



St. John's

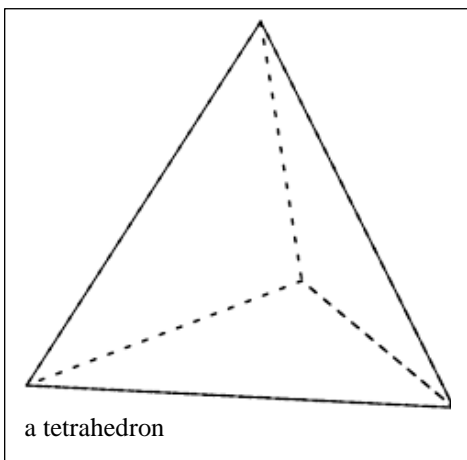
Ev. Lutheran Church

VOL. 153 NO. 06 MONTHLY

JUNE 2021

SALVATION THREE WAYS: WON, DELIVERED, LIVED

Nope. Not saying that there are three ways to be saved. It's more like I'm saying there are *three facets* to salvation, as if you were looking at a massive tetrahedron the size of the State House sitting right there between 8th and 10th and Harrison and Jackson. The tetrahedron itself is salvation in its fullness.



The base of the tetrahedron—the unexposed side sitting on the ground—is God's great love for His creation, fallen though it is: "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). Just as you can't see the base, you also can't ascend to heaven to "see" God's great love for the world. But that doesn't mean you can't know it ... or that you can't see the tetrahedron.

In fact, you *can* see the tetrahedron and you *can* know for certain there's base. But only by looking at the exposed sides.

One of the exposed sides we'd call "salvation won." That side might display a great depiction of Jesus suffering on the cross. The "salvation won" side would be the "...that He gave His only-begotten Son..." part of John 3:16.

But continue your tour a little bit and go to the next side. We can call it the "salvation distributed" side. It's the part of John 3:16 that says, "...that whosoever believes in Him..." On this side, you'd have a picture, perhaps, of an open Bible, or a pulpit, or a preacher, along with a font and a host and chalice. Believing doesn't "just happen." It doesn't come about through direct contact with Golgotha. Believing comes through God's Word read, listened to, preached, taught, meditated upon, and through that same Word connected to earthly elements—water, bread, and wine—through Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar.

But what's on the third exposed side? Well, let's walk around and see. Aha! It's a picture of you, a citizen of heaven—the "salvation lived" side.

And in that picture on the salvation lived side guess what you're doing. You're doing good works. That's what St. Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-10: "For by grace (base of the tetrahedron) are you saved by faith ("salvation delivered" side). And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works ("salvation won" side, showing *Christ's* works, not yours), so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Good works, prepared by God Himself, for us to walk in—that's the "salvation lived" side, showing you and your works!

Wherever the base and the first two sides of the tetrahedron are, the tetrahedron also has the third side, too. On the other hand, if the base and the first two sides of the tetrahedron aren't there, or any one of them are missing, the third side just falls to the ground. There's nothing to support it. There's no love of God, no death of Jesus, no Word and Sacraments. Therefore there's no work of God, no workmanship of God, none of your good works.

This is an amazing thing, really. We *receive* salvation *passively*. The Father wills it (base); the Son wins it (salvation won); the Holy Spirit delivers it (salvation delivered). You don't do anything. But then you *do live* it *actively* (salvation lived). That's the new life in Christ, lived here in time according to the 10 Commandments and in service toward neighbor, and there in eternity "in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness."



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

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

Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson

TLS Teachers - Andrea Kosmicki, Joshua Grass, Erin Grass

BACK TO NORMAL[-ISH] ON MAY 30

Given the elimination of regulations in our county, the Coronavirus Task Force has set 30 May as the date when a number of things will change significantly at St. John's—provided that there's no dangerous spike in infections, hospitalizations or deaths and no new orders are issued by the county.

