



Workers Together

An Email Publication of the LCMS Kansas District



MAY 2017

Each article title is listed in the Index below and linked to the location of the article in this document.

After each article, there is a link, "Index", which takes you back to the Index.

So, you can scroll down and read each article or pick and choose from the Index.

We welcome your comments/suggestions, email Shannon Oldham at shannon@kslcms.org.

Index

President's Office

- [Guinea Update](#)
- [Meet the New Communication Specialist](#)
- [Partnership Talks Underway with Mission Central](#)
- [Call Updates](#)
- [Prayer Requests](#)
- [District Calendar](#)
- [LCMS Kansas District: Clergy Candidate List](#)

In Preparation for Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation – 2017

- [The Sacrament of the Altar: God Delivers the Goods of the Cross](#)
- [Reformation 500: Congregational & Circuit Events](#)

Educational Services

- [2017 District High School Summer Camp](#)
- [Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association Camp Staff Positions](#)
- [KINDLE – Cultivating Health](#)
- [Calling a Minister of Religion-Commissioned](#)
- [Adult Education & Reformation 500 in KS](#)
- [LCMS Early Childhood Educators Conference](#)
- [Participate in the LCMS Survey Regarding Recent Confirmands](#)

Mission & Stewardship

- [National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference](#)

Business

- [Have You Filed Your Non-Profit Annual Report?](#)
- [Do You Need to File Form 5578?](#)
- [Kansas District Scholarship Aid](#)

LCEF

- [Letter from LCEF VP Jeff Maltz](#)
- [Church Improvement Program](#)
- [Join the Y.I. Club](#)
- [Earn 3% with ConnectPLUS Term Note](#)

Miscellaneous

- [2017 Kansas Classic Doxology Returns](#)
- [Reformation 500 Events in Circuit 3](#)
- [CCCS – Thank you Kansas District](#)
- [CCCS New Location](#)
- [CCCS Gala](#)
- [Saints Alive After 55](#)



District Office Contact Information

President's Office

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Lutheran Witness Subscriptions

- Shannon Oldham: shannon@kslcms.org, 800-357-4421 ext. 202

Retreat Center Reservations

- Shannon Oldham: shannon@kslcms.org, 800-357-4421 ext. 202

Communications – *Workers Together, District Email List, Website*

- Shannon Oldham: shannon@kslcms.org, 800-357-4421 ext. 202

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

- Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice President, Kansas/Oklahoma: jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org, 800-357-4421 ext. 118
- Curt Loupe, Administrative Assistant/Promo Director: curt.loupe@lcef.org, 800-357-4421 ext. 100

[Index](#)

Guinea Update

Following is a slightly modified version of a letter sent to Kansas pastors updating them on our work in Guinea. The developments there are very encouraging. All LCMS members in Kansas should know what's happening!

Fellow Redeemed in the Lord,

It's a big anniversary year. People across the globe are marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, while the LCMS proclaims: "It's *Still* All About Jesus."

That same message is relevant right here in Kansas, where **we have another anniversary to celebrate: our mission partnership with Guinea**. In 1997, we began supporting efforts to spread the Good News in Guinea, and today we can say, "It's *Still* All About Jesus."

In conjunction with that anniversary, this year's Pentecost offering has been designated for continued support of the work in Guinea—work that's moving in an exciting new direction.

When we began our mission effort in Guinea, our Christ-centered focus was on spreading the Word and engaging in mercy work—caring for people in soul and body. Over the years, we've deployed multiple missionaries, pursued a variety of projects, sent Kansans on short-term mission trips, and offered financial support and prayer. Workers have established churches and preaching stations, baptized believers, and encouraged evangelists.

God has given us tremendous opportunities and blessed our work in Guinea. We owe Him our thanks and praise for His faithfulness to us throughout our endeavors.

And now, we now have a new opportunity. I recently met with several members of the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) and Gary Schulte, Area Director for West Africa, who thanked the Kansas District for its support. They encouraged us to continue our mission work in Guinea and to think about ways to benefit work in West Africa in general.

We're on board. **As the Kansas District moves forward with work in Guinea, we'll be supporting a new phase of work: assisting Guinean students studying at the Centre Luthérien D'Études Théologiques (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo.** With the Lord's help, Guineans will soon be shepherded by pastors from their own



country. Two Guineans, Kondiano Alexis and Foromo Prospère, are currently enrolled; next year, five Guineans are expected at the seminary. To God be the glory!



