **October 5-6** at Zion Lutheran Church in Newton (225 S. Poplar St. Newton, KS 67114). There will be a Circuit Visitor/Vice-President meeting on Sunday, October 4, at 6 p.m.

The theme for the Pastor's Conference is "Truth: Abiding in the Word in Cases of Conscience." The keynote speaker is **Rev. Dr. Brian German**, Professor and Chair of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, and **Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford**, Minnesota South District President.

Visit the 2026 Pastor's Conference webpage <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/pastors-conference> to register and find more information!



Rev. Daniel Kinley was installed as senior pastor to the T.I.G. Ministry (Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; Grace, Ulysses) on Sunday, August 2, 2026. From left, (front row) Revs. Justin Panzer, Bob Allmann, Dennis Mason, Bruce Kristalyn, Nathan Neugebauer; (back) Revs. Matthew Koterba, Stanley Palmer, Vance Becker, Daniel Kinley, Magdiel Fajardo and Jason Toombs.

CALLS & VACANCIES

PASTORAL CALLS

Rev. Theodore Cook, Zion, Pittsburg to St. John & Zion, Thief River Falls, MN – **pending**

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

PENDING ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Joshua Cody (SMP), St. Peter, Monte Vista, CO to Zion, Concordia – **installation Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026**

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

Rev. Timothy Wangerin, Christ the King, Salina to Concordia, Hoisington – **accepted, installation Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026, at 10 a.m.**

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

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field

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 Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026**

Deaconess Candidate Nola Gray (CSL) to Redeemer, Olathe – **commissioning / installation Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026**

CONGREGATIONS CALLING or PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR

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

CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER

Leavenworth, St. Paul (Teacher)
Overland Park, Christ (Part-Time Teacher)
Wichita, Holy Cross (Director of Christian Education)

EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN POSITIONS

AUGUST PRAYER REQUESTS

Those grieving the loss of loved ones

- **Family and friends of Leland Bach**, grandfather of Heather Williams, the Business Manager for the LCMS Kansas District. Leland entered his heavenly rest on August 2.
- **Family and friends of Lola Holle**, mother of Rev. Brian Holle, who is the pastor of St. Paul, Fairview and Zion, Hiawatha. Lola entered her heavenly rest on August 2.
- **Family and friends of Roland Mueller**, emeritus LCMS teacher and principal. He also served as a professor of St. John's College in Winfield. Roland entered his heavenly rest on June 15.

Those experiencing recent / ongoing health issues

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

Congregations / Schools Facebook Prayer List

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson – Aug. 3 | Aug. 17 |
| • St. John Lutheran Church & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lincoln – Aug. 10 | • Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle & Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley – Aug. 24 |
| • Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton – | • St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville – Aug. 31 |

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

LCMS Foundation Kansas District Gift
Planning Counselor

Spring Hill Church Plant

Campus Ministry

Kansas District Mission Grants

Mission Updates from the Hagemans



Concordia, Mo. — The LCMS Foundation is pleased to announce that **Kent Kunkel** has joined the organization as the gift planning counselor serving the Kansas District and Western Missouri.

As a gift planning counselor, Kunkel will meet with members of the Kansas District and Western Missouri to help them create gift plans that benefit their LCMS congregations, schools or other LCMS ministries. He will also work directly with congregations to help them establish and promote gift planning programs, as well as connect them with the investment and endowment services the Foundation provides to LCMS ministries.

Kunkel brings years of experience in fundraising and nonprofit leadership to his new role. He previously served as development director for Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Mo., and as a development officer for Lutheran Bible Translators. Earlier in his career, Kunkel spent more

Kent Kunkel Joins the LCMS Foundation as the Gift Planning Counselor Serving the Kansas District and Western Missouri

than a decade in banking and lending, serving as a vice president and loan officer at State Bank of Missouri and, more recently, as a loan officer at Concordia Bank. That experience in finance will be quite valuable in his gift planning role at the Foundation.

