



St. John's

Ev. Lutheran Church

901 SW Fillmore | Topeka, Kansas 66606-1445 | 785.354.7132 | www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org

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NOVEMBER 2017

500 YEARS IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR: GOD'S WORD AND LUTHER'S DOCTRINE

The view from 1521 was bleak. That year at the Diet of Worms Kaiser Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire outlawed Luther and Lutheranism. With a bounty on his head, most bookies wouldn't have given the rebellious monk and the four-year-old Wittenberg Reformation more than 3 more months. But "He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord shall have them in derision" (Ps 2:4). And as you're reading this newsletter the Wittenberg Reformation reaches half a millennium old. Thanks be to God!

But how in the world did this come to be, that from near-death the Evangelical Lutheran Church now celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation?

Looking back on it all in his later years, Luther once said that while he and Master Philipp [Melanchthon, the second-most important figure of the Reformation] "slept or drank Wittenberg beer, the Word did everything" (*Luther's Works* 51.77).

Now, to be sure, Luther hardly did nothing but sleep and drink Wittenberg beer. His collected works fill well more than 100 sizeable volumes, and over his career he preached more than 2,000 sermons—and those are only the ones we know about.

And yet, against every odd—against the power of the Holy Roman Empire, against the reach and might of the Pope, against false teaching and heresy, even against the devil himself—by the grace of God the Wittenberg Reformation succeeded. It was a reform won not by brute force but *solely by the power of God's holy Word*, a fire and a hammer "that breaks the rock in pieces" (Jer 23:29), the infallible Word that succeeds in the thing for which God sends it (Is 55:11), the inerrant Word (Jn 10:35) that speaks truth in the midst of every corrupt and crooked generation (Phil 2:15-16), and the power of God unto salvation for all who believe (Rom 1:16). Today, 500 years later, that's the heritage and tradition we celebrate: God's Word and Luther's doctrine.

For that we can be filled with nothing but gratitude. And from that thankfulness comes a great commitment—a commitment to the supreme reign of the Word in our own lives, in our own congregation, in our own Synod. Because it's God's Word that makes Christians Christians and keeps them that way. It's God's Word that makes the church the church, not the other way around. It's God's Word that animates the hymns and liturgy of His church; that is the power of and in the water, bread, and wine taken in Christ's name and at His command; that is our only hope and comfort in life and in death. Happy, the church that clings to God's Word alone and His preaching and Sacraments. Blessed, the church whose mind is captive to the Word of God.

But woe to that church that despises the Word. Sure, it might look like a church, but it isn't Christ's. And if it isn't Christ's, it isn't the church.

For the church to be and remain the church, the divine Word can't be traded in for anything. It can't be betrayed, watered down, made null and void, shelved, ignored, subjected to futile criticism, or supplanted by "something else." Because apart from the Word there is no Christ. And apart from Christ there is no forgiveness of sins in His name, no salvation, no heaven. But with the Word—with the Word left to speak for itself and to interpret me before I interpret it—I have everything: Christ, His church, the forgiveness of sins, Baptism, the Sacrament, salvation and heaven.

By God's grace, 496 years after Luther's fateful "Here I stand," we Lutherans are still standing where Luther was: on God's holy, pure, infallible, inerrant and Christ-giving Word. Our crummy little Evangelical Lutheran Church probably still doesn't look like much. But I'm optimistic. Because what the Evangelical Lutheran Church wants and has always wanted is straightforward: God's Word. It's that Word alone that Christ uses to build, sustain, and defend His holy church. And so may it ever be our song and prayer, "Lord, grant while worlds endure we keep its teaching pure throughout all generations!" (*LSB* 582)



Senior Pastor - Rev. J. S. Bruss, ext. 104

Associate Pastor – Rev. D. M. Kerns, ext. 101

Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102

Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz

Associate Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson

TLS Teachers - Ashley Jensema, Andrea Kosmicki, Edith Kerns, Rachel Kathman

SOUND WORDS ACADEMY COURSE LISTING: CURRENT

Children

Rhythm of Faith Choir (6 September – 9 May, 5:30-5:55 p.m.; Johnson)

Calling all 3rd – 8th graders! Join together in God's gift of music to confess the truth of God's Word in song. Rhythm of Faith develops life-long skills in singing, ringing, and reading music. You'll have opportunities to participate as a choir in Evening Offices at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning services and to appreciate the rich heritage of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy.