Your help is important, too. The support we send from Kansas—including prayers, encouragement, and offerings—will equip a new generation of pastors in Guinea to share the Good News of Jesus with their fellow Guineans.

It truly *is* still all about Jesus. May God bless you in this anniversary year and bless our shared work in Guinea, West Africa.

[Index](#)

Meet the New Communication Specialist *by Kris Bruss*

Kris Bruss, Communications Specialist

When I used to teach public speaking classes, the first assignment was typically a soft-pitch (or so I thought): the speech of introduction.

“How hard can that be?” I’d say to students encouragingly.

They’d look at me with a pained expression.

Today, I’m thinking of those students as I work on this, my first official assignment as the new communications specialist for the LCMS Kansas District.

First things first: I’m excited to be here. I consider it a real blessing to be working for the church, and I’m looking forward to meeting people in the Kansas District.

I’m not a Kansas native, which you may find out when I mispronounce a name like Bremen or Tecumseh. And if you tell me my pronunciation “needs fixed,” you may get a raised eyebrow. That’s not how we say it in my hometown of Mankato, Minnesota. (Is it safe to say “Mankato, KS” the same way?)

The LCMS is relatively new to me, too, although I’m a lifelong Lutheran. I joined my first LCMS church in 2002, along with my husband Jon, a pastor at St. John’s in Topeka, and daughter Ingrid, now college-bound. Last summer I was elected to serve on the LCMS Board of International Mission, and I’m thoroughly enjoying learning about our work around the world.

I’m a professor by training, and while I enjoyed “career #1” (part of which I spent at KU), I can’t say I miss grading papers. The transition from communication instructor to professional communicator has thus far been pretty smooth.

So what will I be doing in the district office? Here are a few projects on my radar:

- Help redesign the district website (aims: easy navigation; helpful resources)
- Establish a social media presence (starting with Facebook and Twitter)
- Explore new ways to get the word out about work in the district
- Look for opportunities to highlight congregations and schools throughout Kansas (e.g., maybe a church or school of the month on the district website homepage?)
- Assist with special projects for Missions and Stewardship

If you have ideas for district communication or just want to say hello, please drop me a line at kbruss@kslcms.org. (And if you’re from a city like Olathe, be sure to tell me how to pronounce it.)

[Index](#)

Partnership Talks Underway with Mission Central

The Kansas District is exploring a possible collaborative partnership between the district, Mission Central (an Iowa-based mission support organization of the LCMS), and LCMS Mission Advancement. The partnership

would expand the mission resources of the district and strengthen our connection with the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM), thus enhancing our efforts to share the Gospel of Jesus with people around the globe.

Under the agreement, Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Development Counselor (MDC) with Mission Central, would work to raise awareness of LCMS mission efforts among congregations, circuits, agencies, individuals, and families in Kansas. In particular, Smith would focus on mission work in French-speaking countries in West Africa (including Guinea and Togo), ensuring strong alignment with Kansas District mission priorities.

[Index](#)

Call Updates

PASTORAL CALLS

- Rev. Rick Rostek to Calvary, Topeka – declined
- Rev. Stephen Sweyko to Christ Our Savior, Louisburg, KS – accepted, installation 5/14
- Rev. Daniel Wehmeier to Good Shepherd, Fremont, NE – pending
- Rev. Jacob Sherry to Trinity, Onekema, MI – declined
- Rev. Ervin Daugherty, to Christ, Elkhart – pending
- Rev. Brady Finnern, Sartell, MN to Calvary, Topeka – declined
- Rev. James Price, Waco, TX to Mt. Calvary, Wamego – pending

SEMINARY CALLS SPRING 2017

- Grace, Larned and Our Saviour, Great Bend – Candidate Nicholas Martinez, Fort Wayne
- Immanuel, Netawaka, no designation
- Trinity, Mission, SMP Benjamin Vineyard
- Ascension, Wichita, Pratt Mission Plant – Candidate Daniel Chrismer, St. Louis
- St. Paul, Coffeyville – Candidate Anthony Fields, St. Louis

VACANT CONGREGATIONS CALLING OR GETTING READY TO CALL

- Aliceville, St. John
- Coffeyville, St. Paul
- Elkhart, Christ
- Emporia, Messiah (associate)
- Garden City, Trinity
- Greenleaf, Bethlehem
- Hoisington, Concordia
- Kansas City, Our Saviour (associate)
- Larned, Grace and Great Bend, Our Saviour
- Netawaka, Immanuel
- Salina, Trinity (senior)
- Topeka, Calvary
- Wamego, Mt. Calvary
- Wichita/Pratt, Ascension

