



St. John's

Ev. Lutheran Church

VOL. 138 No. 02 MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2020

ON “BEING LUTHERAN”

Lutheran identity is a huge question. If Lutheranism is important (and *we* certainly think it is), then what makes a Lutheran a Lutheran?

To answer that I usually like to go back to what I call “the money verse” on this question, Acts 2:42, which comes immediately after the calling of the nearly 3,000 to faith on the first Pentecost and the Baptism of them and their children. In other words, what’s described in Acts 2:42 is nothing other than the creation of the Holy Spirit. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Here, Luke, the author of Acts, gives a comprehensive thumbnail description of the holy Christian Church, one intended not only to describe the life of the early Christian Church, but the life of the Church throughout time. The church that fits the description is the holy Christian Church. The church does *not* fit the description, to the degree it doesn’t, is to the same degree not the holy Christian Church.

There are five criteria. The first was just mentioned: Baptism of adults and infants alike into the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38-39).

Second, devotion to the teaching of the apostles. This is simply a way of expressing devotion to the whole counsel of God given in the Scriptures. The preaching and teaching of the apostles is contained for us in written form in the Scriptures of the New Testament; and their teaching and preaching was based entirely on the fulfillment in Christ of the Old Testament Scriptures. And this is a repeated theme in the New Testament, not just here in Acts 2:42. Check out, for example, Paul’s reminder to the Ephesian elders that he hadn’t shrunken from teaching them “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), and his talk of the “pattern of sound words” in 2 Tim 1:13. The latter passage reminds us that there is a *pattern* to biblical teaching, Law and Gospel rightly divided and applied, with the Gospel predominating, as Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 2:2: “I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”

Third, believers gathered to and around this teaching and preaching are “fellows.” That’s a funny word, I know, and one not much used these days in the sense used in the Bible. The word in Greek for fellowship is *κοινωνία* (*koinonia*). It means “having [something] in common.” What the early Christians in Acts 2:42 had in common was Holy-Spirit-worked faith in and confession of the apostles’ teaching (and the other things that follow it in the list; see Eph 4:1ff). This is an important teaching: where there is agreement in doctrine, there is fellowship. Where there is no agreement in doctrine, there cannot be fellowship, or at least fellowship in what makes the Church the Church, i.e., the apostles’ teaching.

The fourth mark of the Church is “the breaking of bread.” This expression was one of many used in Scripture for the Sacrament of the Altar, based on what we read in the evangelists about Christ’s institution of the Sacrament: “He broke it [the bread].” Put in other terms, wherever the Sacrament is administered according to Christ’s command *and taught about according to apostolic teaching*, there you find the one, true Church. And the teaching is rather straightforward: Christ says the bread is His Body, the wine is His Blood. And He tells us what it’s for: the forgiveness of sins. However, to deny either such teaching is to place oneself outside the holy Christian Church to the extent that this is denied. Paul even mentions that whoever takes the bread “without discerning the Body eats and drinks judgment unto himself” (1 Cor 11:29)—the judgment that stands over anyone who teaches, believes and lives contrary to God’s Word.

The fifth and final thing that makes the Church the Church is “the prayers.” Now, this is an important term. It’s the Jewish technical term for what we’d call “the formal worship.” You can see it used, for example, in Acts 16:13, where Paul goes to a “place of prayer”—the synagogue in Philippi. Early Christian worship continued with the same basic form and character of synagogue worship, which we see all over the book of Acts and elsewhere. There were prescribed

readings for each Sabbath day, along with prescribed psalms and songs (sung), and a sermon. It was also formal. That's why the rabbi Paul knows exactly what to do and when he can speak when he enters a synagogue to proclaim Christ on his missionary journeys (e.g., Acts 13:13-16). In other words, the early Christian Church was a *liturgical church*.

And so that *must* be what makes a Lutheran Church a Lutheran Church. To the extent that any of these are absent, the true Church and also true Lutheranism are absent. But where these are present, there is not only the Lutheran Church, but the true visible Church on earth.

But don't get puffed up about this. Instead, thank the Lord. For, Paul reminds us, "what do you have that you have not also received?" (1 Cor. 4:7)

And living in that gratitude, invite your neighbors and friends and family to St. John's—to this font and to this group of believers devoted "the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Let them hear Christ proclaimed as crucified for their sins. Let them be baptized. Let them learn the apostles' teaching. Let them become your fellows in the Faith. Let them, after they've been instructed, receive the Lord's Body and Blood. And let them worship, with you, the Lord of their redemption.



