A photograph of a wooden cross leaning against a stone wall. The cross is made of dark wood and is positioned diagonally. The wall is made of rough, light-colored stones. To the right, a blue door is partially visible. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

THOSE
WHO
LOSE
THEIR
LIFE FOR
MY SAKE
WILL
SAVE IT

MARK 8:35

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

Organist

Director of Music

Director of Handbell Choirs

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Bookkeeper

Missionaries in Russia

Missionaries for Ripe For Harvest World Outreach

All Members of First

Pastor Jenny Jackson

Julie Lamott

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

A LENTEN EUCHARIST

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

FEBRUARY 24 & 25, 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 “*Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*” (Winkworth-Schmid, arr. J. A. Behnke, b. 1953)
(Based on Hymn # 750)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

CHIMES

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

514 GATHERING SONG “*O Word of God Incarnate*”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

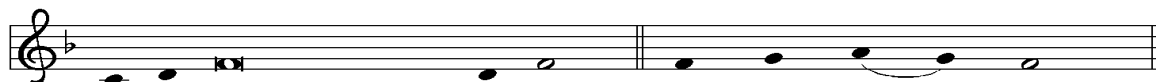
C: **Amen.**

GREETING

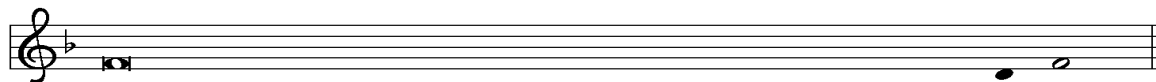
P: The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

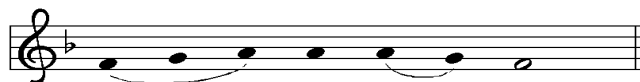
KYRIE



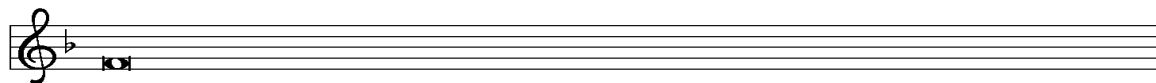
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



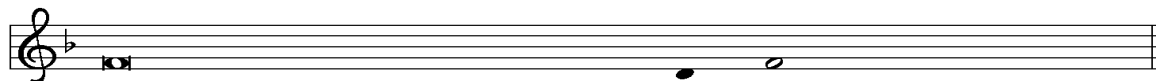
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



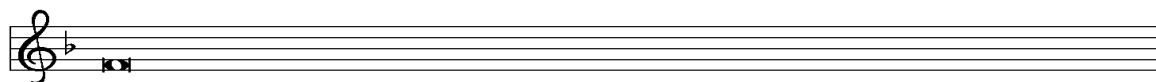
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



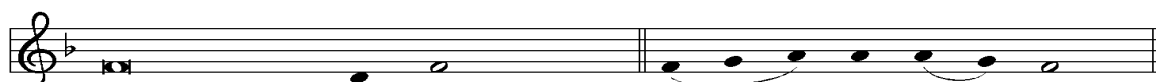
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



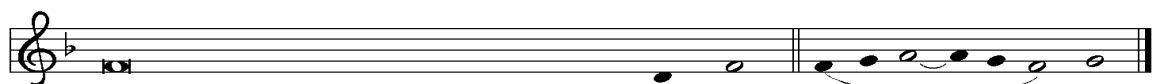
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SECOND LENTEN CANDLE
THE GREATEST LOVE

- A: Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my father is the vinedresser. Every branch that does not bear fruit, he takes away and every branch that bears fruit, he prunes that it may bear more fruit. Abide in me. A branch cannot bear fruit on its own, so neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, and you are the branches."
- C: **And Jesus said: This is my commandment that you love one another just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends. I chose you.**
- A: The world said: Who gives you authority to do these things? Is it lawful to pay a tax to Caesar or not?
- C: **And the world lied and cheated, plotted, and schemed to do away with the One who would have chosen them, who would have been their friend, who loved them and would lay down his life for them.**
- A: The days of Lent grow darker as the cross comes into focus, where the One with the greatest love laid down his life for us, his friends.

(The Second Purple Candle is Extinguished.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD

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

NOISY OFFERING and CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory. * Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; * neither is the LORD's face | hidden from them; * but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied, * Let those who seek the LORD give praise! * May your hearts | live forever! R**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; * all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD, * who rules o- | ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship; * all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, * shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD, * whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, * saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the 8th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation shall sit.