VICAR REQUESTS SPRING 2017

- Beautiful Savior, Olathe – Vicar Jess Biermann
- Ascension, Wichita – Vicar Joshua Rusnak
- Risen Savior, Basehor – Vicar Carl Wendorff, Fort Wayne

CALLING COMMISSIONED

- Bethany, Overland Park - DCE
- Messiah, Hays – DCE
- Christ, Overland Park – DCE
- St. John's/Topeka – Musician (placement)
- Trinity, Mission (Shawnee campus) – Family Ministry/Music
- **Teacher(s):** Trinity, Atchison; Bethany, Overland Park; Topeka Lutheran School; Trinity, Winfield

COMMISSIONED CALLS:

- Prin/Tchr Mervin Dehning, St. John, Alma to Topeka Lutheran – pending
- Erika Troester (CUNE – DCE Candidate) to Holy Cross, Dodge City – pending designation
- Prin/Tchr Eric Pralle, Zion, Independence to First, Fort Smith, AR – pending
- Brian Mann, Trinity, Winfield to St. Paul, Wenatchee, WA – declined
- Issac Taylor (CUC – Candidate) to Topeka Lutheran School – accepted
- Tchr Emma Taylor, Immanuel, Elmhurst, IL to Topeka Lutheran School – accepted
- Tchr Miranda Mondary, Christ, Murray, UT to Hope, Shawnee – accepted
- DCE Tony Dixon, Trinity, Davenport, IA to Bethany, Overland Park declined
- Brian Mann, Trinity, Winfield to St. Paul, Latimer, IA, declined
- Prin/Tchr Michael Glowinski, Zion, Victorville, CA to Good Shepherd, Marysville – accepted
- Tchr Mary Koch (CUC-Candidate) to Bethany, Overland Park – pending designation
- Sarah Kuske (CUNE - Candidate) to Bethany, Overland Park – pending designation
- Tchr Sarah Kutschkau, Topeka Lutheran School to Bethany, Overland Park – accepted – installation 8/13
- Tchr Calah Stichler, Grow in Peace, KCMO to Hope, Shawnee – accepted – installation TBD

DCE INTERN ASSIGNMENTS 2017/2018

- Trinity, Girard – Seward – Wesly Williams
- Trinity Family of Faith, Basehor – Seward – Austin Dukes
- Faith, Topeka – St. Paul, MN – Benjamin Meyer

[Index](#)

Prayer Requests

- Rev. Tom Harries – death of his brother
- President Harrison – death of his brother Daniel
- Rev. Dan Ramsey – death of his mother

If you have a prayer request you would like the staff to pray over, please email the request to Tami Lierz at tami@kslcms.org.

[Index](#)

District Events Calendar

- May 1-3: DCE Retreat, Herington
- May 4-6: Board of Directors, Topeka
- May 9: Guinea Task Force Meeting, Topeka
- May 29: District Office closed for Memorial Day
- May 31: KIDS Training, Topeka
- June 26-29: Doxology Coming to Wichita, Kansas



You can find the full District event calendar at the District website, [HERE](#).

[Index](#)

LCMS Kansas District: Clergy Candidate List

Last summer, the LCMS in convention adopted Resolution 12-02A “To Encourage Calling Church Workers on Candidate Status.” Included in the resolves was that “district presidents publish annually in a district publication the names of these candidates” [who are on candidate status]. Clergy on candidate status in the Kansas District are: Rev. Thomas Brewer, Rev. Kurt Hering, Rev. Troy Scroggins, Rev. Frederick Smith, and Rev. Gary Wolf.

[Index](#)

In recognition of the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation in 2017, the LCMS Kansas District Board of Education has commissioned brief articles for inclusion in *Workers Together* on the Lutheran Confessions. The Board of Education brings these before you in the hopes that you, as workers in the church, might use them as a springboard for further study within your own congregation or school. What follows is the ninth of 12 such pieces. We pray that you will find it beneficial not only as a review of the Confessions, but also for the ministry in the place the Lord has called you.

When I order a book on Amazon, I own that book. It's mine but it isn't doing me a lot of good sitting there in the warehouse. Instead I need that book delivered to me. That's when it goes from me simply owning it as an abstract truth to actually possessing the book in a real, personal way. It's also the first time I'm able to take advantage of owning my book—I can finally read it.

