



# St. John's

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## Ev. Lutheran Church

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MARCH 2019

### THE LOST ART OF SUFFERING LIKE A CHRISTIAN

“God can only be found in suffering and the cross.” Martin Luther penned those words in preparation for one of his most famous academic disputations, the so-called *Heidelberg Disputation*.

And it is true, isn't it? Where do you most clearly see God as He wants to be known except in the cross of Jesus and the suffering of the Son of God for the sins of the world? From what point in time and space do all the blessings of our redemption flow, except for from that cross? And what is offered to me today in Baptism, Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar, except what Christ won on the cross? In Baptism, my Old Adam is put to death with Him and buried with Him into His death. In the Absolution I receive from the pastor's mouth the answer to my prayer that God would forgive my sins “for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of His beloved Son.” And in the Sacrament I receive shed blood and broken body—Christ's blood shed for me, and Christ's body broken for me. As one of our hymns puts it, “Jesus, in Thy cross are centered all the marvels of Thy grace.” Take away the cross and the suffering of God's Son, and what's left?

So: “God can only be found in suffering and the cross”? True.

Now, that truth has a corollary, true statement #2: “If you've been redeemed by the cross, you'll be transformed to the cross.”

That is, if you bear the imprint of the crucified Son of God on forehead and breast from your Baptism, Christ's promise is that you, too, will suffer. That's life “under the cross.”

Oftentimes, though, we think of Christian suffering as reserved for just a handful of Biblical characters—St. Job, maybe, St. Paul with his thorn in the flesh, St. Stephen, the first martyr, and a few others.

But the fact of the matter is that even the great sufferer St. Paul puts it this way: “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, *provided we suffer with Him, in order that we may also be glorified with Him*” (Romans 8:16-17). In other words, the sign of the holy cross both upon forehead and upon the breast isn't just an imaginary, invisible sign. Rather, through suffering with Christ it marks the very life of a Christian and the very being of the Holy Christian Church.

In fact, the New Testament—and the Old!—is just shot through with this knowledge. Think of Joseph's betrayal by his brothers, the wandering of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years, the Babylonian Captivity, the suffering of Jeremiah and Isaiah. And take a look at what just a few of the passages in the New Testament say about suffering: Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:12-39, John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, James 5:7-12, 1 Peter 3:8-17, 1 Peter 4:12-19, and Revelation 2:8-11. Simply put, Christian suffering is a mark of the Christian life, just as surely as are faith, the Word and Sacraments, the Church, and prayer.

But here's the deal: suffering comes into our lives in just such a way that it's really, actually suffering. It can't be something we seek out (because then we'd be at peace with the prospect of it). And it'll probably come when you least expect or want it or feel you can deal with it. It may come in the form of the early death of a loved one or a nasty divorce you never wanted, leaving you brokenhearted. It may come through physical disability, poverty, unpopularity or loneliness. Sometimes it comes as a result of our own sin, as in the case of St. David's loss of his first child with Bathsheba. Conversely, it can come for the opposite reason—as when you suffer for doing what is right or for making the good confession. St. Peter talks about that (1 Peter 4:12-19).

But no matter the *specifics* of your suffering, suffering always does this for Christians: it opens up the gulf in which faith operates, the gap between what God in Christ promises and what we experience in this sinful, dying world. That's the very nature of Christian faith. For Christian faith, as the writer to the Hebrews puts it, "is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen" (Hebrews 11:1). And yet, so often when tragedy or suffering strike us, our first impulse is to hide. That's probably due to disappointment that God hasn't made things turn out like we hope they will. Sometimes it's because what we thought was a strong faith is exposed for its weakness. Other times it's because the image of "suffering me" doesn't match the image of "successful me," the one we'd prefer. And shame follows. Sometimes it's even because we're just stunned—into inactivity, silence, withdrawal. And we prefer to walk our own dark road alone rather than with Christ in the fellowship of His Church.

But remember: suffering isn't meant to drive us *away from faith and Christ, but toward faith and Christ*, precisely because faith is the "conviction of things unseen." In fact, suffering is intended to elevate and strengthen faith. It's intended to drive us to where we can actually find Christ—in His Word and Sacraments—to the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to our dear Father in heaven through prayer. In other words, *our* suffering is meant for us "to find God in suffering and the cross"—to find God in the One who suffered for us, and in whose cross are centered all the marvels of His grace.