Jr. Lutherans (6 September – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Sweet)

This fast-paced Bible, Catechism, and Lutheran history trivia game places Lutherans aged 4 – 12 yrs. in competition with one another and teams from other congregations in order to assist heads of the household fulfill their vocation to teach the Christian faith to their children. But the trivia is hardly *trivial*. Instead, it places in the minds and hearts of our children fundamental Christian knowledge that can be built upon in formal catechesis.

Adult Offerings

Heresies of the Early Church (Five weeks; 18 October – 15 November, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns)

There are five major heresies which have plagued the Church, and the same ones keep creeping in. The earliest one (1st century) is that of the Judaizers. We will look at that one discerning truth from error. We will then look at the Gnostic heresy, the Arian heresy, the Pelagian heresy, and the Socinian heresy. While these heresies arose centuries and millennia ago, they are by no means extinct.

COMING SOON! Reading & Understanding the Psalms (Three weeks; 29 November – 13 December, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss)

"Pastor, I think I should read the psalms, but I don't understand them." What is the "Hymnal of Israel" all about? Are there psalms elsewhere in Scripture? Is there a key to understanding the psalms? And how about their use in

the Divine Service and Offices of the church? This class will introduce you to a handful of principles useful for making the psalms your own hymnal and prayer book, with time to put it into practice.

Hebrews (Fall Term, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Hintz)

Luther describes Hebrews as a marvelously fine epistle. It discusses Christ's priesthood masterfully and profoundly on the basis of the Scriptures and extensively interprets the Old Testament in a fine way. Join this class for a wonderful look into the mysteries of God in Christ.

College Students and Young Adults Offerings 2017 – 2018

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (Eleven weeks; 6 September – 15 November, 7:45-8:40 p.m.)

Mere Christianity is a classic work of apologetics that all Christians do well to encounter at least once in their life. In his winsome manner, Lewis defends and explains the Faith. Perennially relevant.

Adult Catechesis

Fall Adult Catechesis (Fourteen (or so) weeks; 6 September – 13 December; 7:45-8:40 p.m.)

Spring Adult Catechesis (Fourteen (or so) weeks; starting 3 January 2018; 7:45-8:40 p.m.)

Youth Catechesis

YCat I (6 September – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kinnett)

YCat II (6 September – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss & Kerns)

MORE ON ... JUNIOR LUTHERANS

The St. John's Junior Lutheran Trivia teams are hard at work. Each Wednesday during Sound Words Academy we review the Q&A quiz books. This covers Holy Scripture, Luther's Small Catechism, as well as understanding and application of this knowledge. The purpose is to prepare our children for catechesis while having healthy competitive fun!

Our Senior team (ages 9 -12) has already received a challenge from Zion in Vassar. We will be setting up practice tournaments before the end of the year. The X-Quizzers (ages 4 - 5) and Novices (ages 6 - 8) are also working diligently through the quiz book. Each week we all have a devotion together about the weekly memorization challenge. We have a great time sharing our trivia knowledge with the group and get prizes for reciting the weekly question!

For parents whose children are already involved in Jr. Lutherans, I encourage you to quiz and discuss the material with your children. For those whose children aren't yet involved, now is the time to join! I encourage you to enroll your children in Jr. Lutherans and support our teams as we learn more in our Lutheran studies! Please let me know if you have any questions.

