



**FOLLOW
ME
AND I WILL
MAKE YOU
FISH FOR
PEOPLE**

MARK 1:17

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEBSITE: firstlutherantopeka.org
1234 SW 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 1st 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: Lutheran Christians believe that in the sacrament of Holy Communion, by the power of God's Word and Holy Spirit, we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, along with the bread and wine, for our forgiveness and salvation. If you share in this belief, you are welcome to participate with us. Non-communing children and adults may come forward to receive a blessing. White grape juice is available, as well as gluten free wafers. If you desire to receive communion at your pew, please alert an usher during the prelude. Communion is done by intinction.

GREETINGS PARENTS: Sunday School for children Pre-K through 5th grade takes place during our worship service. Children will be invited up for a children's sermon with the pastor, after which any who would like are invited to attend Sunday school. This will include a Bible reading, story, craft, and more. The teachers will bring the students back to worship in time for communion with your family. Should you prefer your child to remain in the sanctuary during worship, we have Children's Bibles in the pews and worship activity bags just outside the sanctuary. Faith Formation for our middle school and high school students will take place during the week at our youth group times.

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.

WHEELCHAIR available in the north entranceway or in the church office.
EARPHONES for the hearing impaired and **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS.**



THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR

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

JANUARY 20 & 21, 2024

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 “Voluntary V”

(J. Stanley, 1712-1786)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

Please turn and face the cross as it is carried in.

661 GATHERING SONG “I Love to Tell the Story”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God’s beloved.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

P: Siblings in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Congregation shall sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR *"Fishers of Men"*

(H. D. Clarke / arr. T. J. Bittikofer)

WORD

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

NOISY OFFERING and CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 62:5-12 *(Spoken Responsively)*

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation shall sit.

SERMON

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

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: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially Karon, Sue, Laura, Verla, Stephen, Richard, Cherie, Ruth, Alice, Dean, Donna, 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. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We lift up in prayer our siblings in Christ across the Central States Synod, especially the people and ministry of Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS; Overland Park Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS; and Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, KS. May God continue to lead people in working together for the sake of the Gospel. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

Congregation shall sit.

OFFERING VOLUNTARY

Jubilation Ringers Bell Choir

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, Holy One,

C: for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

page 152

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

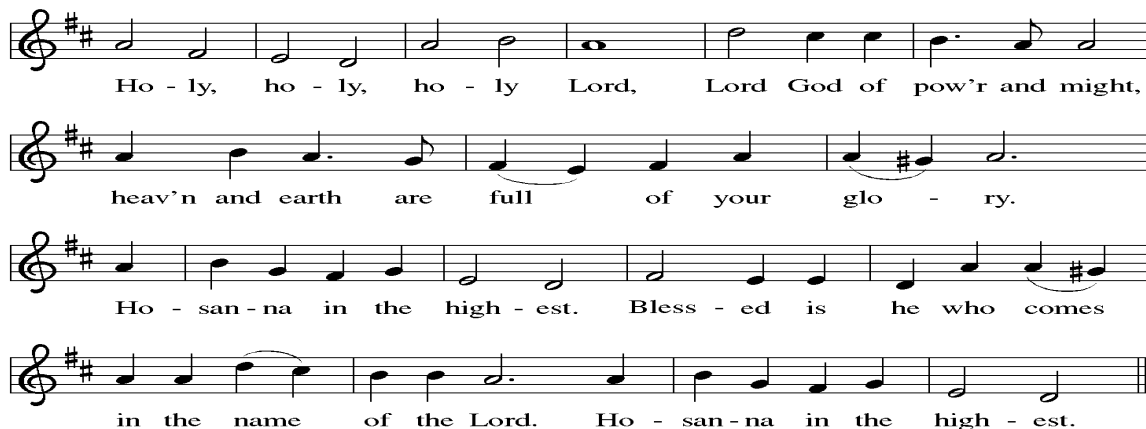
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

