



IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

First Lutheran Church

1234 SW Fairlawn Road

Topeka, KS 66604

785-272-5302

Visit our website at:

www.1stlutherantopeka.org

Email us at:

1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net

Like us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/
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Children's Day Out

785-272-5999

www.childrendayout.net

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July 18, 2019
Volume 26, Issue 7

From Pastor Jenny

Synod Assembly, June 6th-8th

Each year, members from each ELCA congregation in Kansas and Missouri gather for a synod assembly. We worship together, discuss the work of the church, explore resolutions that will shape our ministry, and this year, we elected a bishop. Bishop's terms are 6 years long and at the end of each term, an election is held at the assembly, alongside prayer and much discernment.

We have been guided by Bishop Roger Gustafson for the past 6 years and now he is retiring. At the assembly, our synod assembly voting members elected Rev. Susan Candea to serve as our new bishop, beginning September 1st of this year. We celebrate with Bishop-elect Candea and we celebrate with our synod as we are blessed to have her steady compassionate leadership. Many of you may know Pastor Susan as she served as pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran here in town many years ago.

At the assembly, there is a banquet held and anniversaries of ministry are lifted up. This year we recognized Ann McConkey, 10 years as a Parish Ministry Associate, Rev. Elwyn Luber (retired from our congregation), 45 years ordained minister, Rev. Don Conrad (Past Interim in our congregation), 65 years ordained minister, and Jerry Anderson, 50 years as our congregation's organist.

Our congregation also brought forward a synod-wide matching-gift challenge. Following a Church Council vote this spring, our congregation voted to issue a matching-gifts challenge at synod assembly, inviting congregations and individuals to contribute towards our regional seminaries. Through next January, we will match up to \$5,000 of any contributions given to the synod marked for seminary scholarships.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's assembly: Allison Montague, Barb Collins, John and Judy Hedeem, Robert Hanna, Pastor Bob Dealey, Pastor Jenny Jackson, Diane Dukat, and Jeanie Schuler.

For more information or stories from the assembly, turn to page 7.

Prayer Ministry

EACH OF US ARE A PART OF OUR CHURCH'S PRAYER MINISTRY.

PRAYER SHAWLS are available in the Welcome Center area.

WE PRAY for our church community, especially: Pat Wild (home), Robert Hanna (home), Pastor Jenny Jackson (home), 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), and Julie Bradley (Caring for Kids 1st Director).

WE PRAY for our homebound members: Rose Alberg, Betty Deutscher, Deneen & Fran Dotzel, Ed Klein, Lois Lykins, Betty Nelson, Marian Orton, Bob Papp, Alice Purdy, Tom Rimmel, Charlie Vaughn, and Margaret Worrell.

WE PRAY for our family and friends: Jerry Manning (friend of Nancy Sherbert), 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), and Annika Lundgren (friend of the Engelhardts).

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Lisa Arndt* on the death of her father, Rick Watson.

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.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST DUE TO DEATH: Rick Watson (Lisa Arndt's father).

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have a more private prayer request (not to be printed on public list), please contact Pastor Jenny and the team of dedicated people will be contacted to start the prayer chain.

**FOR ADDITIONS TO OR REMOVALS FROM ANY OF THESE PRAYER LISTS,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
785-272-5302 OR 1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net.**

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." —
Martin Luther*



Worship

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE	
SATURDAY & SUNDAY June 22 & 23 and 29 & 30	
SATURDAY & SUNDAY July 6 & 7 and 13 & 14	
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 128 Saturday: 32 Sunday: 96	Tithes and Offerings: \$1,478.16
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 140 Saturday: 25 Sunday: 115	Tithes and Offerings: \$10,756.46
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 149 Saturday: 33 Sunday: 116	Tithes and Offerings: \$9,511.78
ATTENDANCE TOTAL: 122 Saturday: 27 Sunday: 95	Tithes and Offerings: \$10,861.84



READ PRAY SING

Wednesday's at 6:00 p.m., come gather in the chapel as we READ God's Word, PRAY with and for each other, and SING. This is a time for all ages to worship and fellowship together. Park in the North lot and come in the CDO door for access to the Chapel.

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 took effect July 7, 2019.



Children, Youth & Family Ministry

SUMMER DRIVE-IN INDOORS: THE TOY STORY MOVIES



Bring a pillow, lawn chair, blanket, and come enjoy popcorn and lemonade.

