May they be one, as we are one

JOHN 17:22



Called by the Spirit, we serve Christ, sharing God's love with all.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: 1stlutherantopeka.org

1234 Fairlawn Road, Topeka, KS 66604 Church office: (785) 272-5302 CDO office: (785) 272-5999 All Members of First Ministers Reverend Jennifer Jackson Senior Pastor Pastor Bob Dealev Coordinator of Stewardship and Outreach Children's Day Out (CDO) Director Kathy Dale Caring for Kids 1st Director Julie Bradley **Organist** Jerry Anderson Director of Music Mark Fuller Director of Handbell Choirs Linda Anderson Secretary LaDonna J. Little Assistant Secretary Jill Loomans Bookkeeper Cindy Crawford Nursery Attendant Tahira Schmidt Missionaries in Russia Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle Missionaries in Guinea Jim & Dawn Anderson

WE WELCOME all who worship with us today! We extend a special greeting to our visitors and invite you to worship with us again soon. Please make yourselves known to our pastor and people.

COME TO THE FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE AND AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE Gather in the Nave Lounge to enjoy refreshments, talk with fellow worshippers, greet people you don't know, make new friends, enjoy your time at First and share the love of Christ.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION Lutheran Christians believe that in the sacrament of Holy Communion, by the power of God's Word and Holy Spirit, we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, along with the bread and wine, for our forgiveness and salvation. If you share in this belief, you are welcome to participate with us. Non-communing children and adults may come forward to receive a blessing. White grape juice is available, as well as gluten free wafers. If you desire to receive communion at your pew, please alert an usher during the prelude.

A NOTE TO PARENTS: First Lutheran Church welcomes children of all ages to be a part of our worship services. Children's Bibles are located in the pews and a number of items are available on a cart in the Nave Lounge to help them (and you) have a pleasant worship experience. We hope you enjoy these activities in church and at home!!

CHILDCARE: If you prefer, you may leave your preschool children in our well-equipped, staffed nursery during the service. Or, if you need to take a walk with your child, our speaker system provides audio of the service in the Nave Lounge and Library.

WHEELCHAIR available in the north entranceway or in the church office. EARPHONES for the hearing impaired and LARGE PRINT BULLETINS.

PLEASE, NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE MAIN WORSHIP CENTER.

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION - EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING THREE 5:00 P.M. & 10:00 A.M. JUNE 1 & 2, 2019

Before worship, talk to God. During worship, let God talk to you. After worship, talk to your fellow worshipper.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE "Festive Voluntary"

(R. Lau)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

- A: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!
- C: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.
- A: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.
- C: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.
- A: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.
- C: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.
- A: God has been made know to us in deeds of power, signs, and wonders, and will not abandon us if we confess the truth about our lives.
- C: God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn away from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy. Amen.
- A: My friends, God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God. That is a promise of peace and joy. In the name of Christ.
- C: Amen.

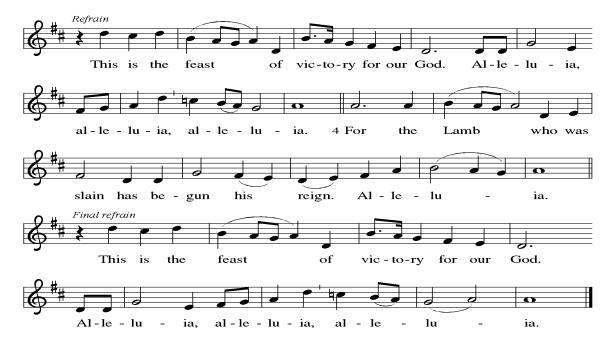
Turn and face the back of the church. As the procession passes, turn and face the front of the church.

394 GATHERING SONG "Hail Thee, Festival Day!" Ascension Stanzas

GREETING

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Congregation shall sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS and RED BAG OFFERING for CSSA

WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

(Spoken Responsively with Lector)

PSALM 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

²For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

³who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

⁴who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

⁷For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

⁸God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we would be given the wisdom to comprehend this and display it through love toward others.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 142





P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus] said to [the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation shall sit.

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

392 HYMN OF THE DAY "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

COUNCIL INSTALLATION

See Bulletin Page 12

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Gather together your church into one body. Clothe your faithful people with the power to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Let our songs of praise spill over into acts of compassion in the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You are God of mountain and prairie, rolling hills and frozen tundra. Open our eyes to your glory in all landscapes. Protect these lands from drought, erosion, and misuse. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: The greatness of your power transcends human authority. Give to rulers, governments, and public servants a spirit of repentance and wisdom. Lead them in your way of justice. Protect protestors, activists, and advocacy organizations who give voice to the voiceless. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Draw close to those who gaze to heaven in prayer. Be present at bedside vigils, in seasons of rest and recovery, in the labor of childbirth, and in holy moments of watching and waiting. Restore hope to all who suffer (especially - see bulletin page 12). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Assisting Minister offers additional prayers.

