



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Missouri Synod

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

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**MARCH 2015**

### **JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN**

*"Then children were brought to him that he might lay hands on them and pray"* Matthew 19:13.

How were the children brought to Him? By their parents, of course. That says something to us today. The only way that little children can come to Jesus is that they be carried. Luke's account of this event in chapter 18:15-17 even uses the Greek word for "infants." After the disciples rebuked the people for bothering Jesus, the Master replied, *"Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God . . . . Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it"* (Luke 18:16).

Parents carry their children to the Baptismal font. There the infant simply receives God's promise of salvation in Jesus Christ and the faith to trust that promise. What a glorious transaction! This sinful-by-nature creation is made a child of God and brought into His kingdom. No fireworks, no bells and whistles, no lightning from heaven. Just ordinary water made extraordinary by the Word of God.

Parents carry their children to the Divine Service. There these infants are further nourished by receiving the gifts of God through the Word. It often does not appear to be so as the children learn not to wiggle and squirm or talk out loud, but God's Word *"shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11). No fireworks, no bells and whistles, no lightning from heaven. God is forming the little ones into the likeness of Christ quietly through His promise.

Parents carry their children to Sunday school where they are taught the Word of God and are further nourished by it. There they learn how much Jesus loves them and cares for them through the love shown to them by their teachers who faithfully prepare and teach the Bible stories (which are actually only one story – the story of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation). No fireworks, no bells and whistles, no lightning from heaven. Just faith that was given in Baptism being nurtured.

Parents carry their children to the home altar for family devotions, for God has given the parents the primary responsibility for passing on the faith to the next generation. No fireworks, no bells and whistles, no lightning from heaven. Just hard work on the parents' part to carve out family worship time and stick to it.

In like manner, we adults, too, are carried into the kingdom of God by Jesus Himself, the Word. Just like infants who cannot even feed themselves, we are not capable of doing anything toward our salvation. As mothers feed their infants and the infants only receive, our Father in heaven feeds us and we only receive the gifts that God gives – forgiveness, life, and salvation. We adults try to "do good" in order to please God, we attempt to decide our own path to God, we rely on our own abilities and philosophies and are pretty proud of ourselves. But Jesus says we must be like little children, passively receiving nourishment from the merciful God through His Word and Sacraments, simply trusting in Him.

*Deaconess Linda*

**Pastor - Rev. Peter K. Lange, ext. 101**  
**Assistant Pastor - Rev. Jon S. Bruss, ext. 104**  
**Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102**  
**Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz**  
**Visitation Pastor - Rev. Glenn R. Bitter**  
**Day School Teachers - Ashley Jensema, Andrea Kosmicki, Marcia Lange**

### LENTEN SERVICES

Join us for our Lenten series, **Paradoxes of the Passion**. Each Wednesday this Lent, February 25 – March 25, we will host pastors from Calvary, Hope, and St. John’s in Alma, along with our own pastors, with homilies on the various paradoxes in the Passion of our Lord: in darkness the light of the holy cross shines most brightly; from the death of the sinless One the Lord brings life to sinners; the Judge of the world is judged; and among the lies of men God shows His truth. Wednesdays 12:15 and 7:00 p.m.

### LENTEN MEALS

There will be a light meal starting at 5:30 p.m. before each 7:00 p.m. service. The menus include: chili dogs, baked potatoes, potato soup/vegetable soup, and pizza. Come join your church family for a meal followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Shelley and Candis Will and Wanda Wash have volunteered to be our cooks. The following groups have agreed to help with clean-up:

March 4 – LWML  
 March 11 – Youth  
 March 18 – Choirs  
 March 25 – Church Council

### 2015 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday, March 29	<i>8:15 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</i>
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	Thursday, April 2	<i>12:15 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</i>
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, April 3	<i>12:15 &amp; 7:00 p.m.</i>
<b>Holy Saturday, the Vigil of Easter</b>	Saturday, April 4	<i>8:00 p.m.</i>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Sunday, April 5	<i>8:15 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</i>

### YOUTH NEWS

**Friday, March 20:** Sr. High Youth come join the Topeka Roadrunners Hockey Team for Faith and Family Night. They take on the Amarillo Bulls at 7:05 p.m. at the Landon Arena (Topeka Expocentre). Invite your friends and family so we can get group rates and join us for a fun and exciting evening. Sign up on the breezeway bulletin board. Youth pays half for all.

**Saturday, June 6: GOLF SCRAMBLE.** This is the youth’s annual fundraiser at Forbes Golf Course. This will be another 18-hole (2 rounds of 9) shotgun start, so start assembling your teams now. Prizes, a delicious lunch, goodie bags and loads of fun are just waiting for all you golfers. Registration sheets will be out in March, but you can sign up early by talking to Kathy Gehrke (785-331-4641) or by letting Jim Simpson know.

