



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.firstlutherantopeka.org

Email us at:

1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net

Like us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/
1stlutherantopeka](http://www.facebook.com/1stlutherantopeka)

Children's Day Out

785-272-5999

www.childrensdayout.net

director@childrensdayout.net

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Stewardship & Outreach

January 21, 2021
Volume 28, Issue 1

From Pastor Jenny

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We enter into another season of Lent in just one month, on February 17th, Ash Wednesday. This is a season of the church for repentance and introspection. We are marked with an ashen cross and reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. If there was ever a time to truly understand our mortality, it is in this 11th month of a pandemic. As Christians, we embrace this season because we are reminded who is God and who is mortal and thanks be to God, God is in control.

As is the refrain this year, we will be doing things differently with respect to Ash Wednesday. We will have an **online worship service at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook**, but we will also have **three opportunities to come to church to receive ashes. On Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 a.m., noon, and 5:30 p.m.**, you are invited to come to the south parking lot for a "drive-thru-imposition of ashes". I will have a face mask and shield on and will read a short prayer, scripture passage, and then will mark an ashen cross on your forehead. At that time we will also be handing out Lenten bags with communion and a devotion for the season. If you are unable to participate in the drive-thru but would like to pick your bag up at church, call the church office. If you have not notified the church by Saturday, February 20th, your bag will be delivered to your home.

Dear church, as we grapple with the violent events in our country, with distrust and political unrest unlike we have seen for centuries, and the deep wounds of division, may we continue to respond to hate and violence with peacemaking words and actions. God bless you all as you live out the promises you made in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

"What does the Lord require of us but to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God" Micah 6:8

With much love and hope, Pastor Jenny

**LOOK ON PAGE 4 FOR DETAILED
INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

Prayer Ministry

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

PRAYER CHAIN MEMBERS NEEDED

**If you would like to serve on our prayer chain (email or phone), please contact the church office.
Prayer Journals available for all prayer team members and anyone else who would like them.**

WE PRAY for our church community, especially: Sylvia Levings (home), Lynnette Johnson (home), Laura Martin (home), Margaret Stewart (home), Verla Buch (home), Lu Heisler (home), Marian Orton (home), Blake Hopper (home), Martha Donohoe (home), Phil Engelhardt (home), Rob Peterson (home), and Breck Edds (home).

WE PRAY for our homebound members: Betty Deutscher, Deneen Dotzel, Arloine Lindgren, Lois Lykins, Marian Orton, Bob Papp, Alice Purdy, Charlie Vaughn, and Margaret Worrell.

WE PRAY for our family and friends: 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), and David Metzenthin (Bud & Lois' son).

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST DUE TO DEATH:

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

Worship with us!

Hebrews 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

OUR SUNDAY MORNING 10:00 A.M. SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIVE-STREAMED TO FACEBOOK AND UPLOADED TO YOUTUBE AT 3:00 P.M.

Please stay safe, practice responsible health precautions, and rest in the comfort and peace that God is our constant companion, walking with us in the valley and to the mountaintops.

We will continue to find creative ways to stay connected with God and each other. Our office will remain open with limited staff and limited hours, in an effort to continue to be available for you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Council President Robert Hanna or Pastor Jenny.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)

WITH REVERENCE, AWE, AND EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY, WE COME TO GOD IN WORSHIP AND PRAISE.

DATES	ATTENDANCE TOTALS	TITHES & OFFERINGS
12/20/2020	IN-PERSON SUSPENDED	\$5,564.00
12/24/2020	IN-PERSON SUSPENDED	\$593.00
12/27/2020	IN-PERSON SUSPENDED	\$8,194.91
1/3/2021	IN-PERSON SUSPENDED	\$2,110.00
1/10/2021	IN-PERSON SUSPENDED	\$3,358.00
1/17/2021	IN-PERSON SUSPENDED	\$4,660.00



Annual Congregational Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION: SCHEDULE FOR MEETING, PRACTICE, AND TIPS

Annual Report Document

There are a few ways for you to receive this report. If you would like to have a hard copy mailed to you, please contact LaDonna at the church office. A digital PDF copy will be emailed on Friday, January 22nd. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Schedule

Saturday, January 30th at 9:00 a.m., practice for council leadership and staff.

Saturday, January 30th at 10:00 a.m. for congregation members unfamiliar with zoom or video conferencing.

Sunday January 31st Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom (link below).