August 2 at 6:30 p.m.: Toy Story

August 9 at 6:30 p.m.: Toy Story 2

August 16 at 6:30 p.m.: Toy Story 3

August 23: Head to the theatres to see Toy Story 4

SAVE THE DATE



BACK-PACK BLESSING

August 10th and 11th during worship

First Family and Topeka Area News

I would just like to **THANK** the **Endowment Committee** for considering and selecting me for a scholarship. It is an honor to be one of the ones selected. This scholarship will help me go far in my education.

Thank you. Madison Liby

Endowment Committee,

I am honored and THANKFUL for being selected as a recipient of the Endowment Scholarship. It means so much knowing that my church is invested in my education and I. I look forward to what is to come and thank you for your blessings! *Sincerely, Adam Schultz*

I want to **THANK** all of the members of First Lutheran for their prayers, and whoever sent cards and flowers. Also, I want to thank you for all the visits since I returned home. I especially want to thank Pastor Jenny for her prayers and visits. I am thankful for being a member of First Lutheran. *Ann Sanders*

THANK YOU very much for the altar flowers delivered to Debbie at home. *Orv Grondahl*

First Lutheran,

THANK YOU so much for sponsoring me this summer at Camp Tomah Shinga. I'm really looking forward to filling my new role as Site Coordinator this year. I chose to come back to Camp this year as part of my journey in discernment. I'm currently a junior at the University of Tulsa studying Engineering Physics but since I left Camp last summer, I've been exploring ministry/theology as a possible calling. I look forward to leading the activities at our newest site, the *All Things New Village*, for all the middle school and confirmation kids who come out. Your generous gift is helping me give everything to the people who come to the new site this year. Thanks to your support, I will be able to take the summer to explore ministry. I look forward to helping lead worship at church this weekend and seeing all the familiar faces out at Camp this summer. *Thank you, Tyler Price*



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE coming to church **August 11th** before and after worship. Stay tuned for an online sign up and information about registering. **Save the date to help save a life.**

**Women of First Lutheran Church join your WELCA friends
for a SUMMER PICNIC & SOCIAL**

to celebrate the success of our past year and prepare for the next year!
Bring your favorite picnic food to share. Table service and drinks will be provided.
Invite a friend to enjoy the event with you!

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

ALTAR FLOWERS – NEW FLORIST AND NEW PRICES

SEASONAL EFFECTS BY MARK LAMANTIA will be providing our altar and pulpit flowers **beginning August 1, 2019.** Mark has been a floral designer for more than 40 years in Topeka. After many years at the same cost, we also will be increasing the price of the flowers as of August 1 to **\$25 per vase and \$50 for pulpit flowers.** If you have previously committed to providing flowers but no longer wish to do so because of this increase, please contact Jeanie Schuler as soon as possible. Questions? Please call Jeanie Schuler 785-845-7964.

CAMP TOMAH SHINGA QUILT AUCTION Saturday, September 14th, 2019

Camp Tomah Shinga, 7821 E Lyon Creek Road, Junction City, KS

11:00 a.m. Quilts on Display 12:00 p.m. – Lunch is Served 1:00 p.m. – Auction begins

All are welcome to come for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and supporting outdoor ministries!

Additional info and RSVP at tomahshinga.com

Please see the Welcome Center for paperwork on donating a quilt.

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!!!

MAKING STOCK DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

The Finance Committee is pleased to announce that arrangements have been made to assist those who would like to make donations of stock to the congregation. A brokerage account has been set up with a local Oppenheimer office here in Topeka and Mr. Pete Stauffer is the local agent. Stauffer has worked with the congregation in the past. He manages the Endowment and Sibberson brokerage accounts.

The donation of stock to the congregation may be advantageous to donors in a variety of ways. For example, a charitable contribution of stock may allow the donor the benefit of making a contribution without having to pay capital gains taxes on the investment. Also, stock donations may assist donors with decisions that are made in conjunction with Required Minimum Distributions of Individual Retirement Accounts. Please consult with your financial advisor to see how this may be helpful to you.

Once the gift of stock has been received, the Oppenheimer agent is authorized to sell the stock and the net proceeds (less the brokerage fee) will be given to the church. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Christ Lear at cwlear@prodigy.net. Chris serves as the chair of the Finance Committee and he can provide you with the account number for donations to the brokerage account. Thank you.



