



Jesus took her
by the hand
and lifted
her up

MARK 1:31

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.

FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 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”

(G. F. Handel, 1685-1759)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

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

858 GATHERING SONG “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Congregation shall sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL

See Bulletin Page 12

WORD

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

NOISY OFFERING and CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Psalm 147:3)



The LORD heals the brok - en - heart - ed.

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises ¹to our God! * How pleasant it is to honor ¹God with praise!

²**The LORD re-¹ builds Jerusalem, * and gathers the ex-¹ iles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the ¹brokenhearted * and binds ¹up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number ¹of the stars * and calls them all ¹by their names. R**

⁵Great is our LORD and might-¹ y in power; * there is no limit ¹to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts ¹up the lowly, * but casts the wicked ¹to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD ¹with thanksgiving; * make music upon the harp ¹to our God,

⁸**who covers the heav-¹ ens with clouds * and prepares rain for the earth, * making grass to grow up-¹ on the mountains. R**

⁹God provides food ¹for the cattle * and for the young ravens ¹when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might ¹of a horse, * and has no pleasure in the speed ¹of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who ¹fear the LORD, * in those who await God's steadfast love.

^{20c} | Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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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 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Congregation shall sit.

SERMON

617 HYMN OF THE DAY “*We Come to You for Healing, Lord*”

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: Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need especially Karon, Sue, Laura, Verla, Ruth, Alice, and Donna 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: Blessed are those who care for young people and help shape their hearts and minds to be responsible and trustworthy. We pray for all of our Scout Troops, that they continue to be places where honesty and loyalty are taught. 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 Trinity Lutheran Church, (Topeka, KS); Immanuel Lutheran Church, (Wilson, KS); First Lutheran Church, (St. Joseph, MO); and Mosaic, (Omaha, NE). May God continue to lead people in working together for the sake of the Gospel. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM *“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”*

(C. Hubert Parry, 1848-1918, arr. C. Courtney, b. 1948)

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

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

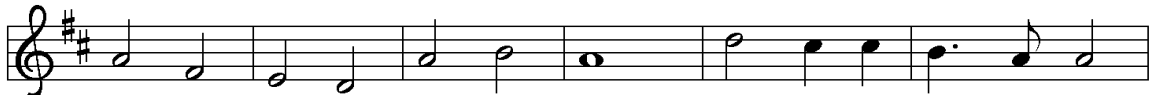
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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


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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"

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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 "Prière à Notre-Dame" from *Suite Gothique Op. 25*

(L. Boëllmann, 1862-1897)

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.**

843 SENDING SONG *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

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 *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

(P. Manz, 1919-2009)

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ALTAR FLOWERS *are given by the Arnie Mueller family in loving memory of Carol, wife and mother.*

PULPIT FLOWERS *are given in loving memory of Herb & Helen Nunemaker from Chuck and Merle.*

THE ETERNAL CANDLE FOR FEBRUARY *is given by Nancy Sherbert in memory of her parents, Jess & Lois Lykins and her grandmother, Mary Levett.*



♣ **Boy Scout Sunday** ♣



TRANSFERRED TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

DEBRA “DEBBIE” LYNN GRONDAHL

September 8, 1949 – January 29, 2024

ALLYN OLSON LOCKNER

February 11, 1931 – January 29, 2024

- L: With reverence and affection, we remember before you, O everlasting God, your faithful servants, Debbie and Allyn.
- C: **We thank you, dear God, for the life they so willingly and joyfully shared with us.**
- L: We thank you, dear Lord, for giving them to us to know and to love,
- C: **And we thank you for receiving them into the arms of your everlasting mercy through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- L: Almighty God, deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

767 MEMORIAL HYMN Stanzas 1 & 3

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

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

Karon Gambrill (home), Sue Wild (Kansas Rehab Hospital), Laura Haefke (Aldersgate Rehab), Verla Buch (Lexington Park Rehab), Stephen Blank (home), Richard Price (home), Cherie McGinnis (home), Ruth Denno (Lexington Park Rehab), Alice Purdy (home), Donna Kruger (home), Rob Peterson (home), Carren Reed (home), Kathy Cheatham (home), Vera Pearce (home), Blake Hopper (home), Richard Carlson (Cindy Lear's cousin), Steve Holloman (neighbor friend of Chris & Cindy Lear), 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).

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of *Debbie Grondahl and Allyn Lockner* who both died January 29, 2024. Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

✠ IN THE FIRST PLACE THIS WEEK ✠

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

Sunday, February 4 FIFTH EPIPHANY

SCOUT SUNDAY

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

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

11:30 a.m. – CYFM (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 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 p.m. – Music Staff Meeting (Z)

7:00 p.m. – Worship Committee (Z)

Thursday, February 8

6:00 p.m. – Executive Committee

6:15 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – 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