These same advantages are ours in the Lord's Supper (along with the other Means of Grace) because it delivers the goods, the blessings of the cross, to us. In the Sacrament, we receive Christ's very body and blood that was given and shed on the cross for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Luther says that in that one blessing, "forgiveness of sins" is also found all of God's blessings, for, as Luther says, "Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation" (SC 6.6).

This is only the beginning though. Where there is forgiveness of sins, there's not only life and salvation, but also peace, joy, hope, faith, love and so much more. Every good thing that God would give us is ours because of Christ's death on the cross (Ap 4.90-101). And in the Sacrament all of that is delivered to you, put on your very lips, and comes into your body.

What a comfort this is. The amazing goodness of the cross of Christ is not something that I have to grasp or latch onto myself. I don't have to find my way through time and space to the cross through some mysterious, ill-defined method. Instead God brings it to me and I may be certain that it is mine because I ate Christ's given body and drank Christ's shed blood (AC 5.1-3).

My daughter, Elinor, always asks to smell my wife's breath after Communion (which is something I did as child, too). She always asks, "Can I smell Jesus' blood." It's a beautiful confession from a young mouth about what the Lord's Supper is all about. To smell the wine is to smell the blood of the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). To smell it is to smell God's mercy and forgiveness and salvation. In the Lord's Supper I am forgiven. You are forgiven. It is delivered. It is certain!

Further reading

AC 10, 13, 22, 24; Ap 13, 24; SA 2.2; SC 6; LC 6; Ep 7; SD 7

An index listing the abbreviations for the scholarly sources cited in these articles is available [HERE](#)

[Index](#)

Reformation 500: Congregational & Circuit Events



Is your congregation or circuit planning an activity or event to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? If so, please share what you are doing with the Kansas District office. We are asking for this information so that we can help you publicize your event. Additionally, we hope that sharing information regarding your event might help others as they plan for ways to celebrate this milestone year of the Reformation. Please send the information regarding your event to Curt Loupe at curt.loupe@lcef.org.

You will find the list of events [HERE](#).

[Index](#)

2017 District High School Lutheran Valley Retreat Summer Camp

Camp at the Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) will be held July 16-21, 2017 in Colorado. It will once again be a highlight for over 100 Kansas high school students, as they focus on Jesus while being surrounded by God's creation. All the details are in the LVR brochure. If you have any questions about how your church can participate, please call Brian Amey at 316-305-5049.

You can find the detailed brochure & registration form [HERE](#).

[Index](#)

Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association Camp Staff Positions

National Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association camps are still looking for summer staff for college age students. Interested young adults can go to www.nloma.org to request an application. Positions available are male and female counselors, lifeguard, kitchen, and housekeeping. Questions? Contact Lori Gamble at 712-320-3364.

[Index](#)

KINDLE – Cultivating Health (The Fourth in a Series)

by Jim Bradshaw, Kansas District Education Executive

Cultivating Health is the second of four strands of practices that KINDLE uses to deepen a person's commitment to Christ-like servant leadership.

This strand is composed of five disciplines, or practices:

1. Recognize God's Call
2. Pursue Wellness
3. Grow in Wisdom
4. Optimize Finances
5. Stay Connected

Much of what we learn comes with practice. We weren't born knowing how to talk, read, walk, play an instrument, or ride a bike, yet someone taught, encouraged, and spurred us on until after a lot of repetition and growth, those practices became second nature. The same is true as we practice Christ-like disciplines. Some of the disciplines may be new for us; others may already be second nature.

KINDLE Christ-like servant leaders practice Christ-like disciplines in the context of community and equip other Christ-like servant leaders to do the same. The beauty of being on the Journey with others is that we can encourage and spur one another on and celebrate what God is doing as He transforms us, a step at a time over time. Along the way, we begin to discover the thoughts, practices, and heart of Christ-like servant leaders have become part of who we are.

Each KINDLE cluster journey experience is 8 weeks. It is amazing the difference that this Journey experience is making, as God's Spirit leads individuals in the way of the Cross!

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KINDLE (Karpenko Institute for Nurturing and Developing Leadership Excellence) is a non-profit organization formed in 2000. KINDLE's mission is "to foster and multiply Christ-like servant leaders to enhance the ministry of congregations in their communities and the world." KINDLE's mission is grounded in PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8.

If you desire further information regarding KINDLE, please contact me at the District Office, or check out the KINDLE website at www.KINDLEServantLeaders.org.