That's what our Wednesday Lenten series this year will be taking up. Pr. Kerns and I have prepared a series that we're calling "In Suff'ring be Thy Love My Peace." Because even in the midst of our sin, suffering, and death, Christ, who suffered and died for us, is and remains our peace that surpasses all understanding (see Romans 5:1-5). It's to Him and His promises that we flee and that faith clings when the road we walk grows dark, even pitch dark.

And that? Well, that's the lost art of suffering like a Christian.



**Senior Pastor - Rev. J. S. Bruss, ext. 104**  
**Associate Pastor – Rev. D. M. Kerns, ext. 101**  
**Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson**  
**TLS Teachers - Andrea Kosmicki, Edith Kerns, Rachel Kathman**

### **WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES: IN SUFF'RING BE THY LOVE MY PEACE**

As you read in the cover piece for this month, we've titled our Lenten series for this year "In Suff'ring be Thy Love My Peace." Those words are drawn from a Paul Gerhardt hymn, *LSB* 683. Each Wednesday beginning 13 March and running through 10 April there will be a 12:15 Vespers and a 7:00 p.m. Compline. The homily will be the same at both services. The readings are from the sufferings of Old and New Testament saints, the Psalms of Lament, and New Testament teaching on suffering.

13 March, The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist  
 20 March, The Sufferings of St. Paul, Apostle

27 March, The Death of the Son of St. David, King of Israel  
 3 April, The Tribulation of St. Job, the Much-Suffering  
 10 April, The Death of St. Stephen, Martyr

The Lord Jesus Christ said in John 16:33, “In this world you have tribulation.” But in this world, through faith, we also the One who said those words, the One who has overcome the world by His own suffering and death. We hope that you can join us each week.

## SOUND WORDS ACADEMY

### Children

**Rhythm of Faith Choir (now – 8 May, 5:00-5:40 p.m.; Johnson)** Rhythm of Faith uses God’s gift of music to confess the truth of His Word in song. Develop life-long skills in singing, ringing, and reading music. Participate as a choir in Wednesday Evening Offices and Sunday services. Learn the rich heritage of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy. Enroll after Sunday services now through 9 September or contact Bethany Johnson.

**Jr. Lutherans (now – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Sweet)** This fast-paced Bible, Catechism, and Lutheran history quiz game places Lutherans aged 4 – 12 yrs. in competition with one another and teams from other congregations—with “trivia” that is hardly *trivial*. Enroll after Sunday services now through 9 September or contact Daniel Sweet.

### Adults

**Every One His Witness (now – 13 February, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns)** Witnessing. What’s it all about? The *Every One His Witness* Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives. Participants learn: What is witnessing? Why do we witness? And the “how-to” of witnessing using the LASSIE approach — Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage. See article and flyer included in this edition of the *Newsletter*, and keep your eyes open for reminders in the bulletin and on our bulletin boards.

**The LCMS and the Other Denominations (20 February – 27 March, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss):** Why doesn’t our church have pulpit and altar fellowship with our neighbors’ churches? What are the differences? Are they that big of a deal?

### College Students and Young Adults

**Paul Althaus, *The Theology of Martin Luther* (now – 8 May, 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Kerns)** Martin Luther is the writer and Paul Althaus is the compiler. Join Pr. Kerns at Sound Words Academy as we go through one of his favorite Lutheran books. It is so good that once we come to the end of it, we will want to circle back around it again. Come drink from the fire-hydrant of good, confessional Lutheran thought.

### Adult Catechesis

**Adult Catechesis (now – 8 May 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Bruss now through May)** The central teachings of the Christian faith. What does God say *about* me in His Law? What does God say *to* me in His Gospel? How am I to relate to God? And where can I find Christ and what He wants to give to me? This September through May course, with breaks scattered throughout those 8 months, weaves together the teachings of Scripture and *The Small Catechism* and shows how God encounters you in the Divine Service. For those interested in becoming members of St. John’s or those seeking a refresher in the guts of Lutheran theology.

### Youth Catechesis

**YCat I (Wednesdays – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kinnett)** Typically for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. 1 year long.

