

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.net

director@childrensdayout.net

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January 18, 2024
Volume 31, Issue 1



IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

From Pastor Jenny

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The stores have boxes of bunny decorations and pastel candy ready to be loaded onto shelves in just a few weeks, when the hearts of Valentine's Day are taken down. Are you ready? Before you receive the next newsletter, we will have begun the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Our **eyes will be fixed on Jerusalem** and the cross that bore the weight of Christ, who bore the weight of sin. And then (an especially early) Easter on March 31st will beckon in the much-loved proclamation, "We are Easter People, Alleluia is our Song." (St. Augustine)

But it was just a few weeks ago that **our eyes were fixed on a manger**, filled with hay and God incarnate. Instead of 'Alleluias,' we lifted up the proclamation, "Emmanuel, God with us." Perhaps in the short season of Christmas, we might proclaim, "We are Emmanuel People. God is always with us." Just like the Easter proclamation, this one holds true for us each day of the year, not only in the wake of the season.

Ever since Halloween, our culture is under a barrage of holidays, decorations, cultural expectations of themed parties and treats. That barrage of holidays will continue until Memorial Day. Our Christian HOLY-days are often muted by the many other recognitions, events, etc. that take place during the school year.

So where are our minds and hearts wandering? **What are our eyes fixed upon?** (other than the forecast 😊) God has blessed us with community and entertainment. We saw Jesus party at a wedding after all. I can only imagine what Jesus would do at a TPAC concert or a Super Bowl party. But God has also given us the ultimate celebration in Jesus Christ. As our world spins by so fast, may we all continue to fix our eyes and minds on Christ.

With hope and love, Pastor Jenny

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

Prayer Ministry

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

WE PRAY for our church community, especially: Karon Gambrill (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), and Blake Hopper (home).

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

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

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
12/23 & 24/23	5 + 59 = 64	\$13,721.00
12/24/23 CHRISTMAS EVE	85 + 145 = 230	\$236.00
12/30 & 31/23	7 + 85 = 92	\$12,697.01
1/6 & 7/24	11 + 89 = 100	\$1,546.26
1/13 & 14/24	Cancelled + 42 = 42	\$4,701.28

LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY on February 14th.

Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday with a **service of imposition of ashes and communion at 7:00 p.m.** both in person and on Facebook Livestream and YouTube Livestream. We will also be offering a **Drive Thru Imposition of Ashes in the South Parking Lot at Noon on February 14th.** During the drive thru, a scripture will be read, ashes will be marked on your forehead, and a prayer will be spoken. Let us come with penitential hearts as we enter into the season of Lent.

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

will continue the following week on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Come early for a **LIGHT LENTEN SUPPER** before worship beginning at **5:30 p.m.**

LENT 2024 THEME: HOLY LAMENT

This series explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there is not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

On February 18th we will begin our church's annual World Hunger Appeal during the season of Lent. We invite individuals and families to take home one or two hunger banks (found in the Nave Lounge) to use to collect funds over the course of the next seven weeks of the Lenten season. We will have an **INGATHERING CEREMONY** where we bring the filled banks back to church on **Sunday, April 7th.** We pray that this will be a meaningful spiritual practice of generosity for you this Lent.

First Family and Topeka Area News

Dear Members,

A **SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION** to so many who remembered my 95th birthday with cards, some gifts and calls. Also, we here at Presbyterian Manor so very much enjoyed the carolers, the devotion, and thoughtful gifts. It was very comforting. *Blessings to all of you. Verla Buch*



~**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?

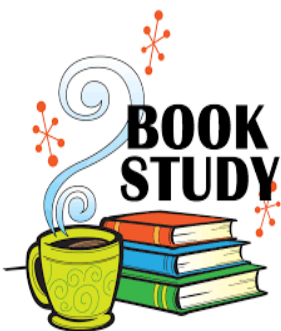
WE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- 1. VISUAL**
- 2. AROMA**
- 3. TASTE**
- 4. TEXTURE**
- 5. SPICE LEVEL**

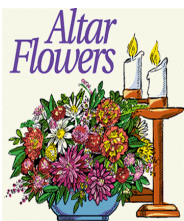
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

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.



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.

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.



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.

Children's Day Out Preschool



Happy New Year! We hope that the holidays were wonderful for you and your family and that 2024 entered with peace and joy. The children have returned after the long break and are happily adjusting. It is heartwarming to see the children skip or run with exuberance into school being away for so long. We hope they always find learning to be a joyful experience.

Thank you to all our amazing church and board volunteers who helped during the month of December. The Children's Christmas Programs were wonderful, and the Christmas Celebration with Santa was a huge success.

January and February will be busy months here at school. The children will be participating in winter activities, usually indoors, as the cold months are upon us. We have some fun snow and ice explorations planned!