A servant-oriented leader, Kunkel is active in his local congregation and serves the Missouri District as a disaster response coordinator for the Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT), helping coordinate volunteers who bring relief and hope to communities affected by disaster. Kunkel has a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Missouri. He lives in Concordia, Missouri, with his wife, Jennifer.

“Kent’s heart for ministry and his years of experience walking alongside donors make him a wonderful addition to our team,” said Rev. Phil Krupski, Senior Vice President of Gift Planning for the LCMS Foundation. “His background in both fundraising and finance, combined with his heart for serving others, will be a real blessing to the people and ministries of the Kansas District and Western Missouri.”

“I’m excited for this opportunity to serve the Church and the members of the Kansas and Missouri Districts,” said Kunkel. “It’s a privilege to work with God’s people as they plan ways to support the ministries that have shaped their faith and their families,

and to help ensure those ministries continue to flourish for generations to come.”

Through a partnership with the Kansas District, Kent is available, at no charge to Kansas congregations, to work with their members to create gift plans that support the ministries they love. Kent is available immediately to host informational gift planning seminars and begin working with ministries across Kansas and Western Missouri.

For questions and/or to schedule a gift planning seminar, please contact Kent at kent.kunkel@lfnf.org.

(Article written and submitted by David O'Brien, LCMS Foundation Senior Vice President of Growth Marketing)

About the LCMS Foundation

Established in 1958, The LCMS Foundation is the Synod’s primary financial organization providing Lutheran donors with charitable expertise and opportunities to ensure that families are provided for and beloved ministries are supported. The Foundation also manages financial instruments and the gifts they represent, entrusted to it by congregations, organizations, and individuals. As of fiscal year 2026, the Foundation managed more than \$1.7 billion of assets and distributed \$41.9 million in new funds to approximately 1,000 LCMS ministries. To learn more, visit <https://www.lcmsfoundation.org>.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lawrence



St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Leavenworth



Trinity Lutheran Church, Leavenworth

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Out and About in Kansas

Rev. Daniel Grams'
August Travel Schedule

August 2

Calvary Lutheran Church
(Wellington)

Ascension Lutheran School
Opening (Wichita)

August 9

St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Leavenworth)

August 16

Light of the World Lutheran Church
(De Soto)

August 23

Hope Lutheran School Teacher Commissioning
(Shawnee)

Concordia Academy - Derby
Campus Commissioning

August 29

DYMC at Trinity Lutheran Church
(Salina)

August 30

KLSSF presentation at Trinity Lutheran Church
(Salina)



LCMS Church Plant in Spring Hill

The Kansas District celebrates its newest church plant in Spring Hill!

The church plant is located in one of the fastest growing areas in Kansas. It is led by a core team of lay leaders working through the LCMS four-phase church planting process.

"Throughout Scripture, God's people are called to recognize and respond when He opens doors for His mission," said Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational &

School Services. "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>. Those wishing to speak with someone directly may also call 913-408-7489.

Click on the provided link to read the [Spring Hill Press Release](#).

(Press release 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)

Campus Ministry News



<https://kslcms.org/missions/campus-ministry>

Connect your college student to a campus ministry! Visit <https://kslcms.org/missions/campus-ministry> to find the campus ministries listing across Kansas. At the bottom of the page, you will find the Campus Ministry Student Contact Form, where you can submit your student's information so that local LCMS congregations can reach out and help students stay connected to Word and Sacrament ministry while they are away at school.

Please consider bringing your student to church when they first arrive at college (even if it is not on a

Sunday), so they will feel more comfortable attending worship when you are not with them.

LCMS U is hosting a Welcome Back Barbeque for students attending K-State on **Monday, August 31, 6 p.m.** at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (4801 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66503).

Students involved in LCMS U at K-State attend both St. Luke's Lutheran Church (4801 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66503) and Christ Lutheran Church (4592 Green Valley Rd., Manhattan, KS 66502).



