

First Lutheran Church

1234 SW Fairlawn Road

Topeka, KS 66604

785-272-5302

Visit our website at:

www.firstlutherantopeka.org

Email us at:

1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net

Like us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/
1stlutherantopeka](http://www.facebook.com/1stlutherantopeka)

Children's Day Out

785-272-5999

www.childrensdayout.net

director@childrensdayout.net

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February 15, 2024

Volume 31, Issue 2



IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

From Pastor Jenny

Dear Siblings in Christ, members, and friends of First Lutheran,

First... love.
First... kindness.
First... mercy.
First... tenderness.
First... grace.
First... prayer.

At the foot of each email, report, and article, this year I share the verse Matthew 6:10, from Jesus' lesson to the disciples on how to pray. "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." It is an invitation to believe and hope for God's kingdom to come to earth and to be part of that kingdom work. But what does that look like? What does this kingdom coming to earth look like in the midst of pain and suffering? How are we to be part of it? Wednesday, our region was shocked by the shooting that took place during the Chief's Superbowl celebration parade, where 1 million people were gathered. From WIBW, KC Police Chief Stacey Graves said that the 22 people injured in the shooting ranged between the ages of 8 and 47 years old, half of whom were younger the age of 16. A mother of two was also killed. News reports today suggest the shooting happened because of a personal dispute between individuals and not in response to the Chiefs win.

What does this mean for us, as believers of the Prince of peace, whose kingdom is one of justice and love and mercy?

People of First Lutheran, I invite you to think about how we can respond with tangible acts to help make a difference, when violence, sickness, fear, loss, etc. seek to overwhelm us,

First (Lutheran)... be love.
First (Lutheran)... show kindness.
First (Lutheran)... offer mercy.
First (Lutheran)... respond with tenderness.
First (Lutheran)... model grace.
First (Lutheran)... pray fervently.

In your home, work, family, in the community, in our world, I pray that we can be leaders in making a change to bring God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. God is with you.

With hope and love, Pastor Jenny

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

Prayer Ministry

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

WE PRAY for our church community, especially: Sue Wild (home), 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),

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

WE PRAY for our family and friends: 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 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. A memorial service was held for Allyn on February 2nd at First Lutheran. A memorial service was held for Debbie on February 8th at Penwell-Gabel.

OUR CONDOLENCES to ***Donna Kruger*** on the death of her sister, Janine Wagner.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST DUE TO DEATH:

**FOR ADDITIONS TO OR REMOVALS FROM THE PRAYER LIST,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
785-272-5302 OR 1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net.**

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." — Martin Luther



Worship



Worship with us!

Hebrews 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN-PERSON

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE

YouTube Livestream Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Facebook Livestream Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

ONLINE WORSHIP OUTREACH: When you worship online, be sure to share the worship service as a way to welcome others to worship. It’s never been easier to invite your friends to worship!

DATES	ATTENDANCE TOTALS	TITHES & OFFERINGS
1/20 & 21/24	10 + 98 = 108	\$3,975.48
1/27 & 28/24	11 + 96 = 107	\$7,133.64
2/3 & 4/24	14 + 109 = 123	\$14,206.71
2/10 & 11/24	13 + 97 = 110	\$3,529.55

MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
Beginning February 22nd.

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.

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

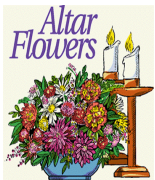
<u>February 22</u>	<u>February 29</u>	<u>March 7</u>
Stewardship	Memorial	Choirs
Finance	Stephen Ministry	Earth First
CYFM	Parish Life	Altar Guild
<u>March 14</u>	<u>March 21</u>	<u>March 28</u>
Worship	Library	Adult Learning
Property	Mutual Ministry	Endowment
W-ELCA	Council	Witness

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

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

First Family and Topeka Area News

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE NAVE LOUNGE.
If you need yours mailed to you, contact the church office at 785-272-5302.**



ALTAR FLOWERS are absent during the season of Lent, and what a joy it is for them to return on **EASTER Sunday, March 31, 2024**. Who would like to sponsor flowers for the most special of days during Holy Week? Please contact Jeanie Schuler or the church office if interested.

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HAVE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR IN 2024.
ONLY NINE (9) 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), 9/29.

