

# THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00 A.M.

December 17, 2023

*Before worship, talk to God. During worship, let God talk to you. After worship, talk to your fellow worshipper.*

*Worship begins with the music of the organ.*

*Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty of God; in its quietness His peace.*

**PRELUDE:** "Adoration"

(Felix Borowski, 1872-1956)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

### CHIMES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

A: Blessed be God, the eternal † One-in-Three, who was, and is, and is to come.

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever.**

A: As the night grows longer, and the shadows settle in,

**C: we ponder your marvelous designing.**

A: When our hearts are wintering, weary with grief and woe,

**C: we ponder and seek your wisdom beyond our understanding.**

A: In each moment fleeting, each fragile life beholding, in each gift of your bestowing,

**C: we ponder and trust your promises fully.**

A: Come, O Christ, and set us free.

**C: Come, Emmanuel, bring in your reign of justice and peace.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Slow us down, patient God, so we may see deeply your truth in these bustling days.

**C: Help us face the ways we cover up our emptiness with fancy gifts. Hold us gently when we discover how we give presents when only our presence really matters.**

P: Grant us moments to praise you like the shepherds, ponder you like Mary and listen to your dream messages like Joseph. Let us begin now. In the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

### INVOCATION

P: God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us again. Come to us in the harmony of our songs. Come in the sound of silence and the laughter of friends. Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching. Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness. God of the darkened night. God of the morning light, come to us; be with us.

**C: Amen.**

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Once in Royal David's City"

**Choir:** 1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

**All:** 2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.



**CHRISTMAS**

- All:** 3. And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.
- All:** 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
- All:** 5. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,  
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

### LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

SM: In the height of our Advent walk, may we find courage to experience joy in difficult times.

**C: Joy in the face of apathy, Joy in the face of sorrow, Joy in the face of uncertainty.**

ADVENT HYMN "Light the Candle" Stanza 3 JOY (The third candle is lit.) See Page 8

SM: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in God's kingdom on earth.

**C: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind.**

SM: We rejoice in God's justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

**C: Come Lord Jesus, Come!**

SM: Praise to you, O God, who holds our joys and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

P: God of wisdom, as your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will.

**C: Amen.**

*Congregation shall sit.*

**FIRST LESSON:** Genesis 3:8-15

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND LESSON:** Genesis 22:15-18

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:** "Lullaby Jesu"

Choir

(R. Lau, b. 1943)

**THIRD LESSON:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king.  
"The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!



4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time fore-told,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**FOURTH LESSON:** Micah 5:2-4

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**All:** 1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

**Choir:** 2. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary; And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.



**All:** 3. How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

**FIFTH LESSON:** St. Luke 1:26-38

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:** *"Magnificat"*

Choir

(Wesley, 1810-1876)

**SIXTH LESSON:** St. Matthew 1:18-23

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** *"Away in a Manger"*

**All:** 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**Choir:** 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

**All:** 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.



**SEVENTH LESSON:** St. Luke 2:8-16

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"**

**All:** 1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.  
"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind."

**Men:** 2. "To you, in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

**Women:** The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid."

**All:** 3. Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:  
"All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease!"



**EIGHTH LESSON:** St. Matthew 2:1-11    L: This is the Word of the Lord.    C: Thanks be to God.

**HYMN: "The First Noel"**

**All:** 1. The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

**Refrain:** **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel!**

**All:** 2. They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:

**Choir:** 3. And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went:

**All:** 4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:



**Choir:** 5. Then enter'd in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offer'd there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh and frankincense:

**All:** 6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

**“Lessons And Carols Fanfare”**

*(Stephen Couch / Commissioned for today's service.)*

**NINTH LESSON:** St. John 1:1-14

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

*Congregation shall sit.*

**HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem".

**Refrain: Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"**

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come Offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.



*(Please Stand)*

**OFFERING PRAYER (Prayed by All)**

A: Almighty God,

C: **you have given us your only Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being born anew, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

A: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need especially Richard, Cherie, Ruth, Alice, Dean, Donna, Jeanie, and Rob 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. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C: Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**All:** 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels:

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

**Women:** 2. See how the shepherds, Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither Bend our joyful footsteps:

**Men:** 3. Lo! star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child Bring our hearts' oblations:

**All:** 4. Child, for us sinners Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee, Loving us so dearly?



**All** : 5. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:

**All:** 6. Yea, Lord we greet thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

### **THE BLESSING**

**P:** May he, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

*(Please be seated for the postlude.)*

**POSTLUDE:** "In dulci jubilo" (BWV 729) (J. S. Bach, 1685-1750)

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Catherine Esquibel in honor of her loving family.

