

*Jesus was transfigured  
before them*

MARK 9:2

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Director*

*Organist*

*Director of Music*

*Director of Handbell Choir*

*Secretary*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Bookkeeper*

*Missionaries in Russia*

*Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach*

*All Members of First*

*Pastor Jenny Jackson*

*Julie Lamott*

*Bryleigh Willis*

*Jerry Anderson*

*Mark Fuller*

*Linda Anderson*

*LaDonna J. Little*

*Jill Loomans*

*Cindy Crawford*

*Rev. Bradn & Natasha Buerkle*

*Jim & Dawn Anderson*

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

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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HOLY COMMUNION, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR

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

FEBRUARY 10 & 11, 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** “*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*  
“*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*”

(D. Buxtehude, 1637-1707)

*Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.*

## CHIMES

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

**631 GATHERING SONG** “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*”

## 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.**



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

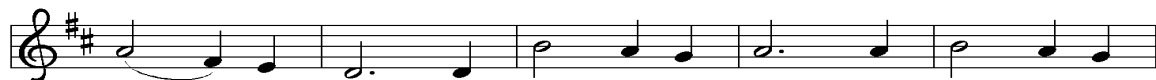


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Congregation shall sit.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **WORD**

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

## **NOISY OFFERING and CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

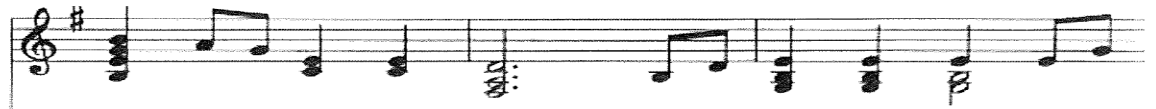
**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 50:1-6



1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and  
2 God comes, not with a si - lent form, but  
3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as



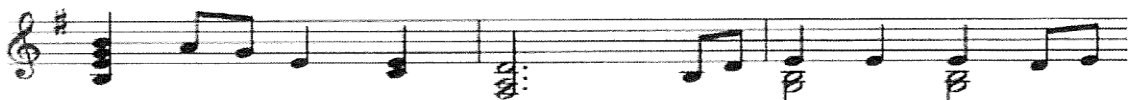
all the world o - beys; from dawn un - til the  
rid - ing on the winds; be - fore God's face, the  
end - less as the sky; a - gainst the taunts of



set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.  
rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.  
dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.



The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from  
All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose  
Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks as



Zi - on's height shines forth; and stars a - cross the  
prom - ise is to bless; who sees our sins, yet  
hon - or to your might; re - fresh my faith with



fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.  
al - so feels our thirst for right - eous - ness.  
each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

Words: Michael Morgan © 1999, 2011 Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources  
Music (STAR OF COUNTY DOWN 8.6.8.6 D): Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney (b. 1952) © 1990 GIA  
Publications, Inc.

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9**

*Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.*

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!"

<sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation shall sit.*

## SERMON

### 308 HYMN OF THE DAY “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Stanza 1. ALL 2. Women 3. Trombone & Organ 4. Men 5. ALL *Interlude, Please Stand* 6. ALL

*Congregation shall remain standing or sitting, 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: We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for any who are sick and suffering especially 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. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. 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 Hope Lutheran Church, (Rolla, MO); New Gottland Lutheran Church, (McPherson, KS); and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, (Hazelwood, MO). May God continue to lead people in working together for the sake of the Gospel. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**



A: We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. 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** “Amazing Grace” (Traditional American Melody, arr. E Harris)  
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:



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 “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

(J. S. Bach, 1685-1703)

**838** COMMUNION HYMN “Beautiful Savior”

*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.**

**318** SENDING SONG “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

## 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** *Toccata on "Wie Schön Leuchtet"*

*(arr. M. Burkhardt, b. 1957)*

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**MANY THANKS** to *Sam Garner* for providing trombone accompaniment today.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by *Catherine Esquibel* in loving memory of her father, *Tom Moulton*.

