



# WORKERS TOGETHER

Monthly Newsletter of the LCMS Kansas District | [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org)

March 2021

## Light of the World

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, | ☑ the light no darkness can overcome. |
| ☐ Stay with us Lord, for it is evening,   | ☑ and the day is almost over.         |
| ☐ Let Your light scatter the darkness     | ☑ and illumine Your Church.           |

Opening of Evening Prayer, LSB p. 243 | Photo: St. Paul, Fairview at dusk

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

# President's Office

## Calls and Vacancies

### **PASTORAL CALLS**

- Rev. Luke Brown – Immanuel, Ellsworth to Immanuel, Haxtun, CO – declined
- Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss – St. John's, Topeka to Hope, Shawnee – pending
- Rev. Dan Chrismer – Ascension, Pratt to St. John, Bullhead City, AZ – pending
- Rev. Sam Grayl – First, Bozeman, MT to Lord of Life, Leawood – declined
- Rev. Timothy Roth – St. Peter's, Humboldt to Faith, Ottawa – pending

### **PENDING ORDINATIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS**

- Rev. Sean Kilgo at Redeemer, Lawrence, March 21

### **CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR PREPARING TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR**

- Erie, Good Shepherd and Hepler, Immanuel (sole; seminary)
- Herington, Our Redeemer (sole)
- Herington, Immanuel (Shady Brook) and Herington, St. John's (Lyon's Creek; sole)
- Leawood, Lord of Life (sole)
- Mission and Shawnee, Trinity (associate)
- Northeast Kansas Partnership (associate; seminary)
- Olathe, Redeemer (sole)
- Ottawa, Faith (sole)
- Overland Park, Bethany (associate, seminary)
- Paola, First (sole; seminary)
- Scott City, Holy Cross (sole)
- Shawnee, Hope (senior)
- Topeka, Prince of Peace (sole)

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For weekly call updates, visit the [Calls and Vacancies](#) page of the Kansas District website. The list is updated every Tuesday (typically by 10 a.m.).

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### **CONGREGATIONS CALLING A COMMISSIONED MINISTER**

- Cheney, St. Paul – Teachers
- Emporia, Messiah – DCE
- Leavenworth, St. Paul – Teachers
- Marysville, Good Shepherd – Principal/Teacher
- Overland Park, Christ – DCE
- Shawnee, Hope – Teacher
- Topeka Lutheran – Teacher
- Winfield, Trinity – Teacher

### **COMMISSIONED MINISTER CALLS – from the field**

- Principal Chris Dehning – Trinity, Hoyleton to Trinity, Winfield – accepted
- Candidate Melissa Wolf – Missouri District to Trinity, Atchison – pending
- Principal Kerrick Sawyer – Peace, Bremerton, WA to Good Shepherd/Marysville – pending

## February Board Report Summaries Available

The February 2021 [Board Report Summaries](#) are now available on our website, with links from the homepage as well as our Board of Directors page. **If you're looking for news to share about the Kansas District with your church council, boards, or voters, we encourage you to take a few minutes to scan through the summaries.**

Among the highlights of the February meeting was the installation of new board member Dan Thalmann (St. John, Palmer) as the lay representative for Region 2. Thalmann, publisher of the Washington County News and past president of the Kansas Press Association, is completing the term of board member Richard Schotte (Immanuel, Bremen), who was called to his heavenly home August 31, 2020.



**Dan Thalmann**  
Region 2

To learn more about the Kansas District Board of Directors, visit [kslcms.org/board-of-directors](https://kslcms.org/board-of-directors).

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## Convention News: One-Year Delay Approved



LCMS congregations voted to extend the 2019-2022 triennium by a year and [delay the Synod convention until 2023](#). The majority of congregations, just over 90%, voted in favor of the delay, with 63% participating in the vote.

As a result of the vote, our Kansas District convention, previously scheduled for this June, will also be delayed a year. **The new dates for the district convention are June 9-10, 2022.**

What happens now?

