

Second Sunday in Lent March 5, 2023 8:00 AM



As We Gather

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



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).

Holy Communion

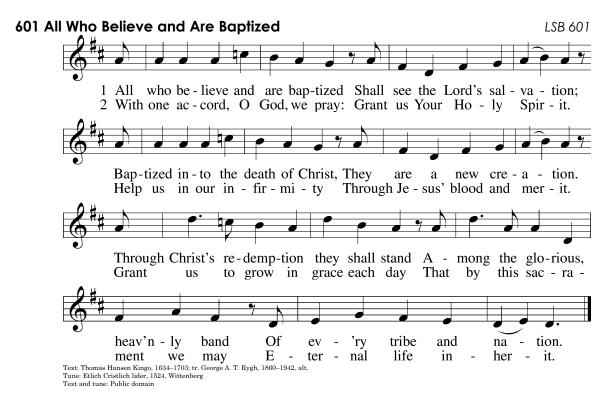
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

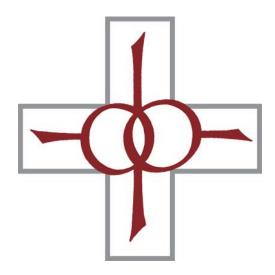


Welcome and Opening Prayer



Holy Matrimony – Darrell & Julie Pufahl

LSB 275



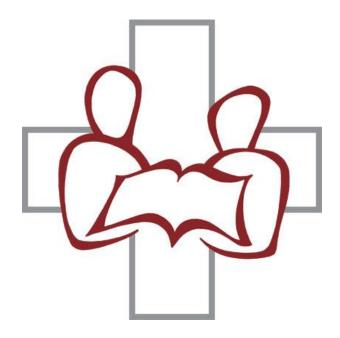
Stand

Divine Service Setting One, page 152 Service of the Word

Introit

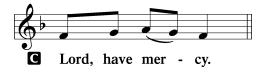
Psalm 105:4-7; antiphon: v. 8

- **P** He remembers his covenant forever,
- **C** the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.
- **P** Seek the LORD and his strength;
- **C** seek his presence continually!
- **P** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
- **C** his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
- **P** O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
- C children of Jacob, his chosen ones!
- **P** He is the LORD our God;
- C his judgments are in all the earth. 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** He remembers his covenant forever,
- **C** the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.



A Greek phrase meaning, "Lord, have mercy!" A brief prayer not only imploring God's mercy but rejoicing in it through Jesus Christ.

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



P 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.



P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Kyrie

Salutation and Collect of the Day

"Salutation" is a word from Latin meaning, "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.

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1–9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 12.

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who

had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 4.

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

7"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;
Shlagged is the men against whom the L and will not except

 $^8 blessed$ is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." . . .

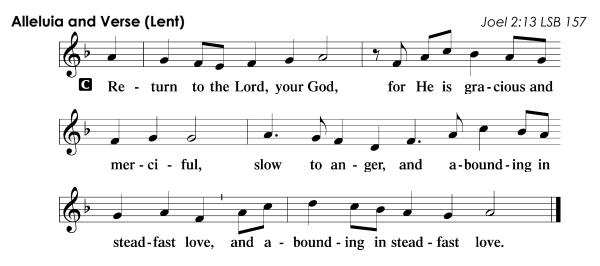
¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.



¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

C 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.

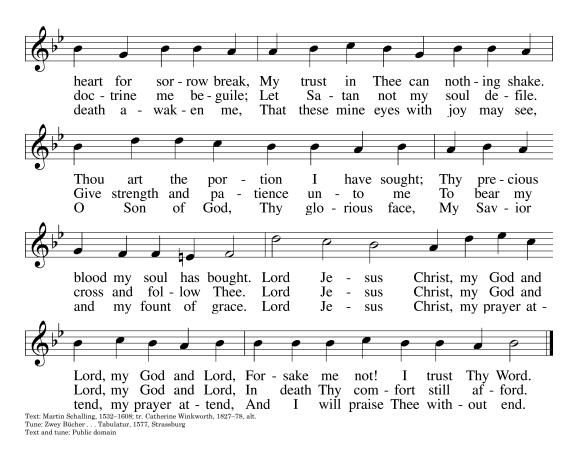
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified. who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission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

Sit

Children's Messaae

Matthew 19:14: Mark 13:13-15: Luke 18:16 Children are invited to join Amanda Adams, our Director of Christian Education, at the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message.