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS 2017

This year St. John's will celebrate the Feast of All Saints on Wednesday, November 1, in a 7:00 p.m. Divine Service in the nave, with the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. There will be an additional observation of All Saints (transferred) on Sunday, November 5, in our two Divine Services that day. Those Sunday services will also include the Commemoration of the Faithful of the Departed. The impact on Sound Words Academy on 1 November is as follows: all classes that start *prior* to the 7:00 p.m. Divine Service will be held according to their normal schedule. All classes *after* the Divine Service, notably, Young Adults and College Students and Adult Catechesis, will be canceled that evening only.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: BUDGET AND RECEIPTS REPORT

In an effort to keep our congregation informed about our financial situation, the Board of Stewardship has agreed to publish monthly budget reports. These reports are designed to give you a snapshot of our congregational support of the budget adopted by the voters assembly for 2017. We hope that you will find this information useful.

Through the month of September 2017

Budgeted Receipts through September	\$539,541.00
Actual Receipts through September	\$498,099.34
Shortfall through September	(\$41,441.66)

UPCOMING REFORMATION 500 EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S AND AROUND

In Topeka (sponsored by St. John's)

Saturday, October 28	Run, Martin! Run
Sunday, October 29	Circuit 6 (Topeka-Lawrence) Reformation 500 Celebration Joint Divine Service, TPAC, 10:30 a.m. (no Divine Service at SJELC that day)
Tuesday, October 31	Oktoberfest, Luther Hall, SJELC, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, October 31	Reformation Day Divine Service (with incense), nave, SJELC, 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 11	"Luther's Other Breakthrough and How It Will Change Your Life," Prof. Joel Biermann of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Courtyard, SJELC, 1:00-4:15 p.m. (See below for more information)
Saturday, November 11	Chili Cook-Off & Reformation Trivia to celebrate Luthers Geburtstag (Luther's Birthday), Luther Hall, SJELC, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 11	Reformation 500 Hymn Sing, nave, SJELC, 3 p.m.

LUTHER'S 'OTHER BREAKTHROUGH'

"Luther's Other Breakthrough and How It Will Change Your Life." Saturday, November 11, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Professor Joel Biermann of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will deliver a series of talks on the continuing relevance of the Reformation and Lutheran teaching. This will be held in the Courtyard. Prof. Biermann, an excellent lecturer, served as a parish pastor for 11 years, and is currently the Waldemar A. and June Schuette Professor of Systematic Theology at CSSL.

CHILI COOK-OFF & REFORMATION TRIVIA

Luthers Geburtstagsfest/Luther's Birthday Party Chili Cook-Off and Reformation Trivia. Martin Luther would be 534 years old this tenth of November. In celebration of that, Saturday, November 11, St. John's is hosting a Chili Cook-Off and Reformation Trivia for our own congregation and all the LCMS congregations in Topeka and Lawrence. Food service starts at 6:00 p.m. First-come, first-served tickets for the event are \$5.00 at the door, and include portions of every chili entry, sides, dessert, drinks, and two trivia games. For details on how to enter your chili in the cook-off, contact enclberg@gmail.com. All proceeds go to support our Kansas LCMS circuit 6 mercy project, Feed My Starving Children.

NEW ADULT CLASS FOR SOUND WORDS ACADEMY

A new adult class began on Wednesday October 18 at Sound Words Academy on Heresies of the Early Church. Each week addresses a different heresy (which means that if you happen to miss a week you can pick right up the next). The class not only looks at the ancient form of these heresies, but where they can be spotted today in popular/folk American theology. In other words, this class isn't just about the ancient Christian Church, but about the Christian Church of 2017. This class meets in the 5:55 time slot in the Courtyard, and even if you've missed one or two sessions you can certainly still profitably jump into the class.

2018 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2018 Flower Calendar is now posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. You can sign up for flowers on the calendar, or call the church office at 354-7132 to communicate the Sunday you would like to have your name placed on the calendar. Thank you to all members who have provided the beautiful flowers for us thus far this year.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016 AT 2 A.M.

Set your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday evening, November 4.

NOVEMBER'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

November's breakfast will consist of "fancy donuts" in the Courtyard instead of a sit-down breakfast in Luther Hall. This is to give Dr. Joel Biermann more time for his Bible class following. You do not have to bring anything but your appetite. A small donation would be welcome. You won't want to miss either the breakfast or the Bible study!