- The Convention Planning Committee will be meeting March 8 to fine-tune the new timeline and make other adjustments.
- The [convention webpage](#), which has been updated with the new convention dates, will be updated again shortly after the March 8 planning meeting with an adjusted timeline. We've left the original documents (e.g., delegate forms) on the webpage for now, in case anyone needs a quick reference, but those documents will be replaced with updated versions this spring.
- Later this spring, we'll send detailed information to congregations and workers addressing nominations, delegate reporting, overtures, workbook reports, circuit visitor business, floor committee meetings, and other convention business.

If you have questions, please send them to our convention email address: [KSDconvention@gmail.com](mailto:KSDconvention@gmail.com).

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## Statistical Reports Due March 31

Reporting update: 23 Kansas congregations have submitted 2020 statistical reports to the Synod. If you're not one of the 23, please submit your congregation's end-of-year statistics and update your current list of lay leaders at the following website: <https://lc.lcms.org/>.

**The deadline for reporting is March 31, 2021.** If you don't have your congregation's login information, contact [rosters.stats@lcms.org](mailto:rosters.stats@lcms.org) or the LCMS Church Information Center at **888-843-5267**.



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This month, we ask that you keep in your prayers:

- ❖ **Those grieving the loss of loved ones**, including
  - Kansas District staff member Heather Williams and family at the death of her mother, Sherri Wark, February 8
  - The family of Dale Anschutz, uncle of Kansas District staff member Janet Powell, at his death January 13
  - Rev. Joel and Michela Hiesterman and family at the death of Michela's father, Burnell Goll, January 6
- ❖ **Those dealing with recent or ongoing health issues**, including Debra Engelbrecht, Bill Snow, Rev. Mike Dunaway, Gary Hardwick, Kevin Adams, Nick Adams, Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke, Diane Harries, Rev. Richard Andrus, Rev. Dave Meier, and Judy May
- ❖ **The LCMS Texas District** and others hit hard by the recent frigid weather disaster.
- ❖ **Those affected by the coronavirus**, including our church workers, Synod, districts, congregations, schools, and organizations; government leaders, health care workers, and other essential workers; and those dealing with isolation, illness, loss, or unemployment
- ❖ **Churches and schools on our [Facebook](#) prayer list in March:**
  - Trinity, Medicine Lodge and St. John, Nashville, this week
  - Concordia, Hoisington, March 8
  - Peace, Natoma and First, Plainville, March 15
  - Peace, Greensburg, March 22
  - Beautiful Savior, Olathe (church and preschool), March 29

If you have a prayer request, please contact Tami Lierz at [tami@kslcms.org](mailto:tami@kslcms.org) or 785-357-4441, ext. 5001.

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### Brief Updates: Conferences, Grants

#### **Kansas District Pastors Conference**

The 2021 Pastors Conference, being held in Junction City October 10-12, will make use of the Koinonia approach introduced at a previous conference with Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy. Thus, **there will be no call for papers this year.**

#### **Take Heart Doxology Retreat**

DOXOLOGY has partnered with the LCMS Office of National Mission to provide at least 15 FREE Take Heart respite retreats in 2021. **The next Take Heart Retreat in Kansas will take place May 24-26** at the Spiritual Life Center in Bel Aire, Kansas. Pastors can access more information and register here: [www.doxology.us](http://www.doxology.us).

#### **Hearts for Pastors Grants**

Hearts for Pastors is a not-for-profit organization that works to ease the financial burden of pastors by providing **grants for education debt and relocation expenses**. To find out more, visit [Heartsforpastors.org](http://Heartsforpastors.org).