page 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

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

**C: 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.

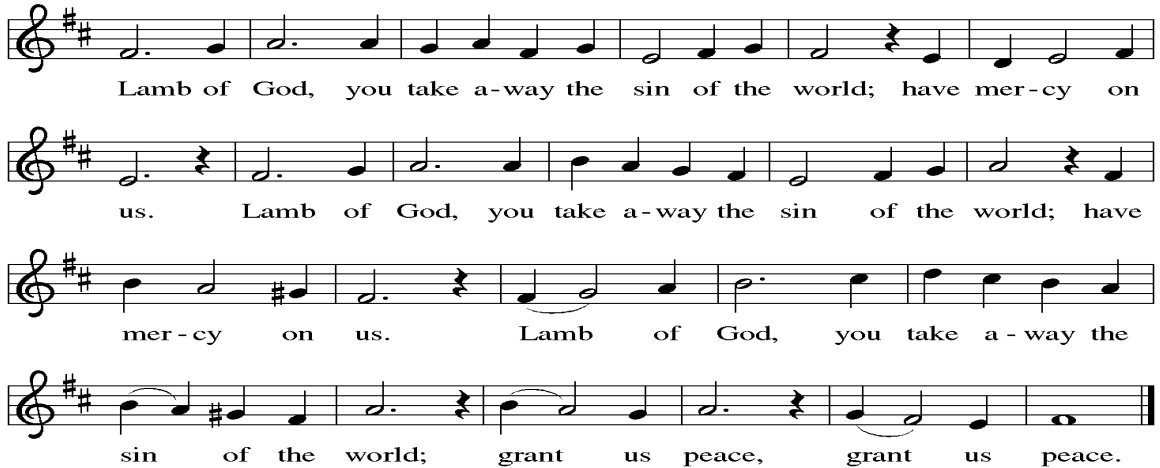
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

Congregation shall sit.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

page 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

Prairie Wind Flute Choir

Ann Edgar-Fincham, Anna Ramirez, Arminda Guerrero, Sam Shamburg, Judith Emde, Lana Balka,

Denise Harding, Randy Edwards, Roberta Moore-Meinzer, Sara Emde

"Holiday Collection"

(P. Morgan)

"Still, Still, Still"

(arr. A. C. Pearce)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Congregation: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, † bless you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

810 SENDING SONG *“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

DISMISSAL

A: Called by the spirit,

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

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *“Rigaudon”*

(André Campra, 1660-1744)

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS *are given by Bill & Shirley Perry in honor of their 53rd Wedding Anniversary.*

THE ETERNAL CANDLE FOR JANUARY *is given by JoAnn Stanley in memory of Dena Rodell.*

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

Karon Gambrell (Stormont-Vail Hospital), Sue Wild (Stormont-Vail Hospital), Laura Haefke (Stormont-Vail Hospital), Verla Buch (Stormont-Vail Hospital), Stephen Blank (home), Richard Price (home), Cherie McGinnis (home), Ruth Denno (Lexington Park Rehab), Alice Purdy (home), Dean Johnson (home), Donna Kruger (Lexington Park Rehab), Rob Peterson (home), Carren Reed (home), Allyn Lockner (Brewster Health Care), Kathy Cheatham (home), Vera Pearce (home), Blake Hopper (home), Richard Carlson (Cindy Lear's cousin), Steve Holloman (neighbor friend of Chris & Cindy Lear), Aneka Lilya (LaDonna Little's sister-in-law), Frank Phillips (Bonnie's son), Barbara Aubert (friend of Nancy Vaughn), Janine Wagner (Donna Kruger's sister), 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), Loren Johannes (friend of Erv & Ann Sanders), 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).

✠ 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, 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 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – Vocal Choir Rehearsal

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

LESSONS JANUARY 27 & 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

LAY MINISTERS 1/21	3rd EPIPHANY	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister		Steve Couch
Lector		Joyce Koenig
Acolyte		Abram Crawford
Communion Assistants		Matt & Lyn Lemke
Greeters		Nancy Besta, Carolyn Olson
Ushers		Denny & Darlene Payne
Council Member		Jenn Betz
Sunday School Leaders		Marsha Serk, Holly Serk
Coffee Host		Dana Nelsen
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess		Randy Debenham, Barb Collins
Saturday Lector		Tina Lewis
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Karen Wollin, Dana Nelsen, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrell	
Tech Team	Austin Jackson, John Hanna	
Stephen Minister on Call	Lowell Chellberg	

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

LAY MINISTERS 1/28	4th EPIPHANY	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister		Lea Welch
Lector		Denny Payne
Acolyte		Bloom Tork
Communion Assistants		Joyce Koenig, Char Taggart
Greeters		Barb Collins, Leslie Malone
Ushers		Randy Debenham, Thomas & Ben Einck
Council Member		Robert Hanna
Sunday School Leaders		Laura Garner, Bob Wollin
Coffee Host		Char Taggart, Pat Booth
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess		Chris & Cindy Lear
Saturday Lector		Joyce Mark
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Ann McConkey, Jeanie Schuler, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrell	
Tech Team	John Hanna, Austin Jackson	
Stephen Minister on Call	Carolyn Olson	



PARISH NOTICES

CARE FOR CREATION

Host an Eco Bible Study. Host a creation focused bible study! Scripture is full of nature verses, references, and metaphors. How does Genesis relate to our responsibility to care for the earth? Which psalms inspire reverence for nature? Check out the “resource hub” on our website [CreationJustice.org](https://www.creationjustice.org) for bible study resources.