Registration for the 2024-2025 year will begin in February. Thank you for spreading the word to your friends and family!

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 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE from Lisa Cain, Director
Found at doorsteptopeka.org



DOORSTEP'S "SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY"
FEBRUARY 11th

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



FEBRUARY 2024

Information effective 1/17/24 and is subject to change.

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

Thursday, February 1

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

Friday, February 2 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

Saturday, February 3

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – BSA in Parish Hall

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, February 4 FIFTH EPIPHANY

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 (L)

11:30 a.m. – Property Committee (202)

11:30 a.m. – Pre-Bowl Super Party and Chili Cook-off (PH)

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

Monday, February 5

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. – Book Study "Encounters with Jesus" (L)

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee (202)

7:00 p.m. – Altar Guild Committee

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Pack 175 (PH)

Wednesday, February 7 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

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

6:30 & 7:00 p.m. – Music Staff & Worship Committee (Z)

Thursday, February 8

6:00 p.m. – Executive Committee

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

7:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Friday, February 9 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

7:00 p.m. – Book Study "Encounters with Jesus" (Z)

Saturday, February 10

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

5:00-8:30 p.m. – Blue & Gold Banquet (S & PH)

Sunday, February 11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SCOUT SUNDAY

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

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

Monday, February 12

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

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

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, February 13

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

6:00-9:00 p.m. – AGO Meeting (S & NL)

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

Wednesday, February 14 ASH WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

Noon – Drive Thru Ash Wednesday Worship (South Lot)

7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Worship (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 15

5:30 p.m. – Endowment Fund Committee

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

6:30 p.m. – CDO Board (202)

Friday, February 16 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

Saturday, February 17

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, February 18 FIRST LENT

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

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

Monday, February 19 PRESIDENT'S DAY

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. – Book Study "Encounters with Jesus" (L)

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, February 20

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

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

Wednesday, February 21

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

5:30 p.m. – Caring for Kids 1st Meeting (L)

6:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class

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

Thursday, February 22

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH)

6:15 & 7:40 p.m. – Bell Choir & Vocal Choir Rehearsals

7:00 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Worship Service

7:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Friday, February 23 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

7:00 p.m. – Book Study "Encounters with Jesus" (Z)

Saturday, February 24

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, February 25 SECOND LENT

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

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

Monday, February 26

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

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

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, February 27

NO CDO – Parent/Teacher Conferences

7:00 p.m. – Witness Committee (Z)

7:00 p.m. – Topeka Lutheran Home Association (Z)

Wednesday, February 28

NO CDO – Parent/Teacher Conferences

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Grades 6-12

Thursday, February 29

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH)

6:15 & 7:40 p.m. – Bell Choir & Vocal Choir Rehearsals

7:00 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Worship Service

Celebrations in February



BIRTHDAYS

Sylvia Levings	2
Austin Jackson	6
Larry Platte	8
Elsie Jenks	8
Marian Orton	9
Fred Smith	9
Jessa Farmer	9
Aurora Stone	10
Allyn Lockner	11
Charles Krumins	11
Nathan Leininger	11
Bella Sears	11
Janet Johnson	12
Alan Schmidt	12
LaVerne Engelhardt	12
Diane White	14
West Waugh	15
George Bales	16
Kenzie Kriss	19
Chris Cushing	21
Heather Bacon	22
JoAnn Stanley	23
Sadie Davern	24
Blake Cheatham	24
Dave King	24
Kathy Montague	25
Joan Fries	26
Pat Collins	27
Teresa Roberts	27
Shirley Waugh	28

BAPTISMS

Roxanne Sanders	2
Diane Dukat	4
Luke Jurgens	4
Emma Bunting	4
Madeline Jurgens	4
Autumn Jurgens	4
Maureen Krumins	5
Ray Tarvin	5
Patti Klein	5
Kristin Blick	6
Russ Haley	7
Meghann Chaudhry	11
Emberly Stallons	11
Anne Hageman	14
Tyler Price	14
Dennis Haugh	15
Ivan Haugh	15
George Bales	15
Emily Crockett	16
Lowell Chellberg	19
Diane Wilson	20
Chloe Bunting	23
Brendon Roark	28
Brooke Roark	28
Nicholas Roark	28

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Pamela Strahan	2/03/1971
Robert & Cheryl Hjetland	2/10/2001
Tom & Mary Ann Bulkley	2/13/1970
Larry & Nancy Platte	2/13/2005
Dean & Lynnette Johnson	2/14/2004
Russ & Judy Haley	2/23/1963
Alan & Jill Loomans	2/24/1973
Dwight & Suzanne Cowan	2/28/1987
Jim & JoAnn Stanley	2/29/1980

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January 18, 2024
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

