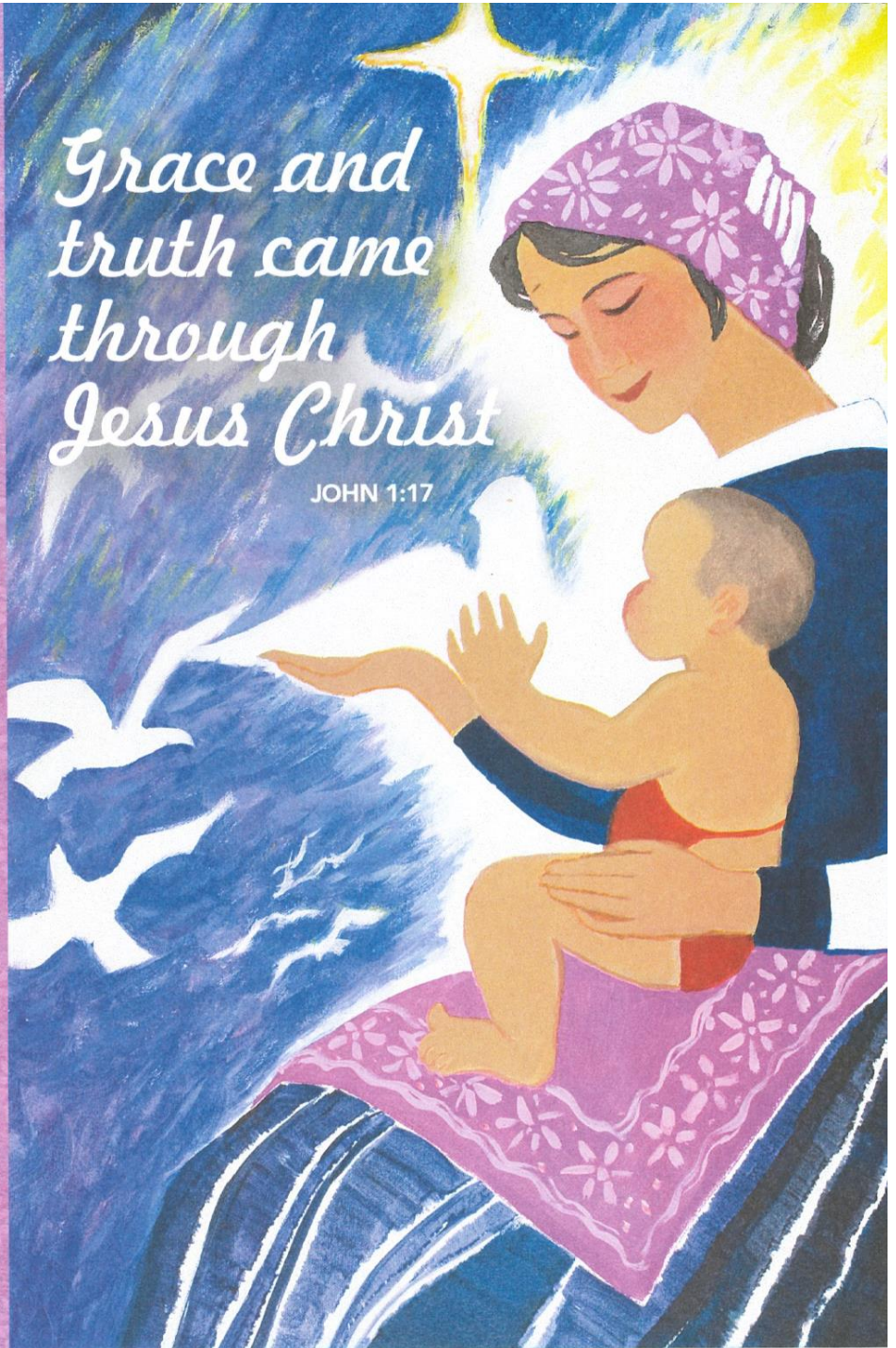


*Grace and  
truth came  
through  
Jesus Christ*

JOHN 1:17



**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*

*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*

*Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle*

*Jim & Dawn Anderson*

**A BRIEF WORD ABOUT WORSHIP PRECAUTIONS.**

**MASKS:** A mask must be worn during the entire time in church, covering the mouth and nose. This is done to provide protection for others and for your own safety.

**MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING IS A HIGH PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES DURING IN-PERSON WORSHIP:**

All members are to maintain a 6-foot distance from other people/households at all times. This includes gathering in the parking lot, arriving or exiting through church doors, or standing in the fellowship areas. Ushers and greeters will be present to help with arrival, seating, communion, and departing church.



# THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN

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

JANUARY 1 & 2, 2022

*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 “Noël Provençal sur le Noël” (“Now is Born the Divine Infant”)

(R. L. Bedell)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

## CHIMES

GATHERING SONG “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

See Bulletin Page 12

## CALL TO WORSHIP

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!**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C: **Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.**

P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C: **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C: **Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

P: The Magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

C: **Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.**

P: The angel said, You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## INVOCATION

P: God of manger and star, open us to the depths and heights of your incredible love, which comes through humble stories and glorious songs. Speak to us in word and music and lift us to the realms of glory.

C: **Amen.**

## EPIPHANY LITANY

*(B. Y. Williams in "Masterpieces of Religious Verses")*

P: Who are the Wise Men in the long ago?

C: **Not Herod, fearful lest he lost his throne; not Pharisees too proud to claim their own;**

P: Who are the Wise Men in the long ago?

C: **Not priests and scribes whose province was to know; not money-changers running to and fro;**

P: But three who traveled, weary and alone,

C: **With dauntless faith, because before them shone the star that led them to a manger low.**

P: Who are the Wise Men now, when all is told?

C: **Not men of science; not the great and strong; not those who wear a kingly diadem;**

P: Not those whose eager hands pile high the gold;

C: **But those amid the tumult and the throng who follow still the Star of Bethlehem.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Congregation shall sit.*

## WORD

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

## TEMPLE TALK – ENDOWMENT – LEGACY FUND

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 147:12-20

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

### SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

### CELTIC ALLELUIA



P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

*Congregation shall sit.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**295 HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Stanza 1. Women 2. Men 3. & 4. **ALL** *Interlude Please Stand* 5. **ALL**

*Congregation shall remain standing or sitting, 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 the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need especially Sara, Joyce, Carolyn, Diane, David, Kevin, Laura, Lois and Phil, 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). Surround them with your unwavering presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. **R:** Peace be with you.

**Brief word about peace:** *As we practice Social Distancing, the sharing of the peace will take place as we remain in our pews: waving, bowing, blessing, or sharing the peace sign with our fellow worshipers.*

*Congregation shall sit.*

**VOLUNTARY** *"Baby, What You Goin' To Be?"*

Choir

(N. Sleeth)



**Brief word about offering:** *Offering plates are available at the back of the worship space, on the bulletin table. To give online, please go to [FirstLutheranTopeka.org](http://FirstLutheranTopeka.org) and click on 'contribute'.*

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

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Gracious God,

**C: your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## MEAL

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

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

page 206

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

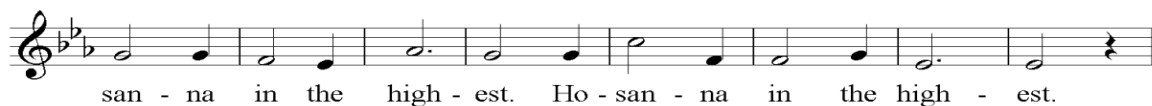
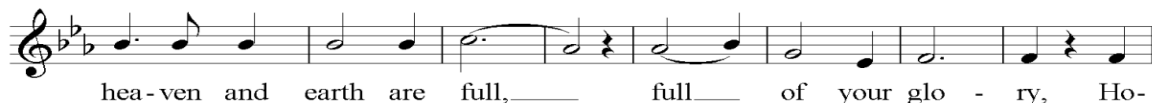
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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: In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

*Congregation shall sit.*

## 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

***Brief word about communion:*** *The process for receiving communion will be explained by the Pastor. For these services, wine or grape juice will not be distributed. Pastor will bring you communion in your pew. Hand sanitizer is available in the pews to use before receiving communion.*

## COMMUNION VOLUNTARY "In the Bleak Midwinter"

(G. Holst / arr. J. D. Kimball)

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Congregation: Amen

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,

**C: God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### LITANY FOR THE NEW YEAR

A: God of our Life, we thank you for the year that is passed and for the dawn of another year.