~~VERY IMPORTANT~~

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2024

Immediately following worship in the sanctuary.



MARGARET WORRELL and HELEN NUNEMAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that \$750 scholarships will be available from the Margaret Worrell and Helen Nunemaker Memorial Funds for the Spring 2024 academic term, and will be awarded to qualified applicants, and previous scholarship recipients may apply.

These scholarships are for members of First Lutheran for the purpose of pursuing undergraduate, graduate, technical, or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in education, Christian faith, and service to God’s people.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is January 28, 2024, and application information is available from the Church Office or from any member of the Endowment Committee: Char Taggart, Bob Wollin, Erv Sanders, Diane Dukat, or Bill Barker.



EARTH FIRST RESCHEDULED meeting for the congregation on **Tuesday, January 30 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.

**HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS
FIRST LUTHERAN WILL BE HOLDING IT'S FIRST
PRE-BOWL SUPER PARTY AND CHILI COOK-OFF
WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
WHERE: PARISH HALL
TIME: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR SERVICE
DRESS: COME ADORNED IN YOUR FAVORITE TEAM
WHAT TO BRING: YOUR FAVORITE GAME SNACK**



CHILI COOK-OFF
**ARE YOU GAME ENOUGH TO PARTICIPATE?
WE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:
VISUAL, AROMA, TASTE, TEXTURE, SPICE LEVEL
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED**

If you are interested in participating in the Chili Cook-Off, please complete the form below or call/email Kathy Couch at 570-449-5021 or couch1093@gmail.com
FORM CAN BE FOUND IN THE NAVE LOUNGE ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

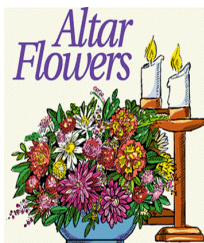


The **BOOK STUDY GROUP** will begin their new study of “**Encounters with Jesus**” by **Timothy Keller** the week of February 5th. The Monday afternoon session will meet in the church library at 1:00 on February 5th, 19th, March 4th and 18th. The Friday evening session will meet at 7:00 on zoom starting February 9th, 23rd, March 8th, and 22nd. The first order of books has been handed out, so if you would like to join in, please contact the church office, or Joyce Koenig at 501-781-5692 or koenig1942@hotmail.com. Or if you choose, you may order your book from Amazon. The first session will discuss the first three chapters of the book. Tim Keller is a very accessible author, and this book has many insights using the Gospel of John. So please join us as we encounter Jesus.



DOORSTEP'S "SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY" FEBRUARY 11th

Bring soup and crackers to help stock Doorstep's pantry!



PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN 2024.

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

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

Please call the church office at (785) 272-5302 or Jeanie Schuler 785-845-7964 if you have questions.

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.



Each Call Unique

Aside from the proclamation that “the kingdom of God has come near,” Mark records no introduction on Jesus’ part about who he is or what he is about. He simply invites people, “Follow me.” Simon and Andrew, James and John make it look so easy: they just follow—no questions asked! If this is what true discipleship looks like, how can *we* ever measure up? But that’s not the point.

Jesus calls people in countless ways. Even these four fishers were likely not all moved by the same things. Perhaps Simon was frustrated by Roman dominance over his country, and the news of a new kingdom caught his ear; maybe Andrew was itching to do something different and inspiring. Did James and John sense a call other than inheriting their father’s business? Jesus would go on to invite dozens of others to join him—surely each discerning the call in a unique way. Their responses were also likely not as fast and easy as it appears from the outside. The four fishers might have been wrestling with matters of spirituality for months before Jesus showed up. Others who joined Jesus may have long prayed for solutions to injustice in society. The Gospel of Mark gives a summary, a tightened-up version, of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Many details are lost to time; others were only ever known by an individual and the one they came to call Messiah.

What we learn from these brief call narratives—and others in scripture—is that God reaches out in as many ways as there are people. God may get your attention in worship on a Sunday morning, at your work on a weekday, or in the night as you comfort a child in your care. Or—one never knows—God might just call from the shore when you are out in a fishing boat. Jesus’ “Follow me” might lead you somewhere you’ve never been, maybe away from friends and family and the career you planned. Or his invitation might nudge you right back home, taking up familiar routines in a new way, seeing loved ones with fresh vision.

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