A: Grant this assembly new energy to serve the needs of the local community. Deepen our involvement in ministries of feeding, clothing, and sheltering. Call us to be a bold voice of hope in our towns and cities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

- A: Praise to you for all the saints who now enjoy the riches of your glorious inheritance. As you raised up Christ to sit at your right hand in the heavenly places, draw all people to your eternal home. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.
- P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
- C: Amen.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you. **PEACE**

> The ministers and the assembly may greet one another with a gesture of Christ's peace, and may say these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Congregation shall sit.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please place attendance form in the offering plate. **OFFERING**

"Trumpet Tune" (A. Giamanco)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

692 OFFERING SONG "We Are an Offering"

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore,

C: meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

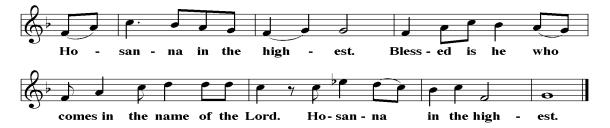
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy......we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



THE CONSECRATION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

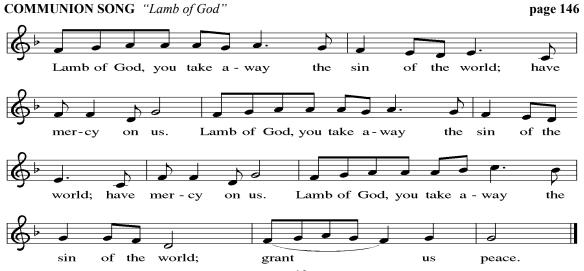
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at this table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.

Congregation shall sit.



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY "Draw Us to You"

(arr. M. Burkhardt)

416 COMMUNION HYMN "At the Name of Jesus"

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

C: Amen.

As the cross passes please turn and face the back of the church.

393 SENDING SONG "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

DISMISSAL

A: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE "Look Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious"

(P. Manz.)

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MANY THANKS to *Jill Loomans* for substituting in the office while LaDonna is taking vacation time to be with her family in Texas. LaDonna will return to the office June 17th.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Pam Callaway to the Glory of God and in honor of AJ's 13th Birthday.

PARENTS' take this bulletin home for a fun game with your kids! Have them search through the bulletin and circle or highlight this week's word: HEAVEN.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Phillip Sanders (home), Jeani Anderson (home), Charlie Vaughn (Kansas Rehab Hospital), Paul Reed (home), Ann Sanders (home), Pat Wild (home), Rob Peterson (home), Breck Edds (home), Ann Johnson (home), Mike Wilson (home), Vera Pearce (home), Ken Sherbert (home), Charlotte Weddle (CDO Teacher), Julie Bradley (Caring for Kids 1st Director), Jerry Manning (friend of Nancy Sherbert), Tim Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders' brother), Steve Magee (Kim's husband), Rick Watson (Lisa Arndt's father), C.A. Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders' father), Ken Buch (Verla's son), Mary Roesch (Tracy's mother-in-law), Micah Ewing (friend of the Luber's), Betty Fleming (LaDonna Little's aunt), Joan Stahlman (Joyce Koenig's sister-in-law), Lynette Kottas (Eileen Caspers' mother), Pete Godlove (Michelle Black's father), Lewis Crawford (Cindy's husband), Dan Lykins (cousin of Nancy Sherbert), Nancy Isley Wolfe (friend of the Wolgast's), Linda Deines (Karen Papp's sister), Ben Beery (friend of Haden Roark), Jerome Gutierrez (Dolores Ussery's nephew), Heather Roesch (Tracy's sister-in-law), Norm Stahl (friend of Carolyn Olson), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler's great niece), Bob Avery (friend of Carolyn Olson), Robin Michael (daughter of friend of Nancy Vaughn), Mary Lou Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders' mother), Linda Myers (Trudi's daughter-in-law), David Metzenthin (Bud & Lois' son), Annika Lundgren (friend of the Engelhardt's).