[Index](#)

Calling a Minister of Religion – Commissioned (The Fourth in a Series)

by Jim Bradshaw, Kansas District Education Executive

Ministers of Religion—Commissioned includes teachers (and school administrators), directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of parish music, deaconesses, certified lay ministers, directors of family life ministry, and parish assistants (Constitution Art. V).

This series of articles is intended to assist congregations and school with the call process. The Synod and its districts assist calling entities and workers to maintain the integrity and orderliness of the process. (*Previous articles are archived on the District website.*)

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What about a Lay Worker? Can they be issued a call?

Lay Workers are individuals who have been graduated from colleges and universities not affiliated with the Synod or graduates from Synod-affiliated schools who have not applied for membership in the Synod. They accept positions by hire in congregations or church-affiliated institutions and are under the supervision of their employer. They are not rostered or listed by the Synod. Included in this category are teachers who have not been Synod-trained and who are contracted by congregations and school associations. They may participate in the colloquy program of the Synod and thereby become better qualified to teach and become qualified for roster status in the Synod.

Colloquy? What is that?

Minister of Religion-Commissioned colloquy programs prepare men and women who are currently serving in ministry roles for membership in the Synod. Colloquy programs ensure that those who seek to join the Synod have been educated in theology, have become oriented to service to the Synod, and have demonstrated the spiritual and professional attributes that the Synod expects of its members. Qualified applicants are those who are competent workers in the field for which they seek colloquy. Colloquy candidates demonstrate satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study at a Concordia University entity and satisfactory completion of an examination interview with the faculty colloquy examining committee. Upon approval from the faculty, the candidate is eligible for a first call through the placement director from that campus.

Next Month: ***A Call Has Been Accepted – Now What?***

[Index](#)

Adult Education & Reformation 500 in Kansas

In celebration of this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, congregations, schools, and Circuits are hosting various events around the Kansas District. Many of these events will be educational/catechetical in nature, or at least have such a component, as befits a church body named for the Reformer and Catechist extraordinaire, Dr. Martin Luther. The District Adult Education Committee wants to lift these events before the churches and people of the Kansas District. The Committee would like to help you publicize your event, and offer the services of a videographer to record your event. If you have an upcoming **REFORMATION 500** event, and if you would like the Committee's help, please contact the Adult Education Committee Chairman, Pastor Michael Penikis at penikis.hopelutheran@yahoo.com or 913-631-6940 with details.

For 2017, the Adult Education Committee will not be hosting an annual Fall Webinar. Beginning in 2018, the Committee is planning a three-year emphasis, **REFORMATION 501: Now What?** This emphasis will begin with five regional educational events around the District, with the following themes: 2018 – Mission in the Home: Home-based Catechesis; 2019 – Mission in the Community: Works of Mercy; 2020 – Mission in the World: True Unity with the Vision of Our Triune God.”

[Index](#)

Kansas District LCMS Early Childhood Educators Conference

The Kansas District LCMS Early Childhood Educators Conference will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2017, at Our Saviour Lutheran Church (4153 Rainbow Blvd.), in Kansas City, Kansas. The conference theme, “Growing In Grace,” will be presented by Angela Naeve. Angela is an LCMS music teacher, singer, songwriter, and VBS writer. She is a mother of four and farm wife. Children’s ministry and family ministry are the focus for her music as she seeks to communicate the Gospel truths in a dynamic, fun way to impact lives for Jesus. She’s been involved with a traveling music ministry for over 17 years. She and her husband, Russ, farm near Gilmore City, Iowa.

Conference registration will open soon! Click [HERE](#).

Five State-approved clock hours will be available. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Bottemuller at 816-868-4772.

[Index](#)

Participate in the LCMS Survey Regarding Recent Confirmands

One of the critical targets of the LCMS Office of National Mission is to support young people in their life in Christ and in the Church. As you are aware, [our office has engaged in several statistical studies and reports focusing on the Lutheran family and retention of young people](#). We want to encourage pastors and congregations of the Kansas District to provide insight into ministry challenges and opportunities.

Research from groups like Barna, Pew Research Center, and others is very helpful to understand our current culture and trends in American congregations and young people. LCMS congregations and members are involved in these studies, but we know this research often does not reflect the nuances of our ministry to families. Despite a wealth of general information about Millennials in America, it is an important to gain reliable insight into this generation inside the LCMS.

Following Easter, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Research Services, in conjunction with LCMS Youth Ministry, sent out a survey to all LCMS congregations and pastors regarding recent junior confirmands. The goal is to receive data and feedback about retention and congregational connectivity with junior confirmands from about a decade ago.