**HEARTS**  **PASTORS**

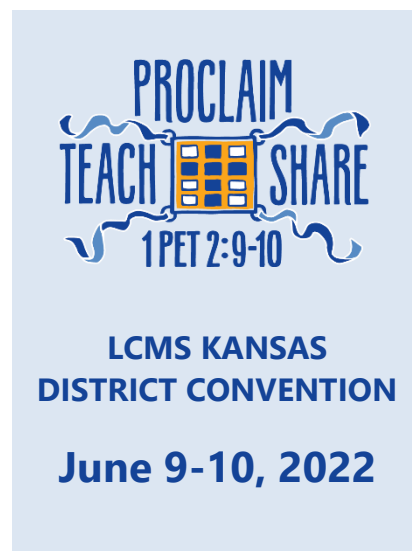
## District Calendar

### MARCH

- 2 District Youth Ministry Team Meeting, Zoom, 1-3
- 8 Convention Planning Meeting, District Office, noon-3 p.m.
- 13 Pastors' Wives Retreat, Virtual, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 19-20 LCMS Life Conference, Virtual
- 23 Topeka DCE Meeting, District Office, 10 a.m.-noon  
Circuit Visitors Meeting, Zoom, 11 a.m.
- 25 Principals Zoom, 4 p.m.
- 27 KAIRS Early Childhood Conference (virtual)
- 27 LERT Training, Messiah, Hays
- 30 Older Adult Committee, Zoom, 10 a.m.-noon

### APRIL

- 1 Maundy Thursday; District Office closes at 2 p.m.
- 2 Good Friday, District Office closed
- 4 **Easter Sunday**
- 5 Easter Monday; District Office closed
- 8 ECE Directors Zoom, 1-2 p.m.
- 11-13 DCE Retreat, Retreat Center
- 15 Pastors Conference Planning Committee, 10 p.m.  
Educators Conference Planning Committee, 1 p.m.
- 17 Adult Education Committee, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.
- 18 "Here I Stand" Sunday (more details below)
- 20 Church Worker Care Committee, Zoom, noon-2 p.m.
- 22 Board of Education, Zoom, 9-11 a.m.  
Board of Missions, Zoom, 10:30 a.m.  
Partnership Advisory Group Meeting, Zoom, 2 p.m.  
Principals Zoom, 4 p.m.
- 23 Board of Caring Ministry, Zoom, 1-3 p.m.
- 23-29 LCMS Council of Presidents, virtual
- 26 Board of Stewardship, Zoom, 12:30-2 p.m.
- 27 Call Day, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
- 28 Call Day, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- 29 President's Council, District Office, 1-5 p.m.
- 30 Kansas District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.



Find the full District calendar on the website [HERE](#).

### **April Workers Together**

Due to the timing of Holy Week and Easter this year, our next issue of *Workers Together* will be published a bit later than usual, on Wednesday, April 7. Items for the April issue should be submitted by Wednesday, March 24.

### **Together We Pray**

[Together We Pray](#) prayers and verses will remain available on our website through April 7. Prayers are also posted every morning at 7:30 a.m. on our [Facebook page](#). Feel free to share the posts, or encourage congregation members to follow our page.

We wish you all a blessed Easter and pray that many of your saints will be able to join you as you celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.



## On the Radar: "Here I Stand" Sunday

"If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen." (Martin Luther, Speech at the Diet of Worms, April 18, 1521)



Did you know that April 18 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's "Here I Stand" moment (pictured above)? **Delegates to the 2019 Synod Convention approved a resolution declaring April 18, 2021, as "Here I Stand" Sunday in the Synod.** The resolution encourages districts, circuits, and congregations to commemorate the event and pray that the Lord would continue to bless the proclamation of the gospel. A thank offering is anticipated as part of the commemoration.

Mark your calendars now and watch for more information from the Synod in the coming weeks.