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

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

Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson

TLS Teachers – Erin Grass, Josh Grass, Edith Kerns, Andrea Kosmicki

HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

LSB 685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

By Bethany Johnson

Catechesis Introduction

In the Small Catechism Luther describes the Christian life as one of "daily contrition and repentance" of the Old Adam in us that drowns and dies "with all sins and evil desires." Of course, Luther doesn't stop there, because "a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." This is the rhythm of our baptismal life in which we, having been justified by God, live in Christ. We follow Him not to earn salvation but to walk with Him in faith and in thanksgiving to Him for calling us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Hymn Explanation

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" was written by Sigismund von Birken (1626-81), who wrote this text for a book of sermons for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This particular hymn was paired with the fifth sermon titled "Jesus' Passion—Fellowship." In the *LSB*, this hymn is within the section titled "Sanctification." Throughout our life, we suffer with and in Christ who not only lives in us and walks with us through our valleys of sorrow, but also forgives our sins and grants to us newness of life. As children of God we are called to follow Jesus and obey His commandments, yet only in Him and by Him can they be fulfilled.

Stanza 1 regards us, God's children, as pilgrims here on earth. Like pilgrims, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness yearning for their home in the promised land. And like the Israelites, we are tempted and suffer much distress, and "by sin our spirits lure." Yet Jesus is our true guide: "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). In this stanza we pray for the Lord's abiding presence among us, as He is always faithful to us. We hear His voice and follow Him along paths of righteousness where He feeds us with His Word and Sacrament.

In stanza 2, the hymnwriter presents the reality of suffering in our life. Birken related to suffering as he endured the Thirty Year's War and was exiled, suffered illness, and became an orphan. Yet throughout all of that He acknowledged that wherever Christ is, "there is no loss." Joy follows all our sadness, suffering, and ultimately, our Christian death, when we will "reap celestial joy." Jesus is our true comfort who shares in our woe and suffering and who gives us true joy in Him.

Stanza 3 includes the baptismal language of dying to sin and the "immortal breath" that is given to us in Christ. We pray in this stanza that we would "mortify all passion that would lead us into sin." We also acknowledge that our grave is the gate to heaven. We not only die with Jesus, but we also live with Him, as stanza 4 indicates. We live in Jesus' resurrection, and in doing so, we receive the blessings of forgiveness of sins, salvation, and eternal life that He won for us. On the Last Day we, too, will rise to live with Him forever. And, oh, what true and complete joy that will be!

SPECIAL MONTHLY BREAKFAST IN FEBRUARY

This monthly breakfast has an extra special benefit this month. Along with a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast, it gives St. John's members an opportunity to support the raising of funds needed for an important mercy project that will occur March 28.

The Feed My Starving Children Mercy project is a gathering of several Topeka churches in Luther Hall to create nutritious packages of food for starving children worldwide. The project must raise \$24,000 to support the raw materials and other expenses. Donations are expected from all of the participating churches. This project was a great success in 2018.

So plan to join us on Feb. 9 for a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast and please consider bringing a donation to support the mercy project. Also plan to sign up to work a couple of hours on Sat., March 28 to package food (signup sheets will be available at the breakfast). Pray for the success of this worthwhile project in your prayers. If you have any questions, contact Deaconess Linda.

TUNE IN TO THE LUTHERAN HOUR IN TOPEKA

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast here in Topeka on FM 92.5 KCTV on Sundays at 8:00 a.m.
and on AM 580 WIBW on Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

2020 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Contribution envelopes are available to be picked up in the breezeway. Your envelope number may have changed for 2020. Please use the instructions on the clipboard located on the tables with the contribution boxes to locate your box of envelopes. If you did not receive a contribution box or if you have any questions regarding contribution boxes/envelopes, please speak with Yvonne Berry in the church office. Thank you!

2020 FLOWER CALENDAR

Please check 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, sign your name and phone number by the date of your choice. You may pick the flowers up after the late service that day, or at the latest, Thursday morning of the following week. You will be reminded the week before your date.

VOLUNTEER HELP

St. Johns is requesting some volunteers to help clean restrooms and the church Nave. If we could get 8 volunteers to clean the restrooms and 2 volunteers to clean the church Nave, the responsibilities would only be once per month. If you can help, contact the church office at 354-7132.