**THE ETERNAL CANDLE FOR DECEMBER** is given by Jerry & Marsha Serk in thanks and appreciation to the Music Staff and to all members of our various choirs.

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

Richard Price (Stormont Vail Hospital), Cherie McGinnis (Stormont Vail Hospital), Ruth Denno (Stormont Vail Hospital), Alice Purdy (Kansas Rehab Hospital), Dean Johnson (Stormont Vail Hospital), Donna Kruger (Kansas Rehab Hospital), Jeanie Schuler (home), Rob Peterson (home), Carren Reed (home), Allyn Lockner (Brewster Health Care), Kathy Cheatham (home), Vera Pearce (home), Verla Buch (Presbyterian Manor), Blake Hopper (home), Lura Granberry (LaDonna Little's mother), Frank Phillips (Bonnie's son), Barbara Aubert (friend of Nancy Vaughn), Janine Wagner (Donna Kruger's sister), David McGinnis (Board Member of TLHA), Manny Ramos (Shirley Perry's nephew), Leuita Meyer (Verla Buch's sister-in-law), Don Kaphingst (Margaret Stewart's brother), Heidi Mark (Bill & Joyce's daughter), Sam Pierson (Sherrie Petersen's nephew-in-law), Loren Johannes (friend of Erv & Ann Sanders), Sydney Geneles (Karen Papp's son), Jayne Cool (friend of the Lubers), Anita Freeman (neighbor friend of Nancy & Ken Sherbert), Robert Jones (friend of Sylvia Levings), June Fisher (friend of Marvin Wingert), Gloria & Dennis Lyon (Barb Collins' aunt & uncle), Charline Matheny (friend of Patti Klein), Cheryl Koch (Kathy's sister-in-law), Linda Falchek (friend of Wendy Sanders), Linda Meyer (Verla Buch's sister-in-law), Drew Hartz (Steve & Kathy Couch's son-in-law), Dan Fraleigh (Sherrie Petersen's brother-in-law), Velda Jacobs (Eileen Caspers' aunt), Lenette Kottas (Eileen Caspers' mother), John Browne (Penny & Marvin Boleski's brother-in-law), Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler's great-niece).

## LIGHT THE CANDLE



Light the can-dle of LOVE to-day, the Giv-er of love is  
 Light the can-dle of PEACE to-day, the Giv-er of peace is  
 Light the can-dle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of joy is  
 Light the can-dle of HOPE to-day, the Giv-er of hope will



here! Wel-come the love we live and die for, but  
 here! Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but  
 here! Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but  
 come! Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but



on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and flame and  
 on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and flame and  
 on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and flame and  
 on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and flame and



glow with love, light up the world a -  
 glow with peace, light up the world a -  
 glow with joy, light up the world a -  
 glow with hope, light up the world a -



round you. Flick-er and flame and glow with love,  
 round you. Flick-er and flame and glow with peace,  
 round you. Flick-er and flame and glow with joy,  
 round you. Flick-er and flame and glow with hope,



light up the world a - round you.  
 light up the world a - round you.  
 light up the world a - round you.  
 light up the world a - round you.

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# ✠ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK ✠

*CDO schedule: Christmas Break December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 4<sup>th</sup>.*

**Sunday, December 17 THIRD ADVENT**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**Monday, December 18**

9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - CDO Christmas Programs

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

**Tuesday, December 19**

9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. - CDO  
Christmas Programs

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

7:00 p.m. – Adult Learning Committee (Z)

**Wednesday, December 20**

CDO CHRISTMAS BREAK THRU JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>

Youth Activity

6:00 p.m. – Advent Midweek Worship Service

**Thursday, December 21 WINTER BEGINS**

9:30-11:30 a.m. – CDO Breakfast with Saint Nick

6:15 & 7:00 p.m. – Bell Choir & Vocal Choir Rehearsals



**Friday, December 22**

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

**OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**

**Saturday, December 23**

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**Sunday, December 24 FOURTH ADVENT**

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**3:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. –**

**Candlelight Christmas Communion**

**LESSONS DECEMBER 23 & 24**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. – FOURTH ADVENT WORSHIP**

**3:00 p.m. – Special Christmas Prelude Music**

**3:30 p.m. - CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

**7:00 p.m. - Special Christmas Prelude Music**

**7:30 p.m. - CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 p.m. - CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMUNION AND HEALING SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**10:00 a.m. – CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMUNION AND HEALING SERVICE**