SHARE THE HARVEST

This year, St. John's members will again have the opportunity to "Share their Harvest". This donation goes to local agencies to assist the needy in the Topeka area. The Harvest will be gathered at services on Thanksgiving Day and the following Sunday. Please use the "Share the Harvest" Designated Offering envelope from your contribution envelopes. Additional "Share the Harvest" envelopes and canisters are available in the narthex. Through "Share the Harvest" we direct those in need of assistance to a local agency that we support. Last year, \$1294 was distributed in support of *Topeka Rescue Mission (25%)*, *Let's Help (25%)*, *Doorstep, Inc. (25%)*, and *St. John's Human Care (25%)*. We deeply thank you for your contribution to this human care effort. "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS BASKETS & POINSETTIA DELIVERY

The Welfare Fund provides monetary assistance to members who have special needs. If you wish to contribute to this cause, please make your check payable to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, "Welfare" on the memo line. In addition to monetary gifts, The Crisis Response Team, under the Human Care Team and The Board of Missions, prepares and delivers meals and purchases groceries and gift certificates at Christmas time and for members in need of assistance throughout the year.

If you would be willing to assist in providing meals and/or delivering poinsettias during the Christmas season, please contact Deaconess Linda.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOTING MEMBER?

The new constitution of our congregation defines “voting member” as a communicant member who has reached the age of 18 years and been received as a voting member upon application for such privilege upon approval of the voters of the assembly. This means that, unlike in the past, communicant women age 18 and above are eligible to join the voters assembly. **We encourage all eligible St. John’s members to join the voters assembly.** You can contact the office to get instructions on how you can become a voter.

WOMEN’S LEAGUE CARING MISSION YEARLY REPORT FOR 2017

Our Lutheran World Relief (LWR) projects are completed for this year. We are happy to report we have 72 Personal Health Kits, 51 School Kits, 14 lbs. of soap and 20 quilts to send this year to LWR. A special thanks to Marge Gehrt and Marcia Wade who made all 51 beautiful school backpack bags for the School Kits. We also want to acknowledge Barb Porter who made 9 of the 20 quilts for LWR at her home, and 8 for display on LWML Sunday. These will be distributed to the Topeka Rescue Mission and Haskell Light Ministries. Four quilts were made earlier this year and given to Doorstep. Barb is truly amazing and what an example for persevering in spite of health obstacles!

These projects will be taken to LWR pick-up truck at Christ Lutheran Church on October 6. The LWR truck takes LWR projects to the LWR warehouse in Baltimore, MD. From there, the quilts and kits are shipped to different countries where they are needed most. Our thanks to all St. John’s members and all the ladies who worked or donated to make this a success. Again, these ladies have taken St. Paul’s words, *“Do not grow weary of doing good”* to heart.

WOMEN’S LEAGUE NEWS

LWML Bazaar & Luncheon: It’s that time of year again. Please mark Friday, December 1, 2017 on your calendar for the St. John’s LWML Bazaar and Luncheon. It’s time to think about what you can bring to this event to insure we have another successful bazaar. The ticket price for an adult is \$8.00 and \$3.00 for a child. Booths open at 10:30 a.m. and the Luncheon is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In addition, we also will have one of the largest “Cookie Walks” in Topeka. The price for the cookies is \$6.00 a pound. As in the past few years, we will be selling woodworking items, homemade craft items, gift items, paintings, quilts, etc. We will again be offering a baked goods area and the Sweet Shop. The proceeds will be divided among many different local and national missions. Without the contributions from St. John’s members and the participation from the general public, this would not be possible. We thank you in advance for your help. Items may be brought to church on Wednesday, November 29 and Thursday, November 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additional information will be available in the Sunday bulletins.

We would like to ask for 4-6 volunteers for the congregation to help serve the Luncheon. Our ladies work really hard never have time to eat or shop and with more volunteers this would give them a short break. We would also like to put an emphasis on all the money received, less expenses, from this Christmas Luncheon and bazaar, will be given to Missions, both locally and abroad. Watch the newsletter in January or February and you will see where these funds were sent for this year.