Lord of Life Lutheran Church & Early Education Center, Leawood



Grace Lutheran Church, Liberal



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lincoln



St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

District Mission Grants

The Kansas District is committed to helping congregations and organizations pursue mission projects in Kansas. The District sets aside 10 percent of its congregational receipts each year and makes these funds available in the form of mission grants.

It's time to prepare for the 2027 mission grant cycle! The window to submit mission grant applications will be **September 1 - October 15, 2026**.

The Kansas District Board of Missions is directing some mission grant dollars to include options such as \$500 SEO Microgrants, Expanding the Spanish Footprint immersion training, and Circuit Convocations with a focus on witness and outreach training (*limit number of eight Circuits, \$2,500 available for each Convocation mission grant. This grant option will be on a first come, first served basis.*)

The 2027 Mission Grant Application and Cover Letter will be available September 1 on the District website under "Missions, Mission Funding": <https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund>.



College students at Fairmount Ministries in Wichita complete a service project.

Schedule of Events



August 22 - First Lutheran Church in Paola, KS



September 12 - Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE



November 14 - Immanuel Lutheran Church in Norton, KS



December 12 - Zion Lutheran Church in Linn, KS



Jan. 16 - Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Marysville, KS



February 20 - TBD Jesus Door-2-Door Event Times 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**For all ages
6th grade and up!
RSVP
@ 785-747-7633**

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

~2 Corinthians 9:6~



Jesus Door-2-Door



Mission Updates from the Hagemans

We give thanks to God for Rev. Michael and DCE Shanna Hageman and their mission work in Tanzania, Africa!

Pastor Hageman is the former second vice-president of the Kansas District, and former senior pastor of Trinity, Garden City. He now serves as a theological educator in Tanzania, equipping

pastors and church workers to share the Gospel in East Africa.

Director of Christian Education (DCE) Shanna Hageman serves by teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to non-native English speakers.

The Hagemans have a website which includes the latest mission updates, a monthly newsletter, a blog, and prayer requests. Learn more at <https://www.hagemansinafrica.org>.

EDUCATION & YOUTH

2026 Educator's Conference

Youth Ministry Highlights & Events

—GREAT PLAINS— LUTHERAN EDUCATORS —CONFERENCE—

The Great Plains Lutheran Educator's Conference (GPLEC) will be held October 17-19, 2026!

- **August 15** – Early Registration ends (*Early registration is \$175. After Aug. 15 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](#)

MinistrySafe Webinar Series

Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF)



Lutheran Valley Retreat May 31 - June 5, 2026

From May 31 to June 5, high school youth from across the Kansas District gathered at Lutheran Valley Retreat for LVR 2026 under the theme “**Summit.**” Through Bible study, worship, outdoor adventure, and fellowship, campers explored how God comes down on the mountains of Scripture to reveal His holiness, show His power, provide the sacrifice in Christ, and send His people out with His presence.

As they came down from the mountain, students returned home encouraged by the good news that Jesus has come down for them and goes with them always!

Rev. Michael Ada

Associate Pastor of Beautiful Savior, Olathe





St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincolnville



Linn Lutheran School Association, Linn



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn



Zion Lutheran Church, Linn

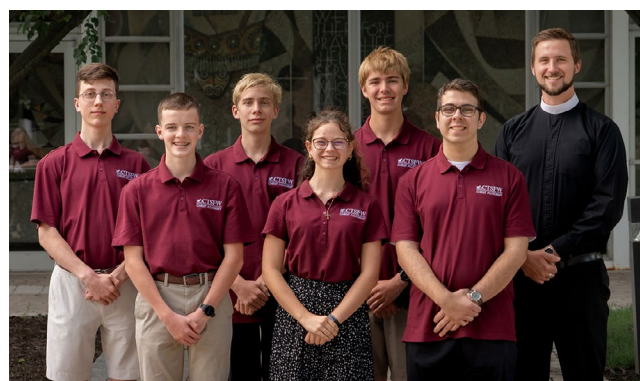


Grace Lutheran Church, Lyons

EDUCATION & YOUTH



Kansas District youth and adult leaders at Higher Things, June 23-26 at St. Louis, Mo.