## **STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**The Board of Christian Stewardship** will begin including stewardship messages periodically in the Notes and News pages of the Sunday bulletin and in the monthly Newsletter. We often just think of stewardship each year when we think of our annual pledge. The Board of Stewardship intends to highlight how God's Word teaches stewardship throughout the church year, always exhorting us to share God's gifts to us through our God-pleasing use of our time, talents and treasures.

**Ephesians 5:1-2** *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."* Our sanctification flows from the justification which we have received in Christ. His love for us transforms us into His image. This is why the Bible talks so much about giving – because we are to imitate God in His generosity.

**Genesis 22:2** He said, *"Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* It's hard for us to even fathom a faith as strong as Abraham's: he follows the Lord's Word even when it seems impossibly hard. But he does so because he knows that the Lord only means to bless. What happened here to Abraham should be an encouragement for us: trust the Lord and keep His Word.

## **CALLING ALL MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS**

It is our desire to identify all members of our congregation who have served or who are presently serving in the United States military. We ask you to contact the church office or one of the Elders identifying your name and branch of service. Our plan is to maintain an up-to-date roster for recognition/support and remembrance for dedication to God and country. We have also started a listing of dearly departed service members, so please submit those names and branch of service as well.

## **ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

The date for the Annual Church Cleaning in preparation for Holy Week and Easter has been set for Saturday, March 28, beginning at 8:00 a.m. or as close to 8:00 as you can make it. Many willing hands are needed to assist with spring cleaning throughout the building (including dusting high and low and washing down walls throughout). This is also the time we work at preserving all the beautiful woodwork in the church and give the pews their annual treatment of a blend of Rub Cut Oil and Naphtha. For over 75 years this task has been lovingly accomplished by hundreds of willing hands.

Help is also needed to dust the nave light fixtures and change batteries in smoke detectors (really tall ladder work). Bring a bucket and some cleaning cloths if you can. Plan to join other members for service and fellowship as we prepare our Lord's house for Holy Week and Easter. Please sign up on the sheet at the Information Center.

## **SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 6, 2015**

St. John's Annual Golf Tournament this summer will be held at Forbes Field. This is a fundraiser for the youth group and their activities and their trip to Higher Things Conference in July. Plan to participate as a golfer, a sponsor, or as a volunteer! See the Youth News for more information.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to everyone who came to the TLS Chili Supper. It was great to see so many familiar faces. We had a lot of fun hosting this event and hope everyone else who attended had a great time. We are excited about our teachers, staff and principal and invite you to talk to a TLS parent or teacher if you have any questions about TLS. Thank you for your support of TLS.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS...

Sunday, March 8

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 7.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

March 22 we will meet at 4:00 in the Courtyard. We will have a Pot Luck. Bring a meat, salad or dessert to share. We will play Bunco and start planning our Smorgasbord Dinner for April. Everyone is welcome.

## EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter Breakfast, anyone? In order to have our annual Easter breakfast on April 5, we will need many volunteers! Please indicate your willingness to help prepare, serve, or clean-up by signing your name to one of the shifts listed on the flyer at the Information Center. If all the slots are filled by March 15, we will plan to have the breakfast between services on Easter Day. A decision will be announced after March 15 regarding whether or not we will have a breakfast and what the menu might be.

## DOORSTEP NEWS

Doorstep's Operation Soup Line was a great success!

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and desserts to help.

**Annually, during the month of March**, St John's is one of five congregations responsible for providing a significant portion of food to Doorstep. If you are able to assist with this outreach, it would be greatly appreciated! Doorstep regularly indicates specific food items that are low, but they appreciate any non-perishable food items.

Volunteers are needed to work in the clothing room at Doorstep on each of the 4 Wednesdays in the month. Shift times can be arranged between the hours of 8:30 and 2:00. We are also in need of volunteers to assist with sorting clothing at Doorstep from 9:00 and 3:00 on Monday, March 30. **If you are interested in volunteering, please call Chris Graversen at 235-9982 or Bev Beam at 286-0681.** Again, thank you in advance for your willingness to give of your time and resources as our congregation continues to care for our neighbors in need.

### Doorstep joins Dillons' Community Rewards Program

Would you like to support Doorstep just by doing your grocery shopping? Doorstep joined the new Community Rewards Program offered through Dillons Grocery Stores. Doorstep will receive a percentage of each purchase made from those who select Doorstep for their rewards. Please consider helping Doorstep in this new program offered by Dillons.

Enroll in the Community Rewards program and every time you swipe your Dillons Shoppers card, you will be earning rewards for Doorstep!

