

The Epiphany of Our Lord January 2, 2022 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. Topeka, KS 66611 785-266-6263 www.christlcms.org Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor Amanda Adams, DCE Chris Francik, TLS Principal



As we gather, please take time to fill out the fellowship pad located near the center aisle in your pew. If you have any prayer requests, feel free to use a prayer request card from the pew rack in front of you, and place it in the offering plate after the sermon. (For those joining us online, please contact the church office.) We will include these requests in our prayers during worship, and share them with our prayer chain (if desired).

#### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

#### 394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

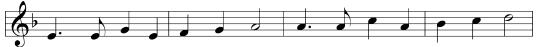
LSB 394



- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 2 Man i fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
- 3 Man i fest in mak-ing whole Pal sied limbs and faint ing soul;
- 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee; 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—
- 3 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy no ly word-



Man - i - fest - ed bv the star To the sa - ges from a - far. at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest; val - iant fight, Man - i - fest in Quell-ing all the dev - il's might; Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo-rious sign; Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou:



Da - vid's stem Branch of roy - al In Thy birth Beth - le - hem: at Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine; er bring-ing Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev good from ill; will see the Judge ap-pear; All will then the trum - pet hear, All That we might be-come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



Stand

#### Divine Service Setting Four, page 203

#### + Confession and Absolution +

Confession, to confess to God our sins and sinful nature. Absolution, "To absolve of sin and wrongdoing," more specifically, to affirm God's forgiveness to all who sincerely confess their sins to Him.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

#### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **Exhortation**

Psalm 124:8: Psalm 130:3-4: Luke 18:13 203

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

#### **Confession of Sins**

LSB 203

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

#### **Absolution**

[John 20:19-23] LSB 203

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### Service of the Word

#### Introit

Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17

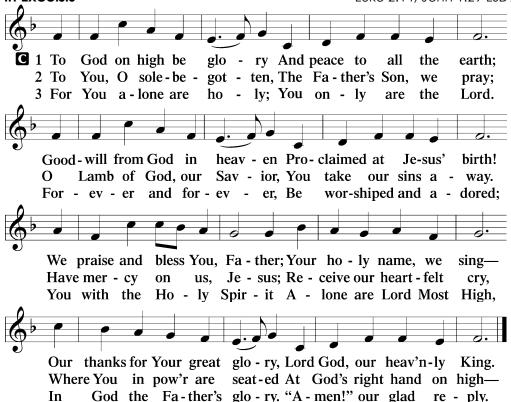
- **P** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
- **C** therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.
- Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- **©** you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
- Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- **P** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
- c therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

### **Kyrie**



**□** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.





#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

In

"Salutation" is a word from Latin meaning, "to salute" or "to greet." "Collect" (KAH-lekt), a brief structured prayer, usually consisting of five parts: address to God, basis for the prayer, petition, desired benefit or result, and trinitarian conclusion. The Collect of the Day also "collects" the message of the day's Gospel reading.

- The Lord be with you.
- And also with you. C
- Let us pray. P

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Isaiah 60:1-6

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 60.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples: but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankingense. and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

**Epistle** Ephesians 3:1–12

**A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 3.

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

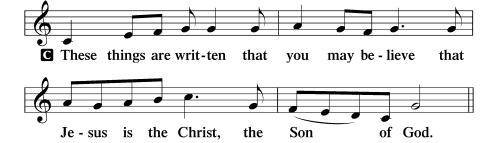
- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Stand

#### Alleluia and Verse



Verse John 20:31 LSB 205



Alleluia 205



Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

#### Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.



#### **Nicene Creed**

Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds (short statement of belief) agreed upon by the ancient church.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ. the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds. God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

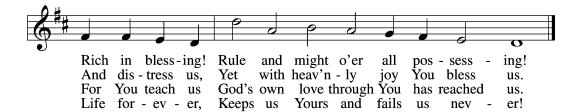
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Children are invited to the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message.





Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our yoices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!

Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

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#### Sermon

#### Offering

If you brought your gift, tithe, or offering with you today, you may place it in the offering plate as it passes. We also have multiple options for electronic giving. You can sign up for online giving at pushpay.com/pay/christlcms for a one-time or recurring gift. Direct links with more information are available on the church website (christlcms.org/giving).

For those joining us remotely, you may use the electronic giving methods listed above, or you may mail your offering to the church office (3509 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS 66611).



Stand

#### Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

At the end of each petition, the pastor will say, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation will respond, "Hear our prayer."

- Let ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### Service of the Sacrament

#### **Preface**

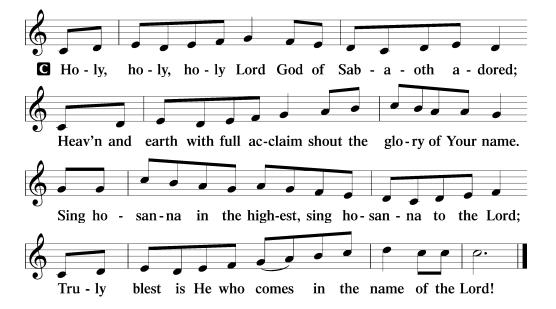
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 208

- **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 Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 208

(SAHNK-toose), "Sanctus" is Latin for "holy".



#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

#### **Lord's Prayer**

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

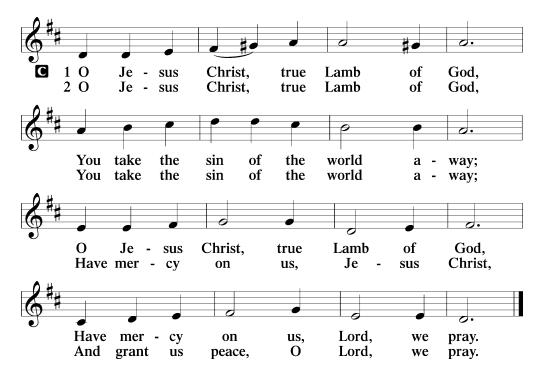
#### **Pax Domini**

(PAKS DOH-mee-nee), Latin for "peace of the Lord" (John 20:19).

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

Agnus Dei John 1:29 LSB 210

(AHG-noose DAY-ee). Latin for "Lamb of God."



Sit

#### Distribution

Communion is reserved for those who are members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or members of a church body in fellowship with the LCMS unless special arrangements have been made with the pastor. The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. Then they will distribute it to those who cannot come up to the altar rail due to physical ailments. Following that the ushers will dismiss the people from their pews to go to the altar rail. The congregation will be ushered down the middle aisle to go up to the rail and when dismissed from there will use the side aisle to return to their seats. All are invited up to receive a blessing.



(continued on next page)



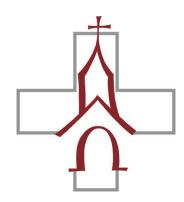
- Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
   Or we must die despairing,
  Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
  Our human nature sharing.
  He has for us the Law obeyed
  And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
  Which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
  And brought to us salvation,
  Each Christian therefore may be glad
  And build on this foundation.
  Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
  Your death is now my life indeed,
  For You have paid my ransom.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see Your Word cannot be broken; Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!" No falsehood have You spoken. Baptized into Your precious name, My faith cannot be put to shame, And I shall never perish.

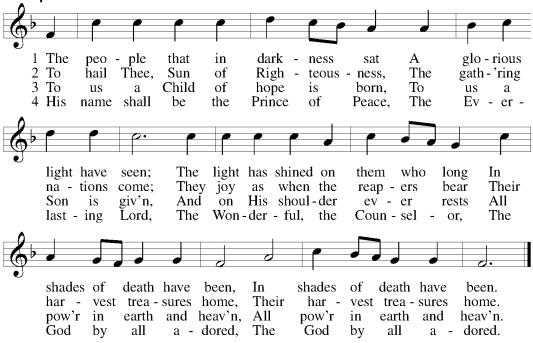
- 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
  And makes us conscience-stricken;
  But then the Gospel enters in
  The sinful soul to quicken.
  Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
  The Law no peace can ever give,
  No comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
  And rests in Him unceasing;
  And by its fruits true faith is known,
  With love and hope increasing.
  For faith alone can justify;
  Works serve our neighbor and supply
  The proof that faith is living.
- △ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
  To Father, Son, and Spirit,
  The God who saved us by His grace;
  All glory to His merit.
  O triune God in heav'n above,
  You have revealed Your saving love;
  Your blessèd name we hallow.