From left to right: Caleb Filipek, August Meyer, Abraham Shoaff, Sarah Lovett, Phineas Shoaff, Kristopher Lovett, and Rev. Christian Schultz, director of Christ Academy.

2026 Higher Things Conferences

It sure looks like the church is dying sometimes, doesn't it? In some ways it is, but in the most important ways, the church is the only place and people who have hope.

This summer, 125 youth and their chaperones attended the 2026 *Higher Things* Conferences. We sang hymns and chanted the liturgy. We were catechized and challenged in our faith. We played hard and forged connections that will, by the grace of God, last even into eternity.

We are already looking forward to next year, where we will be hearing, learning, and singing about "Torah."

Rev. Christopher Craig

Pastor of Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove and St. Paul's, Ellsworth



Kansas District youth and adult leaders at Higher Things, July 14-17 at Fort Collins, Colo.

Youth from the Kansas District attended Christ Academy June 14-27, 2026, at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Christ Academy is a two-week experience for young men and women, especially for those considering a future in church work. The focus is on confessional catechesis, liturgical worship, and Christ-centered community. For more information, visit <https://www.ctsfw.edu/christ-academy>.



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2026 Fall Confirmation Retreat

The Fall Confirmation Retreat will be held **Oct. 2-3, 2026**, at Rock Springs Ranch located south of Junction City (1168 Highway K157, Junction City, KS 66441).

The theme is "Confession, Absolution, and the Office of the Keys."

This year's presenters are Rev. David Kahle (*Redeemer, Olathe*), Rev. Michael Ada (*Beautiful Savior, Olathe*) and Rev. Sean Kilgo (*Redeemer, Lawrence*).

The cost is \$109, which includes Saturday breakfast and lunch, lodging, and a T-Shirt. Visit <https://kslcms.org/confirmation-retreat> to register and for more information!

2027 Higher Things Dates

June 22-25	June 29-July 2	July 20-23
Concordia University Wisconsin Mequon, WI	Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO	Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Louisburg



Christ Lutheran Church, Manhattan



St. Luke's Lutheran Church & Preschool, Manhattan



Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Kansas District Youth Ministry Upcoming Events



CONFIRMATION RETREAT
OCTOBER 2-3, 2026
ROCK SPRINGS 4-H CAMP (JUNCTION CITY, KS)



KANSAS DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING (KDYG)
NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026
DRURY INN (WICHITA, KS)



YOUTH LEAD TRAINING
SPRING 2027 (ST. LOUIS, MO)
-- REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 2026 --



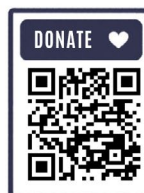
LCMS YOUTH GATHERING 2028
JULY 3-7, 2028 (SAN ANTONIO, TX)

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



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

The keynote speaker was Dr. Eugene Kim from Concordia University Irvine, who presented on the topic "Faithfulness and Flourishing in the Age of AI." The principals from the Oklahoma District were invited to join the Kansas District for the conference. **God bless these educators in their ministries!**



There is a MinistrySafe Webinar Series being offered 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.

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://kslclms.org/presidents-office/congregation-resources/ministrysafe> to learn more about how your congregation and school can protect your children and ministries.

CARING MINISTRY

LERT / Disaster Response

Parish Nurse Ministry

2026 Saints Alive After
55 Conference



LERT Training & Event Calendar:

- **August 15, 2026:** LERT Leadership Teams meeting
- **Sept. 19, 2026:** LERT Basic Chainsaw Safety & Operation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Atchison (603 N. 8th Street, Atchison, KS 66002).