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020-2021

RETIRING

Shirley Waugh Byron "Bud" Welch

REMAINING Term Ends 2020

Eileen Caspers Ted Ensley Ralph Krumins Joe Montague Anita Wolgast Bob Wollin

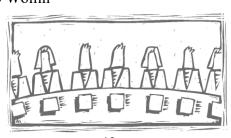
NEW

Term Ends 2020
LaVerne Engelhardt
Term Ends 2021
Catherine Esquibel
Robert Hanna

Joyce Koenig

REELECTED

Term Ends 2021
Bill Barker
Allison Hitch





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Assisting Minister	Connor Montague	
Lector	Jeff Montague	
Candlelighter / Crucifer	Allison Montague / Blake Arndt	
Communion Assistants	JoAnn Stanley, Karen Wollin	
resenting the Gifts Nancy Besta, Pat Booth		
Council Member Team	ember Team Bill Barker /	
Altar Guild	Nancy Besta, Mary Fobes, Maureen Krumins	
Ushers Ted & Elna Ensley		
North Door Greeters	Scott & Melanie Schultz	
South Door Greeters	Ruth Denno, Anita Nelson	
Coffee Hosts Schultz Family		
Sus Driver & Host/Hostess Bryce & Judy Cripps		
Saturday Lector / Altar Guild / CA	ld / CA Dick Nelson / Karen Wollin / Tina Lewis	
Stephen Minister 6/3-9/2019 Carren Reed		

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

June 9th - PENTECOST	10:00 am
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June 9 th - PENTECOST	10:00 am
Assisting Minister	Michelle Black
Lector	Robert Hanna
Candlelighter / Crucifer	Emma Schultz / Adam Schultz
Communion Assistants	David & Patricia Drake
Presenting the Gifts	Roark Family
Council Member Team	Bill Barker /
Altar Guild	Patricia Drake, Nancy Vaughn
Ushers	Marvin & Penny Boleski
North Door Greeters	Anita Nelson, Pat Wild
South Door Greeters	Byron & Sara Welch
Coffee Hosts	Bill & Phyllis Buch
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Randy Debenham, LaVerne Engelhardt
Saturday Lector / Altar Guild / CA	Martha Donohoe / Dawn Graham / Dave Krug
Stephen Minister 6/10-16/2019	Joyce Mark

♦ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK

Caring For Kids 1st Summer School Age Childcare Program Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

TODAY SEVENTH OF EASTER

RED BAG OFFERING

BLESSING & SENDING OF

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

COUNCIL INSTALLATION

8:45 a.m. – CSSA Orientation Meeting

9:40 a.m. – Senior Choir Warmup

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

11:15 a.m. – Magi Moments & Potluck Fellowship

11:30 a.m. - VBS Volunteer Training

12:15 p.m. – Youth & Family Ministry

4-5:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Pack 175 (Outdoor Chapel)

Monday, June 3

12:30 p.m. - Staff Meeting

5:45 p.m. – Property Committee

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. – Altar Guild Committee

Tuesday, June 4

9:00-11:30~a.m.-CDO~Summer~School

"Community Helpers"

6:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry Picnic (PH)

Wednesday, June 5

9:00-11:30 a.m. – CDO Summer School

9:00 a.m. - What-Sew-Ever

6:00 p.m. – Grace Worship (Chapel)

7:00 p.m. – Outreach Committee

Thursday, June 6

Central States Synod Assembly at

Marriott, Overland Park

 $9:00-11:30 \ a.m. - CDO \ Summer \ School$

"Community Helpers"

Friday, June 7

ORGAN TUNING all day in Sanctuary

Central States Synod Assembly at

Marriott, Overland Park

Saturday, June 8

Central States Synod Assembly at

Marriott, Overland Park

5:00 p.m. – Holy Communion (Chapel)

Sunday, June 9 PENTECOST

JERRY ANDERSON'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

9:40 a.m. – Senior Choir Warmup

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. - VBS Volunteer Training

4:00 p.m. – Jerry Anderson's 50th Anniversary Recital

LESSONS JUNE 8 & 9

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, 25-27

PARISH NOTICES

Again this year we will be receiving a special RED BAG OFFERING THIS WEEKEND, June 1st & 2nd. Our voting delegates will take the offering along to the CENTRAL STATES SYNOD ASSEMBLY being held this year in OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS AT THE MARRIOTT from June 6th thru 8th. Please be generous in your contribution!! The offering goes to: Parish Ministry Associate Scholarships within the Central States Synod, Pantry Pack Program with Harvesters at Salem Lutheran, Lenexa Kansas, and ELCA Young Adults and Global Mission.

TODAY, June 2nd, we will begin a new practice during worship... "NOISY OFFERING". Children are invited to bring coins and drop them in a bucket during worship. Bring your change and change the world!

MAGI MOMENTS and POTLUCK LUNCH TODAY after worship.

Please bring family and friends and join us for the potluck and the performance.



JUNE 9th IS Pentecost - WEAR RED

WE HONOR JERRY K. ANDERSON FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AS CHURCH ORGANIST SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019 WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M. ORGAN RECITAL AT 4:00 P.M. "MEMORIES OF THE LAST 50 YEARS" PRESENTED BY JERRY RECEPTION FOLLOWING RECITAL

The FLC Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that the 2019-2020 Endowment Fund \$500 Scholarships are being awarded to *Madison Liby*, *Adam Schultz*, and *Adam Crawford*.