Text and tune: Public domain









 His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
 On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end. △ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text and tune: Public domain

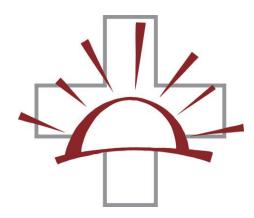




LSB 402



#### Stand



Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32 LSB 211

(NUNK dih-MIH-tuss). Latin for "now [let your servant] depart," from the Song of Simeon.





#### **Post-Communion Collect**

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1 LSB 212

(beh-neh-dih-KAH-moose), Latin for "bless we [the Lord]." We give thanks to God for everything He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### **Benediction**

A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
  The Lord look upon you with favor and 

  → give you peace.
- C Amen.

Sit



## -- Week at a Glance --

Sunday January 2nd		Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (adults & children)
Monday January 3rd		
Tuesday January 4th		
Wednesday January 5th	5:30 pm	Confirmation WWF Choir Practice
Thursday January 6th	2:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive Chair Aerobics Pastor's Bible Class
Friday January 7th		
Saturday January 8th	10:00 am	Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
Sunday January 9th	9:15 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (adults & children) Jr. Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades) Middle/High School Youth (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades) College/Young Adult Group (ages 18-25)

#### **Celebrating**

Birthdays: Thomas H. (2nd); Bianca L., Sloan W. (3rd); Jeff M. (6th)

Baptism Birthdays: Walt M. (4th); Marsha S., Mary S. (5th); Jeff M. (6th); Breanna P. (7th)

Anniversaries: Bob & Carol H. (3rd)

## -- Announcements --

#### Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Journey through Genesis with Pastor Ben – Schemm Family Life Center (Gym) God's Word for Today: Acts – Basement A Walk Through the Bible (Women's Group) – Pastor's Office

#### Children/Youth Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Children (Pre-K through  $6^{th}$  grade) — Upstairs Education Wing Youth ( $7^{th}$ - $12^{th}$  grades) — Basement Youth Room

#### Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

The Epistles – Thursday at 7 PM – Basement Our class doesn't usually meet the first Thursday of the month, but WILL meet this week.

#### Red Cross Blood Drive - Thursday, Jan. 6th

To make your life-saving appointment call 800-RED-CROSS or visit <u>redcrossblood.org</u> (sponsor code: TopekaCLC).

#### **New Officer Installation**

Our newly elected and re-elected church officers will be installed next Sunday during our regular worship services. (Officers may attend whichever service time they choose.)

#### **Blessing Bags**

The youth assembled blessing bags at their lock-in this past week. Pick one up from the coffee lobby, and keep it in your car to give to someone less fortunate.

#### WWF - Service Project for Topeka Rescue Mission

Weekly Wednesday Fellowship has resumed! Join us on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. We'll have a potluck dinner, and then make fleece tie blankets to donate to the Topeka Rescue Mission. All are welcome – no sewing skills necessary!

#### **Thank You**

We'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to the congregation and the Elders for the generous Christmas gifts. We are blessed to have such a caring church family!
-- Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, Mel, and Nancy

#### **Portals of Prayer**

Our LWML group is no longer collecting used Portals of Prayer. So when you pick up your new copy, please do not bring your old ones here to church anymore. If you would like it to get reused, feel free to pass it along to a friend or colleague, or drop it in a "Little Free Library" in your neighborhood. Thanks!