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## March Staff Travel Schedule

### President Justin Panzer

- Mar. 1** Hispanic Ministry Meeting, Kansas City
- Mar. 2** Circuit 10 and 11 Winkel, St. Andrews, Wichita
- Mar. 9** Circuit 12 Winkel, St. Paul's, Haven
- Mar. 13** Pastors' Wives Retreat (virtual)
- Mar. 18-19** Great Plains Council of Presidents Meeting, Sioux Falls, SD
- Mar. 19-20** LCMS Life Conference (virtual)
- Mar. 21** Installation of Rev. Sean Kilgo, Redeemer, Lawrence

### Rev. Dan Galchutt

- Mar. 1** Hispanic Ministry Meeting, Kansas City
- Mar. 4** Stewardship Committee Meeting, St. John, Alma
- Mar. 9** Circuit 7 and 8 Winkel, St. Luke's, Manhattan
- Mar. 10** School Chapel, Christ, Overland Park
- Mar. 11** Church Planting Meeting, Hays
- Mar. 18** Campus Ministry Visit, Trinity, Salina
- Mar. 16** Circuit 5 Winkel, Trinity, Erie
- Mar. 21** Installation of Rev. Sean Kilgo, Redeemer, Lawrence
- Mar. 22** T.I.G. Partnership Meeting, Trinity, Garden City

### Jim Bradshaw

- Mar. 3** School Visit, Zion, Independence

## ON THE ROAD IN FEBRUARY



Altar at Faith, Derby, snapped by President Panzer.

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# Missions and Stewardship

## Planned Giving Services in the Kansas District

The Kansas District is partnering with the LCMS Foundation to provide planned giving services to its members—a move prompted by a 2018 convention resolution.

The timing couldn't be better. We are at the beginning of the largest wealth transfer from one generation to the next in world history. Planned giving provides people the opportunity to practice good stewardship of their assets, not just their income.

The LCMS Foundation helps individuals consider how they would like to bless their family and inheritors, limit their tax liability, and provide generously for the work of the Church. Individuals who have been faithfully giving to a congregation and would like to continue to support that congregation in the future have many options, including IRA charitable rollovers and Donor Advised Funds.

The Kansas District now has several trained planned giving advocates, including several District staff members, who are ready to speak to your congregation or ministry about how planned giving can become an important part of stewardship for your people and a blessing to your ministry. In addition to providing information, our advocates can connect interested individuals with a staff member of the LCMS Foundation, who can help them set up a Lifetime Plan for Giving.

If you'd like to have a member of the District staff give a presentation on planned giving, please contact Shannon Fender at [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org), or call the District Office at 785-357-4441, ext 1001.



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## Circuit 5 Partnership Meeting



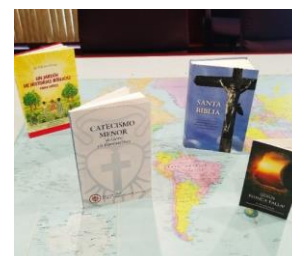
On February 20, Missions Executive Rev. Dan Galchutt met with the congregations of Circuit 5 to discuss ways that they can work together as partners in the Gospel.

"There are a growing number of these conversations happening around Kansas. We're also hearing that these conversations are growing around the Synod, as others from outside the Kansas District are contacting us about our [Partnership Project resources](#)," said Rev. Galchutt. "We're praying that the resources on our website will benefit congregations in the days to come, as more and more, we look to ways that our congregations can work together for the sake of the Gospel."

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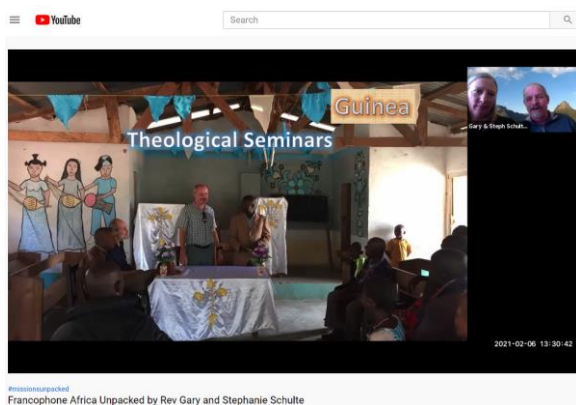
## FREE Spanish Language Resources

Great news! The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS) has a variety of FREE new resources available in the Spanish language, including *Luther's Small Catechism*, *The Bible with Small Catechism* (combined volume), *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, and "Jesus Never Fails" devotional tract. These materials are available to any LCMS church, mission or individual who wants to share the Good News with their Spanish-speaking neighbors. To order, send an email to [info@LHFmissions.org](mailto:info@LHFmissions.org) or call the LHF office at 800-554-0723.



