



Blessed are you

LUKE 6:22

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

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

FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 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 “O God Beyond All Praising” (Tune: Thaxted) (arr. C. Callahan)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P: Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C: **Amen.**

Congregation shall sit.

877 GATHERING SONG “Praise the Almighty!”

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

- 1 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *R*
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *R*
- 3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *R*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

TEMPLE TALK - BOY SCOUTS

Dave Krug

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 (Spoken Responsively with Lector)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia.

C: Alleluia! Lord and Savior: Open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia, Lord, we sing, for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation shall sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

717 HYMN OF THE DAY *“Let Justice Flow like Streams”*

Congregation shall stand or sit, 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: 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: Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed are those who care for young people and help shape their hearts and minds to be responsible and trustworthy. We pray for all of our Scout Troops, that they continue to be places where honesty and loyalty are taught. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer especially Phil, Jeanie, Sara, Joyce, David, Kevin, Laura, and Lois, 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: Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you. 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 worshippers.*

Congregation shall sit.

OFFERING VOLUNTARY “Trio”

(J. Rheinberger, Op. 49, No. 1)

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

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

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

Congregation shall sit.

COMMUNION PRAYER "Lamb of God"

C: O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal 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 "Elevation"

(D. P. Benoit)

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.**

Congregation shall sit.

723 SENDING SONG “Canticle of the Turning”

Brief word about dismissal: *During the postlude, wait in your pew for an usher to guide you from the worship space and back to the parking lot. Since our fellowship space is small and social distancing nearly impossible in it, we encourage you to enjoy conversation in the parking lot while maintaining social distancing. May God go with you, sustain you, and renew your spirit.*

DISMISSAL

A: Called by the spirit,

C: **We serve Christ, sharing God’s love with all.**

A: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “The Festive Trumpet”

(B. Glyncannon)

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ALTAR FLOWERS *are given in loving memory of Herb and Helen Nunemaker from Chuck and Merle.*

ETERNAL CANDLE FOR FEBRUARY *is given by JoAnn Stanley in memory of Herb & Helen Nunemaker and in honor of the Boy Scouts.*

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

Phil Engelhardt (St. Francis Hospital), Jeanie Schuler (home), Sara Welch (home), Joyce Koenig (home), David Schmidt (home), Kevin Eaton (home), Martha Donohoe (home), Laura Martin (home), Lois Lykins (home), Verla Buch (home), Blake Hopper (home), Marilyn Tretcher (friend of Barb Collins), Linda Naugle (friend of Barb Collins), Linda Meyer (Verla Buch's sister-in-law), Shad Horchem (Shirley Perry's brother-in-law), Manny Ramos (Shirley Perry's nephew-in-law), Evelyn Ijams (CDO Student), Michael Kuner (friend of Mark Fuller), 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), Sheila Mitchell (Shirley Brower's niece), Deloris Patton (Nancy & Charlie Vaughn's sister-in-law), Don Kaphingst (Margaret Stewart's brother), 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).

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Brooke Roark* on the death of her father, Bill Hentzler.

LAY MINISTERS 2/13	SCOUT SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	John Hanna	
Lector	Josiah Perkins, Jon Auman	
Greeters / Ushers	Nancy Besta, Barb Collins / Bryan Harold, John Harold	
Council Member	Robert Hanna	
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Marvin & Penny Boleski	
Saturday Lector	Ron Bessler	
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Nancy Vaughn, Pat Drake, Barb Collins, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
Tech Team	Jenn Betz, Stephen Blank	

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

LAY MINISTERS 2/20	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Michelle Black
Lector	Dean Johnson
Greeters / Ushers	Leslie Malone, Anita Nelson / Bill & Joan Barker
Council Member	LaVerne Engelhardt
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Marvin & Penny Boleski
Saturday Lector	Tina Lewis
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Barb Collins, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill
Tech Team	John Hanna, Austin Jackson

✠ 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, February 13

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SCOUT SUNDAY

9:00-9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:15 a.m. – Art of Hospitality Class

12:00 p.m. - New Member Class (Zoom)

Monday, February 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, February 15

6:00 p.m. – Den Meetings

Wednesday, February 16

6:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Thursday, February 17

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

5:30 p.m. – Den Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Endowment Committee

6:30 p.m. – CDO Board

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 18

NO CDO due to Teacher In-Service (PH)

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

Saturday, February 19

5:00 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, February 20

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00-9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

11:15 a.m. – Art of Hospitality Class

12:00 p.m. - New Member Class (Zoom)

LESSONS FEBRUARY 19 & 20

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

PARISH NOTICES



✠ Boy Scout Sunday ✠

DOORSTEP'S SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS TODAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

With the Shawnee County Covid-19 score remaining in the red zone **WHAT-SEW-EVER will work at home for the month of February.** If conditions improve, we will resume at church work in March.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN 2022. THERE ARE ONLY NINE (9) OPEN DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise):

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

Questions - call the church office at 785-272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler at 785-845-7964.

Shoulder to Shoulder

While Matthew recalls Jesus' teachings commonly called "the Beatitudes" as shared from a mountaintop, Luke situates today's similar gospel lesson on a level plain. The plains are a place of great exposure—in the sense not only of how far one can see toward the horizon, but also of the harsh exposure to the elements without trees or hills to block the wind or shield one from the sun. On the plain, it can feel like everything has been laid bare; nothing can remain hidden for long. And true to the setting, much is exposed in this story. The rich and the poor, the joyful and the suffering, the hungry and the full are placed side by side. There is no hiding the inequality and injustice of the world.

Jesus' stark words reach across the page and the years to call us, the church, to examine our hearts, our relationships, and even our society. A level plain invites us to look our neighbors in the eyes, to hear their stories, to see their humanity. It forces us out of our bubbles, our social media echo chambers, and our circles of people who look like us and see the world in the same ways we do. A level plain flattens our hierarchies and forces many of us to face our privilege and our complacency in the systems of injustice that pervade our world.

But the good news is that this level plain is also a place of transformation and healing. It is where we come to meet Jesus, shoulder to shoulder with people we might least expect or with those we would be least likely to choose. It is where Jesus' gaze meets us, inviting us to participate in God's new creation unfolding among us. And this new creation takes seriously the cries of the poor and the oppressed until inequalities have been erased, God's mercy and justice reign, and all gather together as equals at God's banquet table.

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Tracks 1 and 2
20220213-EPI6 ELCA-L