## -- Announcements --

#### **TLS Chili Feed**

The tradition is back! Topeka Lutheran School will hold their annual Chili Feed on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Families, friends, community members, and supporters of TLS are all invited to enjoy a student art show, auction, raffle, and (of course) great food!

#### National Lutheran Schools Week

From January 23<sup>rd</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> we celebrate National Lutheran Schools week. We thank God for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families through Topeka Lutheran School, The Center for Young Children, and over 1,800 other LCMS preschools, elementary schools, and high schools.

#### **Mask Information**

Face masks are still optional throughout the church building. Disposable masks are available at all church entrances for those who would like one. Children's size masks are located by the main entrance. Reusable cloth masks are available by the church office. For more information regarding masking, please visit <a href="www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>.

#### Remembered in our Prayers

Charlie P., Alice M., Luke H., Julie J., Don L., Jerry M., Jean B. (sister Pauline C.'s sister), Judy (Colleen B.'s neighbor), Noel (Colleen B.'s brother), Kathy (Brenda Z.'s sister-in-law), Shirley (Frank J.'s grandmother), Melanie (Sharon L.'s daughter), Ella (Marsha S.'s granddaughter), Jeanette W., Lisa (Judy K.'s sister), Randy (Carol J.'s son), Madison L., Steve (Rachel M.'s father), Vikki N., Matt N., Lynn M., Virginia C., Leonard (brother of Jeanette B.), Phil B., JoAnn (friend of Nancy P.), Evelyn (mother of Sandy S.), Mariean P., Ted M., Adam (Jamie H.'s son), Carolyn S., Caleb (Dana N.'s nephew), Robert P., Jen (Donna B.'s niece), Walt M., Principal Francik and family as he prayerfully considers a call to another school, and others named in your heart. Pray for the Topeka Rescue Mission, Chelsea Irwin and missionaries around the world. We pray especially for those around the world being persecuted for their faith in the one, true God and the suffering they endure. Please continue to pray for Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, our staff and their families as they do our Lord's work here at Christ Lutheran. We pray for the staff and students of Topeka Lutheran School and the Center for Young Children. We also pray for those who serve in the armed forces, first responders, and for our country and government. Prayers of thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior and the new life we have in Him.

TOPEKA LUTHERAN PRESENTS

# 2022 CHILI FEED

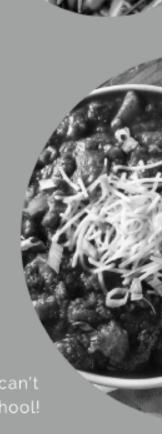
JANUARY 28, 2022 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Chili Baked Potatoes Hot Dogs & Brats Cinnamon Rolls

Auction & Raffle Student Art Show

We invite families, friends, commuity members and supporters of TLS. We can't wait to welcome everyone back to school!

THE TRADITION IS BACK!
BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY!



## NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK - JAN. 23-29



#### **PROVIDING EXCELLENT** Academic Preparation

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others



1,885 + 21,222



Districts

Sharing the life-changing message of Jesus' love with more than students, their families and the community

#### RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF Faithful Christian Disciples

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

Learn more: 888-THE LCMS (843-5267) Icms.org/school-ministry A > 0 0 0



@ 2021 LCMS

#### The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas; yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord — that is, on God becoming flesh — the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. The Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth — not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold, they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

#### Worship Attendance – Sunday, December 26th

8:00 AM -- 41 10:30 AM -- 61

## **Stewardship Corner**

Budgeted Weekly Needs:	\$ 7,878
Offerings Received – Week of 12/26	\$ 10,379
Budgeted Needs (Jan – Nov. 2021)	\$375,562
Offerings Received (Jan – Nov. 2021)	\$356,228

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Matthew 2:11 – "And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." Worship and the giving of gifts go together. This makes sense because God is the great Giver of every good gift, and we worship Him and desire to grow into His image. We receive His gifts in worship, and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.