Faith-Based Advocacy and KanCare Expansion

A Toolkit for Action

2021-2022

KANSAS INTER FAITH ACTION

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHY KANSAS

Faith Voices for Medicaid Expansion

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Introduction

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHY KANSAS

The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas is a statewide coalition of more than 120 partners, including business leaders, doctors and hospitals, social service and safety-net organizations, faith communities, chambers of commerce, advocates for health care, consumers, and more. We work throughout Kansas to encourage people and organizations to promote policies that ensure everyone has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.

The first and primary policy goal of the Alliance is to expand KanCare (our state's Medicaid program). Expanding KanCare would bring hundreds of millions of federal tax dollars back home, insure 150,000 Kansans, cover unpaid health care costs that are hurting our hospitals, create thousands of jobs, and help stimulate our economy.

Thank you for joining us in this mission to create a healthier and more prosperous Kansas. By unifying our voices, we will be heard!

Advocacy and You!

It is crucial that all Kansans take an active role in informing lawmakers about the importance of expanding our state's Medicaid program. We must engage with one another—and with legislators—on this issue.

Clergy and congregational leaders have the ability to make a significant impact as advocates for KanCare expansion. From speaking from the pulpit to offering and leading prayers for those living in the coverage gap, **you can make a difference**.

This toolkit will provide resources to help you support KanCare expansion work and make healing and wholeness available to Kansans in need. People of faith have the unique ability to make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. The truest measure of our state—and our churches—is how we treat the most vulnerable.

How is Medicaid Expansion a Moral Issue?

One of the most compelling needs facing those in our communities and congregations is that of affordable, quality health care. More than 150,000 of our neighbors do not have access to affordable health insurance. They are not eligible for KanCare (Kansas' Medicaid program), and they do not make enough money to qualify for tax credits to help cover the cost of private insurance. These 150,000 Kansans fall into the Medicaid "coverage gap."

Even when they are in good health, our neighbors living in the coverage gap carry the burden of knowing that a single accident, injury, or illness would force them into bankruptcy. All too often, they have to go without preventative care. When they do get sick, they often have to wait until their condition worsens before seeking treatment because of the high costs. Many have untreated chronic illnesses that threaten their ability to work and earn a living for themselves and their families. These are people we see everyday in our communities and our congregations. These are people we know and love.

Since 2016, compassionate advocates and lawmakers have worked to develop a plan to provide affordable health insurance coverage for these 150,000 Kansans living in the coverage gap. KanCare expansion has been brought to the state legislature, but—despite public support—has yet to pass. People of conscience across the state have refused to give up on their neighbors and continue to work toward KanCare expansion.

KanCare expansion will provide our neighbors living in the coverage gap with the opportunity to attain health and wholeness. Access to quality, affordable health care is not just an abstract policy goal—it is a moral one.

How Can Clergy and Congregational Leaders Get Involved?

As a leader in your faith community, you have a unique ability to help educate members of your congregation about the issue of health inequity. Not only can you raise awareness of the problem, you can also help those in your community understand the possible solutions—like KanCare Expansion.

Here are a few suggestions for how you can get your church involved in the movement for equal access to health care coverage:

- **Give a sermon about health inequity and the importance of expanding access to affordable health care.** KanCare expansion isn't just about insurance. It's about making sure that our neighbors are seen as equals, and ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need. If you are a clergy member, consider having a sermon about the importance of caring for our neighbors.
    - See the "General Resources" section for statements from the Methodist (page 19) and Lutheran (page 20) Churches and a list of bible verses that pertain to health equity and KanCare expansion (page 12).

- **Offer prayers for neighbors in the coverage gap.** Every Sunday, offer a prayer for those that are suffering without access to health care. This short, small action can help people better understand the prevalence of this problem.

- **Lead a Bible study about access to health care in the Bible.** There are many places in the Bible where health care and caring for our neighbors are mentioned. Consider leading a Bible study to talk about what God's vision is for our health, and what that means for one's duties as a Christian.
    - See the "General Resources" section for a sample Bible study (page 22). You can also look through the list of Bible verses about health care (page 12).