On Sunday, May 30, fourteen-and-a-half months after we made our first adjustments to limit attendance, St. John's will:

- restore the normal Sunday schedule of 2 Divine Services—one at 8:00 and one at 11:00—with Sunday School and Bible classes starting at 9:45. Note that the early Divine Service is no longer at 8:15, but 8:00. This allows a nice bit of time for socializing prior to the start of Sunday School. Coffee and donuts will be in the Courtyard at 9:15.
- continue to offer both the chalice and individual glasses on Sundays and festivals. We plan ultimately to restore the pre-C-19 usage of reserving 3 Divine Services per month for individual glasses alone, with 5 (or 7) for chalice only, but that will come later.
- begin kneeling again to receive the Sacrament at all Sunday and festival Divine Services in the nave.
- have masking optional for all Sunday and festival Divine Services and other activities at church. If you want to wear your mask, please do. If not, have regard for your neighbor. Smaller groups and board meetings in enclosed spaces or close proximity will be left to determine by majority vote whether they'd like everyone to mask for their meetings or not.
- no longer require social distancing.
- drop the use of SignUpGenius for Sunday and festival Divine Services (but retain it for the Monday noon Divine Service).

Many of you are itching to ditch the masks; but just as many will be uncomfortable come 30 May. So let's work together on this. "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4).

YOUTH CONFIRMANDS

We welcome into communicant membership the young people who were confirmed in Christ on Sunday, May 2. May the Holy Spirit strengthen their faith throughout their lives.

HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

“To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” (LSB 768)

What is the work of the Holy Spirit? There are many false teachers who claim that the Holy Spirit works apart from God’s Word. Even during the time of the Reformation, Luther had to confront this false doctrine. We learn in the Small Catechism that the Holy Spirit “has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.” The Holy Spirit is the giver of faith and points to Christ who accomplished His work of salvation for us on the cross. The Holy Spirit delivers to us the gifts of salvation and works faith in us through the means of grace to sustain us in this faith unto life everlasting.

The hymn, “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” (LSB 768) was sung regularly during the time of the Reformation and continued to be widely used among churches. It teaches us how to pray and what to pray for in terms of the Holy Spirit’s work of faith in us. This hymn was originally a German spiritual song (“Leise”) from the late Middle Ages, to which Luther added three stanzas to complete it. He did not revise the original first stanza but continued the theme and poetic structure of that stanza.

The first stanza establishes this theme and structure by acknowledging the person of the Trinity to whom we are praying (address): God the Holy Spirit. It also describes the work of the Holy Spirit who grants us the “true faith needed on our way.” The imagery of this hymn is that of a journey, as we are in “exile” and on our way home to our eternal rest. We pray that God would grant us faith on our pilgrimage and especially when “life is ending.”

Each stanza of this hymn follows the same structure of prayer: address, a description of what He has done, a petition offered to Him, and a reason for that petition. The names we attribute to the Holy Spirit in the various addresses in this hymn are “O sweetest Love,” “Transcendent Comfort,” and “precious Light.” The Holy Spirit bestows on us grace, comforts us in every need, and shines in our hearts with the Gospel. We pray in this hymn that He would keep us unified in the one true faith and in love toward one another, give us the courage in the midst of trial and temptation, and “teach us Jesus Christ to know aright” in order to remain faithful to Him until death.

This hymn is a beautiful prayer for the Christian on his journey of faith in Christ, and it provides a wonderful picture of how the Holy Spirit works through faith to sustain us, even through the suffering that we face in this life on earth. Each stanza ends with the Kyrie, “Lord, have mercy,” which is a confession we have that the Holy Spirit is our Lord and God who is merciful to us in Christ. May this hymn be our prayer throughout our life, and may God grant us faith throughout our pilgrimage to life with Him in heaven.

Bethany M Johnson

2021 FLOWER CALENDAR

Thank you to those who have signed up for flowers. There are more available dates to provide flowers for a service. To sign up, locate the flower chart in the church office above the printer, sign your name next to the date of your choice. Upcoming dates available: June 6 & 20; July 11 & 18; August 22 & 29.

STIMULUS FUNDS

For those individuals who have received a stimulus fund check and are in a good financial position, please consider donating a portion of the funds to charity. If you would like to donate some of your stimulus money to St. John's, the following funds (in no specific order) would be excellent choices; International Missions, Eagle Foundation (Building and Enhancement Fund), Eagle Foundation (No Specific Fund), St. John's Music Academy, Sound Words Academy, Welfare (assistance for members), Human Care (assistance for non-members) or The TLS Foundation.