A second wave of research will actively engage current LCMS young adults in research about their activity in the church. In the process, we also plan to receive feedback from young adults who have left the LCMS. With this information, we hope to see a clearer picture of young adults in our congregations and their migration as they start new vocations following high school. We also hope to understand “best practices” of LCMS congregations who have retained young people and provide resources as we minister to young people and their families.

We are encouraging all pastors and congregations of the Kansas District to complete this report. If you have specific questions about the survey, please contact Rev. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry (mark.kiessling@lcms.org; 314-996-1155).

[Index](#)

National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference



The 2017 National LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Conference is set for Nov. 9–11 in Kansas City, Mo. Are you making plans to join us?

The speakers and sessions will build on the theme “Standing on Our Heritage: It’s *Still* All About Jesus.”

We will address the blessings and challenges facing rural and small-town congregations. The presentations will encourage congregations and their leaders in cultivating healthy churches that are eager to bear witness to Christ, show mercy to those in need in their communities, and develop a robust life together with fellow members.

Plenary speakers will include:

- Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission;
- Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe, senior pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, York, Neb.;
- Benjamin Winchester, senior research fellow, University of Minnesota Extension; and
- Rev. Benjamin Meyer, pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Sunbury, Ohio.

In addition, participants may choose from breakout sessions on strategic planning, witness and outreach strategies, teaching the faith to different age groups, stewardship, and many other issues affecting our rural and small-town congregations.

The registration fee is \$210 per person, and rates are available for couples, students, meals-only and groups.

[Visit the event page](#) for more information or to register. The deadline is Sept. 15.

[Index](#)

Have You Filed Your Non-Profit Annual Report?

Kansas law requires all non-profit organizations that are incorporated with the Secretary of State to file an annual report. The form requires basic information along with a \$40.00 annual fee. The deadline for filing the report is the sixth month and fifteenth day following the end of the organization's fiscal year, I.E. fiscal year-end of Dec. 31 would have a filing due date of June 15. Failure to file on a timely basis will result in delinquent status and loss of good standing with the Secretary of State and could eventually jeopardize your corporation's certificate of incorporation.

You are now able to file your annual report online. Go to www.kssos.org, click on Business Filing Center on the left side of the page and click on File an Annual Report. Enter your business entity ID number and complete the questions on the screen. The online transaction charge is \$2.00 and payment of the filing fee and transaction charge can be made with any major credit card or by electronic check. Filing is immediate and the filed copy is available for you to print for your records.

If you are unsure of your organization's filing due date, its current filing status, or your business entity ID number, you can check it at the Secretary of State's website www.kssos.org. Under Business Filing Center, click on Perform a Business Entity Search. Search for the organization by either business entity number or by name.

[Index](#)

Do You Need To File Form 5578?

Does your church operate a preschool? An elementary school? If you answered yes to either question, then you are required to submit Form 5578 to the IRS each year. Filing the certificate of racial nondiscrimination is one of the most commonly ignored federal reporting requirements. Churches that operate, supervise or control a private school (including a preschool) must submit Form 5578 each year with the IRS. Deadline for filing is the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of the organization's fiscal year. This is May 15th for those who operate on a calendar year basis. You may obtain a Form 5578 by calling the IRS forms number (1-800-829-3676) or by downloading a copy from the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

[Index](#)

Kansas District Scholarship Aid

Do you know someone pursuing a degree at one of our LCMS colleges or seminaries in professional church work? Are they in need of financial aid? If so, request an application for financial assistance from these Kansas organizations who award money yearly to students from congregations in the Kansas District.



Kansas District LCMS
1000 SW 10th Ave
Topeka KS 66604
785-357-4441

shannon@kslcms.org

Deadline: June 1, 2017

St. John's Alumni Association

Larry Junker
PO Box 376
Winfield KS 67156
620-221-1572

sjcaa1@cox.net

Deadline: April 1 2017

Lutheran Laymen's League
Charles Friedrichs
457 Arrowhead
Bremen KS 66412
785-767-3656

kidsrit2@hotmail.com

Deadline: June 1, 2017

Lutheran Women's Missionary
League

Kris Koops
2017 Hillpointe Place
Dodge City KS 67801

financialaid@kansaslwml.org

Deadline: June 1, 2017

[Index](#)

From LCEF Vice President Jeff Maltz

Dear Kansas District Members,

Thousands have invested in the church through Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

Help put those funds to good use by using LCEF as your ministry's lender of choice. LCEF has been a source of funding for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod organizations worldwide, offering ministries a place to borrow money at interest rates they can afford.

