
First Lutheran Church

1234 SW Fairlawn Road

Topeka, KS 66604

785-272-5302

Visit our website at:

www.firstlutherantopeka.org

Email us at:

1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net

Like us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/
1stlutherantopeka](http://www.facebook.com/1stlutherantopeka)**Children's Day Out**

785-272-5999

www.childrensdayout.netdirector@childrensdayout.net*Inside this issue...*

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December 21, 2023

Volume 30, Issue 12



IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

From Pastor Jenny

Dear Siblings in Christ,

John 3:16, a Christmas Day scripture? In just a couple days, we will gather with believers across the world to remember the day, the cosmic event of the divine coming to earth in the form of a tiny child. We will remember the setting with the full inn, and the welcome barn, the curious shepherds, and the jubilant angels. We will, like the wisemen, come and kneel before God's first throne on earth, a humble manger holding the Christ child.

The story of Christmas is this paradox of humble earthly things alongside divine, eternal things. What is often cherished as a familiar sweet story was indeed, a world-changing event that cannot be overstated.

We will hear the story in Luke 2, but with that reading, let us also consider the most beloved and well-known bible verse, John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

The gift of Christmas, this gift of God's son, changes everything.

The shoulders that would bear the weight of human sin laid first in a straw filled manger.

As you prepare your hearts for Christmas in a world surrounded by gifts and holiday cheer, let us look to the manger for the greatest gift that brings eternal life and joy.

Merry Christmas!

With hope and love, Pastor Jenny

"My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise God's holy name forever and ever." Psalm 145:21

Prayer Ministry

EACH OF US ARE A PART OF OUR CHURCH'S PRAYER MINISTRY.

WE PRAY for our church community, especially: Richard Price (home), Cherie McGinnis (home), Ruth Denno (Lexington Park Rehab), Alice Purdy (Kansas Rehab Hospital), Dean Johnson (home), 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), and Blake Hopper (home).

WE PRAY for our homebound members: Betty Deutscher, Marian Orton, and Alice Purdy.

WE PRAY for our family and friends: 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), and Katelynn Herring (Jeanie Schuler's great-niece).

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Carren Reed* on the death of her son, Loren Reed.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST DUE TO DEATH:

**FOR ADDITIONS TO OR REMOVALS FROM THE PRAYER LIST,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
785-272-5302 OR 1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net.**

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." — Martin Luther



Worship



Worship with us!

Hebrews 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN-PERSON

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE

YouTube Livestream Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Facebook Livestream Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

ONLINE WORSHIP OUTREACH: When you worship online, be sure to share the worship service as a way to welcome others to worship. It's never been easier to invite your friends to worship!

DATES	ATTENDANCE TOTALS	TITHES & OFFERINGS
11/18 & 19/23	18 + 84 = 102	\$4,799.00
11/22/23 THANKSGIVING EVE	7:00 PM = 53	\$255.00
11/25 & 26/23	CANCEL + 56 = 56	\$2,772.00
12/2 & 3/23	8 + 116 = 124	\$13,463.33
12/9 & 10/23	8 + 116 = 124	\$4,997.30
12/16 & 17/23	16 + 139 = 155	\$2,252.00



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

- 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 30th

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

- Monday, December 25th – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tuesday, December 26th – OFFICE CLOSED
- Friday, December 29th – OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON
- Monday, January 1st – OFFICE CLOSED

BUILDING ALARM WILL BE SET WHEN OFFICE IS CLOSED



First Family and Topeka Area News

Jeani and Gary Anderson announce the wedding of their youngest daughter, **Julie Anderson**, to **Andrew Hoeg**. They were married on **October 6, 2023**, in Shady Grove, OR. Andrew is in charge of trail maintenance in Crater Lake National Park OR. Julie is an RN working in a Chemotherapy Infusion center in Klamath Falls, OR. Their new home is in Chiloquin, OR.

Dear Church Family,

I'm truly blessed to have been able to serve as secretary at First Lutheran for 25 years. I appreciate all the love you show me continuously. **THANK YOU** to all who attended the party Thursday afternoon and to all who gave me cards, gifts and hugs. The plaque is beautiful, and I love you all right back!