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## West Africa News: Pentecost Offering



The annual Kansas District Pentecost Offering is coming up on May 23. Please mark your calendars and prayerfully consider participating in this special offering, which benefits mission work in French-speaking West and Central Africa. More information will be coming soon.

In the meantime, we invite you to watch a recording of a **live presentation on the region by LCMS missionaries Rev. Gary and Steph Schulte**, who shared their work as part of the Synod's "Missions Unpacked" virtual learning experience. You can access the video [HERE](#).

**Special Prayer Request:** Your prayers are requested for the people of Guinea and our seminary there in light of recent deaths caused by Ebola. Pray that the Lord would protect the people of Guinea, especially the students of the seminary, the pastors and vicars serving in Guinea, and for missionaries serving in Guinea, including Tim and Beth Heiney. Pray that the Good News of the Gospel would be proclaimed in these times and always.

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## Esther Grants: Apply by April 5

The past year has highlighted many ways in which technology can help congregations carry out their mission. If you have ideas for your ministry that involve technology and could use financial assistance, we encourage you to consider applying for a grant through the Esther 4:14 National Grant Program.

Any congregation or recognized mission of the LCMS that has membership in an LCMS district (U.S. only) may apply for a single grant of up to \$1,500. Grants will be awarded based on need, innovative character, and willingness to share discoveries with other LCMS congregations and organizations.

Grants can be used for technology (e.g., cameras, mixer boards), end-user equipment (e.g., tablets for shut-ins), software or software subscriptions (e.g., editing software, Microsoft Teams, Zoom pro accounts), training, or other equipment or technologies to meet timely needs.

**The deadline for applications is April 5, 2021.** For more information, visit the [Esther 4:14 grant page](#).

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## Life Ministry News: LCMS Life Conference

LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19–20, under the theme "Making Disciples: Valuing Life." Registration is open now at [www.lcms-life.org](http://www.lcms-life.org)

### Join us!

- Be equipped to speak up for the sanctity of life within your community and our society.
- Gain ideas on how to care for all human life.
- Interact with fellow Lutherans on Life Ministry topics.
- Be a part of the LCMS Life Ministry community.

Dozens of experts in Life Ministry will present throughout the conference with multiple video presentations available for immediate on-demand viewing as soon as you log in.



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# Education & Youth

## Lutheran Valley Retreat Summer Camp

Online registration for the Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) Summer Camp in Woodland, Colorado is now OPEN! For details about the registration process, visit the [LVR page](#), accessible from the "Education & Youth" menu on the Kansas District website.

- **New for 2021! TWO SESSIONS, June 6-11 or July 18-23**
- The camp is open to all incoming 9th grade students to graduating seniors.
- Price per camper is \$450.

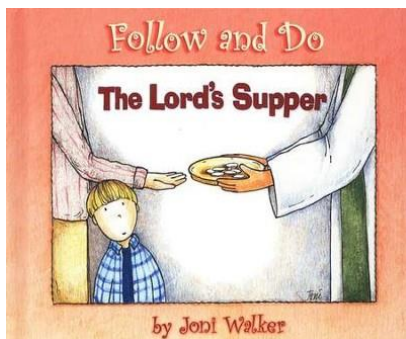


The theme for the 2021 camp is "Mountaintop Experience." We will look at scripture passages and events that happened on mountains and note how they proclaim God's glory and His saving nature. We will also look at the Psalms of Ascent as prayers and liturgical tools.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact DCE Paul White at [dcepaulwhite@gmail.com](mailto:dcepaulwhite@gmail.com).

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## CFLC Recommends: Follow and Do: The Lord's Supper



This month's book recommendation from the Children's and Family Life Committee is [Follow and Do: The Lord's Supper](#), by Joni Walker (CPH). Committee member Rachel Goodpasture provides an introduction in this [VIDEO](#).