- **Present at your Sunday school about KanCare expansion.** Talk about what KanCare expansion is and why it is important for people of faith.
    - See the "General Resources" section to learn more about KanCare expansion (page 9) and for Bible verses on health and wholeness (page 12).

- **Share information on KanCare expansion with your congregation.** See if you can post it on the bulletin board, put something in the church program, or hand out information before or after church.
    - See the “General Resources” section for a brochure (page 10), a fact sheet (page 9), and Bible verses about health (page 12).

- **Host a gathering, call-in day, and/or a letter writing event for members of the church.** Invite congregation members to gather for tea and coffee, and talk with them about KanCare expansion. You can present some background on KanCare expansion, and invite attendees to call or write letters to their state elected officials during the gathering.
    - Email Taylor at taylor@expandkancare.com if you want more information, a PowerPoint to present, or for more information about how to host this kind of event.

There are lots of ways to get folks involved! The first step is education and outreach—talk to people, and ask them to pray for those living in the coverage gap. Then, ask them to take action.

General Resources

The resources on the following pages will help you take action as an advocate for KanCare expansion.

If you have any questions, or if you want to learn more about KanCare expansion advocacy, **please reach out to Taylor Morton**.

Taylor Morton
Advocacy Specialist | Alliance for a Healthy Kansas
Email: taylor@expandkancare.com
Phone: (785) 861-7890

To learn more about the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas and how KanCare expansion would benefit our state, visit www.expandkancare.com

Thank you for your advocacy! Together, we can build a healthier, happier Kansas.

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHY KANSAS

KanCare Expansion: Just the Facts

Medicaid expansion is not a political issue, but a practical opportunity to close the coverage gap, strengthen our healthcare system, and bring desperately needed federal dollars into the Kansas economy.

An estimated 150,000 Kansans fall into a health coverage gap. They earn too much to qualify for KanCare, the Kansas Medicaid program, but too little to receive federal subsidies to buy private insurance. It's time to urge our state to expand KanCare now!

Expanding KanCare will boost our state economy.

- Expanding KanCare will inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the Kansas economy every year and create over 13,000 new jobs.
- Kansas does not save money by refusing expansion — it simply gives up the opportunity to bring tax dollars back to our state. By law, 90% of the costs of expanding KanCare will be funded by the federal government.
- Expansion is likely to be budget neutral after accounting for economic offsets and additional revenue generation.

Expanding KanCare will strengthen hospitals and healthcare providers.

- Health centers in expansion states have higher revenue, greater operational capacity, and more financial stability than those in non-expansion states. These centers have more sites, serve more patients, and are more likely to provide behavioral health and vision services.
- In Kansas, 47 rural hospitals are at immediate risk of closing – more than any other state in the nation – and 29 are at high risk of closing. Expanding KanCare could mean the difference between these hospitals staying open or closing their doors.

Expanding KanCare will improve health and financial security for 150,000 Kansans who currently fall into the coverage gap.

- Expanding KanCare will provide health coverage to individuals and families who fall into the coverage gap – Kansans who work for a living but earn too much to qualify for the current program but too little to get financial help to buy a private plan.
- Expansion increases access to primary and preventive care, reduces the cost of uncompensated care, reduces medical debt and enhances continuity of coverage and care for chronic illness.
- Expanding KanCare saves lives. States that have expanded their Medicaid programs experience lower mortality.

(To learn more about how KanCare expansion will benefit our state, visit https://www.expandkancare.com/resources/)

What do I need to do?

Just talk! We'll share your story in ways you're comfortable with, including:

- *On our website*
- *On social media*
- *With newspapers and TV stations*
- *With lawmakers*

We'll never share your story anywhere or with anyone without your permission.