**C: We thank you for whatever happiness has been our lot.**

A: We thank you for whatever trials have come our way.

**C: And we pray for you to transform both our happy memories and the remembrance of trials into nurture for our spirits.**

A: In the New Year, Timeless One, may your Spirit's presence compel us to be faithful co-workers with you, pursuing your purposes in this hate-filled, pain-racked world:

**C: freedom, peace with justice, compassion without bounds.**

A: God Beyond Time, at a time when we stand between memory and hope,

**C: we pray for those having too many memories and little or no hope, except in your final mercy.**

A: Be with those who are walking in death's shadow,

**C: and equip us for the ministry of presence that we may at least be with them, near them, even if there is nothing else we can do.**

A: We pray in the name of him whose own years on Earth were few, but whose impact for healing was incalculable.

**C: Jesus Christ, the Lord of the old year and of the new and of all our years, the Lord of history and of eternity. Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through † Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen.**

### 300 SENDING SONG *"The First Noel"*

***Brief word about dismissal:*** *Since our fellowship space is small and we are practicing social distancing, we encourage you to enjoy conversation in the parking lot. May God go with you, sustain you, and renew your spirit.*

### DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Nancy Vaughn in *Special Recognition and Thank You to the Ministry Moving Forward Committee for their guidance during COVID.*

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

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

Sara Welch (home), Joyce Koenig (home), Carolyn Sandquist (home), Diane Dukat (home), David Schmidt (home), Kevin Eaton (home), Martha Donohoe (home), Laura Martin (home), Lois Lykins (home), Phil Engelhardt (home), Verla Buch (home), Blake Hopper (home), Monica Collins (friend of Barb Collins), Michael Kuner (friend of Mark Fuller), JoAnn Likness (friend of Barb Collins), Heidi Mark (Bill & Joyce's daughter), Richard Holliday (Marian Orton's son), Amanda Gill (friend of Trudi Myers), Drew Hartz (Steve & Kathy Couch's son-in-law), Mackenzie Lamott (CDO Director Julie's daughter), Sheila Mitchell (Shirley Brower's niece), Deloris Patton (Nancy & Charlie Vaughn's sister-in-law), Don Kaphingst (Margaret Stewart's brother), Linda Byrd (friend of Barb Collins), Newt Newstrom (Dawn Graham's father), William Durham (Trudi Myers' son-in-law), Tavia Shaker (friend of Lindsay Blank), Pat Grant (friend of Ron Bessler), Dan Fraleigh (Sherrie Petersen's brother-in-law), Velda Jacobs (Eileen Caspers' aunt), 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), Lawrence & Lenette Kottas (Eileen Caspers' parents), John Browne (Penny & Marvin Boleski's brother-in-law), Camille Baehni Engler (former member), Brennan Soukup (Julie Bender's cousin), C.A. & Mary Lou Brunkhorst (Ann Sanders' parents), Heather Roesch (Tracy's sister-in-law), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler's great niece), Linda Myers (Trudi's daughter-in-law), David Metzenthin (Bud's son).



# We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



*Refrain*  
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

<b>LAY MINISTERS 1/2</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pastor Bob Dealey
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Robert Hanna
<b>Lector</b>	Dean Johnson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Max Roark
<b>Greeter / Ushers</b>	Nancy Besta, Leslie Malone / Denny & Darlene Payne
<b>Council Member</b>	Bill Barker
<b>Bus Driver &amp; Host/Hostess</b>	Chris & Cindy Lear
<b>Saturday Lector</b>	Sherrie Petersen
<b>Altar Guild Setup/Clean up Tech Team</b>	Barb Collins, Ann McConkey, Karen W., Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrell Austin Jackson, Jenn Betz, John Hanna, (Stephen Blank)

## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

<b>LAY MINISTERS 1/9</b>	<b>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Ann McConkey, PMA
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Ralph Krumins
<b>Lector</b>	Lindsay Blank
<b>Acolyte</b>	Katie Krumins
<b>Greeter / Ushers</b>	Karon Gambrell, Carolyn Olson / David & Patricia Drake
<b>Council Member</b>	Robert Hanna
<b>Bus Driver &amp; Host/Hostess</b>	Randy Debenham, Barb Collins
<b>Saturday Lector</b>	Ron Bessler
<b>Altar Guild Setup/Clean up Tech Team</b>	Nancy Vaughn, Pat Drake, Barb Collins, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrell John Hanna, Jenn Betz, (Stephen Blank)



# ‡ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK ‡

*Children's Day Out Preschool (CDO) schedule: M, T, W & T 9am-3pm Friday 9-11:30 am*

**Sunday, January 2**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**ENDOWMENT SUNDAY**

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:15 a.m. – Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Library)

4:00 p.m. – Parish Life Committee (Zoom)

**Monday, January 3**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

5:45 p.m. – Property Committee (NL)

6:00 p.m. – Take down Christmas Tree

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee (202)

7:00 p.m. – Altar Guild Committee (Sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. – Outreach Committee (Zoom)

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Troop 175 (PH)

**Tuesday, January 4**

CDO Teachers Return

6:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Pack 175 (PH)

**Wednesday, January 5**

**CDO RESUMES**

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

Noon – Area Pastor's Lunch at Our Savior's

6:00 p.m. – Adult Learning Committee (Zoom)

7:00 p.m. – Worship Committee (Zoom)

**Thursday, January 6**

**EPIPHANY**

5:30 p.m. – Ministry Moving Forward Meeting (Zoom)

5:30 p.m. – Den Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. – Executive Committee (Zoom)

7:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, January 7**

**Saturday, January 8**

8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Parish Hall in Use

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service

**Sunday, January 9**

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

9:00-9:45 a.m. – Sunday School – Alpha Worship

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

**LESSONS JANUARY 8 & 9**

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

# PARISH NOTICES



Please see the **Adventures in Learning!** newsletter from Shepherd's Center of Topeka [www.shepherdscentertopeka.org](http://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 seniors organization that enhances socialization, physical well-being, spiritual growth, & education for life.*



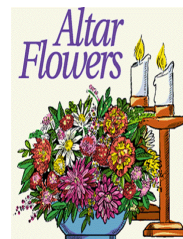
**ETERNAL CANDLES** can be found in both the main Worship Center and our beautiful Chapel. In **2022** you may **DONATE** both candles in remembrance or in honor of someone for the entire month. Please contact LaDonna, in the church office, (785) 272-5302 or email her at [lstlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lstlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net) to sign-up for a month and give information that will be included in the bulletin. **The cost will be \$20 for the month. Available months are: February, September, October, and November.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS  
ON THE ALTAR IN 2022.**

**OPEN 2022 DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise) ARE:**

2/6 (one vase); 4/24; 5/1 (one vase), 5/15, 5/29; 6/5; 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/31; 8/7, 8/28;  
11/20 (one vase); 12/11 (one vase).

**Please call the church office at (785) 272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler at 785-845-7964  
if you have questions.**



## ANNUAL MEETING



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

~**VERY IMPORTANT**~

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 30, 2022**

***Immediately following worship in the sanctuary.***



## Cross My Heart

Cross my heart and hope to die.” Children say this, almost casually, to reinforce something they are promising a sibling or friend. They don’t really mean that they hope to die; it’s just a reassurance that they take seriously the promise they are making. In today’s luminous reading from the Gospel of John, we encounter God’s ultimate promise kept: “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). This is the one promise for which “hope to die” is appropriate, because Jesus comes to us so that he may die for us and, through his death, bring the promise of life everlasting.

In most cases, when we make a promise it’s for a limited amount of time. But we are repeatedly shown in the Bible that God keeps promises, even if they take many generations to come to fruition. Today the prophet Jeremiah shares the word of God, promising that exile will not last forever. And the psalmist invites us to praise God as one who keeps promises to heal and make whole: “The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel. The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:2-3, *ELW*).

Finally, in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds his congregation of the infinite promise granted to us by the coming of Christ. Through Christ, he says, we are redeemed, our sins are forgiven, and we are granted an inheritance—one that means that though we don’t hope to die, we need not fear death, because Christ has conquered death forever.