SOUND WORDS ACADEMY

Everyone

Evening Prayer (4 September – 6 May; 7:00 p.m.) The center and heart of Sound Words Academy is our congregation's gathering together, irrespective of age, to receive the gifts of the Lord and call upon Him in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Required for all catechumens, it is not for catechumens alone; and, in fact, the presence of the entire congregation demonstrates their support for the catechumens and their learning of the faith. Stay an extra half hour to learn, together with your brothers and sisters in Christ, what God would have you believe and do according to His holy Word. Office switches between Evening Prayer, Vespers, and Compline according to the season of the church.

Children

Rhythm of Faith Choir (Wednesdays – 6 May, 5:00-5:40 p.m.; E. Grass, Johnson & Smith) 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.

Jr. Lutherans (Wednesdays – 6 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; J. Grass) 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*. To enroll, just show up!

Adults

The Formula of Concord, Part II: How God Relates to Men in His Holy Church (5 - 19 February, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kerns) Forged in the crucible of controversy during the first decades of the Reformation, the Formula of Concord presents perennially relevant doctrinal issues and their solutions. This year we'll be dipping into the Formula several different times. **Part II: How God Relates to men in His Holy Church** looks at 3 controversies that arose in early Lutheranism over how God's Word should be handled, over how God's Law should applied to believers in Christ, and over what's really going on in the Sacrament of the Altar. For this one, you'll need to bring your *Book of Concord*. You can also purchase from St. John's a copy of the Book of Concord (\$26.00—a great deal!) or of the Epitome of the Formula (\$5.00).

1 & 2 Timothy (4 September – 6 May; 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Hintz) Through these words of guidance to young Pastor Timothy, St. Paul portrays the model of a Christian pastor: one prepared in season and out to proclaim the whole counsel of God and to find his sufficiency not in himself but in Christ, who has called him to his office. Filled with warnings

about end-times corruption and Gospel nuggets, these letters remain a precious possession and always applicable to her life.

College Students and Young Adults

(8 January – 6 May; 7:45 – 8:40 p.m.; Bruss) are joining Adult Catechesis.

Adult Catechesis

Adult Catechesis (8 January – 6 May 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Bruss) 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 – 6 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Kinnett) Typically for 6th graders. 1 year long.

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

HELP SPREAD THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD TO THE VISION-IMPAIRED

Lutheran Braille Workers #31 (housed at St. John's) requests your prayerful consideration of giving of your time to a great cause of bring the word of our Lord to the vision impaired around the world. We do not meet every month only when we have a project to either put a book of the bible together or pull orders to send out. If you are interested in this great cause, please contact me Eileen Klumpp at 633-3870. Thank you.

CAN ST. JOHN'S BECOME A ZERO-WASTE FACILITY IN 2020?

Well - - maybe. Nobody's perfect.

Encouraging, though, are these member comments: "We set out on the curb more recycling than trash since we compost," and "I've been recycling since Shawnee County began the service," and "Your supermarket or Let's Help or Doorstep probably takes plastic shopping bags for recycling or reuse."

You can find online that Shawnee County landfill gladly accepts recyclables as they minimize the size of our dump, postponing the need for new landfill sites. The website claims that ALL numbered plastic containers, rinsed of food particles, are re-formed into new plastic items. Lids from all types of clean plastic containers go in the trash.

Styrofoam is another issue - not recyclable locally and with 50 year+ decomposition rate, harmful to our God-given Earth. We are looking for answers.

DOORSTEP NEWS

February is a busy month for Doorstep. They have **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2nd** where they ask our member congregations to collect soup and crackers to help stock our food pantry! Their goal for 2020 is 3 ton... 6,000 pounds! Last year's goal was 4 tons, and they fell short, receiving 5,382 pounds. So, this year's goal should be attainable if everyone pitches in. A can of soup can be a meal, and in the past, with a successful collection, we have had soup and

crackers to last us into the summer months Please remember Doorstep when you go grocery shopping, and pick up a few items for your neighbors in need. Watch for sales and bring donations to the church or to Doorstep directly.

The month of February brings cold weather, and what is better on a cold day than hot soup and chili. One of Doorstep's major fundraisers, **Operation Soup Line**, is in its 17th year! Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 25th**. They will have lunch and carry out available this year. As always, they will offer delivery on orders of 10 or more from 11am – 1:30pm. They will have celebrity servers, entertainment, and the theme basket silent auction. Food will be available from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

Ticket price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. You will receive your choice of soup or chili, dessert and a drink. They hope you will plan to attend and support Doorstep's fundraiser by coming to the Ag Hall on February 25! The funds raised at this event are used to help our neighbors in need with emergency services, and agency needs throughout the year.