- The Board of Stewardship

RHYTHM OF FAITH MUSIC CAMP

“In Thee Is Gladness”

What? This music camp is a week-long opportunity to use your voice and hands to sing and play music, while learning more about music technique, hymnody, theology, architecture, and more. Snacks, games, and fun with friends included!

Who? Children entering grades K-8

When? Monday-Friday, **June 7-11, 2021, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.** We will have a performance for family on Friday.

Where? St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church (901 SW Fillmore, Topeka)

What now? Fill out the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/RQZdFte17wS6DZ9e6>) by **June 1** or contact Bethany Johnson for registration. Payments by cash or check can be made prior to or on the first day. Make checks payable to St. John's with :Rhythm of Faith Music Camp” in memo.

Cost? \$20 per child

Questions? Please contact Bethany Johnson at bjohnson@stjlcms.org or 469-400-4382.

2021 SJELC WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m.-- 4:00 p.m.

“History and Theology of Lutheran Liturgy”

Dr. Christopher Boyd Brown, keynote speaker

Schedule, registration, and other details on our website:

<https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/learning/worshipconf/>

This conference is for lay people, musicians, and pastors, so we encourage you to attend!

Questions? Contact Bethany Johnson (bjohnson@stjlcms.org)

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 2021. We hope that you will find this information useful. Several annual pledges have already been received in full – giving a very good financial picture to date.

YTD Projected Budget Receipts through April 2021	\$238,281.00
<u>Actual Receipts through April 2021</u>	<u>\$273,058.00</u>
Receipts Over Budgeted (Year to Date)	\$ 34,777

SUPPORT OF THE EAGLE FOUNDATION

Support of the Eagle Foundation “Building Maintenance and Enhancement Fund” that was established to address large, specific, and known future building maintenance, repairs and Capital Enhancements to the church are always welcome. If needed this fund can also be used to supplement the general operating budget. Use your Building Maintenance and Enhancement, “Eagle Foundation” envelope or write BM&E on the memo line of your check. Donations directed toward this fund are highly beneficial to the longevity of St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church. Thanks in advance for your support.

ST. JOHN’S WOMEN’S LEAGUE

Dorcas circle is planning a “Brown Bag” picnic at Old Prairie Town in Ward Meade Park, and invite Sarah Circle and others to join. Bring your favorite lunch and meet us at the picnic tables north of the mansion on Tuesday, June 8 at 11:30. Park in the Fillmore Street parking lot. There will be minimal walking. After we eat, you’re welcome to stroll through the gardens and enjoy the historic setting. Ice cream treats can be purchased at the Potwin Drug Store. In case of rain, we will meet in Luther Hall. Hope to see you there!

The Women’s League continues to collect **Best Choice labels**. Best Choice products may be purchased at Apple Market in Topeka. Ask your friends and family to save them for you. Place them in the box labeled stamps **along with any stamps you collect**. Please do not leave stamps in the church office. Money received from the labels is used for our special projects.



LWML National Convention, Date: June 24–27, 2021, Location: Lexington, Kentucky
Theme: *Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus*, Hebrews 12:1-2.

For more information go to LWML.org. Please pray for the convention and the safety of those attending.

Join us at the Lutheran Women in Mission Christian Life Retreat Featuring *Patti Ross, Past LWML President 2015-2019* as the speaker. **“Keeping the focus on Jesus” *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... Hebrews 12:2.*** The date is November 12-13, 2021, Double Tree by Hilton, 2098 Airport Road Wichita Kansas. Registration forms are now available. This is open to all women of the congregation and friends.

Women’s League is planning to hold our Annual Bargain and Bake sale Thursday, August 19, 8-5 p.m. and Friday, August 20, 8-1 p.m. Our project this year is still undecided. You may bring your items starting Monday August 16, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, August 17, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, August 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. You may bring baked items on Wednesday or early Thursday morning. We ask that you do not bring any electronic items please. More information to come after our meeting on June 7.