LCEF is thankful for God's blessings on the ministries served by Church Extension. We pray that by the continued grace of God, LCEF will continue to provide loans that further expand His kingdom.

Blessings,



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



[Index](#)

Church Improvement Program

The Church Improvement Program is a multi-staged process designed to help churches identify, assess and fund critical church repairs and upgrades. After you identify the critical need, we run an assessment and share a report on the work to be done. If you decide to make the repairs or upgrades, you and your District Vice President (DVP) can explore the LCEF Church Improvement Loan. For more information and details please visit lcef.org/church-improvement.

Church Improvement Loans are limited to congregations and include:

- * Maximum 10-year term
- * Up to \$150,000
- * 24 months at Cost of Funds (COF) adjusted annually
- * LCEF COF plus up to 2.5% adjusted annually for remaining term
- * Payments fully amortized over term

Church Improvement Loans can be used on:

- * Critical repairs that can lead to substantial damage and cost if not fixed in a timely manner.
- * Upgrades that enhance your church's appearance and comfort.
- * Projects that improve energy efficiency and save money in the long term.



[Index](#)

Join the Y.I. Club with a Y.I. StewardAccount®

Often we struggle to find the most appropriate gift to show our love to family and friends. What about giving a gift that continues to give? Consider beginning a Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investment for your **children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews**. The investment will grow along with them, while providing funds for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod churches, schools, universities, child-care centers and other ministries to expand the Kingdom.

Join the Y.I. Club with a Y.I. StewardAccount®

With an investment of just \$25 to open the Y.I. StewardAccount, your young investor becomes a Y.I. Club member with special fun activities that grow with three different age levels.

Y.I. StewardAccount Features:

- Minimum of \$25 to open account
- Premium interest rate of 3.5% on balances up to \$1,000
- Savings grow with the child, but are accessible
- Checks and debit card available to custodian
- Debit card available at age 16
- Interest compounded and paid monthly
- Make additional investments with checks or Y.I. Stamps



For details, contact Jeff Maltz, District Vice President at 800-357-4421 ext. 118.

[Index](#)

New to LCEF- Earn 3% With ConnectPLUS Term Note

NEW TO LCEF- EARN 3% WITH ConnectPLUS Term Note

ConnectPLUS is for the new LCEF investor who wants to experience the over-and-above reward of supporting LCMS ministries—ultimately helping to expand the kingdom of God. Realize not only the financial benefits that LCEF offers, but start a new relationship with LCEF, the financial arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Features of ConnectPLUS:

- Open with a minimum of \$500.
- Earn a fixed rate on the first \$5,000 (principal & interest) during the two-year term.
- Balance above \$5,000 earns second-tier fixed rate.
- Additional investments of \$25 or more allowed during the term.
- Available to new* LCEF investors only; one account per investor.
- At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem.
- Interest compounded and paid quarterly (March, June, September, December).



For details, contact Jeff Maltz, District Vice President at 800-357-4421 ext. 118.

[Index](#)

2017 Kansas Classic Doxology Returns

Doxology Returns to Kansas! Kansas Gathering Conference

Dates: June 26- June 29, 2017
 4:00 p.m. Monday start in Wichita
 3:00 p.m. Thursday program closes
 Place: Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS

Fees and Grant Information: The registration fee covers ten days of instruction, materials, food and lodging for pastors, three days for one lay leader, and three days for the pastor's wife. Thanks to generous grants by the LCMS Office of National Mission and other funding partners, DOXOLOGY can offer each enrolling congregation a \$2,900 grant. The net result is that all expenses for sixteen days of instruction (pastors, lay leader, and pastor's wife) costs only \$1800 (although the actual cost of this training is \$4,700 per congregation.)

2017 series registration fee due: \$1800
 (Cost to congregation: \$1700 + Cost to pastor: \$100)

Congregation payments can be made in three installments spread over two fiscal years. If there are special financial considerations, please email HSenkbeil@doxology.us regarding eligibility for additional grant dollars.

Note: This is a professional advanced training seminar. It is essential that each man attend the entire conference to gain the full benefit of the training.

You can learn more about the classic, three-part program [HERE](#).
 Spiritual Life Center information [HERE](#).
 Registration deadline is Sunday, June 11, 2017.