We're interested in all different types of stories, like the following:

- Medical Debt
- Difficulties Receiving Treatment for Chronic Conditions
- Paying for Cancer Treatments
- Trouble Recovering from an Injury
- A Need for Mental or Behavioral Health Treatment

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Share Your Health Care Story. Make A Difference.

The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas is seeking individuals who make too much for Medicaid but not enough for private insurance — talk to us!

KanCare Today

The only Kansans who are eligible for coverage today are:

Children 0-18 in households earning $60,992 or less for a family of four	All children eligibile today remain eligible
Pregnant women making $20,759 or less	All pregnant women eligibile today remain eligible
Disabled Kansans making $8,862 or less	Disabled Kansans making up to $16,753
Parents making $9,538 or less for a family of four	Parents making up to $34,638 for a family of four
No non-disabled adults under age 65 without dependent children	Non-disabled adults under age 65 without dependent children earning up to $16,753

ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHY KANSAS

Expanded KanCare

Expanding KanCare would make coverage available to 150,000 additional Kansans by updating the eligibility rules that exclude them today.

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expandkancare.com • 785-861-7892

By sharing your story with us, you can help make a difference in the fight to expand KanCare to more people.

We want to show our lawmakers how living without health insurance impacts hardworking Kansans.

Email: marissa@expandkancare.com

Bible Verses Related to Health and Wholeness

Our Responsibility to Care for Our Body:

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind he will find acceptable. **Romans 12:1 (NLT)**

Truths/Promises:

Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important for it promises a reward in both this life and the next. This is true and everyone should accept it. **1 Timothy 4:7-9 (NLT)**

A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones. **Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)**

Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. **Proverbs 3:7-8 (NLT)**

You (God) satisfy me more than the richest of foods. **Psalm 63:5 (NLT)**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! **2 Corinthians 5:17**

He said, 'If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all of His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.' **Exodus 15:26**

He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers yeah strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will fall give up. But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. **Isaiah 40:29-31 (NLT)**

The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. **Psalm 145:15-16 (NLT)**

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent forth His word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. **Psalm 107:19-20**

Don't be impressed with your all wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn your back on evil. Then you'll gain renewed health and vitality. **Proverbs 3:7-8 (NLT)**

The Lord will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy, too. You will be like a well watered garden like an ever-flowing spring. **Isaiah 58:11 (NLT)**

In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:10
You must serve only the LORD your God. If you do, I will bless you with food and water, and I will protect you from illness. **Exodus 23:25 (NLT)**

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. **Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)**

Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when hopes are realized at last, there is life and joy. **Proverbs 13:12**

When a man is gloomy, everything seems to go wrong; when he is cheerful, everything seems right. **Proverbs 15:15**

A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear? **Proverbs 18:14**

He (God) helps the brokenhearted and binds their wounds. **Psalm 147:3**

They will turn to the Lord, and He will respond to their pleas and heal them. **Isaiah 19:22**

They (hypocrites) will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth. Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks. For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God and prayer. **1 Timothy 4:3-5**

I (God) have carried you since you were born; I have taken care of you from your birth. Even when you are old, I will be the same. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you. **Isaiah 46:3-4**

Yet it was our weaknesses he (Jesus) carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. **Isaiah 53:4-5**

The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs...and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. **Isaiah 58:11**

This is what the Lord says,: 'Your wound is incurable, your injury is beyond healing. There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you. All your allies have forgotten you; they care nothing for you. ... But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds...' **Jeremiah 30:12-14,17**

This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. **Ezekiel 37:4-6**

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. **Deuteronomy 8:3**

You (God) satisfy me more than the richest feast. **Psalm 63:5**

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. **Isaiah 55:2**

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the Good News is preached to the poor. **Matthew 11:5**

I (Jesus) tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes HIM who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. **John 5:24-26**

