

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

All Members of First **Ministers** Senior Pastor Pastor Jenny Jackson Pastor Bob Dealey Coordinator of Stewardship and Outreach Children's Day Out (CDO) Director Julie Lamott Caring for Kids 1st Director Julie Bradley **Organist** Jerry Anderson Director of Music Mark Fuller Director of Handbell Choirs Linda Anderson Secretary LaDonna J. Little Assistant Secretary Jill Loomans Bookkeeper Cindy Crawford Missionaries in Russia Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach 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 19 & 20, 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 "Be Still, My Soul" (Tune: Finlandia) (J. Sibelius / arr. A.C. Whitworth)

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.

707 GATHERING SONG "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Glory to God"

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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: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 (Spoken Responsively with Lector)

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

Congregation shall sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

603 HYMN OF THE DAY "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"

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: You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled especially Phil, Jeanie, Sara, Joyce, and Laura, 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: You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. 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.

<u>Brief word about peace</u>: 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.

OFFERING VOLUNTARY "Grazioso"

(G. P. Telemann, 1681-1767)

<u>Brief word about offering</u>: 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 "Jesus, Loves Me"

(arr. J. Barr)

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.

543 SENDING SONG "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

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 "Trumpet Tune"

(F. Manfredini, 1684-1762)

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Alan & Anne Hageman in honor of her mother, Janice Conrad's birthday.

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-inlaw), 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 *Michelle Black* on the death of her father, Donald "Pete" Godlove.

LAY MINISTERS 2/20	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Jeff Montague
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

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

LAY MINISTERS 2/27	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Diane Dukat
Lector	Kathy Koch
Greeters / Ushers	Kathy Couch, Carolyn Olson / David & Patricia Drake
Council Member	Bob Wollin
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Randy Debenham & Barb Collins
Saturday Lector	Schultz Family
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Jeanie Schuler, Ann McConkey, Barb Collins, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill
Tech Team	Stephen Blank, Jenn Betz

† 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 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)

Monday, February 21 PRESIDENT'S DAY

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, February 22

CDO Chapel

7:00 p.m. – Topeka Lutheran Home Association

Wednesday, February 23

CDO Chapel

Thursday, February 24

Pastor Jenny's Day of Reflection

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

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. – Vocal Choir Rehearsal (tentative)

Friday, February 25

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

7:00 p.m. – Book Study "Surprised by Hope" (Z)

Saturday, February 26

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Sunday, February 27

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

9:00-9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

11:15 a.m. – Art of Hospitality Class

LESSONS FEBRUARY 26 & 27

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

PARISH NOTICES

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 SIX (6) MORE DATES TO FILL.

OPEN DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise) INCLUDE:

4/24 (one vase); 5/29; 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.

Cocreators in Christ's Reign

Jesus' words in today's gospel reading are challenging. But more than a list of dos and don'ts, today's text is an invitation to enter a countercultural way of living: a lifestyle that meets antagonism with mercy, scarcity with generosity, and selfishness with abundant love. It is not a call to passivity or silence, to complicity in injustice, or to acceptance of the way things are in order to avoid conflict. Instead, it is a call to let God's merciful justice and compassionate grace define our stories, our relationships, and our very existence so that we might be agents of change. It is a call to experience the freedom that only Christ can give. It is a call to join God as cocreators of a new kingdom where Christ's reign turns what we think we know on its head.

We practice this countercultural lifestyle every time we gather for worship as we remember who we are and whose we are as God's beloved children, and as we confess the ways we have not lived up to this identity. We are shaped by God's words of justice, mercy, and grace, and we enter into a story that extends far beyond ourselves. We name the hurting places in our world, places of hatred and abuse and scarcity, and pray that God's Spirit will transform them into wellsprings of new life. We share the peace of Christ with one another, refusing to let the forces of hatred and division have the last word. We practice generosity. We gather at God's abundant table to partake in bread and wine that unite us with Christ and with all who share this meal around the world. Finally, we are sent forth with God's blessing to be agents of love and mercy, to show with our lives the transforming power of God.