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

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A REMINDER TO COMMITTEES AND SMALL GROUPS, GATHERING IN THE CHURCH:

As part of our stewardship of our building and of creation, we are asking groups meeting in the church to remember to **turn off lights** when they leave and to check the building to **be sure all doors are locked**. Thank you for your help in keeping our building safe and our utilities down.



WANTED: COFFEE HOSTS

If you're enjoying coffee after the Sunday service, please consider being a host. If we want to keep this hospitality going, we're going to need volunteers. It's very simple, pick up a "jug" of OJ, arrive at the church a tad before the 10:00 a.m. service and get the coffee brewing. Set out the creamer, sugar, and stir sticks. Duck out of service a tad before the end and start to fill a few cups of coffee and juice. All supplies provided, except the OJ (you can be reimbursed for that). **PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE CLIPBOARD** lying on the coffee service table. **Contact Parish Life Chair Jeff Montague** (in church directory) with any questions or for more detailed instructions. One person can certainly handle the duties, but two is more fun, so recruit a helper.

Children's Day Out Preschool



CHILDREN AND FRIENDSHIPS
Student enrollment: 85

We often receive lots of questions about children and their friendships. Friendships are important for all of us. Early childhood educators know the value of friendships in children's lives. Very young preschoolers, two and three-year old's, are still very self-centered in their interactions with others. They are beginning to enjoy friends, but often have difficulty relating to other's feelings or ideas. Four and five-year old's friendships are *very* important to them. However, they do not have the social graces associated with quality friendship. They can be blunt, rude, or fickle in their dealings with their friends. They will often inform a child that they can't come to their birthday party, or that they don't want to be "best" friends any longer. Best friend relationships can last for only an afternoon or even an hour.

CDO teachers work hard to facilitate children's beginning attempts at friendship. They model for children appropriate friendly behavior and help children learn to include everyone in their play. It is an important aspect of preschool, for it is the good hard work of learning how to get along in life!

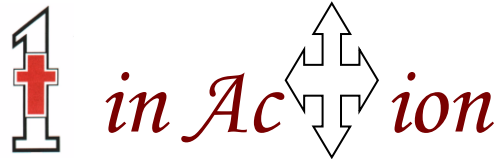
Enrollment for 2024-2025 has begun. Please direct all inquires to director@childrensdayout.net or 785-272-5999. We will be having an Open House, March 5th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We also schedule private tours.

We look forward to celebrating Valentines Day with our friends and family.

Have a great February.

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.**



REMEMBER THE "BLESSING BOX" NEEDS FILLING.

Blessing Box items can be almost anything that is small, easy to use/eat, and useful for folks in need. **PLEASE, NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.**

FOOD ITEMS: Canned food with pull tops, non-perishable foods, bottled water, small snacks. More specifically: granola or breakfast bars, small boxes of dry cereal, instant oatmeal, mac & cheese cups, ramen cups, cheese & crackers, pudding/jello cups, peanut butter, canned fruit/vegetables, dry noodle/rice/pasta packets, dry milk powder, instant coffee singles, hot cocoa packets, chips (individual bags), crackers.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Socks, toothpaste/toothbrushes, wet wipes, bar soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, laundry soap (small boxes of dry powder), tissues, toilet paper, feminine sanitary products, shampoo, lotion, dish soap.



Thanks for your continued support of this ministry. Let's keep them in our prayers for the work they do and that they stay in good health. For more information, contact *Gary Anderson*.



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

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

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.

CURRENT DOORSTEP NEEDS

FOOD ROOM NEEDS:

The need for food assistance in our community continues to be at an increased level than in the past several years. Please help us stock our pantry shelves to continue to provide for our neighbors in need.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| All Soup – Large Cans | Canned Tomatoes | All Canned Beans |
| All Soup – Regular Cans | Corn | Canned Milk |
| All Crackers | Peas | Green Beans |

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS: We need FULL-SIZE of the following items: Shampoo, Conditioner (or 2-in-1), Deodorant, Bar Soap, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Razors, Shaving Cream, Brushes, Combs. Towel Sets: Bath, Hand & Washcloth.