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

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

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), Brian Fuller (Mark's brother), 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), 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 *Donna Kruger* on the death of her sister, *Janine Wagner*.

# ✠ 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 11**

**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
 10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever  
**Noon – Drive Thru Ash Wednesday Worship**  
 (South Parking Lot)  
**7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Worship (S)**

**Thursday, February 15**

5:30 p.m. – Endowment Fund Committee  
 6:15 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal  
 6:30 p.m. – CDO Board (202)  
 7:00 p.m. – Vocal Choir Rehearsal

**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 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

**LESSONS FEBRUARY 17 & 18**

Genesis 9:8-17  
 Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Mark 1:9-15



LAY MINISTERS 2/11	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	John Hanna
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, Lindsay Blank
Stephen Minister on Call	Diane Dukat

## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

<b>LAY MINISTERS 2/18</b>	<b>FIRST LENT</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>		Diane Dukat
<b>Lector</b>		Scott Schultz
<b>Acolyte</b>		Will Hitch
<b>Lenten Candle Extinguisher</b>		Council Member – Scott Schultz
<b>Communion Assistants</b>		John Hanna,
<b>Greeters</b>		Einck Family, Char Taggart
<b>Ushers</b>		Scott Bangert, Bill Barker
<b>Council Member</b>		Jenn Betz
<b>Sunday School Leaders</b>		Marsha Serk, Holly Serk
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>		Joan & Bill Barker
<b>Bus Driver &amp; Host/Hostess</b>		Chris & Cindy Lear
<b>Saturday Lector</b>		Tina Lewis
<b>Altar Guild Setup/Clean up</b>		Karen Wollin, Dana Nelsen, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill
<b>Tech Team</b>		Austin Jackson, Stephen Blank
<b>Stephen Minister on Call</b>		Patti Klein

## PARISH NOTICES

### LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

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 14<sup>th</sup>**. 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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>**. We pray that this will be a meaningful spiritual practice of generosity for you this Lent.

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



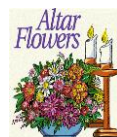
Please support **Scouts BSA Troop 175** by attending our **ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** on **Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 8:00 to 11:30 AM**. **TICKETS IN ADVANCE are \$5.00 per person and \$6.00 at the door** (children under 10 will eat free with a paid adult). All proceeds from this event support our Scouts and Troop programs. 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.**



## Just Listen

There are transfiguration moments in everyday life that can absolutely stop us in our tracks with the glory of Christ's presence: The smell of a new baby. Flowering trees blooming in the spring. The embrace of a friend when we need them most. Voices raised in cries for justice. The bravery of difficult conversations. The sacred minutes just before death. It may not be Jesus in dazzling clothes or a visit from the ancestors on a mountaintop, but by God's grace, we perceive the love of Christ shining brightly in these ordinary, yet holy, moments.

When they happen to us, what are we to do? It can be difficult, when in the presence of the divine, to know quite what to say. Peter, grasping at straws, offered to make three dwellings. You can't blame him—we all make weird choices when we are terrified! But a voice came from heaven: "Listen." It is not necessary to do or say anything. This moment is simply a gift. Our job is only to listen to Jesus.

Have you ever spent time just listening? Maybe outdoors, on a hike or in a park—listening to the sounds of creation. Or during a quiet moment in worship—the sound of cars driving by outside, or your neighbor breathing, or your own heart beating. Perhaps you have listened compassionately to a loved one who didn't need advice but just needed to be heard.

As people accustomed to *doing*, we can find it challenging to just listen. We may have learned that it is important for us to have something to say, something to offer, something to provide. But the good news of grace is that Christ's love has come to us even before we could do anything. That's why we baptize even helpless infants. That's why, when we come to communion, we do so with hands outstretched and empty, ready to receive: "This is the body of Christ." All we can do is listen . . . and say, "Amen."

Cover: Greek Orthodox icon depicting Jesus' transfiguration. Copyright © Universal Images/Superstock. Used by permission.

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