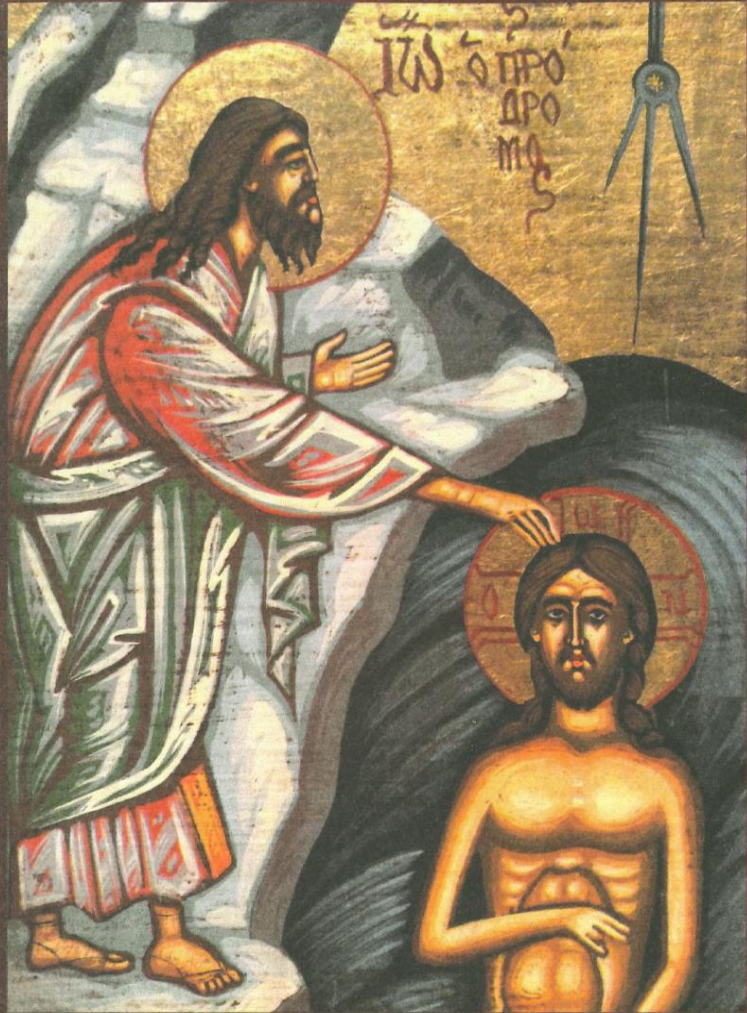


*You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased*

LUKE 3:22



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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEBSITE: 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 1st 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

A SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE
HOLY COMMUNION, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING ONE

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

JANUARY 8 & 9, 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 “Herr Christ, der einig Gotts Sohn” (“The Only Son from Heaven”) (D. Buxtehude)
I. Chorale II. Chorale Prelude

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

451 GATHERING SONG “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”

BAPTISMAL CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION

P: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

C: **In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

P: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to freedom.

C: **And through water, brings us from captivity to freedom.**

P: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples’ feet in water.

C: **Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

P: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

C: **God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn of all creation. Thanks be to God!**

P: Let us be bold and confess our sins, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

C: **God, you show no partiality. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be acceptable in your sight.**

P: God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

C: **Amen! And thanks be to God.**

P: God of new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our savior.

C: **Amen.**

Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
 Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: This is the Gospel of The Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation shall sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: My sisters and brothers, for the last few weeks we have been celebrating the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. With the shepherds we have heard the good news of the new age dawning with peace for humankind. With the Magi we have journeyed by the light of faith to Bethlehem, and found there our savior and God. With Mary we have pondered these things in our hearts.

Now we celebrate the fulfillment of this mystery for today at Jesus' baptism the Spirit has proclaimed him as Messiah: as the priest who would give himself in sacrifice, as the prophet who would reveal God's presence in word and sign, and as the king who would begin his reign on the cross. We too, in our baptism have been anointed by the Spirit and have received a similar commission.

And now I ask you:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism; to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word 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 our Lord Jesus and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, please answer "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

815 HYMN OF THE DAY *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

A: By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need especially Sara, Joyce, Carolyn, 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through 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.