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED**

**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**

**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED**



<b>LAY MINISTERS 12/17</b>	<b>LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Diane Dukat	
<b>Lesson 1-3 Readers</b>	1. Jeff Montague	2. Elwyn Luber
<b>Lesson 4-6 Readers</b>	4. Char Taggart	5. Lea Welch
<b>Lesson 7-9 Readers</b>	7. Dick Schaeffer	8. Pastor Jenny
<b>Acolyte</b>	Abram Crawford	
<b>Advent Candlelighters</b>	Stephen Ministers	
<b>Greeters</b>	Karon Gambrill, Linda Harold	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill & Phyllis Buch	
<b>Council Member</b>		
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Linda Harold	
<b>Bus Driver &amp; Host/Hostess</b>	Randy Debenham, Barb Collins	
<b>Saturday Lectors</b>	Sherrie Petersen, Karen Wollin, Joyce Mark, Tina Lewis	
<b>Altar Guild Setup/Clean up</b>	Karen Wollin, Dana Nelsen, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Jenn Betz, Austin Jackson	
<b>Stephen Minister on Call</b>	Patti Klein	

## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

<b>LAY MINISTERS 12/24</b>	<b>FOURTH ADVENT</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jeff Montague	
<b>Lector</b>	Aurora Stone	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Lucas Jackson	
<b>Advent Candlelighters</b>	Stephen Ministers	
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Barb Collins, John Hanna	
<b>Greeters</b>	John Hanna, Robert Hanna	
<b>Ushers</b>	Alan & Anne Hageman	
<b>Council Member</b>	Diane Dukat	
<b>Coffee Host</b>		
<b>Saturday Lector</b>	Joyce Mark	
<b>Altar Guild Setup/Clean up</b>	Ann McConkey, Jeanie Schuler, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Stephen Blank, Jenn Betz	
<b>Stephen Minister on Call</b>	Teresa Smith	

## PARISH NOTICES

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

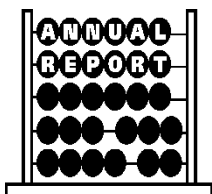
It has been the custom at First Lutheran to provide a monetary gift to First's staff at Christmas. If you would like to make a contribution for the **STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT**, please either mail in or drop off checks payable to "First Lutheran Church" and indicate "staff gift" in the memo line. You can also go to our website [www.firstlutherantopeka.org](http://www.firstlutherantopeka.org) and use the contribute tab.

Please have all contributions in by **TODAY, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. *Stephen Couch, Council President*

### MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP EACH WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 P.M.

Gather for scripture, song, prayer, and wassail!

**LOOKING AHEAD December 20** - Love: This week we will reflect on God's gift of love. What better way to show the warmth of love than with warm throw blankets, gloves, hats, mittens, scarves, and socks.



### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>

**ALL Committees and Organizations** may submit their annual reports to the church office by **Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**, so that the annual booklet of reports can be printed and collated for availability to the congregation by **Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please email reports to the Church Secretary, LaDonna at [1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net) or mail a typed copy to the church office. Thank you!

## WANTED: COFFEE HOSTS

If you're enjoying coffee after the Sunday service, please consider being a host. If we want to keep this hospitality going, we're going to need volunteers. It's very simple, pick up a "jug" of OJ, arrive at the church a tad before the 10:00 a.m. service and get the coffee brewing. Set out the creamer, sugar, and stir sticks. Duck out of service a tad before the end and start to fill a few cups of coffee and juice. All supplies provided, except the OJ (you can be reimbursed for that). Please sign up on the clipboard lying on the coffee service table. **Contact Parish Life Chair Jeff Montague** (in church directory) with any questions or for more detailed instructions. One person can certainly handle the duties, but two is more fun, so recruit a helper.



## GRACE

### WRAP-UP STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS 2023 – BLESSINGS-OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

*Ephesians 2: 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

**Part 1** - Thank you for your generous response to God's grace. The Finance Committee and Church Council will use our commitments to develop a budget and a spending plan, as we seek to carry out God's mission to the world. If you haven't already, it's never too late to submit your Blessing Response. Thank you to those of you that have submitted their Blessing Response. If you have not, we invite you to do so. **Blessing Response Cards** are available in the Nave Lounge, or you may contact LaDonna in the office for a replacement to be mailed to you. You may also make a verbal response by contacting Jill Loomans through the office, or Ralph Krumins. Questions? Please contact Ralph Krumins, Stewardship Chair - 785-554-1162, or leave a message at the church office – 785-272-5302, and he will return your call.

**Part 2** – As the end of the year approaches, if you have questions about the commitments you made for 2023, please contact Jill Loomans through the office - 785-272-5302. She is normally in the church office on Monday mornings. Thank you.



**EARTH FIRST** will be holding a meeting for the congregation on **Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary regarding First Lutheran moving in the direction of **installing solar panels**. Guest speakers will be Mr. Clyde Schwanke from Southern Hills Mennonite Church and Mr. Bill Wood from Cromwell Environmental. Please come out to learn about the benefits of solar energy. Bring your questions and concerns! We hope you will plan on attending to learn how we at First can continue being good stewards of God's creation! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Couch at 570-449-5021 or [couch1093@gmail.com](mailto:couch1093@gmail.com).