708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart LSB 708 love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from 1 Lord, Thee Ι 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun - ty gave My bod - y, soul. and 3 Lord, let last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om at With ten - der mer - cy de - part, cheer me. Earth me T have In this poor life Lord. all of la. bor. bear me home. That die And Ι may un - fear ing; plea - sure Ι would share. Yea. heav'n it - self were has no grant that Ι in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy in its nar - row cham - ber keep Mv bod - v safe in void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near And should my me. lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh no false bor. Let peace-ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



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 through Vanco at **bit.ly/GivingChristLCMS** for a one-time or recurring gift. You may also download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app and search for Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS. Direct links and additional 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 praver."

P ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holv Spirit, one God, now and forever.

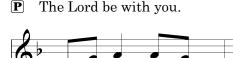
С Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 160



And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. P

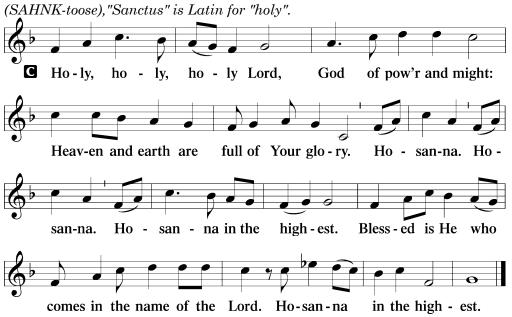


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. P



Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saving:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

 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

P 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

John 20:19 163

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

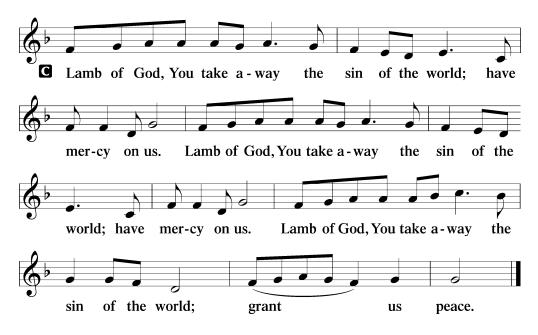
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.





Agnus Dei

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

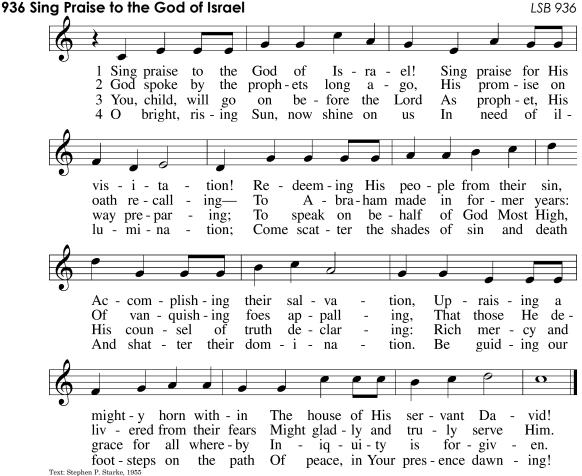


Sit

Distribution

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.



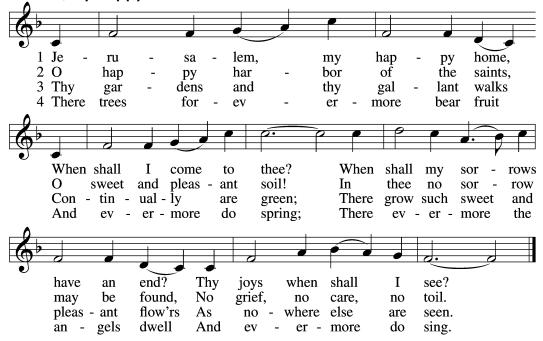


Tune: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

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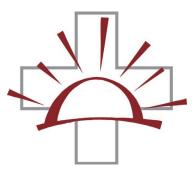


673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home



- 5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there Around my Savior stand;
 And soon my friends in Christ below Will join the glorious band.
- 6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt. Tune: American Text and tune: Public domain





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Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002199



Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32 LSB 165

(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.