**YCat II (Wednesdays – 8 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Bruss & Kerns)** Typically for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. 2 years long.

## MORTGAGE BURNING

On Sunday, 10 February, our congregation was blessed to celebrate not only the Transfiguration of Our Lord, but also the burning of the mortgage for our 2008-09 Luther Hall addition. And as of the latest report, *Paid in Full* stands less than \$8,000 short of the initial, aspirational goal of \$1M. Praise and thanks be to God alone!

What a lesson to all of us in how the Lord works through means.

Of course, we all *know* this. We are, after all, a “means of grace” church, and we confess with the Scriptures that God delivers the goods won by Jesus’ holy life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension to us *through means*—Baptism, His Word, His holy Sacrament.

We also even live it every day. The Lord gives us the bread we eat through the very creation itself: sun, soil, seed, and rain produce the grains; the farmer harvests them; the mill produces flour; the baker the bread; the truck driver delivers it to the store; and the store sells it. And on our own side of things, the Lord gives us brains and bodies so that we can have gainful employment through which we earn the money to purchase that bread, etc., etc., etc.

But the *Paid in Full* capital campaign drove the lesson home in a dramatic way: in less than 2.5 years from the initial pledge date, *Paid in Full* drew in in sacrificial offerings from our congregation more than 1.3 times *more* than our annual offerings. In the world of “stewardship campaigns,” that’s a fantastic campaign result when the campaign is aimed at achieving something *new*, like a new building addition or a new ministry opportunity. That the Lord should have granted such success to the far less exciting prospect of being debt free on a building we’re already using is truly above and beyond even the most optimistic outlook.

So what’s the take-away? The Lord uses the Holy Christian Church to support the very ministry through which He creates and sustains the Church! And moved by common commitment and purpose, in the maturity of faith, the Holy Christian Church does, with the Lord’s blessing, accomplish amazing things in the support of ongoing vibrance of her own ministry. With the nearly \$1M debt now paid in full, our congregation is, humanly speaking, poised to move forward without encumbrance. May we embrace this opportunity to shore up all areas of the ministry the Lord has commended to our charge and to find other venues and ways to bring the Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins and the love of God in works of mercy to our community, nation, and world. As one of our collects puts it, it is the Church’s prayer at all times that the “Word may not be bound, but have free course, and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ’s holy people.” Amen, amen. Let it be!

*Soli deo gloria!*

—The *Paid in Full* steering committee

## 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 voter’s assembly for 2019. We hope that you will find this information useful.

Budget Receipts through January, 2019	\$54,904.08
<u>Actual Receipts through January, 2019</u>	<u>\$46,021.55</u>
Over (Under) Budget Year to Date	(\$ 8,882.53)

## HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

LSB 607 “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

### Introduction

One of the chief parts of the catechism is Confession, where we learn the following: “Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.” The life of the Christian is one of repentance, because “we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment” (Lord’s Prayer, 5<sup>th</sup> petition). But thanks be to God that He promises not only to hear our confession but also to forgive our sins, as 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

### Background & Explanation

The hymn of the day for Ash Wednesday is *LSB 607*, “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee.” This hymn is based on Psalm 130, one of the seven penitential psalms. It is also one of first hymns written by Martin Luther in 1523. Luther knew that it was important for hymns to teach the faith, which is why he also wanted hymns that helped teach about the different parts of the catechism. “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” is based on the teaching of confession and absolution. It describes the sinner’s repentant plea to God in “trial and tribulation” (stanza 1) as well as his sincere confidence that God’s “hand of mercy never will abandon us, nor waver” (stanza 5), meaning that our sins are forgiven through God’s mercy.

Not only did Luther write the text, but he also composed the tune that became a perfect “marriage” to the text. The musical notes help illustrate the words with what is known as “text painting.” The lowered pitch at the beginning of the hymn reflects the word “depths,” giving us a picture of one who is drowning in sin and overwhelmed by the depths of woe brought by sin, death, and the devil. We are brought to this state by the knowledge of sin given to us by God’s Law.

