

A photograph of a person with long dark hair, wearing a green jacket and a grey backpack, walking away from the camera on a path covered in pine needles. A hand in a blue sleeve reaches out from the foreground, holding the person's hand. The background shows a forest with trees and a stone wall on the left. The text "Follow me" is overlaid in a white, cursive font, and "LUKE 9:59" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font to the right.

Follow me

LUKE 9:59

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

- Ministers*
- Senior Pastor*
- Coordinator of Stewardship and Outreach*
- Children's Day Out (CDO) Director*
- Caring for Kids 1st Director*
- Organist*
- Director of Music*
- Director of Handbell Choirs*
- Secretary*
- Assistant Secretary*
- Bookkeeper*
- Nursery Attendant*
- Missionaries in Russia*
- Missionaries in Guinea*

- All Members of First*
- Reverend Jennifer Jackson*
- Pastor Bob Dealey*
- Kathy Dale*
- Julie Bradley*
- Jerry Anderson*
- Mark Fuller*
- Linda Anderson*
- LaDonna J. Little*
- Jill Loomans*
- Cindy Crawford*
- Tahira Schmidt*
- Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle*
- 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-communicating 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 TEN

5:00 P.M. & 10:00 A.M.

JUNE 29 & 30, 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 Trumpet Tune”

(C. Hamlin)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us † all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

808 GATHERING SONG “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

GREETING

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.



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Congregation shall sit.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK ON OUTREACH – Eileen Caspers

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There the Lord reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

¹⁵Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 16 *(Spoken Responsively with Lector)*

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 9th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation shall sit.

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

798 HYMN OF THE DAY *"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Joining our voices with God's people around the world, let us offer our prayers for those in need.

A brief silence.

A: For all followers of Christ; for the church and its ministers; and for the mission of the gospel, that all will know the gifts of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the wilderness and deserts; for the rain forests and tundra; for native lands and farmland; and for all who tend the land, that God's mighty work be seen in all creation, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For those who govern in Canada and the United States; for those responsible for peace among people and nations; and for those who strive for freedom, that all are guided by Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For refugees in need of protection; for the homeless in need of shelter; for those who work in the summer's heat; for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially - see bulletin page 11*), that God provide compassionate advocates and skilled medical professionals to aid them, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

The Assisting Minister offers additional prayers.

A: For those who travel this summer; for those celebrating significant events in their lives; and for this community of faith, that the love of Christ be present in our joy and pleasure, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: In thanksgiving for those who now rest in the hope of the resurrection, that with them we receive assurance that God does not abandon us in any time or place, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Merciful God, you hear the prayers of your people even before they are spoken. We commend these and all our prayers to you, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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

"When Peace like a River"

Summer Ladies Chorus

(Spafford / Bliss)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

840 OFFERING SONG *"Now Thank We All Our God"*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God,

C: for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

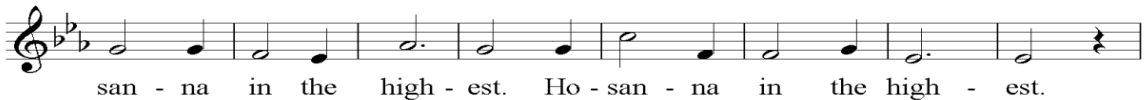
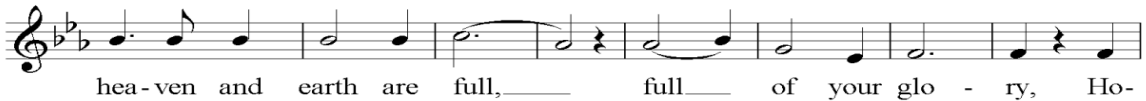
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

hymn 190



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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: God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

Congregation shall sit.

COMMUNION SONG “*Lamb of God*”

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1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY “*Andante*” (from *Sonata for Cello*)

(G. Cervetto)

793 COMMUNION HYMN “*Be Thou My Vision*”

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving;
and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG “*God of Our Fathers*” (National Hymn)

See Bulletin Page 12

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Ann & Erv Sanders in honor of Clara A. Sanders’ 4th birthday and by Margaret Stewart in loving memory of Bill and blessings for all her family.

ETERNAL CANDLE FOR JUNE is given by the Jerry Anderson Family in honor of Jerry’s 50th Anniversary at First Lutheran and in thanksgiving for our wonderful church family.

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: JESUS.**



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

Twila Zeigler (home), Jeani Anderson (home), Ann Sanders (home), Rob Peterson (home), Breck Edds (home), Ann Johnson (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), C.A. Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders’ father), Ken Buch (Verla’s son), Mary Roesch (Tracy’s mother-in-law), Micah Ewing (friend of the Lubers), Joan Stahlman (Joyce Koenig’s sister-in-law), Lynette Kottas (Eileen Caspers’ mother), Pete Godlove (Michelle Black’s father), Dan Lykins (cousin of Nancy Sherbert), Nancy Isley Wolfe (friend of the Wolgasts), 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 Engelhardts).

CORRECTION regarding death of Josephine Harkness. Our church was notified she died June 9th and upon further investigation we discovered it was 2018 not 2019.