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.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 166

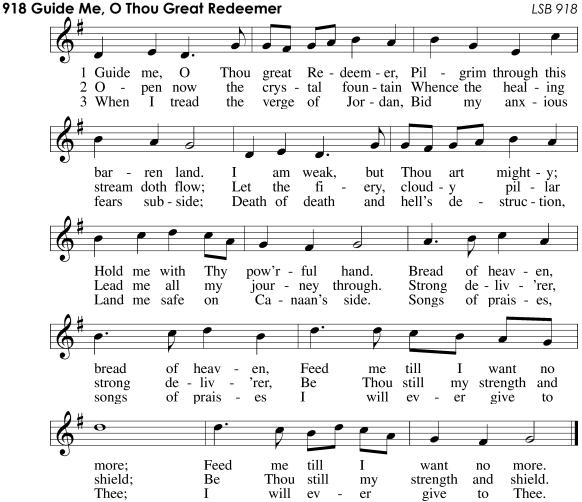
A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.

P 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.



Sit





Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text and tune: Public domain

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-- Week at a Glance --

Sunday March 5th		Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults)	
Monday March 6th			
Tuesday March 7th	11:00 am	TLS Fundraiser at Pie Five	
Wednesday March 8th	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Confirmation Communion Class Lent Meal Lent Midweek Worship Service Choir	
Thursday March 9th		Chair Aerobics Pastor's Bible Study	
Friday March 10th			
Saturday March 11th	10:00 am	Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	
Sunday March 12th	9:15 am 1:00 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults) Youth & Jr. Youth Mini Golf (4 th -12 th grades) College & Young Adult Group (ages 18-25)	

Celebrating

Birthdays: Kyle B., Natlie R. (5th); Jacelyn G. (6th); Brenda A., Brooklyn H. (7th); Phylis B., Rachel M. (8th); John A., Julie J. (10th); Patrick C., Kevin C. (12th) **Baptism Birthdays:** Casey F. (5th); George F. (7th); Sharon W. (9th); Arloa T. (12th) **Anniversaries:** Brian & Jackie G. (12th)

Congratulations

Christ members Darrell & Julie Pufahl were married during our 8:00 AM worship service this morning. All are welcome to enjoy a cupcake at their reception in the coffee lobby between services. God's blessings to the happy couple!

-- Announcements --

Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Romans (with Pastor Ben) – Schemm Family Life Center (Gym) God's Word for Today: 1, 2, & 3 John (Small Group) – Basement Meeting Room A Walk Through the Bible (Women's Group) – Meeting Room near Gym

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

Children (Pre-K through 6th grade) – Upstairs Education Wing Youth (7th-12th grades) – Basement Youth Room

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

The Book of Daniel – Thursdays at 7 PM – Basement (This class does NOT meet on the first Thursday of each month.)

<u>Lent</u>

Join us on Wednesdays for a Lent Meal at 6 PM and our Lent Midweek Worship service at 7 PM. If you would like to bring dessert for one of our Lent Meals, please sign up in the coffee lobby. Free devotion books are available at the back of the sanctuary, courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Easter Lilies

It's time to order your Easter lilies! The lilies are \$10 each. Place the completed purple form in the offering plate with your payment, or return it to the church office. Please note "Altar Guild" on your check or envelope, or for online payment through Vanco select "Altar Guild" from the list of available funds. Order deadline is Sunday, March 19th.

Muffins for Missions – THANK YOU!

To all who took part in our Muffins for Missions bake sale this past Sunday --

THANK YOU!!! We appreciate everyone who brought baked goods, volunteered at the bake sale, and made financial donations. Through your generosity, we blew past our goal! Our current total raised for Lifeline Pregnancy Center is \$1275. The Kansas District LCMS will be matching our goal number of \$1000, making a sum of over \$2200! We will not hear back regarding the Synod's Life Grant until May or June, but we didn't want to wait to show our appreciation for a job well done.

The bake sale may be over, but you may still donate if you wish. Please mark your check or envelope as "Muffins for Missions" or select the "Evangelism & Outreach" fund if paying online through Vanco.