CLOTHING ROOM NEEDS: (Gently Used, Not New)

- **Men's Jeans & Slacks** (All Sizes, especially 28-40)
- **Men's Shoes, Pajamas & Underwear**
- **Men's Sweatpants, Sweatshirts & Hoodies**
- **Kids Winter Clothing** (All Sizes)
- **Women's Sweatpants** (All Sizes)
- **Boys Jeans & Slacks** (All Sizes)
- **Boys Sweatpants (All Sizes) & Shirts** (Sizes 5-18)
- **Girls & Teens Jeans** (All Sizes)
- **Girls Clothing** (Sizes 3-14)
- **Small Appliances, Pots & Pans**
- **Bedding:** Blankets, Comforters/Quilts (All Sizes) Sheet Sets (Twin & Queen)

MARCH 2024 *Information effective 2/13/24 and is subject to change.*

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

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 Fundraiser

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 (L)

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

Monday, March 4 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

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

5:45 p.m. – Property Committee

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee (202)

7:00 p.m. – Altar Guild Committee

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, March 5

5:00-7:00 p.m. – CDO Open House

6:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Pack 175 (PH)

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

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

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

Thursday, March 7

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH)

6:00 p.m. – Executive Committee

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

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

Friday, March 8 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

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

Saturday, March 9

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Sunday, March 10 FOURTH LENT

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

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

Monday, March 11 CDO SPRING BREAK thru 15th

1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting (202)

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, March 12

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

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

Wednesday, March 13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

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

Thursday, March 14

PJ at Spiritual Retreat in Atchison

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH)

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

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

7:00 p.m. – Den Meeting

Friday, March 15 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

Saturday, March 16

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

7:00 p.m. – LFACT Event - Luther College Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 17 FIFTH LENT ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

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

Monday, March 18 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting

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

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 175 (PH)

Tuesday, March 19 SPRING BEGINS VOTING PLACE

10:15 a.m. & 12:45 p.m. – CDO Chapel

6:00 p.m. – Cub Scout Den Meetings

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

Wednesday, March 20 9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

10:15 a.m. – CDO Chapel

6:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class

Thursday, March 21

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH) & Endowment Fund Committee

6:00 p.m. – CDO Board (202)

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

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

Friday, March 22 Pastor Jenny's Day Off

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

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

Saturday, March 23

5:00 p.m. – Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, March 24 PALM SUNDAY

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

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

Monday, March 25 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, March 26

7:00 p.m. – Witness Committee (Z)

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

Wednesday, March 27 9:00 a.m. – What-Sew-Ever

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Grades 6-12

Thursday, March 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Supper (PH)

6:15 & 8:00 p.m. – Bell Choir & Vocal Choir Rehearsals

7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Friday, March 29 GOOD FRIDAY

NO CDO

Noon & 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Worship Service

Saturday, March 30 EASTER VIGIL

8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, March 31 EASTER

Brunch

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

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

Parish Life Event

Celebrations in March



BIRTHDAYS

Karla Schneider	1
Bloom Tork	1
Dean Johnson	3
Bryan Price	3
Alex Crawford	3
LaDonna Little	4
Nate Whightsil	4
Ken Sherbert	4
Lora Carlson	6
Kathy Cheatham	7
Diane Leupold	8
Kevin Eaton	8
Maryanne Rutz	8
Reed Holwegner	9
Jan Shewanick	11
Tucker Guyle	11
Lea Welch	12
Leslie Malone	14
Andrea Lichter	18
Brian Hageman	21
Jonathan Black	22
Mary Beth Van Blarcum	24
Judy Cripps	25
Juli Tinoco	25
Lilly Smith	25
Shirley Brower	29
Ryann Jenks	29
Brad Merryman	30
Sherry Hess	31
Michael Lungstrom	31
Dan McCready	31

BAPTISMS

Scott Bangert	1
Judy Haley	2
Andrea Lichter	4
Janet Johnson	5
Nathan Leininger	11
Joshua Carney	13
Aurora Stone	15
Carol Ashwill	18
Linda Harold	19
Karen Wollin	19
Twila Zeigler	22
Kayleigh Arndt	22
Reed Holwegner	23
Kathy Montague	25
Pamela Strahan	25
Linda Anderson	26
Pam Callaway	27
Graham Chase	27
Phyllis Keller	28
Peter Hagstrand	29
Bryan Harold	29
Nancy Besta	30
Ken Sherbert	30
Bella Hopper	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Cindy Lear	3/01/1974
Rick & Julie Bender	3/10/1972
Robbie & Alyssa Sears	3/19/2005
Kirt & Patricia Collins	3/20/2010
Bryce & Judy Cripps	3/23/1975

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February 15, 2024
Volume 31, Issue 2

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MARCH 10, 2024

IN THE FIRST PLACE

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