1. Make sure you have a Dillons Plus Shoppers Card
2. Visit : <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>

3. If you get weekly emails from Dillons then your account is registered. You may need to add your personal information. Sign into your account, scroll to the bottom and click on **“Apply Now”**

**Doorstep’s NPO Number is 50394**

If your card is not registered, you can create an account and then enroll. The advantage of creating an account is you'll get emails for Free Fridays - a coupon for a protein bar, bag of cereal, container of yogurt, etc. Plus you can download coupons directly to your shopper’s card. Easiest of All - If you don’t have email or you simply don’t want to register your account, then Call 1-800-576-4377, option #3. Give them your card number and Doorstep’s number, 50394, and you are enrolled.

### **THE LUTHERAN FINE ARTS COUNCIL OF TOPEKA**

LFACT invites all Lutheran artists in Shawnee County to be part of the FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK, May 1st from 5:30-8:00 p.m. This event will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th in conjunction with the community First Friday Art Walk. All past or first time artists are invited to show and work may also be sold. For questions and to register to be a part of this event contact Susan Thowe at 379-0435, [srthowe@gmail.com](mailto:srthowe@gmail.com).

### **TOPEKA LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS**

Topeka Lutheran School has been in operation since 1874 when the Rev. P.G. Germann, pastor of the newly established St. John’s Lutheran Church, organized a private school in the church basement at 2nd and Van Buren in Topeka. The school soon became a church project, and in 1885, the congregation built a two-room school house. St. John’s Lutheran School continued to grow, and in 1888 they added a third room to the facility. In 1919, the church bought three lots at 4th and Harrison in Topeka, and opened a new school at this location in 1922. By 1948, this facility had grown to a five-room operation and was quickly outgrowing the site. In 1949, the church purchased the plot of ground at 7th and Roosevelt where the current school is located.

Please help Topeka Lutheran School Celebrate 140 years of providing Lutheran Education to children of our congregation and our community. Plan to attend a night of Dinner, Entertainment and Fellowship April 17, 2015 at the historical Great Overland Station. The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour; dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment and our special guest speaker Ken Calwell, at 8 p.m. Ken is a TLS Graduate and CEO of Papa Murphy’s International. Families are welcome. Call the TLS Office (357-0382) for ticket information or email [foundation@topekalutheran.org](mailto:foundation@topekalutheran.org) and reserve your seats now!

You can also help raise money for the Topeka Lutheran School with their 1st Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk on April 18 at 8 a.m. Please register at [active.com](http://active.com), then click 5k for Topeka Lutheran School 1st Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk and it will give you information on all details of the race. Don't worry, if you don't want to run, you can walk. All participants will receive a Thrivent for Lutherans t-shirt and concessions after the race. Hope to see you there. Have some fun, get some exercise and also help out TLS!

### **RECEIVE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

Go to the church web site [www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org](http://www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org) fill out the form on the news and events page “Subscribe to St. John’s Newsletter.” Enter your first and last name and email address. Select subscribe, then select submit. You will receive the newsletter via email next month. You can also contact the church office at 354-7132 as the list is administered by the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Graversen.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR MARCH 2015

March 1:	<i>Jesus Calms a Storm</i>	<i>Mark 4:35-41</i>
March 8:	<i>Jesus Clears the Temple</i>	<i>John 2:13-22</i>
March 15:	<i>Jesus Walks on Water</i>	<i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>
March 22:	<i>The Widow's Mite</i>	<i>Mark 12:41-44</i>
March 29:	<i>Peter Denies Jesus</i>	<i>Mark 14: 26-72</i>

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### YOUNGER CHILDREN

#### BIBLE WORDS FOR MARCH:

*Do not fear, only believe. Mark 5:36*

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### CHILDREN IN GRADES 2 THROUGH 5

#### BIBLE WORDS FOR MARCH:

March 1: *You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Psalm 71:5*

March 8: *If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

March 15: *Do not fear, only believe. Mark 5:36*

March 22: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5*

March 29: *If we are faithless, [Jesus] remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13*

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**“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7). Parents, this command from God’s Word is for you, and the Sunday school is here to support you in the nurture of your children’s spiritual growth. Please accept God’s invitation to bless your children through the Sunday school and worship service each week.**

### MOVIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH JUNIOR HIGH

Want some good family movies to watch this winter? There are 31 new DVD’s and one new VHS available in the children’s library located on the second floor of the Sunday school area. These are from Feature Films for Families. Please check one or two out at a time and return them in a timely manner.

## CALENDAR PAGE

To view the calendar, go to the St. John's website - [www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org](http://www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org)  
click on calendar at the top of the page. If you need assistance with this  
please contact Marilyn, the secretary at St. John's.



## THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

*[Jesus said] "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. The Augsburg Confession, Article 5

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## EASTER LILIES

Members of St. John's have the opportunity to place an Easter lily in the church for Easter Sunday.  
Complete the form and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 15 - with \$9.00 per lily.

**You may take your lily home following the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.**

For memorials you may list up to 2 names, or you may prefer "in memory of loved ones."

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_