Blessings – LaDonna J. Little



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 Thru Living Nativity. Also, much thanks to my loyal kitchen workers. **You all are wonderful! Darlene Payne**

Dear members,

A **SPECIAL THANKS** to the carolers for music, devotion, gifts and especially the hand painted ornament. Thanks again for the visit. *Blessings to all of you.*

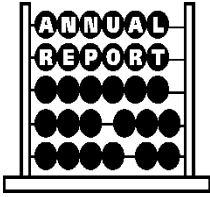
Laura Haefke

THANK YOU to pastor and members of First Lutheran Church and the Christmas choir. The prayers, thoughts and visits were a great comfort. *I feel blessed to have you all as friends, thanks* 🎄 ❤️ **Richard Price** (sent from my iPad in the recliner)

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A REMINDER TO COMMITTEES AND SMALL GROUPS, GATHERING IN THE CHURCH:

As part of our stewardship of our building and of creation, we are asking groups meeting in the church to remember to **turn off lights** when they leave and to check the building to **be sure all doors are locked**. Thank you for your help in keeping our building safe and our utilities down.



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th

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



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.

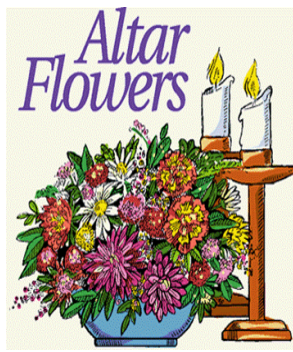
Part 2 – As the end of the year approaches, if you have questions about the commitments you made for 2023, please contact Jill Loomans through the office - 785-272-5302. She is normally in the church office on Monday mornings. Thank you.



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.



MAY IS THE LAST MONTH AVAILABLE FOR ETERNAL CANDLES. Please contact LaDonna, in the church office, (785) 272-5302 or email her at 1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net to sign-up and give information that will be included in the bulletin. **The cost will be \$20 for the month.**



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, 12/8, 12/29.

Children's Day Out Preschool



It's the most wonderful time of the year! We are excited to be concluding the year 2023 and welcoming in 2024.

Throughout December we learned about holidays and how each of us celebrate with our families. We are helping the children learn that there are many different ways that families celebrate. Most are celebrated with a gathering of friends and family, special foods, and sometimes gift giving. In the classroom we show the heart of Christmas by teaching and reading the Christmas story. As we focus on the Truth of Christmas, its simplicity naturally shines through. Treasure your priceless gifts - your family, embrace the added time with loved ones.

Thank you for all of your love and support and ministry to our program.

***Merry Christmas,
Julie Lamott
Tanya Romig***

1 in Action



REMEMBER THE "BLESSING BOX" NEEDS FILLING.

Blessing Box items can be almost anything that is small, easy to use/eat, and useful for folks in need. **PLEASE, NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.**

FOOD ITEMS: Canned food with pull tops, non-perishable foods, bottled water, small snacks. More specifically: granola or breakfast bars, small boxes of dry cereal, instant oatmeal, mac & cheese cups, ramen cups, cheese & crackers, pudding/jello cups, peanut butter, canned fruit/vegetables, dry noodle/rice/pasta packets, dry milk powder, instant coffee singles, hot cocoa packets, chips (individual bags), crackers.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Socks, toothpaste/toothbrushes, wet wipes, bar soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, laundry soap (small boxes of dry powder), tissues, toilet paper, feminine sanitary products, shampoo, lotion, dish soap.

Thanks for your continued support of this ministry. Let's keep them in our prayers for the work they do and that they stay in good health. For more information, contact **Gary Anderson**.



Monday – Friday from 9am – 2pm
1119 SW 10th Avenue, South Door
785-357-5341

DOORSTEP HOLIDAY HOURS:

- **Closed** from Noon on December 22nd through December 26th & January 1st.
- Open for **donations only** December 27th – 29th, January 3rd, 9am-2pm.
- Closed for **ALL services** December 27th – January 2nd for year-end wrap-up.
- Resume normal operation on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF AT DOORSTEP!

JANUARY 2024

Information effective 12/19/23 and is subject to change.