It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **Matthew 9:12**

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **James 5:15-16**

My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. **Proverbs 4:20-22**

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. **Proverbs 4:23**

Sin and Health:
Because of your (God's) anger my whole body is sick; my health is broken because of my sins. My guilt overwhelms me - it is a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester in stink because of my foolish sins. I am bent over and racked with pain. My days are filled with grief. A raging fever burns within me, and my health is broken. I am exhausted and completely crushed. My groans come from an anguished heart. **Psalm 38: 3-8 (NLT)**

Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's! **Psalm 103:1-5**

I (God) was enraged by his (mankind's) sinful greed; I punished him, and hid my face in anger, yet he kept on his willful ways. I have seen his ways, but I will heal him." **Isaiah 57:17-18**

The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 6:9-10): Go to this people and say, 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." For this peoples heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' **Acts 28:25-27**

Stress and Health:
Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” **Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)**

As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands. **Psalms 119:143 (NLT)**

Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down, But a good word makes it glad. **Proverbs 12:25 (NAS)**

You, Lord, give perfect peace even in turmoil to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you. **Isaiah 26:3**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NAS)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **Galatians 5:22-23 (NAS)**

You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it. **Matthew 6:27**

So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time. **Matthew 6:34**

If you hold to my (Jesus’) teaching, you are really my disciples. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. **John 8:32**

Peace I (Jesus) leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. **John 14:27**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in HIM, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

So take a new grip with your tired hands, stand firm on your shaky legs, and mark out a straight, smooth path for your feet so that those that follow you, though weak and lame, will not fall and hurt themselves, but become strong. **Hebrews 12:12**

Others:
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)**

For we are all God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. **Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. **Isaiah 55:2**

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to HIM and He drove out the spirits with His word and healed all that were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases. **Matthew 8:16-17**

He (Jesus) said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." **Mark 5:34**

Your faith has healed you. Go in peace. **Jesus in Luke 8:48**

Jesus said, "...I have come into this world, so that the blind will see... ." **John 9:39**

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **Acts 10:38**

Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God. **2 Corinthians 7:1**

I will never forget your commandments, for you have used them to restore my joy and health. **Psalm 119: 93 (NLT)**

Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink-even if you have no money! Take your choice of wine or milk-it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?

Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul! **Isaiah 55: 1-2 (NLT)**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:2**

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. **3 John 1:2 (NIV)**

Faith and Health Connection
Teaching Spiritual Truths for Health and Wholeness
www.faithandhealthconnection.org

Social Principles ¶ 162.V
Right to Health Care

Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. John 10:10b says, "I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest." Stewardship of health is the responsibility of each person to whom health has been entrusted. Creating the personal, environmental, and social conditions in which health can thrive is a joint responsibility—public and private. We encourage individuals to pursue a healthy lifestyle and affirm the importance of preventive health care, health education, environmental and occupational safety, good nutrition, and secure housing in achieving health. Health care is a basic human right.

Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril. In Ezekiel 34:4a, God points out the failures of the leadership of Israel to care for the weak: "You don't strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, bring back the strays, or seek out the lost." As a result all suffer. Like police and fire protection, health care is best funded through the government's ability to tax each person equitably and directly fund the provider entities. Countries facing a public health crisis such as HIV/AIDS must have access to generic medicines and to patented medicines. We affirm the right of men and women to have access to comprehensive reproductive health/family planning information and services that will serve as a means to prevent unplanned pregnancies, reduce abortions, and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. The right to health care includes care for persons with brain diseases, neurological conditions, or physical disabilities, who must be afforded the same access to health care as all other persons in our communities. It is unjust to construct or perpetuate barriers to physical or mental wholeness or full participation in community.

We believe it is a governmental responsibility to provide all citizens with health care.

We encourage hospitals, physicians, and medical clinics to provide access to primary health care to all people regardless of their health-care coverage or ability to pay for treatment.