Thank you in advance for your support, by volunteering, contributions, attending and purchasing items and enjoying the wonderful luncheon.

NOVEMBER VOTERS MEETING

There will be a Voters Meeting Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m. in the church nave. Items of business will include:

1. Reports from Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Board Chairs
2. Presentation of the Proposed 2018 Congregational Budget for voter approval
3. Presentation of the ballot of nominees for congregational officers and board members for 2018

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.” Matt. 25:35

We have been offered an opportunity to participate in a humanitarian project called “Feed My Starving Children,” a NGO which packs and sends nutritious food to children in 70 countries where starvation is rampant. The organization began in 1987, and has grown tremendously. Over the last thirty years, 99.9 percent of the food and 92.7 percent of the monetary donations go directly to the children who need help the most.

We all have seen pictures of skin stretched over bones and bloated bellies. These children do exist, and our church has been asked to make monetary donations and to volunteer **just two hours** to package food. FMSC appears to be a safe and efficacious way to answer Jesus’ mandate, *“for I was hungry and you gave me food.”*

In partnership with other churches in the Topeka area, the packaging of the food will take place on March 3, 2018 here at St. John’s in Luther Hall. Children as young as five and adults as young as 100 and everyone in between are welcome and encouraged to participate. No cooking is involved. The ingredients are shipped to the site ready to be packaged on an assembly line. Our church’s goal is **fifty (50) volunteers**, but the more we have the more packages that can be sent. The reports from earlier volunteers from all over the country suggest that the experience is not only rewarding, but also enjoyable. For those who prefer, sit-down jobs are available. Please consider helping as a team, as a family, or individually. If you even just think you might be able to help, please **sign up in the breeze way**.

ST. JOHNS WOMEN’S LEAGUE LWML

It’s that time of year again, time for LWML activities to start back up. If you are not a member of a Women’s league LWML group and would like to be, we have 2 groups, Sarah Circle meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 with a short business meeting, bible study and refreshments with fellowship, Dorcas Circle meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1 pm, also with a short business meeting, bible study and refreshments with fellowship.

2017 KANSAS DISTRICT REFORMATION OFFERING

The Kansas District is pleased to announce the first annual Kansas District Reformation Offering, designed to support mission outreach in the state. All gifts received from the offering will support the newly established Rev. Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund. This fund was made possible through a gift from the Rev. Eugene E. Schmidt Trust. The fund that bears his name will continue mission work, supporting efforts including church revitalization, church planting and specialized ministries (e.g. campus, rural and small town, urban and ethnic, deaf). If you would like to contribute to this special offering, please write a check to the LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604.



TLS NEWS

1. **TLS Open House** will be held **Sunday, Nov. 5** from 2:00 to 4:00pm, at 701 SW Roosevelt Street. Faculty members and staff will be present to greet visitors and provide tours of the school. Performances by the school band and choirs are planned. For more information, please contact TLS Principal Chris Francik or Admissions Counsellor Lynette Chada at [785.357.0382](tel:785.357.0382).
2. Tributes to our veterans will be given at the **TLS Veterans' Day program** scheduled for Friday, November 10, at 2:30 pm in the school gym. Performances by the student choirs and band are planned, with refreshments following the program. We hope many of our veterans and their spouses can join us! Please call the TLS office at 785.357.0382 if you have any questions.
3. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, Nov 30**, at 12:45pm! The TLS advanced choir (6-8 grades) will be performing Christmas music at the Festival of Trees at the Ag Hall (just north of the Capital Plaza Hotel at 17th and Topeka Blvd.). We hope you can stop by!
4. The **TLS class of 1980** will hold an alumni dinner at TLS on **December 23**. If you have a family member, friend or know of someone from the TLS class of 1980, please have them contact the Foundation Office, [785-357-1468](tel:785-357-1468) or foundation@topekalutheran.org so that their contact information can be confirmed. We hope to have the details of the event confirmed in the very near future and would like to be able to contact all the alumni. Thank you for your help.
5. **Installation of new exterior windows** (east side of the school) was completed on Oct 21 and 28. Thank you for the many generous gifts given to the TLS Foundation for this project, and a sincere "thank you" for your continued prayers and support for TLS.