Finally, **Thank You** to everyone who participated in **Doorstep's Christmas Store** this past December! With the Store and the After Store we ended up providing gifts and food to **277 households with 883 individuals!** They could not have accomplished this without the help of dedicated volunteers and donors who wanted to help their neighbors in need at Christmastime.

Hy-Vee Reusable Red Bag Program – Doorstep has been selected as the recipient of funds for all bags sold at the Topeka Location in February. Doorstep receives \$1 for each bag purchased!

Doorstep is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm for donations. They are located at 1119 SW 10th Street (10th & Buchanan). Please do not leave donations outside their building when they are not open Thank you!

ST. JOHN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In 2024, SJELC will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. That may seem like a long-ways off, but it's not too early to get started with compiling the congregational history. Like most congregations, we will most likely put together a memento history book or booklet, but we may also create a video history. Pastor Goetz has graciously agreed to be an honorary chairperson and we have three additional volunteers, but we could use additional people to sort through our history and develop our final products. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering particularly if you have some video editing skills, writing or editing skills, photography skills, an interest in history or you just want to help in any way and be involved with this once in a lifetime opportunity.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

February and March 2020

Once more thank you to everyone who supported this year's Bazaar and Luncheon. This year we had an abundance of pies, cakes, brownies and coffee. This was great as what were not used for the bazaar were used for other activities.

The Women's League is still collecting Best Choice labels. Ask you friends and family to save them for you. You may put them in the box in the labeled "stamps", along with any stamps you also collect. We recommended that St. John's members sign up on Dillon's Food Store's website for their community program, Circle Chairs may remind members of the Dillon's program to help St. John's or TLS.

KS District LWML 2020 convention committees are heading into the home stretch, and we hope that you are planning on attending in Topeka April 17-19, at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center! We would like to ask for your help in finding volunteers to work with our committee heads to carry out the numerous jobs involved in a successful convention. Please let me know if you or any of your society members are willing to help out in this way. Some of the committees that will need help throughout the convention are hospitality, convention store, registration, and decorating (this would just be to help put decorations on tables for Saturday night dinner and placing zone signs on Saturday). If we have enough volunteers, most jobs would not be for long periods of time, so please encourage your ladies to consider helping. Thank you! You may contact Cathi Temple cathitemple@yahoo.com or Nancy Taylor ntaylor713@aol.com, or Allison Lehmann, lehman726@msn.com

Vassar LWML invites St. John's and all LWML women in our society and congregation to the Spring Meeting of the Topeka Zone LWML on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar, KS. They are planning a mission program and will send more details along with the registration form/meeting flyer shortly, so, for now, **SAVE THE DATE!** It's Saturday, March 7, 2020, at Zion Lutheran Church, 23147 Topeka Street, Vassar, KS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

This new year we continue on our journey through the Lectionary. This has given our children a greater understanding of the Gospel reading for each Sunday. It has also helped them gain knowledge of the Church Year and what season we are in. During advent, we spent our time talking not only about when Jesus came as a baby, but also looking forward to His Second Coming.

February 2	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Jesus is Transfigured before Peter, James, and John	Matthew 17:1-9
February 9	Septuagesima Sunday	The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16
February 15	Sexagesima Sunday	The Parable of the Sower	Luke 8:4-15
February 23	Quinquagesima Sunday	Lord, Have Mercy	Luke 18:31-43

Sunday School Teachers Meeting - February 8 at 9:00

CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020



Growing God's Children
for generations to come
Topeka Lutheran School

A PRAYER

Lord God, Heavenly Father, our Maker and Redeemer. We come before you again asking for Your blessings on Topeka Lutheran School and for Your continued guidance that You so richly give us. We are thankful for all the things that You provide without our asking or us doing anything to earn them. Continue to guide and direct our efforts as we continue working on the Grow Our Children campaign. Amen

TOTAL COMMITMENTS

- Total Commitments: \$810,643
- Total Special Gifts: \$25,667 Total
- Raised: \$836,410

Thank you to everyone for your support!

SAVE THE DATES

- TLS Basketball Tournament
Friday-Saturday, February 14-15
 - Alumni, come join us for a time of reminiscing and cheering on our current Wildcats.
- TLS Alumni - After Game Gathering
Saturday, February 15 from 7 - 10:00 pm
 - Join alumni at The Burger Stand

SUPPORT TOPEKA LUTHERAN TODAY! CLICK TO DONATE.

<https://www.topekalutheran.org/pledge-tracker>

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: GRETCHEN (SNETHEN) HAMMOND

Gretchen Hammond, Class of 1996 and her Alumni Success Story. Here is an excerpt from the article.