United Methodist Book of Discipline (2016)

For more information, please contact:
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor"
Social Statement Summary

Like many social statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor" starts with a description of the social situation, explores biblical and theological themes, and then lays out implications. Section One acknowledges the crisis in health care in the U.S. and describes Christian responsibility. Section Two turns to the Bible and theology to establish basic principles and define terms such as "healing," "cure" and "illness." The vision of health as a shared endeavor in Section Three rests in a biblical view that wholeness is a blessing that God intends for all (1Thessalonians 5:23). In this vision, "A ministry of healing is integral to the life and mission of the Church" (p. 9). Guided by this vision, the statement addresses the health care system and its primary parts, from congregations to medical research. Sections Four and Five are dedicated to specific recommendations about equitable access to health care for all, and provide ethical guidance for individuals and families.

The title captures the theme of the statement: caring for health is a shared endeavor, an endeavor that requires sustained and determined effort from all of us. Each of us bears some responsibility for his or her own health, but health and health care also depend upon other people and conditions in the wider society. Such interdependence is at odds with the common message of this individualistic society, but it flows from the biblical vision of wholeness.

The biblical vision challenges the belief that illness equals disease and health equals cure. There are deeper dimensions to healing, such as restoration to God, and life within a community of meaningful relationships. "'Being well' for Christians does not mean we are untouched by pain and suffering. Human beings are finite and vulnerable, and so we recognize limits on what health and health care can mean" (p. 6). Being well for Christians means that we are able to participate in Christ's love by giving ourselves for others. We share their suffering in response to Christ, who bore the suffering of all.

The statement's vision means that health care should not be organized primarily for profitability: "Although health care goods and services may be bought and sold, health care is above all an activity of caring that grows out of relationships of mutual responsibility, concern and trust — and that cannot be reduced to a commodity" (p. 6). Rather, the statement concludes, "…health care is the kind of good most appropriately given on the basis of need" (p. 18). It specifies, "At a minimum, each person should have ready access to basic health care services that include preventive, acute, and chronic physical and mental health care at an affordable cost" (p. 13). Rather than encouraging privatization, the belief that health is a shared endeavor "makes public health services… the foundation for any health care system" (p. 13).

Since the vision encompasses the physical, mental and spiritual dimensions of people's lives, this church believes health care involves more than doctors, nurses and hospitals. Each of us has responsibility "to be a good steward of his or her own health out of thankfulness for the gift of life and in order to serve God and the neighbor." (p. 7) This requires a number of activities: keeping healthy habits, seeking preventive health care, attention to spiritual exercises and action in our callings as citizens.

The statement asserts that congregations are in the health care "business" because they are centered in word and sacrament ministry, which offers "salvation" ("salvation" is from the Latin word for healing or wholeness). Congregations are to encourage healing through vibrant prayer, services of healing, pastoral care and congregational health ministries. The statement also recognizes and celebrates the many contributions that ELCA social ministry organizations make through "respectful and equitable attention to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those persons served" (p. 11).

The vision of the shared endeavor means that the church is called to be an active participant in fashioning a just and effective health care system. The primary concern of the statement is achieving equitable access to basic health care for all, and so the statement calls the whole ELCA to commit itself to this goal (p. 18). The ethical principles of agape, love and justice are to guide that participation.

In 2003 the statement called for reform of the U.S. health care system: "The United States does not currently have a health care system that is capable of care for all people. Significant changes in financing and structure are therefore required" (p. 13). The statement did not name a particular system for achieving that reform but rather concluded: "Our obligation could be met through any one of several combinations of personal, market and governmental means, although none of these means alone can provide equitable access to health care" (p. 19).

Bible Study Worksheet

(Adapted from materials prepared by Faith That Heals)

Read Mark 5:1-34

1. What can we learn about God's mission in the world from this story?

2. What would God's mission in the world look like if it were being fulfilled in Kansas? Specifically, how can we imagine God's healing presence (e.g. Mark 5) being made manifest in our local communities?

3. What are the changes in behavior, commitment, attitude, relationships, actions, etc. that need to take place in our congregations and communities in order to make question 2 a reality?

4. Specific to caring for the sick, why is it important that Christians are committed to ensuring that others have access to affordable healthcare? Beyond a theological commitment, are there any life experiences that have led you to this conviction?