Thank you again for supporting this mission right here in Topeka!

-- Announcements --

Bible Reading Challenge

We're officially through the first quarter of our Bible Reading Challenge! Are you on track to finish the entire Bible in one year? Those who are up to date on their reading may bring the Q1 completion slip (from the back page of your reading calendar) to church to redeem for your first quarterly prize – a free scoop from Culver's Frozen Custard!

<u>Harvesters</u>

Your next chance to volunteer at Harvesters is Tuesday, March 14th. Let DCE Amanda know if you would like to join us – slots are limited!

LWML

Our monthly LWML meeting time is changing! Beginning in March, our meeting will now be at 2 PM (instead of 7 PM) on the second Tuesday of the month.

TLS Fundraiser at Pie Five

This Tuesday, pick up some tasty pizza for lunch or dinner, and support the 8th graders at TLS. Be sure to mention Topeka Lutheran School when you order, and a percentage of the sale will go toward their class trip.

TLS Enrollment Signs

Help us get the word out about Topeka Lutheran School! You may pick up a yard sign (like the ones by our church driveways) in the school office at TLS. Place it in your yard as long as you like, and return it to TLS when you take it down.

Photographer Needed

Topeka Lutheran School is looking for a photographer to take professional photos of TLS students and activities to be used for their website, social media, marketing brochures, etc. If photography is your hobby or interest and you have a flexible schedule, please contact Marlene at (785) 357-1468.

Schaefer Scholarship

The Margaret Schaefer Scholarship assists Christ member families attending TLS with their tuition costs. Donations are always welcome, but are especially crucial in the spring season as we prepare for enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. Please prayerfully consider a one-time or recurring gift to this scholarship fund. Checks/envelopes should be marked "Schaefer Scholarship" and online gifts through Vanco should select "Schaefer Scholarship" from the list of funds. Thank you!

-- Announcements --

Remembered in our Prayers

Charlie P., Luke H., Don L., Jerry M., Jean (Pauline C.'s sister), Judy (Colleen B.'s neighbor), Noel (Colleen B.'s brother), Melanie (Sharon L.'s daughter), Ella (Marsha S.'s granddaughter), Vikki N., Matt N., Virginia C., Evelyn (mother of Sandy S.), Ted M., Garry N., Mark (Carol J.'s friend), Wayne B., David (Sondra K.'s son), Kim (friend of the Micheels), Dick H., Penny (Marty K.'s coworker's wife), Betty H., Burnell M., Dorothy (Wayne K.'s sister-in-law), Nick (Hannah M.'s cousin), Chris G., Sharon H., Lila N., Mike (Shawn H.'s friend), Darleen C., Kendra M., Brandon B., Dennis L., 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 Jr. Wildcats. 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.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH WWW.CHRISTLCMS.ORG

SHADOWS OF THE CROSS

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

> FEBRUARY 22 MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Join us each Wednesday during Lent for a meal at 6 pm.

Gluten-free options will be available each week. A free will offering will support Christ Youth or LWML.

<u>Feb. 22</u>

Pulled Pork

<u>Mar. 1</u>

Baked Potatoes

<u>Mar. 8</u>

Tacos

<u>Mar. 15</u>

Soup/Sandwiches

<u>Mar. 22</u> Lasagna

Lasagna

<u>Mar. 29</u>

Sloppy Joes

The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram "a great nation," to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:2–3). "Abram went, as the LORD had told him" (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan "he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD" (Gen. 12:8). He "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness" (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He "justifies the ungodly" (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord's promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which "gives life to the dead" (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, "that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14–15).

<u>Worship Attendance – Sunday, Feb. 26</u> 8:00 AM -- 125 10:30 AM -- 72

Stewardship Corner

Budgeted Weekly Needs: Offerings Received – Week of 2/26	\$ \$	8,945 14,169
Budgeted Needs (Jan-Feb 2023)	\$	80,505
Offerings Received (Jan-Feb 2023)	\$	73,849

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." This is perhaps the most well-known and beloved verse in the New Testament, for good reason. This simple Gospel message is the foundation for our whole life, including our new life in Christ. This new life is characterized by thankfulness and devotion to our Father who has provided for us so lavishly in Christ.