[Index](#)

Reformation 500 Events in Circuit 3

<h1>REFORMATION</h1> <h1>500</h1> <h2>2017 Schedule of Events</h2>	
<p>Sunday, February 12 – 4:00 p.m. LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION Dr. Mary Jane Haemig, presenter Professor of Church History, Luther Seminary</p> <p>Fellowship Meal followed by Evening Worship with Luther Hymns</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>July 17-21 MIGHTY FORTRESS VBS for Hope and Community</p>
<p>Sunday, March 12 – 7:00 p.m. KAMMERCHOR CHOIR CONCERT From Concordia University Wisconsin</p>	<p>September or October REFORMATION FEST Fall Event of Activities and Food Celebrating our Lutheran Heritage</p>
<p>June (Date TBD) LUTHERAN HERITAGE TOUR Concordia Seminary & LCMS International Center – St. Louis</p> <p>Historic Lutheran Sites of Perry County, Missouri</p> <p>Wine Country – Hermann, Missouri</p>	<p>Sunday, October 15 – 7:00 p.m. REFORMATION 500 HYMN FESTIVAL Helzberg Hall Kaufmann Center for the Performing Arts</p> <p>Guest organist Brass ensemble Metro Lutheran mass choir</p>
<p>Sunday, October 29 FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION 500th Anniversary Worship Services Congregational German Dinner</p>	

[Index](#)

Thank You Kansas District!

*"... because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."
(Phil. 1:5)*

On behalf of our staff, the board of directors, and the international Lutheran schools and ministries around the world, I would like to thank the Kansas district for your long and faithful partnership with LeadaChild. Throughout the nearly 50 year history of this humble ministry, the churches, members, and leadership of the district have walked along side us, providing encouragement, prayers, and great support. We look forward to our upcoming years as we partner to accomplish the mission of *"sharing the love of Jesus with children around the world through Christian education!"*



Save The Date!



In the spring of 2018 we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary, thanking God for all He has done to advance His kingdom through LeadaChild. We have tentatively set April 28th as our special gala celebration, so mark your calendars... we hope to have a tremendous showing from our Kansas churches and friends.

The Work Continues... Come and Join Us

LeadaChild is currently working in **29 different countries** providing funds for students, teachers, and ministries. It is a joy to begin visiting many of these sites where the good work of providing a Lutheran education and a clear Gospel message has taken root. Some of our Kansas congregations, like **Holy Cross in Wichita and Lord of Life in Leawood**, have developed a long term partnership with specific sites. Their involvement and commitment has been a great blessing to these children, churches, and communities. Let us know if your church would like to become an international partner and help us *lead the way together*.



Upcoming Events

June 10 - 17: *Bike Across Nebraska (BRAN)*

July 4: *The Volkslaufe 5K Run/Walk (Frankenmuth, MI)*

Support these events along with our international ministries online at www.leadachild.org

Blessings,

Dr. Phil

Executive Director, LeadaChild

New Address & Phone

13505 Murlen, Ste. 103 #331

Olathe, KS 66062-1600

913-839-3135

[Index](#)

LeadaChild/CCCS - New Location

Beautiful Savior of Olathe has graciously provided a new office space for LeadaChild/CCCS!

The new address and phone number for LeadaChild/CCCS is:

13505 South Murlen

Ste. 105 #331

Olathe, KS 66062 - 1600

Phone: 913-839-3135

LeadaChild/CCCS Gala

April 20th Gala Pictures



Board president Jim Curran thanking David and Lori Saving for their service to LeadaChild.



Jim Bradshaw and new director Dr. Philip Frusti.

SAINTS ALIVE AFTER 55

The 2017 Saints Alive After 55 gathering will once again be held at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. The dates are July 16-18. This year's theme is "Saved by Grace" based on Ephesians 2:8. Rich Bimler, the keynote speaker is the former President/CEO, of Wheat Ridge Ministries, who currently serves part-time as the Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging! (AH-HA!) for Lutheran Life Communities, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Rev. Dr. Michael Bingenheimer, Senior Pastor, Ascension, Wichita will lead Bible study. Small group sessions include Dr. Roland Mueller, "Luther's Family," and the film documentary "The First Rosa." Rev. Rick Hathaway, Trinity, Winfield, will conduct the closing worship service. If you have never attended before, join us this year. In addition to the excellent presenters, you will enjoy the peaceful setting, accommodations, and fellowship. Check with your church office for registration forms or online at www.kslcms.org.