The Women’s League, Caring Mission committee, (LWML), is collecting the following items for personal care kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. We are collecting until the end of June: Light weight dark colored bath towels (sizes 52” x 27” or 20” x 40”), 2-3 bath size bars of soap, (4-5 ounces, and any brand in original wrappers) totaling 8-9 ounces, sturdy large combs, metal nail clippers, adult size toothbrushes in original wrappers. If you would rather let us do the shopping, monetary gifts will be accepted.

Caring Mission committee, (LWML), will be collecting the following items for School Kits: 40-70 page spirals note books (4 for each kit), plastic rulers, #2 lead pencils, blue or black ink pens (no gel), 24 box crayons, pink erasers, small pencil sharpeners and blunt end scissors. Bags for these items have been provided. We will collect these items July through September 2021.

LUKE SAVAGE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The tournament will be held on Saturday, July 10, at the Great Life Shawnee Country Club at 913 SE 29 Street. Registration begins at 8:00 am with a shotgun start to follow at 9:00 am. The tournament is a 4-person scramble and is almost full at this time, however, hole sponsorships and silent auction items are gratefully accepted! For questions or donations, please email dkmsavage@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST RETURNS IN JUNE

Join members on Sunday June 13 for a potluck breakfast between services. Bring your favorite breakfast dish to share and join in the fellowship. Also at this time, Pastor Bruss will be introducing new members to our congregation. This is a great time to put names and faces together and welcome them as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are delighted to count them as members of the Body of Christ here at SJELC!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



We All Believe
Vacation Bible School

What the Father abundantly promises, Jesus the Son graciously provides in His death and resurrection for you, and then the Spirit joyfully brings all that to you in the Word and Gifts of Jesus. That's what the Apostles Creed confesses from the Holy Scriptures.

Join us for Vacation Bible School June 21-25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Online registration for students (ages 3yrs through those entering 6th grade) and volunteers is available through the VBSMate website:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/stjohnstopeka/20357>

Please consider volunteering if you are able.

DOORSTEP NEWS

This month begins Doorstep's 55th year of providing service to our neighbors in need in the Topeka community, and surrounding areas. Doorstep is planning a year-long celebration of this anniversary as we seek *"to invite, involve, include, and inspire people to participate in Doorstep's mission."*

Currently, Doorstep is planning a kick-off for late June, as they seek to raise awareness and funds for its assistance programs, capital improvements, Doorstep's endowment fund, and operating expenses throughout this next year. For example, their HVAC system is original to the building, which Doorstep owns, and is over 60 years old. It is time for an upgrade, and they are wanting to raise funds for a new, more efficient system.

More information will be going out to congregations, local media, and on Doorstep's Facebook page in June and throughout the year regarding ways you can help and continue to be a part of the work we do as neighbors helping neighbors.

TLS NEWS

TLS 8th Grade Graduation. Seven students graduated from Topeka Lutheran School on Thursday, May 27 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Pray God's blessings for these students entering high school this fall. Congratulate the class of 2021! We pray that God continues to bless these young students as their time at TLS draws to a close.

First and Fourth Grade Teacher Positions Available

Do you have a passion and desire to share God's Word with a group of children on a daily basis? Would you like to work with a group of passionate people who desire to challenge students to use their God-given abilities? If your answers are yes, Topeka Lutheran School has openings for a first grade and fourth grade teacher. Contact Mr. Francik, the TLS principal, at 785-357-0382 or francik@topekalutheran.org for the necessary requirements for these teaching positions.

TLS has Openings for Long-Term Substitutes for mid August to mid October. Topeka Lutheran School has one position for Kindergarten through eighth grade music. Another position is half day in the afternoon for 5th – 8th grade involving two grammar and writing classes, a math class, and a study hall period. If you are interested in either of these positions, contact Chris Francik (785)357-0382 or email him at francik@topekalutheran.org.

2021-2022 Enrollment Open

Would you like to have your child receive instruction from God's Word and see a Christian lifestyle modeled every school day? Would you like your child to learn in small class sizes? If the answer is yes, Topeka Lutheran School should be at the top of your list for school choices. Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school is ongoing at TLS. Please communicate with Mr. Francik, TLS principal, at (785)357-0382 or francik@topekalutheran.org, speak with any TLS teacher, or visit topekalutheran.org for more information about Topeka Lutheran School and how to enroll.