Tips and Zoom Etiquette

- Have your annual report available.
- Raise your hand when you would like to speak and the facilitator will call on you. This will help to keep people from accidentally speaking over one another.
- Turn your video on and mute yourself. Unmute only when you are speaking.
- When voting, council president will instruct you to raise your hand to designate your vote.
- Open your 'chat' to help facilitate conversation or to make motions or seconds.

ZOOM INFORMATION

PRACTICE for Saturday, January 30th

Join Zoom Meeting

VIDEO

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89231184396?pwd=ZIZJWG8rMGx4aUZZNVhrank0T0lXUT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3118 4396

Passcode: 421883

PHONE

1 346 248 7799 US

Meeting ID: 892 3118 4396

Passcode: 421883

ANNUAL MEETING for Sunday, January 31st

Join Zoom Meeting

VIDEO

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85440286331?pwd=NVg0QVpoL21iZFM3NCtoZFhCUldsUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 4028 6331

Passcode: 371846

PHONE

1 346 248 7799 US

Meeting ID: 854 4028 6331

Passcode: 371846



First Family and Topeka Area News

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.

Please let me know if you want to pick them up or if you like me to put them in the mail. Thanks – LaDonna

785-272-5302 or 1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net

A HUGE THANK YOU for all the Prayers, Telephone Calls, Cards and Letters following my Heart Attack and Hospitalization. *God's Blessings on each and every one of you. Marian Orton*

HELLO, WELCOME TO FLIGHT #2021. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position, keep your focus upwards, look up to Christ who is in heaven. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away because in Him, we have HOPE. Should we lose Altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers. There will be no baggage allowed on this flight. The Captain, GOD, and His co-pilot, JESUS, have cleared us for takeoff. Destination GREATNESS. Oh, and should you need assistance, call on your flight attendant, the HOLY SPIRIT, the comforter. He is able to intercede on your behalf. If you are unable to utter a word, He will interpret even our groans. You have nothing to fear in this New Year! *Shared by Nancy Vaughn*

JOIN A DISCUSSION ON “SIMPLY JESUS”

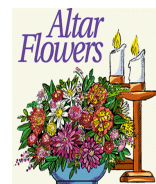
The group reading and discussing N.T. Wright's book “Simply Jesus” will have an organizational meeting **Friday, February 5th at 7:00 on Zoom.** Wright is an Anglican Bishop and has written many books. He has taught and been a practicing pastor. If you have any questions, please call **Joyce Koenig** at 501-781-5692. **We hope to have many of you join us.** If you would like a Zoom link, email Joyce at koenig1942@hotmail.com.



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 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; 7/25; 8/29; 9/26; 10/24, 11/7, 11/28; 12/12 (one).



Adventures in Learning! from Shepherd's Center of Topeka www.shepherdscentertopeka.org will have sessions in February.

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

CAMP TOMAH SHINGA



We have opened registrations for summer camp 2021! After a summer apart due to COVID, we are thrilled to be back. As we adjust camp to keep safe and healthy for your camper, we look forward to Exploring Creation, Building Relationships, and Growing in Faith with you this summer. Register at www.camptomahshinga.com. If you have any questions reach out to Jazz Turley at jturley@tomahshinga.com.

BETHANY COLLEGE

Is your family beginning the college search and you are unsure of where to begin? Look no further than YOUR Lutheran college, Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. Find your path to your purpose with us. Contact Vicki Cornett at cornettv@bethanylb.edu or visit www.bethanylb.edu for more information.

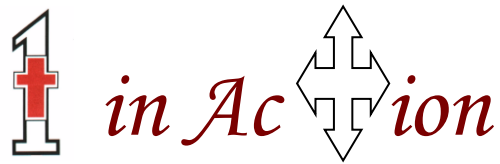


Children's Day Out Preschool

As children take on a new challenge, so many times they see it as an exciting adventure! They are not burdened by fears they can't do what they set out to do. They are not constrained by a lot of people saying, "You'll never be able to do that."

CDO encourages these children to reach for those dreams and give it all they have. Looking around at successful children, we find that they have a team of people who believe in them, who encourage them, and who assure them (and reassure them) that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to.

2021 brings many new adventures and challenges. We feel so blessed to be a part of helping the families and children to achieve those dreams. It is going to be a great year!!!!



REMEMBER THE "BLESSING BOX" NEEDS FILLING.

Blessing Box items can be almost anything that is small, easy to use/eat, and useful for folks in need.

PLEASE NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.