GOD OF OUR FATHERS (NATIONAL HYMN)

Daniel C. Roberts, 1876

George William Warren, 1892

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
 2. Thy love di - vine hath lead us in the
 3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toi - som

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
 past; in this free land by thee our lot is
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er - sure de -
 way, lead us from night to nev - er end - ing

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
 cast; be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and
 fense; thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in -
 day; fill all our lives with love and grace di -

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 stay; thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way,
 crease, thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 vine, and glo - ry laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

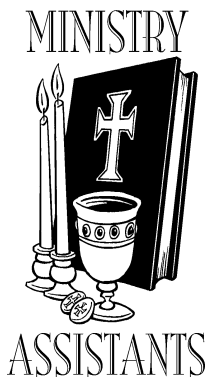
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LAY MINISTERS TODAY**10:00 am**

Assisting Minister	Diane Dukat
Lector / Acolyte	Jennifer Carney / Loren Finney
Communion Assistants	Robert Hanna, Scott Schultz
Presenting the Gifts	Ruth Denno, Jeanie Schuler
Council Member Team	Joe Montague / Robert Hanna
Altar Guild	Patricia Drake, Maureen Krumins
Ushers	Ted & Elna Ensley
North Door / South Door Greeters	Chris & Cindy Lear / Liby Family
Coffee Hosts	Ralph & Maureen Krumins
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Bryce & Judy Cripps
Saturday Lector / Altar Guild / CA	Hope Krug / Nancy Sherbert / Hope Krug
Stephen Minister 7/1-7/2019	George Bales

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK**July 7th – Fourth Pentecost****10:00 am**

Assisting Minister	John Hanna
Lector	Bonnie Phillips
Acolyte	Blake Arndt
Communion Assistants	David & Patricia Drake
Presenting the Gifts	Marvin & Penny Boleski
Council Member Team	Eileen Caspers / Ted Ensley
Altar Guild	Nancy Besta, Mary Fobes, Maureen Krumins
Ushers	Ted & Elna Ensley
North Door / South Door Greeters	Denny & Darlene Payne / Bud & Sara Welch
Coffee Host	Nancy Besta
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Randy Debenham, LaVerne Engelhardt
Saturday Lector / Altar Guild / CA	Dick Nelson / Dawn Graham / Tina Lewis
Stephen Minister 7/8-14/2019	Diane Dukat



† 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 THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

OUTREACH SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

6:00 p.m. – Patriotic Chimes at THS by Jerry

Monday, July 1

12:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee

Tuesday, July 2

7:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry Supervision

Wednesday, July 3

9:00 a.m. – Executive Committee

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

6:00 p.m. – Read, Pray, Sing (Chapel)

7:00 p.m. – Outreach Committee

Thursday, July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, July 5

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

9:00 a.m. – Room 117 in Use

Saturday, July 6

5:00 p.m. – Holy Communion (Chapel)

Sunday, July 7

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

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

12:15 p.m. – Youth & Family Ministry Committee



LESSONS JULY 6 & 7

Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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.

To continue our efforts to increase security at church, the **SECURITY COMMITTEE** has recommended and the **Council** has approved the policy to **lock the outside doors 10 minutes after worship starts and unlock them 10 minutes before worship ends.** The doors are not locked for someone exiting, just to someone entering. The council team members will be in the narthex during worship to recognize if someone needs entrance during worship. This change will take effect **July 7, 2019.**

PARISH NOTICES



Topeka High School Historical Society Presents

MUSIC FROM THE TOWER

By Jerry Anderson (THS '67)

A CONCERT OF PATRIOTIC MUSIC

Played on the Historical THS Deagan Chimes

800 SW 10th Street

Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

A NEWSLETTER FROM OUR *MISSIONARY IN RUSSIA, REV. BRADN BUERKLE*
CAN BE FOUND ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH OFFICE.



DOORSTEP IS OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

We are located at 1119 SW 10th Street (10th & Buchanan).

We ask that you do not leave donations outside our building when we are not here.
They often become a parking lot mess. Thank you!

Our focus for CHRISTMAS IN JULY is household items, health kit items, toys, school supplies, gifts for men and women, sheet sets, and blankets.

Please look over the **Christmas in July flyer (located next to the Doorstep cart)** and see how you can help. Doorstep continues to be successful helping people in need because of our member congregations who are working together to provide for their neighbors in need. If everyone pitches in just a little, big things will happen!

THURSDAY, JULY 4th - OFFICE CLOSED



**MAGI MOMENTS AND
POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP
JULY 7, 2019.**



Undivided Attention

Some of the language in our gospel text today is confusing—even offensive. People tell Jesus they will follow him anywhere if he'll just let them take care of one thing first. They want to say goodbye to family and bury their dead. He responds by saying, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). Once you commit to the mission of God, nothing else takes precedence. The work of the kingdom is a singular priority.

At first, it sounds harsh. We want to cry, “Those requests are completely reasonable, Jesus!” But the context matters. Luke has just told us that Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). Jesus’ mission has crystalized. He is headed to the place where love and hate will clash in a way that will change everything. Nothing can distract or dissuade Jesus from his mission, and he tells those who would follow him that their resolve needs to match his. If missing their families can keep them from being fully committed to the work of the kingdom, when they face the powers in Jerusalem, they will come undone.

We gather here for worship, confessing that the powers of the world regularly undo us, that we choose to follow leaders who tell us what we want to hear. We seek mercy for being easily distracted and dissuaded from our baptismal mission of love, service, and working for justice. And we make these confessions at the foot of the cross on which Christ lived out his singular mission: to love and save us.

The good news is that we have an example to guide us. We who would quickly choose an easy path safeguarded against suffering are led by the one whose face is resolutely set toward service and love. And here in this place the gifts of wine and bread, word and blessing strengthen us to follow.