The *Follow and Do* series teaches young children about the six chief parts of the Christian faith, using simple pictures and questions and answers from the catechism. The books can be purchased individually or as part of a set. Other titles in the series include *The Ten Commandments*, *The Apostles' Creed*, *The Lord's Prayer*, *Holy Baptism*, and *Confession*.

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## 2021 DCE Retreat: Where "R" You?

**Registration is OPEN** for the upcoming DCE Retreat, scheduled for April 11-13 at the Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington! The Wichita Cluster is excited to host the event this year. Our theme this year will help us ask the question of ourselves and each other: **Where "R" You?**

Our speaker will be Brenda Jank from [Run Hard. Rest Well](#). Brenda will be leading us through videos and sessions along with the Wichita team to help us "Catch Our Breath," taking time to rest and reflect on "A Rest that Works" so that we will leave feeling recharged for what's coming next!

At this time we are planning for an in-person retreat and will keep you posted of any changes as needed. See the registration page for more information and a schedule, and be sure to **register by March 15** so we can plan accordingly!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



If you have any questions, reach out to Paige Edgington at [dcepaige@gmail.com](mailto:dcepaige@gmail.com) or 316-684-5224!

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# Caring Ministry

## Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) News

Donna Williams, Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator | [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com)

### Texas Freeze

Texans are in clean-up and recovery mode after unexpectedly frigid weather last month wreaked havoc in the state. Julie Tucker, District Disaster Response Coordinator for the Texas District, reports that the biggest needs at this point are water, non-perishable food items, premade baby formula, and plumbing supplies (and plumbers). If you would like to donate to the Texas District to help churches and church workers with these needs, you can do so on their [Disaster Relief page](#).

### Be on the lookout

Established LERT team leaders will soon receive a spreadsheet listing their LERT team members. We are asking leaders to review the list and edit it for changes. Instructions will be included in the email. If you have questions after receiving your team list, please let me know.



### NWS Severe Weather Preparedness Week: March 1-5, 2021

Everyone is encouraged to participate in their annual tornado drill. Depending on locality, the test might be broadcast over NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio and some local television and radio stations. Local officials may also sound their warning sirens. We encourage everyone to abide by health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 during the tornado test, which includes staying at least six feet from other people when possible and wearing a mask. If that is not possible, then simply sheltering in place or discussing where you would go and what you'd do are other options. Either way, take advantage of this dry run and work your severe weather plan like it is the real thing. For more information and to access the *Severe Weather Awareness Information Packet*, go to the National Weather Service website at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) and type in your zip code under "Local Forecast."

### Storm Fury of the Plains 6 Virtual Events: March 2, 4, 10, 23, 25 & 29

Meteorologists from the National Weather Service office in Wichita will be presenting information that will help prepare storm spotters and weather enthusiasts for the upcoming storm season. The audience will learn about different types of storms, individual storm features that help a person to recognize the storm's potential severity, how to report hazardous weather, and severe weather safety. If you are interested in attending any of these classes, don't hesitate! I understand that "seating" might be limited. To register: <https://www.weather.gov/ict/spottertalks>

### Training Events

As a new training curriculum is rolled out by the Disaster Response office in St. Louis, we will be scheduling LERT and Chainsaw Safety training events. Please watch the [Disaster Response page](#) on the LCMS Kansas District website and our Facebook pages ([LERT Kansas District](#) & [Lutheran Early Response Team - Northeast KS](#)) for news of potential LERT Basic and Chainsaw Training opportunities offered for you to get a team started, expand an existing team or refresh/expand your team's knowledge regarding LERT and Disaster Response. If your congregation is willing to host a regional event, please let me know. Also being considered is a Train-the-Trainer event. If you are a card-carrying (certified) LERT volunteer and would be interested in becoming part of the Kansas District LERT Training Teams, please give me a call.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Basic LERT Training, March 27, Messiah, Hays. More details to come.