Adam S. is an Eagle Scout, a National Honor Society and Kansas Honor Scholar. He graduated from Seaman High School this spring and plans to attend K-State. Madison graduated from Shawnee Heights High School this spring, was active in sports and school clubs, and was selected for the National Honor Society. She plans to attend K-State in the fall. Adam C. graduated from Topeka West High School this spring, and plans to attend Washburn University. He has been very active at Doorstep and Harvesters, and has accumulated many credits at Washburn Tech in computer science which will transfer to Washburn U. All three of our recipients are active in the life and ministry of our church. Please give your congratulations to these fine young members of our church family.

REMEMBER THE "BLESSING BOX" NEEDS FILLING.

USHERS: To provide consistency, a list of usher responsibilities have been developed. Please review and follow the laminated list of usher responsibilities placed on top of the bulletins and/or in the drawer of the table at the back of the sanctuary where the bulletins are placed.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY GRACE WORSHIP

ALL ARE INVITED to Come and Worship Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. This is a service unique from our weekend worship and provides a different atmosphere. This worship is a wonderful service for folks busy on the weekends, for folks wanting to bring friends to church for the first time, for families with wiggly kids, and for all who need to stop mid-week to pray, worship, and be renewed by God's promises and community. Invite your friends as we look forward to this new opportunity to reach more in our community.

One Desire

The true end and goal of our lives is to be one with the love of God. For this we were created. And it is for this that Jesus prays in today's gospel.

Jesus' words are intimate, tender, and laced with yearning. He pours out his desire that his beloved ones may know what he knows. He hungers for them—for you—to share intimate communion with him and the Loving Mystery he calls Father. There is no better reason to pray than to know this oneness. Loving union with God is the answer to every prayer we speak.

We pray our hurts and hopes, offering them to the one who hungers to hear our voice. Often we come to a point of silence. There is nothing else to say. In the quiet, our hearts are aware only of a great and enveloping love that surrounds and holds us and in which we are totally secure. For a few most blessed moments there is nothing else, just this love, an ocean of grace in which fear is impossible and nothing matters other than knowing this love.

In such moments of loving communion, we know the truth of who God is, and we taste the oneness that is God's eternal desire for us. Such love also carries us out of our isolation into a community of hearts who seek to know and live the love that pours from Jesus' heart as he prays for us.

We also enter into this loving communion as we join, heart to heart, in a community of worship and praise, giving and receiving, teaching and serving, praying and caring for each other. This community of faith and love, sharing one heart, one hope, one mission, is the answer to Jesus' prayer and ours.



We have so many in our congregation with musical gifts to share. Please consider sharing your gifts during worship, especially during the summer **10:00 a.m. worship services**. Please contact **Mark Fuller** (554-3849) or the church office (272-5302) with the **NEEDED INFORMATION:** your name, if playing an instrument or singing, and the date(s) you'd like to share your God given talents. "Music is a fair and glorious gift from God" - Martin Luther



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 17–21 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm \$15 per child donation Dinner Provided

VBS REGISTRATION will be done online this year.

To register your kids or grandkids, go to

https://vbspro.events/p/events/elcatopeka

VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND INFORMATION MEETINGS ON JUNE 2 & 9 at 11:30 AM

FALL EVENTS

Two fun fall events require advance reservations.

Please see Dean Johnson or Phil and LaVerne Engelhardt for more information and reservations.

- 1. **September 28th WOODFEST at Camp Wood** west of Emporia a Kansas City symphony outreach includes dinner and a fun sunset outdoor concert \$50 per person or \$150 for 8 (what a deal!!!)
- 2. October 18-19 HYLLINGSFEST in Lindsborg. Friday-folk dancing, shopping, outdoor eating, evening meal is a Scandinavian smorgasbord followed by a concert by Smoky Hills Men's Chorus at Bethany church. Saturday morning is a fun parade. A group of us is planning to attend the two day event. Folks can attend either day, but the smorgasbord on Friday requires advanced reservations which are limited. The price of the smorgasbord is almost \$30. Please see one of us if you are interested. Each of these events can be researched online. Bring some friends and join us!!!

A TRIP TO THE YMCA OF THE ROCKIES IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE END OF JULY 2020. PLEASE SEE THE POSTER IN THE NAVE LOUNGE AND FEEL FREE TO TAKE AN INFORMATION SHEET. INFORMATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES THIS WEEKEND.

LOOKING FOR NEW EASTER BRUNCH COORDINATOR(S). IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT BROOKE ROARK.