5. What steps can I take to make KanCare expansion a reality, and help more Kansans get the health care they need?

6. Take 3 minutes right now to fill out page one of the Medicaid expansion Covenant for Action (on the following page).
   - ☐ List 3 people, 3 congregations, and 3 organizations/community groups that you will have a conversation with about KanCare expansion.
   - ☐ Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Medicaid Expansion Covenant for Action

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship Building

Who are **3 people** (friends, church members, colleagues, etc.) you could sit down with who might bring passion, experience, skills, knowledge, and commitment to the work of expanding KanCare?

1.
2.
3.

Things to consider:

- How can this time be used for sharing stories, listening, identifying passion, discussing vision, establishing connection?
- What skills/experience do you see in these people?
- What could be their level of engagement?
- Who else can they talk to about our vision for a more equitable healthcare system? What are their networks and areas of expertise?

Brainstorm a list of **3 congregations** that you could connect with.

1.
2.
3.

Brainstorm **3 organizations/community groups** that you could engage with from your community.

1.
2.
3.

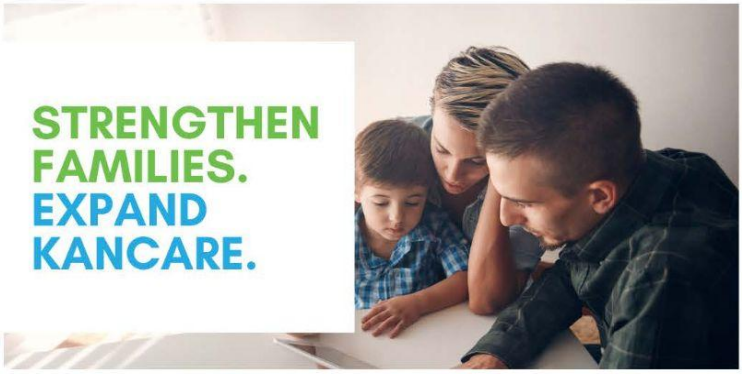
Things to consider:

- Who is working on issues that connect to the work of healthcare reform in Kansas?
- Who would care about this? Who would have the passion to organize/advocate about health care in our local/global community?
- Who is directly impacted by these issues, and not yet part of the conversation?

Sample Social Media Content

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. —Micah 6:8

There are 160,000 Kansans without access to health care. Let's help our neighbors get the care they need by expanding eligibility for KanCare.
#ExpandKanCare



Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
—Matthew 25:40

Families all across Kansas are struggling to afford health care. Let's make sure our neighbors are cared for. Let's expand KanCare.
#ExpandKanCare

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician here? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?
—Jeremiah 8:22

Access to quality, affordable health care is not just an abstract policy issue - it's a moral one. We must expand KanCare.
#ExpandKanCare

Additional Resources for Social Media Engagement

You can find visual resources to accompany these posts at the following:

- **Unsplash.com** - freely usable images
- **Snapstock.io** - copyright-free images
- **Pexels** - copyright-free images
- **Pixabay** - copyright-free images
- **American Association of Health and Disability YouTube** page
- Kaiser Family Foundation's ***Faces of Medicaid*** videos

Other social media resources:

- Community Catalyst's ***Medicaid Makes the Difference*** toolkit
- Kaiser Family Foundation's ***Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions: Interactive Map***
- Tennessee Justice Center's ***Medicaid Expansion Digital Toolkit***
- **#IamMedicaid Toolkit**

Update Us on Your Advocacy Efforts!

We hope the resources provided in this toolkit are helpful in guiding you in your advocacy. We want to hear about your experiences engaging in faith-based advocacy for KanCare expansion!

Please contact Taylor Morton at the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas and let us know what you did to advocate for health equity and KanCare expansion in your community!

Also, please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you want to connect further! We look forward to hearing from you!

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ExpandKanCare

Visit our website: www.expandkancare.com