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

YEAR END MESSAGE

"Hope in the Lord and Be Renewed" - Isaiah 40:29-31

The school theme for the 2020-2021 school was "Hope in the Lord and Be Renewed" based on Isaiah 40:29-31. God's words in the book of Isaiah have definitely been needed as each and every one of us has confronted the most unusual year imaginable. The process of living and going to school during a pandemic has been challenging for everyone yet God's Word remains a source of unchangeable truth and comfort. God's hope allows each and every one of us to rest in God's presence and know that He is surrounding us and caring for us. As the 2020-2021 school year comes to a close, I pray that each and every person who reads this knows God's presence in a real and dynamic way. Thank you to all of the people who have prayed for and financially supported the students, families, and staff of Topeka Lutheran School throughout this year. God's richest blessings on your summer!

Principal Chris Francik

SUPPORT TOPEKA LUTHERAN TODAY! CLICK TO DONATE.

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

TOTAL COMMITMENTS

Growing God's Children Fund

Total Amount Committed: \$834,743

Total Pledged Gifts Received: \$644,697

Total # of Pledges Received: 124

Virtual 5K Walk/Run

Total Received: \$5,700

Total Registrations: 163 including 30 TLS alum

April 29 TLS Student Walk-a-thon

Total Pledged: \$12,925 (\$8,750 from students & families; add'l \$4,175 from 2 teachers & 4 TLS donors)

Total Received to date: \$12,485

Match Gifts Received: \$15,000 (thank you Mr. Eckhardt and Pastor and Mrs. Goetz!)

Thank You! From the faculty, students, and families along with the GGC teams, a sincere "thank you" for your support and prayers for these events as well the important work of the capital campaign. With prayers and the incredible outpouring of support for the April and May events, an additional \$30,000 has been raised for the GGC campaign!

EVENTS TO COME

- **TLS Summer Reading Camp**, July 26-30. For payment info and to register, go to www.topekalutheran.org/reading-camp.
- **Luke Savage Memorial Golf Benefit**, July 10, 8:00am, Great Life Shawnee Country Club, 913 SE 29th St. Donations and/or hole sponsorships would be appreciated! Contact Darrel Savage (dkmsavage@yahoo.com) if any questions.

FAREWELL MISS WEINHOLD

- She taught grade 1 this past year and is moving on next year. Thank you Miss Weinholt for your service and God's continued blessings to you!

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Congratulations to TLS 8th grade graduates Sam Francik, Kiley Gibson, Logan Glinka, Natalie Hogg, Jacob Marchant, Kayli Muse, and Kaydee Wills. May God continue to bless you and keep you as you leave the TLS family and begin a new journey elsewhere!

June 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church - Topeka, Kansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am - COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am - BIBLE CLASSES 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	7 9am - RHYTHM OF FAITH MUSIC CAMP 9-11:30 12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYD 4:20pm - LWML EXEC	8 12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYD 6pm - SARAH CIRCLE	9 7pm - TUS BOO	10 7pm - BOARD OF ELDEMS	11 ST. BARNABAS, APOSTLE	12
13 BIBLE SUNDAY 8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - MONTHLY BRKFST 9:45am - BIBLE CLASSES 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	14 12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYD 6pm - SARAH CIRCLE	15 4:45pm - PARISH ED 5:30pm - STEWARDSHIP 6:15pm - MISSIONS/EVANG 6:30pm - TRUSTEES	16	17	18	19
20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am - COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am - BIBLE CLASSES 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	21 9am - VBS 9am-12pm	22 9:20am - MATINS in Nave 4:20pm - COUNCIL	23	24 ACTIVITY 91 ST. JORDAN BAPTIST 7pm - DIVINE SERVICE Courtyard	25 MUSKOGEE CONFESION	26
27 8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am - COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am - BIBLE CLASSES 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	28 ST. PAUL, APOSTLE	29	30	1	2 FEAST OF THE VISITATION	3



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)