“Therefore my hope is in the Lord” (stanza 3). The third stanza teaches us to rest upon God’s Word that delivers to us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. God gives these blessings to us in His Word with promises made to “them of contrite spirit” (stanza 3). This teaching of forgiveness of sins must be central to the Church as we gather together around God’s Word in remembrance of our Baptism and in the reception of the Lord’s Supper. The sign of the cross is another wonderful way to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

It is comforting to know that “though great our sins, yet greater still is God’s abundant favor” (stanza 5). God’s grace cannot be understood apart from the forgiveness of sins. By His mercy on the cross we receive forgiveness of sins that come to us through God’s means of grace. By faith in Christ we have the confidence to sing this hymn with all certainty that God will continue to free us from all of our sin and sorrow until He takes us home to heaven, where we will live eternally, free from the crushing weight of sin forever.

*Bethany M Johnson*

### MONTHLY BREAKFAST IN MARCH

On **Sunday, March 10**, the breakfast will be potluck. Come join your fellow members and bring your favorite breakfast dish to share.

### ST. JOHN’S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Save the date: Saturday, August 3, 2019:** 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. Plan to participate as a golfer, a sponsor, or as a volunteer! More details will be forthcoming.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Clocks “Spring” ahead Saturday night, March 10

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### PLEDGES IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

As a congregation, we have for numerous years supported several missions efforts of our Synod and of pastors associated with our Synod. Some of the names are eminently familiar to us, and we’ve had the opportunity to host many of them here, as well. Pastor Olav Panchu and his associate in Saratov, Alexander Furs, continue the ministry of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Saratov. Our congregation has more than a decade’s history of support of their work. Pr. James Krikava, who visited us in 2014, is the LCMS regional director for Eurasia, and works in the Czech Republic. New to us, but working in the same mission field as a former missionary, is Pr. Wilhelm Weber, who is at work in Wittenberg, Germany. In each of these cases, our congregation is a member of an invaluable network that lends material support to each of these missionaries.

As you continue to uphold all of them in your prayers, please also give prayerful consideration to making a pledge to support to their work. Pledge cards will be available in the bulletins and pews during the month of March.

May the Lord’s Word have free course, and be preached to the joy and edifying of all who hear it!



### JUNIOR LUTHERANS

St. John’s Junior Lutheran Eagles are about to take flight as the Spring 2019 season is underway! We will be posting the competition dates next month; will you come watch us compete? We look forward to your support!

What is Junior Lutherans? This competitive trivia event has 4 buzzers for each team, to allow contestants to quickly buzz in to answer Lutheran questions. The goal is that our children learn the Word of God by heart, understand its teachings, know Luther’s *Small Catechism* and stay Lutheran throughout their entire lives. The curriculum was developed in our congregation with the goal of enveloping children ages 4-12 in the Lutheran faith in a fun way.

Sound Words Academy has a Junior Lutheran rotating review session on Wednesdays at 6PM. The children are separated into three age groups and attend games, quizzing, and lesson sections. Our new approach has a guest adult start the evening session with the Gospel lesson for the week. This prepares us for the Sermon topic as part of the “Pass the Picture” initiative.

The Junior Lutherans have a quiz book of graded questions aimed at knowledge and understanding of Scripture and *The Small Catechism*. This competitive approach encourages the children to spend time reviewing and understanding Lutheran faith values.

Challenge a Junior Lutheran today! Each week we are working on a memorized question and answer, please ask us to review it with you!

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

### Newsletter Article – March 2019

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God’s providential care. We understand that we’re not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there’s more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us . . . us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

## 2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

If you have not picked up your contribution envelope—they are now located in the church office. If you have any questions regarding contribution boxes/envelopes, please speak with Yvonne Berry in the church office. Thank you!

### ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S LEAGUE

#### Mission Gifts (Received in 2018 – Distributed in 2019)

The St. John's Women's League would like to thank each of you that helped with the Bazaar and Luncheon. The following is a breakdown of how the funds were dispersed towards missions:

Bethesda Lutheran Home & Services, Inc.	\$150.00	LCMS World Relief/Human Care Missions	\$500.00
Seminary Student Support Joshua Brandmahl	\$500.00	Lutheran Bible Translators	\$150.00
Concordia Theological Seminary			
Military Project	\$300.00	Old Latin School Wittenberg	\$300.00
Concordia University – Seward			
Dennis Hintz Scholarship	\$200.00	Lutherans for Life	\$300.00
Concordia Seminary			
St. Louis Student Assistance	\$300.00	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$250.00
Doorstep	\$500.00	Lutheran Hour	\$300.00
Haskell Indian Lighthouse	\$300.00	LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund	\$100.00
KS District LCMS Kansa Seed Deaf Ministry	\$200.00	Ks. Dist. LCMS – Disaster Relief	\$500.00
Laborers for Christ	\$200.00	Soldier of the Cross	\$400.00
Let's Help	\$500.00	The Apple of His Eye Ministry	\$100.00
LCMS National Offering Global Missions	\$250.00	The Orphan Grain Train	\$100.00
LCMS World Relief/Human Care – Disaster	\$500.00	Topeka Lutheran School Daily Fund	\$1,000.00
Topeka Rescue Mission	\$500.00	Future Needs	\$300.00

**Distributed in January of 2019 Total: \$8,700.00**

### ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Topeka Zone LWML Spring Fling – Saturday April 6, 2019, Faith Lutheran Church, 1348 Trailridge Rd, Emporia, KS 66801. Registration, Coffee and Service Project starting at 9 a.m. with \$5 registration Meeting starting at 10 a.m. More information will be available in the April newsletter.

There is still room on the District LWML bus if you are thinking about going to Mobile, Alabama. The bus will leave on Monday, June 17 and return on Tuesday, June 25th. If you are interested you may contact Donna Burton, 316-249-6431 or email [pd728@yahoo.com](mailto:pd728@yahoo.com) for more details

## 2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

We have had a great response in signing up for the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board outside of the church offices. If you would like to provide flowers for a particular service this coming year, please sign your name and phone number by the date of your choice. Upcoming dates available: June 16, 23, & 30; July 11 & 28; August 11 and 25.

## DOORSTEP NEWS

**March is St. John's month to volunteer at Doorstep. Contact Dave Graversen at the church office (354-7132) to find out more how you can help.**

Thanks to everyone who donated soup and crackers during Doorstep's Souper Bowl Sunday collection! A can of soup can be a meal or two, and your donations helped to stock their pantry, and provide meals for your neighbors in need! They set a goal of 8,000 pounds for this year. The total brought in was 5,696 pounds! They didn't make their goal, but that is still a lot of soup and crackers, and more than they received last year!

Doorstep also wants to thank everyone who contributed to their 16th Annual Operation Soup Line! Whether you made desserts, donated or won a theme basket, bought or sold tickets, worked the event or just attended, they appreciate the support! Monies raised from Soup Line will help Doorstep with agency expenses and help provide rent and utility assistance to our neighbors who are struggling and need help.

Mark your calendars for Doorstep's 2nd Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk/5K Run at Lake Shawnee. The big day is Saturday, October 5th! Come out and support Doorstep and get some exercise at the same time! They made over \$6,000 last year and have a goal of \$8,500 for their second year!

## TLS NEWS

**Deadline March 31!** If you are a Thrivent member and eligible to participate in the **CHOICE** program, the deadline to direct your 2018 CHOICE dollars is March 31. The gifts received by TLS through this program provide immediate resources for the school's tuition assistance program. Go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or call your Thrivent representative for more information about how to direct your CHOICE dollars to TLS. Thank you to those who have already done this - your participation is a blessing to the school!

## TLS: GROWING GOD'S CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Mark Your Calendars!

The kickoff for the Topeka Lutheran School Capital Campaign will happen on April 12 at 6:30 pm in the TLS gym. It will be a fun-filled evening that includes the TLS choirs, the new TLS video, refreshments and more. Our new shirt is now available!



Are YOU Topeka Lutheran? If you are a TLS graduate, a former student, or the parent of a current or former student, you qualify! If you join in the prayers offered during worship when we ask for blessings for TLS, you qualify! You are Topeka Lutheran! Be a part of our campaign! Buy a shirt that shows your connection to TLS and wear it to the April 12 event. Orders will be taken at each of the churches.

Lutheran education has been a part of the fabric of the Lutheran community in Topeka for 144 years. Join us in celebrating the past and encouraging the future of Topeka Lutheran School.