How has your education at Topeka Lutheran School prepared you for your life?

While many schools focus on standardized testing, TLS provided an unparalleled academic foundation, where creativity and critical thinking skills were fostered. Learning that there isn't just one way to solve a problem at a young age gave me the tools to be bold in my academic and professional career. With this foundation, I felt confident to look at situations from different perspectives and take risks that have ultimately been rewarding. Through traditional academic courses, arts, and extracurricular activities, I was able to explore different skills and interests, ultimately building my own confidence and learning how I could best use my strengths.

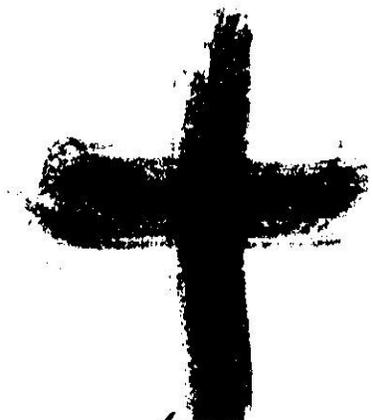
TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: ERIN GRASS

This is my second year at TLS, and I'm grateful to be a part of a Lutheran School. My first experience with a christian school was my time at Concordia University in Seward, NE, and it was there that I was drawn to wanting to teach in a Lutheran school. After three years teaching public school, it was a joy to have an opportunity to teach in an environment where Christ was the center. TLS is truly a special place, and I'm so thankful that I have the support of other Lutheran co-workers, to pray as a school each day, and make an impact academically and spiritually.

TLS NEWS

Topeka Lutheran PTL's annual chili supper is Friday, January 31 from 5-7pm! This is the school's biggest fundraiser event during the year. Fun crafts, gift certificates and items will be on display for the raffle, so be sure to bring cash or check along with your appetite! Do you own a business and are willing to donate a gift basket or gift certificate? If you would like to donate an item for the raffle, contact Erika Robinson at 785.554.8530. Tax receipts can be given for your donations. For general questions regarding the Chili Supper, please contact Jenn Ayres 785-230-6379 or jenn_ayres@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support of Lutheran education and we hope to see you at the Chili Supper! —*Marlene Shellenberger*, Director, TLS Foundation

Ash Wednesday Divine Services, 26 February, 12:15 and 7:00 p.m.

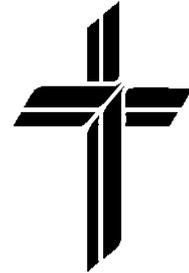


Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

February 2020

St. John's Lutheran Church - Topeka, Kansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Purification of Mary and the Presentation of 8:15am - DIVINE SERVICE** 9:45am - BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	4:30pm - LWML EXEC	8:15am - TLS CHAPEL 10am - WOMEN'S BIBLE 5pm - SOUND WORDS 7pm - EVENING PRAYER	6:15pm - ECCLESIA BELLS 7pm - LSAT 7:15pm - KANTOREI	5:30pm - YOUTH RETREAT	INDIVIDUAL CUP** 8:30am - CIRCUIT VISIT	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SEPTUAGESIMA 8:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:30am - MONTHLY BRKFST 9:45am - SUNDAY SCHOOL 11am - DIVINE SERVICE**	6pm - SARAH CIRCLE	1pm - DORCAS CIRCLE	8:15am - TLS CHAPEL 10am - WOMEN'S BIBLE 5pm - SOUND WORDS 7pm - EVENING PRAYER	10am - WL CARE CENTER 6:15pm - ECCLESIA BELLS 7pm - BOARD OF ELDER 7:15pm - KANTOREI	ST. VALENTINE'S DAY	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
SEXAGESIMA 8:15am - DIVINE SERVICE ** 9:45am - BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	PRESIDENTS' DAY 3pm - DIVINE SERVICE at MCCRITES	9:30am - MATINS 5:30pm - PARISH ED 5:30pm - STEWARDSHIP 6:15pm - MISSIONS/EVANG 7pm - TRUSTEES	8:15am - TLS CHAPEL 10am - WOMEN'S BIBLE 5pm - SOUND WORDS 7pm - EVENING PRAYER	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:15pm - ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm - KANTOREI		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
QUINQUAGESIMA 8:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:45am - BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am - DIVINE SERVICE		7pm - COUNCIL	ASH WEDNESDAY NO SOUND WORDS	6:15pm - ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm - KANTOREI		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
TLS SUNDAY						



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)