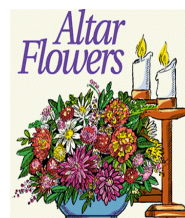


**ETERNAL CANDLES** can be found in both the main Worship Center and our beautiful Chapel. In **2024** you may **DONATE** both candles in remembrance or in honor of someone for the entire month. Please contact LaDonna, in the church office, (785) 272-5302 or email her at [1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net) to sign-up for a month and give information that will be included in the bulletin. **The cost will be \$20 for the month. THE LAST AVAILABLE MONTH IS MAY.**

### ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2024

Fresh flowers on our altar are a special way to enrich our worship space and to honor and memorialize special people in our lives. Please join in this beautiful practice by reserving your dates for 2024 now.

**There is a chart of reserved dates and forms to complete in the hallway by the offices. You may complete the questionnaire and leave it there. You may also contact either LaDonna at the church office 785-272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler 785-845-7964 and we will gladly take your information over the phone.**



The form includes a place for an email address or cell phone to which our florist may send your invoice in order to reduce costs. Should you require a paper invoice be mailed, he will accommodate your request. The florist, Mark Lamantia, also invites you to call him with a credit card payment if that is your preference.

For those with annual orders, the chart has been completed and we will call/email you to confirm your order information. **The altar flowers cost \$25 per vase plus tax.** Reservations may be made for one (\$25) or two vases (\$50). Pulpit flowers are also an option to recognize a special occasion for \$50 plus tax.

#### **OPEN 2024 DATES FOR BOTH VASES (unless indicated otherwise) ARE:**

1/7, 3/31, 4/14 (one vase), 4/21 (one vase), 4/28, 5/26, 6/30, 7/7, 7/14, 7/28, 8/18, 8/25, 9/22, 12/8, 12/29.

**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*

*Pastor*

*Children's Day Out (CDO) Director*

*Caring for Kids 1<sup>st</sup> Director*

*Organist*

*Director of Music*

*Director of Handbell Choir*

*Secretary*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Bookkeeper*

*Missionaries in Russia*

*Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach*

*All Members of First*

*Pastor Jenny Jackson*

*Julie Lamott*

*Bryleigh Willis*

*Jerry Anderson*

*Mark Fuller*

*Linda Anderson*

*LaDonna J. Little*

*Jill Loomans*

*Cindy Crawford*

*Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle*

*Jim & Dawn Anderson*

**WE WELCOME** all who worship with us today! We extend a special greeting to our visitors and invite you to worship with us again soon. Please make yourselves known to our pastor and people.

**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.**

**ORCHESTRA FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Violin I**

Signe Sandquist

Zia Hisle

**Violin II**

Mary Martinez

Amelia Gatschet

**Viola**

Art Sandquist

Donita McLeland

**Cello**

Traci Tugman

**Trumpet**

Will Cooper

**Trombone**

Chris Reynolds

**Horn**

Kadyn Matrey

**Violin I** Signe Sandquist (*Tom & DeeAnna Sponamore Memorial Chair*)

**Viola** Donita McLeland (*Donald & Janice Fuller Memorial Chair*)

**Cello** Traci Tugman (*Freeman & Lois Vicory Memorial Chair*)

**Trumpet** Will Cooper (*Ted & Lucille Baehni Memorial Chair*)

**SENIOR CHOIR FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Soprano**

Jill Loomans

Linda Anderson

Shirley Waugh

**Alto**

Joan Barker

Kathy Koch

Marsha Serk

Denise Harding

Susan Schaeffer

**Tenor**

Lowell Chellberg

John Harold

Michael Lungstrom

**Bass**

Dean Johnson

Stephen Couch

Dick Schaeffer

**Soloist:** Samuel Jackson

# LESSONS and CAROLS

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

December 17, 2023



First Lutheran Church  
1234 SW Fairlawn Road  
Topeka, Kansas



The "Drive Through Living Nativity" and "Walk Through Living Nativity: An Interactive Experience for Kids" were a big success. We had a total of 107 volunteers (including 18 non-parish members) fill 223 jobs. Plus, many, many more who donated food to treat our actors and backstage crew. **Please allow me to THANK the members and friends of First Lutheran Church for supporting this amazing and beautiful ministry.** In this case, it truly takes a village. Thanks to each of you for your time, talent, contributions, and prayers. I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished.

*Jeff Montague, DTLN & WTLN Chair*

**THANKS** so much to all who donated food for the Drive Through Living Nativity. Also, much thanks to my loyal kitchen workers. **You all are wonderful!** *Darlene Payne*