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

Monday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2

6:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Pack 175 (PH)

Wednesday, January 3

CDO Staff Returns

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

6:30 p.m. – Parish Life Committee (202)

6:30 p.m. – Music Staff Meeting (Z)

7:00 p.m. – Worship Committee (Z)

Thursday, January 4

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - CDO Resumes

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

Friday, January 5

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Lectionary (202)

Saturday, January 6 EPIPHANY

9:00-11:00 a.m. – Pinewood Derby Workshop (PH)

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, January 7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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

10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

11:30 a.m. – Children, Youth & Family Ministry

6:00 p.m. – Pastor Jenny at Arbor Court Worship

Monday, January 8

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

5:45 p.m. – Property Committee (NL)

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee (202)

7:00 p.m. – Altar Guild Committee

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

7:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry Supervision (202)

Wednesday, January 10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

7:00 p.m. – Earth First Committee (202)

Thursday, January 11

6:00 p.m. – Solar Panel Informational Meeting

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

7:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Friday, January 12

Pastor Jenny's Day Off

10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Lectionary (202)

6:30-8:00 p.m. – Pinewood Derby Set-up (PH)

Saturday, January 13

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – Pinewood Derby (PH)

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

Sunday, January 14 SECOND EPIPHANY

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

10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

2:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Leaders (114)

Monday, January 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
NO CDO

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting (202)

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, January 16

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

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

Wednesday, January 17

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

6:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class

Thursday, January 18

5:30 p.m. – Endowment Fund Committee

6:15 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. – CDO Board

7:00 p.m. – Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 19 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Lectionary (202)

Saturday, January 20

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, January 21 THIRD EPIPHANY

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

10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

Monday, January 22

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, January 23

10:15 a.m. & 12:45 p.m. – CDO Chapel

7:00 p.m. – Witness Committee (Z)

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

Wednesday, January 24

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

10:15 a.m. – CDO Chapel

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Grades 6-12

Thursday, January 25 Pastor Jenny's Day of Reflection

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

7:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Friday, January 26 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Lectionary (202)

Saturday, January 27

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, January 28 FOURTH EPIPHANY

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

10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Monday, January 29

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Prose & Cons Book Group (202)

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, January 30

Wednesday, January 31

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

Celebrations in January



BIRTHDAYS

Mark Fuller	1
Beckie Olson	1
Joe Cheray	2
David Drake	2
Tina Lewis	4
Fred Schneider	4
Kajsa O'Toole	6
Lisa Arndt	7
Pete Peterson	8
Jessica Botkin	9
Thomas Einck	9
Maureen Krumins	10
Milo Garner	10
Russ Haley	12
Brylie Roesch	12
Kevin Rosebaugh	14
Tyson Hunley	14
Anne Hageman	15
Tom Ayers	15
Jenn Platte	16
Blake Arndt	18
Ryne Allen	18
Nancy Peterson	18
Steve Couch	18
Clara Peterson	18
Kate Smith	21
Pat Booth	22
Roxanne Sanders	23
Alice Purdy	25
Kristen Perez	25
Brooke Roark	26
Emily Crockett	26
Lindsey Sibley	26
Breck Edds	27
Kristopher Bangert	29

Nikki Harding	30
Brenda Sanders	31
Makennah Whightsil	31
Sara Welch	31

BAPTISMS

Nicole Montague	1
Allyn Lockner	3
Teresa Smith	3
Carolyn Sandquist	6
Ethan Perez	7
Ivy Bacon	7
Keira Witherspoon	7
Jeanette Lewis	8
Anthony Mijangos	8
Joe Cheray	9
Milo Garner	9
Joe Garner	9
Sam Garner	9
Myles Witherspoon	9
Tom Ayers	10
Haden Roark	11
Isabella Platte	11
Alec Sears	11
Bella Sears	11
Lily Bacon	11
Kathryn Haugh	12
Sherrie Petersen	14
Cady Macfee	18
Fred Schneider	19

Madison Price	19
Jim Petersen	22
Kathryn Rasmussen	23
Patrick Sandquist	25
Mark Fuller	26
Clare Crockett	26
Evan Crockett	26
Verla Buch	27
Brenda Brower	29
Joyce Koenig	29
Rio Tinoco	31
Kathy Cheatham	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Nancy Sherbert	1/11/1975
West & Shirley Waugh	1/14/1984
Bill & Shirley Perry	1/23/1971

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

