

A photograph of a child in a pink jacket and hat climbing a large sculpture of a person sitting on a tractor tire. The sculpture is made of stacked tires, with a yellow one in the middle and green ones below. The child is standing on the bottom green tire, reaching up towards the yellow one. The person in the sculpture is wearing a blue jacket and purple pants. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a fence and trees.

# Come and see

JOHN 1:46

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

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WEBSITE: [firstlutherantopeka.org](http://firstlutherantopeka.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 1<sup>st</sup> Director*

*Organist*

*Director of Music*

*Director of Handbell Choirs*

*Secretary*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Bookkeeper*

*Nursery Attendant*

*Missionaries in Russia*

*Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach*

*All Members of First*

*Pastor Jenny Jackson*

*Pastor Bob Dealey*

*Julie Lamott*

*Julie Bradley*

*Jerry Anderson*

*Mark Fuller*

*Linda Anderson*

*LaDonna J. Little*

*Jill Loomans*

*Cindy Crawford*

*Tahira Schmidt*

*Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle*

*Jim & Dawn Anderson*



# THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 17, 2021

*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** *“This Little Light of Mine”*

*(arr. J. Behnke)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHIMES**

**677 GATHERING SONG** *“This Little Light of Mine”*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

A: It is you who light my lamp; you, my God, who lights up the darkness.

**C: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

A: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

**C: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

A: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**C: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: **Amen.**

### GREETING

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

### SONG OF PRAISE *"Glory Be to God in Heaven"*

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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: Thanks be to you, Lord Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

# WORD

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

## **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

*At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>**You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>**I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

<sup>15</sup>My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

*Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.*

<sup>12</sup>All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

<sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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

**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 John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL: John 1:43-51**

*In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."*

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

<sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

<sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

## 574 HYMN OF THE DAY “Here I Am, Lord”

### 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: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound especially Laura, Margaret, Mark, Verla, Lynnette, Lu, Marian, Blake, Phil, Rob, and Breck, as well as our homebound members, all unable to worship this weekend, and all family, friends and even enemies we name now, either out loud or in the silence of our hearts (pause), that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

A: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

### PEACE

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

### ANTHEM "Be Still, My Soul"

(arr. C. Courtney)

### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God,

C: **receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### 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





Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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: This is God’s table and we are God’s people, let us be fed.

**COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God”**

**page 208**

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**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**Congregation: Amen**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### BLESSING

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

C: **Amen.**

### 310 SENDING SONG *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

### DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Let your light shine. C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts”*

*(C. Saint-Saens)*

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**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** *are given by Jeanie Schuler in recognition of our church staff who have dedicated themselves to bring church to all during the pandemic.*

**THE ETERNAL CANDLE FOR JANUARY** *is given by Sue Wild in memory of her great aunt,*

*Helen Radtke. She was such a family treasure!*

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

Laura Martin (home), Margaret Stewart (home), Mark Fuller (home), Verla Buch (home), Lynnette Johnson (home), Lu Heisler (home), Marian Orton (home), Blake Hopper (home), Martha Donohoe (home), Phil Engelhardt (home), Rob Peterson (home), Breck Edds (home), David Haefke (Laura’s son), Valorie Dukat (Diane’s daughter), Donna Tobyen (friend of Barb Collins), Martin Godlove (Sylvia Levings’ son), Lewis Sanders (Rachelle Witherspoon’s father), Syndee Haake (daughter of friend of Nancy Vaughn), Blanche Stephansen (Ron Bessler’s sister), Nicole Klein (Patti’s God-daughter), Georgi Peterson (Rhonda Dealey’s mother), Linda Boleski (Penny & Marvin Boleski’s sister-in-law), Lawrence & Lenette Kottas (Eileen Caspers’ parents), John Browne (Penny & Marvin Boleski’s brother-in-law), Ann Dorton (extended family member of LaDonna Little), Camille Baehni Engler (former member), Brennan Soukup (Julie Bender’s cousin), Carlotta Ullman (Trudi Myers’ great niece), C.A. & Mary Lou Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders’ parents), Dan Lykins (cousin of Nancy Sherbert), Heather Roesch (Tracy’s sister-in-law), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler’s great niece), Linda Myers (Trudi’s daughter-in-law), David Metzenthin (Bud & Lois’ son).

## LESSONS JANUARY 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

# ANNUAL MEETING



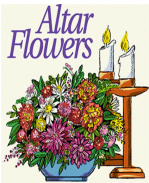
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021



**ETERNAL CANDLES** can be found in both the main Worship Center and our beautiful Chapel. In **2021** you may **DONATE** both candles in remembrance or in honor of someone for the entire month. Please contact LaDonna, in the church office, (785) 272-5302 or email her at [1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net) to sign-up for a month and give information that will be included in the bulletin. **The cost will be \$20 for the month. December is still available.**

### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2021



Please consider helping us have fresh flowers on our altar. **Please contact either LaDonna at the church office 785-272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler 785-845-7964 and we will gladly take your information over the phone.** **The altar flowers cost \$25 per vase plus tax.** Reservations may be made for one (\$25) or two vases (\$50). Pulpit flowers are also an option to recognize a special occasion for \$50 plus tax.

### OPEN 2021 DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise) ARE:

4/18 (one); 5/2 (one), 5/23; 7/11, 7/25; 8/1 (one), 8/29; 9/26; 10/24, 11/7, 11/28; 12/12 (one).



## DOORSTEP'S "SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY" FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>



**Bring soup and crackers to help stock Doorstep's pantry!**

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>!** Doorstep is asking for donations for SouperBowl Sunday! **Please bring SOUP AND CRACKERS to restock Doorstep's pantry.** A can of soup can be a meal, and in the past, with a successful collection, Doorstep has had soup and crackers to last them into the summer months! Please remember Doorstep when you go grocery shopping, and pick up a few items for your neighbors in need.

## Where Nothing Is Expected

**A**t one of his life's worst intersections, when legs trembled and steps were mirrored in bogs of doubt, his companion looked into the man's hollowing eyes and said, "I believe in you. I know you." Have you ever needed such a word?

The list is painfully long that names all of the circumstances and places from which it is assumed nothing good can come. Perhaps you have compiled your own catalog of those who fall short, the irredeemable neighborhoods, or the situations beyond hope in the life of others. Perhaps you find yourself on someone else's list, among those whose life and plight has been dismissed as "nothing good." So it was thought of Jesus, whose life was rooted in the hillside soil of a sidetracked town—Nazareth—where nothing remarkable, not much at all, was expected to grow up. That town and its people were on the "unfavorable" list.

It is a riddle of scripture that the likes of Philip (or Peter, John, James, and Andrew—those gospel familiars) would, seemingly without discernment or a second thought, leave everything when Jesus interrupted his settled life and bid him, "Follow me." For Nathanael, it was different. He took an honest and reasonable step back. He knew all the talk about nothing good coming from Nazareth.

So many of our stories wither and so much of who we are dies when we are confronted with the "I know about you" list of painful failures instead of a loving, hopeful invitation to "come and see" (John 1:46).

There is a mighty mercy, an opening of heaven itself before our very eyes, a retelling of each "Nazareth" in our lives if we dare to "come and see" Jesus. Then that painful, long, imposed or self-inflicted list is no longer our truth because we, in seeing Jesus, begin to see ourselves and others as Jesus does. An epiphany happens: "I believe in you."

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