FOOD ITEMS: Canned food with pull tops, Non-perishable foods, Bottled Water, Small Snacks
More specifically: granola or breakfast bars, small boxes of dry cereal, instant oatmeal, mac & cheese cups, ramen cups, cheese & crackers, pudding/jello cups, peanut butter, canned fruit/vegetables, dry noodle/rice/pasta packets, dry milk powder, instant coffee singles, hot cocoa packets, chips (individual bags), crackers.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Socks, Toothpaste/tooth brushes, wet wipes, bar soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, laundry soap (small boxes of dry powder), tissues, toilet paper, feminine sanitary products, shampoo, lotion, dish soap.



Thanks for your continued support of this ministry. Let's keep them in our prayers for the work they do and that they stay in good health. For more information contact *Gary Anderson or Larry Wolgast.*



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Monday – Friday from 9am – 2pm
1119 SW 10th Avenue, South door
785-357-5341



DOORSTEP'S "SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY" FEBRUARY 7th

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



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 7TH! 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.



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

DOORSTEP NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

The year 2020 was challenging for everyone in some way. Doorstep has felt very blessed during the year with the volunteers who were comfortable coming in to help the staff provide services, and sort donations... and there were many donations with people being home! We also felt very blessed, and supported by all of our donors, and the community as a whole, who helped keep our food shelves stocked throughout the year, and the monetary donations which kept our doors open, and services being provided.

We will start 2021 operating the same way we have been in 2020, with phone intakes for services, and appointments for the clothing room.

At this writing, we have not distributed our Christmas items yet, however, Doorstep still adopted the usual 260 households from the Christmas Bureau. This is over 800 individuals who will receive food, gift cards, blankets and health kits. We appreciate everyone who sent monetary donations to help with the increased budget to provide the gift cards this year; and, those who donated blankets, towels and hygiene items.

There will be **NO OPERATION SOUP LINE** this year as the Board could not figure out a Covid-safe, fundraising positive, way to carry out the event. We have asked our regular sponsors to still donate the funds and basically 'sponsor Doorstep' instead of the event this year as to not lose quite so much money by not having the fundraiser.

We will still proceed with **SouperBowl Sunday, February 7th** with the collection of soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

We cannot stress enough how thankful and blessed we feel to be so supported during this difficult time as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible.

Celebrations in February



BIRTHDAYS

Elna Ensley	1
Sylvia Levings	2
Austin Jackson	6
Larry Platte	8
Elsie Jenks	8
Marian Orton	9
Fred Smith	9
Jessa Farmer	9
Chad Liby	9
Allyn Lockner	11
Charles Krumins	11
Nathan Leininger	11
Isabella Sears	11
Janet Johnson	12
Alan Schmidt	12
LaVerne Engelhardt	12
Austin Krug	12
Diane White	14
West Waugh	15
George Bales	16
Kenzie Kriss	19
Chris Cushing	21
Brenda Glaze	22
Heather Bacon	22
Margaret Worrell	23
JoAnn Stanley	23
Sadie Waugh	24
Blake Cheatham	24
Dave King	24
Kathy Montague	25
Joan Fries	26
Pat Collins	27
Teresa Roberts	27
Shirley Waugh	28



BAPTISMS

Roxanne Sanders	2
Diane Dukat	4
Luke Jurgens	4
Emma Bunting	4
Madeline Jurgens	4
Autumn Jurgens	4
Maureen Krumins	5
Ray Tarvin	5
Patti Petersen-Klein	5
Kristin Debenham	6
Russ Haley	7
Meghann Chaudhry	11
Emberly Stallons	11
Jean Abbe	12
Anne Hageman	14
Tyler Price	14
Dennis Haugh	15
Ivan Haugh	15
George Bales	15
Emily Crockett	16
Anita Wolgast	18
Lowell Chellberg	19
Diane Wilson	20
Shirley Holmes	23
Chloe Bunting	23
Brendon Roark	28
Brooke Roark	28
Nicholas Roark	28



ANNIVERSARIES

John & Pamela Strahan	2/03/1971
Bob & Cheryl Hjetland	2/10/2001
Tom & Mary Bulkley	2/13/1970
Larry & Nancy Platte	2/13/2005
Dean & Lynnette Johnson	2/14/2004
Russ & Judy Haley	2/23/1963
Alan & Jill Loomans	2/24/1973
Dwight & Suzanne Cowan	2/28/1987
James & JoAnn Stanley	2/29/1980

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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