### THANK YOU’S

Thank you on behalf of the students, families and staff of TLS! The chili supper and raffle went extremely well this year. Also, a thank you to those who donated items for the raffle. The PTL will be able to make significant contributions to the school through your support and generosity. Thank you!”

Thanks to all for the tremendous outpouring of Christian love shown thru the donation of coats for those in the neighborhood. This is a constant need—so if you have a coat to donate in the future—you can place it in Yvonne Berry’s office.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR (GRADES K-5) SCHEDULE

**Rehearsals: 9:45 a.m. every Sunday morning before Sunday School**

- March 3 (beginning of both services)
- April 14, Palm Sunday (beginning of both services)
- May 12 (beginning of both services)

### EASTER LILIES

Members of St. John’s have the opportunity to purchase an Easter lily to be placed in the church for Easter Sunday, April 21. Complete the following form and return it to Pam Harms in the church office by Wednesday, March 06– with \$9.00 per lily. **You may take your lily home following the 11:00am service on Easter Sunday.**

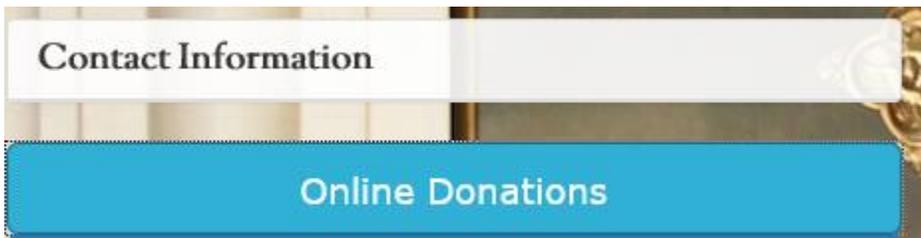
For memorials you may list up to 2 names or you may prefer “in memory of loved ones.”

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

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

### DONATIONS: ONLINE OR ENVELOPE

Are you accustomed to paying bills or making donations online? Your donations can be online for St. John’s as well. Go to <https://www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org> and scroll to the bottom of the home page until you see Online Donations.



When you click “Online Donations”, you will be directed to this page.

**Online Donation**

[View Mobile Site](#)   [Return to our Home Page](#)

**Donations**

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

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General Fund:

Paid in Full/Building Fund:

International Missions:

Designated Gift/Other:  \*

**Total:** \$0.00

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Donation Frequency: Choose One [\(About recurring donations\)](#)

Donation Start Date:  mm/dd/yy

Donation End Date: (optional)  mm/dd/yy

\* = Required

**Log In** [help](#)

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)

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**Create Your Online Profile**

If you already have a Profile created, you can Log In to set up a recurring donation or enter a one-time donation. If you have not yet created a profile, go to Create Your Online Profile. You will find it is much like other websites in which you may have created a profile for donations or payments. Recurring or one-time donations can be created for the General Fund, Building Fund, International Missions, or Designated Gift/Other in which you will type in the text box where the donation should be applied.

Check it out if you haven't already. Call the church office with questions. As always, you can use envelopes or simply drop a check in the offering plate with a note in the memo if the donation should be applied to other than the General Fund. Thanks be to God for the ongoing donations received in support of the His ministry at St. John's.

The Board of Stewardship

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR MARCH 2019

As we continue to move through the church year, March brings us to Lent. The children will spend time each Sunday learning about the historic name for each Sunday. The name of the Sunday comes from the first few words of the Introit for that Sunday. Be sure to ask your child what the Latin name for each Sunday means:

- |                        |                               |                 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| March 3: Quinquagesima | Lord, Have Mercy!             | Luke 18:31-43   |
| March 10: Invocavit    | The Temptation of Jesus       | Matthew 4:1-11  |
| March 17: Reminiscere  | Jesus and the Canaanite Woman | Matthew 15:2-28 |
| March 24: Oculi        | Jesus Casts out a Demon       | Luke 11:14-28   |
| March 31: Laetare      | Jesus Feeds the 5,000         | John 6:1-15     |

**Save the Date**

Vacation Bible School will be held June 24-28. This year our theme will be Sanctified with a focus on the 10 Commandments. Plans are being made, and the details are being worked out. Look in future newsletter updates for all the information.



## 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)