ANTHEM “Bless, O Lord, Us Thy Servants”

(M. How)

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 and click on ‘contribute’.*

Please place attendance form in the offering plate.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe.

C: You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er,
God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 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: Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

Congregation shall sit.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and various time signatures: 3/4, 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 3/4. The lyrics are: "1. Je-sus, Lamb of God, Life, Peace, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. 2. Je-sus, Bread of Life, Peace, you take a-way the sins of the world: have Je- sus, Lamb of God; you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us your peace." The score includes performance directions: "All:" above the first line, "Last time" above the second line, "Cantor:" above the second line, and "All:" above the second line. There are also numerical markings "2" above the first two measures of the first line.

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 "Larghetto" Op.3 No. 7

(A. Vivaldi)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Congregation: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,
† bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C: Amen.

732 SENDING SONG “Borning Cry”

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. Let your light shine.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE “Glory to God in the Highest”

(G. B. Pergolesi)

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given by the Krug Family in memory of loved ones.

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), David Schmidt (home), Kevin Eaton (home), Martha Donohoe (home), Laura Martin (home), Lois Lykins (home), Phil Engelhardt (home), Verla Buch (home), Blake Hopper (home), Shad Horchem (Shirley Perry’s brother-in-law), Manny Ramos (Shirley Perry’s nephew-in-law), Evelyn Ijams (sister of student of Kerri Cushing), 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).

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

LAY MINISTERS 1/16	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Jenn Betz
Lector	Bryan Harold
Acolyte	Emma Schultz
Greeter / Ushers	Kathy Couch, JoAnn Stanley / Diane Dukat, Bob Wollin
Council Member	LaVerne Engelhardt
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Chris & Cindy Lear
Saturday Lector	Tina Lewis
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Nancy Vaughn, Pat Drake, Barb Collins, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill
Tech Team	Austin Jackson, John Hanna

✠ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK ✠

CDO (Children's Day Out) Preschool 9 a-3 p - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9-11:30 a – Thursday

Sunday, January 9

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Monday, January 10

12:00-2:00 p.m. – Room 202 in Use

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, January 11

6:00 p.m. – Den Meetings

7:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry Supervision

Wednesday, January 12

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

11:00 a.m. – Helen Nunemaker Funeral

6:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Thursday, January 13

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

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 14

Saturday, January 15

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Pinewood Derby (PH)

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Sunday, January 16

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00-9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

LESSONS JANUARY 15 & 16

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

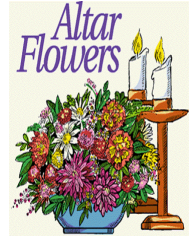
John 2:1-11

PARISH NOTICES



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 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. 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.

HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR A NEW BOOK TO STUDY!

We will be reading and discussing N.T. Wright's book "Surprised by Hope". The study will begin the second week of February, and we will meet every other week by Zoom. We will have two discussion sessions as last year. One meeting on **Monday at 1:00 p.m. and the other on Friday at 7:00 p.m.** **The first sessions will start February 7th and 11th.**

Since this book is on the resurrection of our Lord, our sessions are timed out to finish the week before Holy Week. This leads us right up to our celebration of Christ's resurrection! Contact the church office, if you would like more information or to join in.

Forever and Ever

Many of us were baptized as infants, so our only “memories” of that day consist of photos and stories told to us by those who love us. Some of us have come from other traditions and were old enough when baptized that we can remember the event ourselves. And still others came to baptism as adults, making the decision to embrace the Christian faith after learning a bit about it.

Regardless of when we were baptized, we are to live each day in the joy and gratitude of the newly baptized. Martin Luther urges us to live into the promise of baptism in ordinary, mundane acts: “When you wash your face, remember your baptism.” We are encouraged to “walk wet,” to not let our Christian identity become something we take for granted.

In baptism we are claimed, forever promised inclusion and welcome. Never again must we feel lonely, isolated, or left out; God has called us each by name and claimed us as God’s own (Isaiah 43:1). To emphasize the eternal strength of this claim, God makes the same claim for God’s own Son: “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21-22).

You are mine forever, and I am proud of you—what more do we need to hear? Luther’s advice is timelessly good: each morning, when we remember what it means to be baptized, we face the day knowing that we are loved and wanted.