Grace and Peace,  
Donna Williams  
Isaiah 6:8

## Pastors' Wives Retreat

Reminder to Kansas District pastors' wives: The Pastors' Wives Retreat will be held Saturday, March 13, as a virtual event, with an opportunity to gather in person at five sites around the District (Abilene, Garden City, Humboldt, Hays, and Wichita). The featured speaker for the event is Deaconess Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS Life Ministry, who will speak on the theme "Renewed Day by Day" (2 Cor. 4:16-18). The free event, which will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., is a great opportunity to encourage one another through the pandemic, connect, and grow in God's Word.



Deaconess Tiffany Manor

The registration deadline is Friday, March 5. To register:

<https://forms.gle/drCjiSNvTsxyl95eA>

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## Business Office

### New Phone System at the District Office

The District recently switched to a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone system, which makes calls through an internet connection rather than a regular landline. The new system is expected to reduce phone expenses for the District while allowing staff members to use their phones both in and out of the office.

With the switch to VoIP technology comes a whole new set of extension numbers for staff. (See the directory at the end of the newsletter.) Extensions now match the departments listed in our phone tree.



- 1) Business Office
- 2) Missions and Stewardship
- 3) Education and Youth
- 4) LCEF
- 5) President's Office
- 6) Communications

We'll be updating extension information on the website and in other communications in the coming weeks.

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### District Scholarships Available

The Kansas District is offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in church work at one of the Synod's colleges or seminaries. **The application deadline for 2021-22 scholarships is June 1.** For an [application](#) and more information, visit [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org). Navigate to "Stewardship" and choose "Grants and Scholarships" from the menu.



Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of applications received. Awards are sent directly to the college or university.

Several other Kansas District organizations, including LWML, Lutheran Laymen's League, and St. John's Alumni Association, also offer scholarships. You can find links to these organizations on the [Grants and Scholarships page](#) of [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org).

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# Communications

## Workers Together Focus Group

We're gearing up to make some changes to *Workers Together*, but before we start adding, deleting, and revamping, we'd like to hear from our readers.

What should we keep? What should we toss? What should we add or change?

**On Thursday, March 25 at 2 p.m., we'll be holding a one-hour Zoom session to kickstart the discussion.** The conversation will be informal, with no advance preparation required. If you'd like to join the session, email Communications Specialist Kris Bruss at [kbruss@kslcms.org](mailto:kbruss@kslcms.org), and she'll send you a link. All types of readers (e.g., rostered workers; church leaders/staff; laypeople) are welcome.



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## LCEF

### A Note from Your DVP



Dear Kansas District Members,

"When schools flourish, all flourish." – Martin Luther

Teachers have had to adjust their lessons and methods for the virtual and socially distanced space during these unprecedented times. Educators have been asked to go above and beyond to provide students the quality education they deserve. During National Lutheran Schools Week, Lutheran Church Extension Fund wanted to reward educators for their hard work this past year by sponsoring a meal for five lucky LCMS-affiliated schools.

LCEF held a contest on social media during National Lutheran Schools Week, asking the online audience to nominate a Lutheran school. **Holy Cross Lutheran School in Wichita, Kansas** was one of the randomly selected recipients to receive \$500 towards the cost of lunch for the entire staff. Congratulations!

Praise God for all Lutheran schools!

Blessings,

Jeffrey Maltz  
[jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org](mailto:jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org)  
785-230-4112  
[www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org)

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High school seniors invested with LCEF have an opportunity to earn a \$3,000, \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship. Apply for a 2021 Take Heart Scholarship! **The deadline is April 19.**

The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for Young Investor Club (Y.I. Club) members who are high school seniors and will soon advance to the next level of higher education. During these times of excitement, anxiousness, and uncertainty, "take heart!" As Christians, we cannot anticipate that life will be perfect or familiar, but when we feel that the world has become difficult, take comfort in knowing that our God has overcome it all!