SERMON

802 HYMN OF THE DAY "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" *Please stand for stanza 4.*

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: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, parish ministry associates, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, so that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved especially Vera, Sue, Laura, Verla, 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We lift up in prayer our siblings in Christ across the Central States Synod, especially the people and ministry of First Lutheran Church, (Dorrance, KS); Garfield Lutheran Church, (Garfield, KS); and Peace Lutheran Church, (Washington, MO). May God continue to lead people in working together for the sake of the Gospel. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 “Go My Children”

(arr. W. L. Pelz, b. 1926)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

C: Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PREFACE

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: It is right, it is good, and it is a joy, to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle.

When there was only darkness, you made light. When we cried out to you from captivity, you claimed us as your own. When we forgot our love for you, you did not forget us, sending your prophets to turn us around and renewing your promises with a bow in the sky, the parting of the sea, and your own Son. And so we praise you, tuning our voices to the angels’ songs, joining all those who sing on earth and in heaven.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, —

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, —

hea-ven and earth are full, — full — of your glo - ry, Ho-

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE CONSECRATION

P: Holy God, we thank you for Jesus: for his teaching and healing, his challenging and feeding, his living and dying and rising, that we might be raised with him, and all the world made new.

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.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and wine, gifts of the good earth, offering ourselves as a living sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

C: Dying you destroyed death; rising you restored life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on your people gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Through the power of your Spirit unite us with Christ and with one another as we work and wait in hope, confident in that day when Christ will come to make all things new, and we will feast together at his heavenly table.

All glory and honor are yours, Holy God, through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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 food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

Congregation shall sit.

LAMB OF GOD

(Tune: "Ah Holy Jesus")

Jesus, the Lamb of God, have mercy on us!

Jesus who bore our sins, have mercy on us!

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, have mercy!

Give us Your Peace, Lord!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

(W. J. Kirkpatrick, arr. A.C. Whitworth, b. 1938)

Congregation shall stand or sit, as able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

812 SENDING SONG "Faith of Our Fathers"

DISMISSAL

A: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “*How Firm a Foundation*”

(arr. W. Held, 1914-2014)

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MANY THANKS to *Diane Dukat, PMA* for leading worship on Saturday while Pastor Jenny attends a Spiritual Retreat.

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

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



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

Vera Pearce (home), Sue Wild (home), Laura Haefke (home), Verla Buch (home), Stephen Blank (home), Richard Price (home), Cherie McGinnis (home), Ruth Denno (home), Alice Purdy (home), Donna Kruger (home), Rob Peterson (home), Carren Reed (home), Kathy Cheatham (home), Blake Hopper (home), Margaret Price (friend of Barb Collins & Julie Lamott), 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), 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).

OUR CONDOLENCES to *Mark Fuller* on the death of his brother, Brian Fuller.



LAY MINISTERS 2/25	SECOND LENT	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister		Connor Montague
Lector		Rhonda Dealey
Acolyte		Katie Krumins
Lenten Candle Extinguishers	Council Members – Robert Hanna, Laura Garner	
Communion Assistants	Barb Collins, Allie Montague	
Greeters	Ann Sanders, JoAnn Stanley	
Ushers	Robert Hanna, Linda Harold	
Council Member	Jenn Betz	
Sunday School Leaders	Laura Garner, Bob Wollin	
Coffee Hosts	Alan & Anne Hageman	
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Alan Hageman, Leslie Malone	
Saturday Lector	Joyce Mark	
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Ann McConkey, Jeanie Schuler, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
Tech Team	Stephen Blank, Austin Jackson	
Stephen Minister on Call	Teresa Smith	

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

LAY MINISTERS 3/3	THIRD LENT	10:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister		John Hanna
Lector		Kris Luber
Acolyte		Lucas Jackson
Lenten Candle Extinguisher	Council Member – Kim Rasmussen	
Communion Assistants	Kathy Couch, Patricia Drake	
Greeters	Cheryl Hjetland, Denny & Darlene Payne	
Ushers	John & Kim Rasmussen	
Council Member	Laura Garner	
Sunday School Leaders	Barb Collins, Karon Gambrill	
Coffee Hosts	Bill & Phyllis Buch	
Bus Driver & Host/Hostess	Chris & Cindy Lear	
Saturday Lector	Sherrie Petersen	
Altar Guild Setup/Clean up	Barb Collins, Kathy Couch, Karen Wollin, Nancy Besta, Karon Gambrill	
Tech Team	Jenn Betz, John Hanna	
Stephen Minister on Call	Joyce Mark	

† 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 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
1:30 p.m. – Witness Committee (Jill's Office)
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 LEAP YEAR DAY

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH)
6:15 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. – Lenten Midweek Worship Service
7:40 p.m. – Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 1

Pastor Jenny's Day Off
10:00 a.m. – Coffee & Lectionary (202)

Saturday, March 2

8:00-11:30 a.m. – BSA Troop 175 Pancake Feed
5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, March 3 THIRD LENT

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:10 a.m. – Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School
11:30 a.m. – Children, Youth & Family Ministry
6:00 p.m. – Pastor Jenny at Arbor Court Worship

LESSONS MARCH 2 & 3

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

PARISH NOTICES



LENTEN WREATH

During Advent, as we approach Christmas, we light a candle each Sunday in expectation of the birth of Jesus, "the light of the world." During Lent, as we approach Good Friday, the day Jesus died and the light of the world was temporarily extinguished, we will extinguish a candle from our Lenten wreath. Join in the responses that are spoken each week as we prepare ourselves for the most important events in all history.