Lutheran Early Response Team

Attendees must have completed LERT Basic Training before enrolling in a LERT Chainsaw class.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

- **Sept. 23-25, 2026:** Annual Disaster Response Conference, St. Louis, MO
- **Sept. 26, 2026:** LERT Basic Training at Christ Lutheran Church in Overland Park (11720 Nieman Rd., Overland Park, KS 66210).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For more detailed information, including contact information

and registration for LERT training events, visit the LERT website at <https://www.lcms-lert.org>. If you wish to host a LERT Training or Community Awareness event, please reach out to us!

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."
- Isaiah 6:8*

Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator
ksddrc@gmail.com

Enjoying Fellowship: National Picnic Month

National Picnic Month is a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors, share food, and spend meaningful time with family and friends. Picnics offer a simple way to slow down, appreciate nature, and build stronger relationships within our communities.

Gathering together and sharing meals reflects the importance of fellowship. Throughout the Bible, people often gathered around meals to celebrate, give thanks, and strengthen relationships. Spending time together outdoors reminds us of the

beauty of God's creation and the blessings He provides.

A picnic can be as simple as a sandwich in the park, a church potluck outside, or a family meal under the shade of a tree. These moments allow us to laugh, connect, and encourage one another.

During National Picnic Month, consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or fellow church member to share a meal outdoors. Fellowship, gratitude, and community are gifts that bring joy and reflect God's love in our lives.

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.

Visit <https://kslcms.org> for more information to come.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Kansas District Resources

Announcements and Reminders

Education Loan Repayment Grants

The Kansas District provides grants to rostered church workers to help them repay college and/or seminary education loans. All rostered synodical graduates, as well as those who have completed the colloquy program, who are currently working in the Kansas

District are eligible for the first 10 years after graduation or ordination to apply for this grant.

The education loan repayment grant application is available on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/education-grants>. The application deadline is September 15, 2026.

Applications should be sent to **Heather Williams** (1000 SW 10th Ave. Topeka, KS 66604-1104) or via email at heather@kslcms.org.

2026-2027 Lutheran Witness Renewal Packets



The 2026-2027 *Lutheran Witness* renewal packets for the Kansas District were 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.

[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.

Read 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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF)

Kansas District Resources

Announcements and Reminders



Planting Seeds Of Faith



AGES
0-18



SUPPORT LCMS
MINISTRIES



INTEREST COMPOUNDED
AND PAID MONTHLY



NO MONTHLY
MEMBERSHIP FEES

Young Investors StewardAccount®

Starting your child's financial journey early can make all the difference.

Whether celebrating a new addition to the family or creating a lasting legacy for your grandchildren, the Young Investors (Y.I.) StewardAccount offers a meaningful way to invest in their future.

This account grows with your young investor—building both their savings and their financial responsibility. Beginning at age 7, investors may receive extra dollars toward their account by earning good grades and/or completing 10+ community service hours each year.

At age 16, they can explore the freedom of a debit card and online account access (with custodian approval). Plus, high school seniors with a Y.I. StewardAccount can apply for LCEF's annual college scholarship each February, giving them another step toward a bright future.

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 extracurriculars.

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. Families can do this through the opening of a Young Investors (Y.I.) StewardAccount. As you invest in the future for your children, you help LCEF in our ministry to serve the needs of our congregations, schools, organizations, and church workers throughout the LCMS.

Please reach out to us if you have questions and would like to learn more about this opportunity. Also visit <https://lcef.org/personal/lcef-church-members/young-investors> for more information.

Contact us today.

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



lcef.org/YI



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.

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz

District Vice President, Kansas & Oklahoma

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.