LUTHERAN BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT WORKERS

WC#31 here at St. John's is still/again looking for a new leader to begin in January 2018. The position involves approximately ten hours a month. The ten hours include

- being in contact with the home office in California to schedule assembly of Bible books
- ordering supplies
- collating, punching and binding books
- checking and filling orders to be packed in boxes
- shipping to those who request them
- paperwork and details

The St. John's Braille workers gather once or twice a month from 8:00 to noon on Thursdays in the church undercroft. There is wonderful fellowship with a very industrious group of volunteers. I will still be volunteering and working alongside the new leader. Please give this very worthwhile mission project prayerful consideration and become a part of "Bringing Christ to Those in Darkness" worldwide.

DOORSTEP NEWS

It is amazing how fast 2017 has gone by! There have been many tragedies in our country in just the last few months. So many people are suffering, and in need around our nation! Our hearts go out to all of them as Doorstep keeps working here in Topeka to help our neighbors in need.

The beginning of the holiday season is now upon us! This year Doorstep will again adopt 250 households from the Christmas Bureau. There are over 700 individuals within these households, and they provide a Christmas for them all. This year the Christmas Bureau will take applications for 8 days between October 24th and November 4th. Sign up is for our neighbors in need who cannot afford to provide a Christmas for

their families. These are families and individuals who meet the federal poverty guidelines. They are working, but not making a living wage; they are disabled, they are struggling to provide the most basic of needs for their families, and need a little extra help at Christmas.

Doorstep's Christmas Store is a unique experience and different from anything else they do at Doorstep! They need your help with gifts, monetary donations to purchase the food, and volunteers to help during the five day process. The Store is such an uplifting experience you cannot help but feel good about your time spent volunteering there!

Please mark your calendars for December 10 – 14, and watch for flyers on specific days and times for volunteering. Doorstep's Christmas Store is possible each year in large part because of the generosity of our member congregations and their members. Neighbors helping neighbors is what Doorstep was founded on, and what they continue to do today!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR NOVEMBER 2017

November 5	Three Men in the Fiery Furnace
November 12	Daniel in the Lions' Den
November 19	God's People Go Home
November 26	Esther

<i>Our God is a God of salvation.</i>	Psalm 68:20
<i>Save me in your steadfast love!</i>	Psalm 31:16
<i>The Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever.</i>	Psalm 100:5
<i>In You I trust . . . for You are the God of my salvation.</i>	Psalm 25: 2,5
<i>He will command His angels . . . to guard you in all your ways.</i>	Psalm 91:11

Thank you, parents for bringing your children to Sunday school where they can be nurtured in the faith through the Word of God. Even the two-year-olds have their own class! Why not set a good example for them and attend one of the Bible classes during the Sunday school hour.

CHECK OUT THE PACKET OF FOOD . . .

. . . on the table outside the Information Center. That is what we will be packaging on March 3, 2018, in Luther Hall. We hope to send 100,000 meals to starving children over the world. Sign up to be a part of this project of mercy.

YOU CAN IMPACT A CHILD'S LIFE BY BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

The need for foster families in Kansas is ever-present. There are currently over 7,000 children in need of foster care. We are looking for compassionate families willing to open up their homes and hearts to children who are in need of a nurturing, supportive environment. FosterKansasKids helps you through the journey, making the process as smooth as possible, and providing your family the support you need through all of your questions and concerns. For more information call 1-844-380-2009 or visit the website: www.fosterkids.org.



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19–20a)
 So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel. (*Augsburg Confession*, Article 5)

I can do
 ALL THINGS
 through
 CHRIST
 Who
 STRENGTHENS
 ME Phil 4:13