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

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

LESSONS FEBRUARY 10 & 11

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

LAY MINISTERS 2/4	5th EPIPHANY	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister		Robert Hanna
Lector		Bonnie Phillips
Acolyte		Lucas Jackson
Communion Assistants		Scott & Melanie Schultz
Greeters		Kathy Couch, LaVerne Engelhardt
Ushers		Diane Dukat, Kevin Eaton
Council Members		LaVerne Engelhardt, Nancy Johnson
Sunday School Leaders		Barb Collins, Karon Gambrill
Coffee Hosts	PRE-BOWL SUPER PARTY IN PARISH HALL	
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess		Randy Debenham, Barb Collins
Saturday Lector		Sherrie Petersen
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Barb Collins, Kathy Couch, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta	
Tech Team	Jenn Betz, Stephen Blank	
Stephen Minister on Call	Lydia Peterson	

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

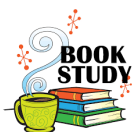
LAY MINISTERS 2/11	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister		Jenn Betz
Lector		Matt Lemke
Acolyte		Cole Schultz
Communion Assistants		Diane Dukat, Bryan Harold
Greeters		Karon Gambrill, Nancy Vaughn
Ushers		Erv & Ann Sanders
Council Member		Laura Garner
Sunday School Leaders		Lydia Peterson, Bob Wollin
Coffee Host		Bob Wollin
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess		Randy Debenham, Barb Collins
Saturday Lector		Karen Wollin
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Nancy Vaughn, Pat Drake, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
Tech Team	Stephen Blank, Jenn Betz	
Stephen Minister on Call	Diane Dukat	



PARISH NOTICES

Time to warm up for the SUPER BOWL (go Chiefs!). Come join us for the food and fun and tailgating with your FLC family at the **PRE-BOWL SUPER PARTY**. This fun event will be held **TODAY** following the worship service in the Parish Hall. No coffee in the Nave Lounge after service; come enjoy the fellowship in the Parish Hall. All are welcome, whether you bring anything or not. We just want you there to enjoy the fellowship. The Party will feature:

- A **Chili cook-off!** Judged for visual qualities, aroma, taste, texture, and spice level (Then we get to eat the entries - YUM)
- Snacks
- Football toss game
- Fellowship



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!

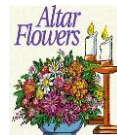


Please support **Scouts BSA Troop 175** by attending our **ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** on **Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 8:00 to 11:30 AM**. **TICKETS** are **\$5.00 per person** (children under 10 will eat free with a paid adult). All proceeds from this event support our Scouts and Troop programs. **Tickets** will be available for sale after services **TODAY, February 4th (Scout Sunday)** and at the door (\$6 when purchased at the door), contact Brady Palmberg at 785-640-6376 with questions.

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN 2024.
ONLY EIGHT (8) DATES LEFT**

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),
8/18, 8/25 (one vase).



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

A Fiercely Tender Love

Think of a lioness; perhaps you've seen one in a nature documentary. Her power is palpable, even through the TV screen. She is strong and fierce, able to expertly take down prey and defend her pride from danger. She is also gentle, grooming her tiny cubs carefully in the afternoon sun. With the same strong jaws she is able both to kill an enemy and to carry her young gingerly by the scruff of their neck. Jesus' power is something like that: just as mighty as it is tender.

Jesus casts out demons relentlessly. In a single evening, he exorcises an entire city's worth! Jesus' power over the demons is so complete that he doesn't even permit them to speak. What are the demons in your own life, or in your community? What forces seek to dominate or control? What systems cause hurt or destruction? Out of God's great love for us, Jesus grapples with each and every source of pain, oppression, and suffering in the world.

With that same power, Jesus gently lifts Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, and her fever is gone. In a tender bedside moment, she is healed personally, intimately, and completely. This woman, ordinary and unnamed in Mark's gospel except by her relation to her son-in-law, is still not so unimportant as to escape Jesus' notice and care. And neither are we.

Jesus bathes us in the waters of salvation and defends us from danger. He feeds us at the table of mercy and carries us tenderly into abundant life. We are protected, healed, and loved by the One who created the cosmos, who possesses power to destroy any earthly power, yet who "gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isaiah 40:29). Like cubs learning from their mother, we rise and follow so that our lives might show forth that same fiercely tender love.

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20240204-5EPH ELCA-L

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.

Starting February 22nd - A **LIGHT LENTEN SUPPER** will be served each Thursday beginning at 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. (Please see the host schedule below.) A free will offering will be taken. Suggested cost of the meals equal \$3 per person, \$1.50 for children under 12, and \$10 per family. Any proceeds given above the cost of food will be donated to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Make your own PBJ sandwich will be available and anyone with special dietary needs is welcome to bring a "brown bag" meal. Come, bring a friend and fellowship with your friends at First, and then stay to continue our Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb, with worship at 7:00 p.m.

2024 LIGHT LENTEN SUPPER HOST SCHEDULE

<u>February 22</u>	<u>February 29</u>	<u>March 7</u>
Stewardship	Memorial	Choirs
Finance	Stephen Ministry	Earth First
CYFM	Parish Life	Altar Guild
<u>March 14</u>	<u>March 21</u>	<u>March 28</u>
Worship	Library	Adult Learning
Property	Mutual Ministry	Endowment
W-ELCA	Council	Witness



Lent 2024

WEEK ONE: WHAT IS LAMENT?

WEEK TWO: “LITTLE” LAMENTS

WEEK THREE: LAMENTS FROM THE DEPTHS

WEEK FOUR: INDIVIDUAL LAMENT

WEEK FIVE: COMMUNAL LAMENT