Details: <https://lcef.org/scholarship/>

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# FINANCIALLY STRONG THROUGH OUR INVESTORS

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), funds are made available to equip Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors, churches, schools and organizations to fulfill their call of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**JEFFREY MALTZ**

Kansas and Oklahoma | LCEF District Vice President  
785-230-4112 | [Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Maltz@lcef.org)

Apply today!  
[lcef.org/invest](https://lcef.org/invest)



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# Around the District

## Retirement Celebration

On February 14, 2021, President Panzer joined the saints at Trinity, Salina to recognize the recent retirement of **Pastor Ron Rather**, who served as a Kansas District pastor for more than a decade. Pastor Rather served most recently at St. John's, Moundridge, which closed its doors in December 2020. He also served at St. Paul, Haven and Trinity, McFarland.

Well done, good and faithful servant!



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## Concordia Academy Capital Campaign Kickoff



Concordia Academy – Wichita is holding a capital campaign kickoff banquet Friday, April 16 from 6-8 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church (3310 E Pawnee). Concordia Academy is aiming to open its doors as Kansas's *only* Lutheran high school in the fall of 2022.

The campaign kickoff will feature great food, fellowship, entertainment, information, and keynote addresses by the Rev. Robert Paul (Houston Memorial headmaster) and Dr. Gabriel Haley (professor at Concordia University, Nebraska). All supporters and potential supporters are welcome! The banquet is free, but tickets are required. To reserve your ticket, call or text 316-685-6781; email [concordiaacademy@gmail.com](mailto:concordiaacademy@gmail.com); or register on Concordia's website, [www.ConcordiaAcademyWichita.org](http://www.ConcordiaAcademyWichita.org) by April 9, 2021.

To learn more about Concordia Academy, check out this short [VIDEO](#).

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## Contemplate Visitation Event

College-age and older men and women are invited to Contemplate, an online visitation event that gives prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor or deaconess. This free event will be held March 12.

During Contemplate, participants will engage in sessions that focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process, as well as learn about the academic program, field education, vicarage or internship year, financial aid, and housing. They also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area and meet with the admissions team.

**Hurry! The deadline to register is March 5.** Interested participants can learn more and sign up at [csl.edu/contemplate](http://csl.edu/contemplate).

A link to join the event will be provided to registrants before the event.



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## Holy Week Media Kits Available



If you're looking for easy-to-use media during Holy Week and Easter, check out the resources at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org). The Synod has two Holy Week media kits available, which include shareable social media graphics, a postcard, a newspaper column, and a newspaper ad. In addition to the customizable items, the LCMS has prepared a "how-to" guide with suggestions for using these items to reach out and share the Good News of Easter.

You can access the [media kit files and how-to guides](#) at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org).

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## District Office Directory

### President's Office

- Rev. Justin Panzer, President: [kspres@kslcms.org](mailto:kspres@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 5001
- Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant: [tami@kslcms.org](mailto:tami@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 5001

### Missions & Stewardship

- Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions & Stewardship: [dangalchutt@kslcms.org](mailto:dangalchutt@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 2002
- Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant (Missions): [janet@kslcms.org](mailto:janet@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 2001
- Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant (Stewardship): [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 1001

### Education & Youth

- Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth: [jbradshaw@kslcms.org](mailto:jbradshaw@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 3002
- Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant (calls; rosters/stats; events): [tami@kslcms.org](mailto:tami@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 5001
- Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant (general school support): [janet@kslcms.org](mailto:janet@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 2001

### Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

- Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF Vice President, Kansas/Oklahoma: [jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org](mailto:jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 4002

### Business Office

- Heather Williams, Business Manager: [heather@kslcms.org](mailto:heather@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 1002
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### Communications

- Kris Bruss, Communications Specialist, [kbruss@kslcms.org](mailto:kbruss@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 6001

### Mission Development Counselor

- Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Central, [brent.smith@lcms.org](mailto:brent.smith@lcms.org), 703-713-2851

### Retreat Center Reservations

- Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant: [shannon@kslcms.org](mailto:shannon@kslcms.org), 785-357-4441, ext. 1001

### District Archives

- Mike Grau: [archives@kslcms.org](mailto:archives@kslcms.org)