Please see the **Adventures in Learning!** newsletter from Shepherd's Center of Topeka www.shepherdscentertopeka.org on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Shepherd's Center of Topeka is a community ministry whose mission is to operate a volunteer senior's organization that enhances physical well-being, spiritual growth, & education for life.

WRITE-UPS REGARDING SYNOD ASSEMBLY

From Diane Dukat:

It was an honor and privilege to help plan this year's Central States Synod Assembly.

When Pastor Jenny approached me about doing this, I wasn't sure I would be up to the task. I had never attended a church assembly, so I couldn't imagine what help I could be in planning one. The other members of the planning team and the Synod staff were amazing and put me at ease.

With the election of a new bishop, the planning team was hoping some of my experiences of working an election would be of help. The election six years ago was rather testy, so the team wanted to make sure this election went smooth and was totally transparent. We did implement a couple of new ideas and for the most part, the election went smoothly. There were a couple of hiccups, but because of prior planning, the hiccups were kept to a minimum, and the results were without mishap. One of the biggest pluses was the "radical hospitality" the floor teams implemented. By putting forth a little extra hospitality toward the attendees and our fellow floor teams members, the assembly was more enjoyable and the small clichés when they did happen, ran fairly smooth.

I'm so thankful for this opportunity. I enjoyed my first assembly, learning how things work, and most of all the new friends I made. If you are asked to serve on a committee such as this, don't let fear keep you away from the challenge. You may end up learning more than you ever thought possible and make some very special friends.

From Barb Collins:

At the Synod Assembly, the speaker was Rich Mulheim. Rich is an ordained pastor, author, cartoonist, comedian, the list goes on.

Rich has been spending a great deal of time getting parents with children and youth into a family system.

[Rich's Thoughts] "*Let's Kill Sunday School, Before it Kills the Church*" is a published book. Thoughts on how to change the old Sunday School routine. For starters putting the older generation with the younger generation in, now get this, the same room at the same time.

Also, what are you willing to do for your child? Push them out of the way of a bullet or a runaway car? There is a safer way, invest your time with them. Have a Highs and Lows family discussion every night for 5 minutes so all can share their day.

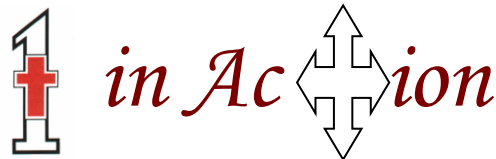
Rich has a quick wit and a fun sense of humor (i.e. Joan of Ark was not Noah's wife).

Our attention was drawn to a roped off section of the hall. First, there was a blank piece of canvas, 30 feet long by 6 feet high, then there were penciled drawings, then there were buckets of paint. People were asked to paint in the drawings. Then there was a unique piece of art work. The mural was moved on to the pulpit for the last day. With the message of Vital living. SHARE, READ, TALK, PRAY, BLESS.

From Allison Montague:

My first time attending the Synod Assembly was a great experience. I really liked hearing Speaker Rich Melheim - founder of Faith Inkubators - talk about CrossGenerational Activities as well as the Faith5 which is a 5-Step plan that implements faith practice. I was really inspired by all of Melheim's ideas about CrossGen activities and I would like to see some of those used at First Lutheran! The only downside was getting up at 5:00 a.m. to get ready and get to the church by 6:00 to leave for Kansas City, but I was very thankful for the Starbucks in the hotel where the assembly was. I thoroughly enjoyed being a Synod Assembly Delegate!

FOR MORE SYNOD INFORMATION, SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE OF PASTOR BOB'S OFFICE.



REMEMBER THE "BLESSING BOX" NEEDS FILLING.

If you can help **LET'S HELP** on the **third Wednesday of any month** we'll see you at **200 South Kansas Avenue. The next date for helping is August 21st.** If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Gary Anderson at 246-3229. **Gary Anderson - First Lutheran Let's Help Team**



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!

REMEMBER DOORSTEP'S "CHRISTMAS IN JULY"

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

The **DEADLINE** for the September 2019 *In The First Place* is **August 7, 2019**.
Contact the church office in person or via email with Articles or Calendar Information.

Save the Dates

July 31 – Adult Learning Survey Due

August 2, 9, 16 & 23 – Toy Story Movies

August 3 & 4 – Golden Anniversaries

August 4 – Magi Moments and Potluck Fellowship

August 10 & 11 – Backpack Blessing & Heritage Members

August 11 – Red Cross Blood Drive

August 17 – Council Retreat

August 21 – WELCA Picnic