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

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.



A **LIGHT LENTEN SUPPER** will be served each Thursday beginning at 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. 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. On **February 29th**, Meal Hosts will be Memorial, Stephen Ministry and Parish Life Committees and the menu will be: Soups, Crackers, Salads, Desserts. On **March 7th**, Meal Hosts will be Choirs, Earth First and Altar Guild Committees and the menu will be: Sloppy Joe's, Chips, Salads, Desserts. 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.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

On **February 18th** we began our church's annual World Hunger Appeal during the season of Lent. Individuals and families are invited 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 the weekend of **April 6th & 7th**. We pray that this will be a meaningful spiritual practice of generosity for you this Lent.



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.

Hope against Hope

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped “against hope” (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he “must” suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject “the things of God.” Why must it be so?

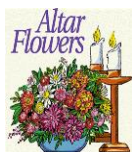
Because of God’s great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God’s world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He “must” do this because the world’s brokenness is that deep. We don’t need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God’s grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death’s power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world’s injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God’s mercy with a world longing for hope.

LUTHER COLLEGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Join us on **Saturday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at First Lutheran Church (1234 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka) for a concert by the **Luther College Symphony Orchestra on tour from Decorah, Iowa.** You won't want to miss the fine performance by this ensemble made up of students from a variety of academic disciplines under the direction of Dr. Daniel Baldwin. The program includes works by Bernstein, Fauré, Mussorgsky, Wagner, and Moncayo. No tickets are necessary to attend the performance; **freewill donations** will be collected in support of the orchestra and their travel expenses. **LFACT needs help in housing these students. If you can help, please contact Linda Anderson at 785-221-5513.**

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN 2024. ONLY SIX (6) DATES LEFT



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

4/14 (one vase), 4/21 (one vase), 4/28, 6/30 (one vase), 8/18, 9/29.

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



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

MARCH IS FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S DOORSTEP MONTH to be one of four churches responsible for furnishing the "lion's share" of food and to supply workers in the clothing room. If you can volunteer your time on Monday, March 4th or any Tuesday in March, please contact Anita Nelson at 785-354-8734. Thanks!



MARCH MADNESS

Yes, it's almost that time again, both in the NCAA and at FLC. We will again sponsor a food drive, with **FANS OF KU, K-STATE, WASHBURN AND BETHANY COMPETING** to see who can donate the greater quantity of foodstuffs for Doorstep. **ITEMS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY DOORSTEP ARE:** Oatmeal, Dry Cereal, Tuna, Macaroni N Cheese, Pinto Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Powdered Milk, Evaporated Milk, Canned Fruit, Canned Soups, Peanut Butter/Jelly and Egg Noodles. **Tubs for collection of donations will be located in the Nave Lounge throughout the month of March (be sure to look for the logo of the team you're supporting).** If you're unable to shop for items for this drive, **monetary donations** will be gladly accepted, and the shopping will be done for you! If you don't designate a team to support, your donation will be divided equally between them.



EASTER FLOWER PLANT CHOICES



It's time to order Easter Flower Plants for the Chancel area for **Sunday, March 31, 2024**. We are again offering a choice of Spring Mums along with the traditional Easter Lily.

We have streamlined the order process by not specifying the particular color and type of mum you would like. This will keep costs down, as it is sometimes difficult to get a specific color and type of mum two weeks before Easter. We are again offering a choice between a **SPRING MUM** plant or a traditional **EASTER LILY**.

The **deadline to order is Sunday, March 17, 2024**. Both the Spring Mum Plants and the Easter Lilies are **\$12.50 each**. Please make your **check payable** to First Lutheran and indicate Easter Plants in the **memo line**.

Your plants may be picked up after the Easter Sunday worship service. The Spring Mum plants will come in an assortment of colors (purple, yellow, and white), and will be a cushion mum. There will be choices of which color mum plant you decide to take home with you.

Please return this form and payment to the Church Office.
These can be placed in an offering plate.



Easter Lilies # of plants _____ **\$12.50 each**

Spring Mum Plant # of plants _____ **\$12.50 each**

Name _____

Total Dollar Amount Enclosed _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

**PLANTS NOT PICKED UP BY THE SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
WILL BE DISPOSED OF BY THE ALTAR GUILD**