Good Shepherd Lutheran School Association, Marysville

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville

Trinity Lutheran Church, McFarland

Grace Lutheran Church, McPherson

DISTRICT MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

<https://kslcms.org/calendar>

AUGUST

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. 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)

Aug. 31 Constitution Committee, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

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)

Oct. 2-3 Fall Confirmation Retreat (Rock Springs Ranch, Junction City)

Oct. 4 Circuit Visitors / Vice-Presidents meeting, 6-8 p.m. (Zion Lutheran Church, Newton)

Oct. 5-6 Pastor's Conference (Zion Lutheran Church, Newton)

Oct. 14 Board of Caring Ministry, 1-2 p.m. (Zoom)

Oct. 17-19 Great Plains Lutheran Educators Conference (Concordia University, Seward, Neb.)

Oct. 25-29 District President Administrative Assistant Conference

Oct. 31 Reformation Day

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> for more information.

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.

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!

The Kansas District LLL/LHM will have a booth during the fair, to be held **Sept. 11-20** in Hutchinson. It 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. 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 if you and your congregation can provide Christian materials and/or volunteer at the booth.



St. John Lutheran Church, Meade



Trinity Lutheran Church, Medicine Lodge



Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission Campus



Trinity Lutheran Church & Preschool, Shawnee Campus

SYNOD & PARTNERS



CHRIST IS RISEN
TELL THE NEXT GENERATION

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.

Prayerfully consider giving towards the LCMS National Offering! Gifts to the National Offering will directly benefit ongoing domestic work carried out by LCMS congregations, districts and RSOs. Visit the National Offering webpage <https://www.lcms.org/convention/national/offering> to learn more and find resources!

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>



The annual Concordia Deaconess Conference was held June 15-18, 2026. The conference was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Dublin, OH. Nearly 100 deaconesses were in attendance.

The conference theme was "In View of God's Mercy: The Devotional Life in Christ," based on Romans 12:1-2. This annual conference brings deaconesses together from around the world for worship, confession and absolution, fellowship and rest. To learn more about Deaconess Ministry, visit <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/deaconess-ministry>.

Lutheran Transitional Interim Ministry Discernment Events

Have you ever thought about becoming a Transitional Interim Minister? The need for Transitional Interim Ministry is great, engaging congregations during the opportunity that a pastoral transition brings to work toward mission and ministry health, setting up for a fruitful next chapter of ministry as they call their next settled pastor.

There are three upcoming discernment events for potential TIM practitioners:

LuTMA Online Discernment Event (2 hours), Thursday, August 13, Noon-2 p.m. CT. The cost is \$25. [REGISTER HERE](#)

LuTMA Online Discernment Event (2 hours), Tuesday, Sept. 15, Noon-2 p.m. CT.

The cost is \$25. [REGISTER HERE](#)

TIM Discernment Conference (2 days), Sept. 21-23 at the Michindoh Conference Center in Hillsdale, Michigan. [REGISTER HERE](#)



AROUND THE DISTRICT

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 Bluffs, 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://stjohnlcm-topeka.org/worship/worship-conference/>.



New Worker Orientation was held on July 27, 2026, at the District office in Topeka. Welcome all new church workers to the Kansas District!

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.

The conference will also feature a service project and in gathering for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that provides beds for children in need.

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://lflfokansas.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. For more information, please email info@lflfokansas.org.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton



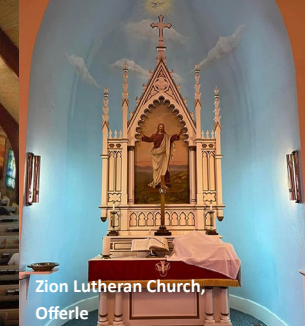
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Nortonville



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oakley



St. John's Lutheran Church, Oberlin



Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Kansas District delegates gathered at the 69th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, held July 18-23, 2026, in Phoenix, Ariz. The theme was "Christ Is Risen Indeed," based on 1 Cor. 15:20-22.

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

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Youth Ministry Coordinator

Rev. Sean Kilgo

Campus Ministry Coordinator

Lottie Lee

Professional Development Coordinator

Jane Limback

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Amy Schultz

Early Childhood Consultant

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Stoever

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