



St. John's

Ev. Lutheran Church

VOL. 174 No. 3 MONTHLY

MARCH 2023

DYING IN CHRIST

Rebekah and I were recently watching something on YouTube where an Anglican priest in England was reacting with some friends to various memes pertaining to Christianity. During the video, a more serious question was brought up about death and the Christian hope. It was interesting to hear the response of the priest as he tried to give an answer about how Christians should “deal with” and talk about death. He brought up, rightly, how there is a trend even among Christians to deflect talks about death and rework our vocabulary with things like “celebrations of life.” Sadly, after he made this point, he entered a more psychological approach than one which proclaimed the gospel and the victory over death we have in Christ.

The point is still a valid one, however, and one we as Lutherans are particularly equipped to give answer to in the world around us. Death is terrible. Part of being a theologian of the cross is that we call a thing for what it is and not try to deflect the blow. Death is terrible and not a natural thing as we consider that God who is the Life and the very source of life created man to live. Even Jesus cried at the death of his friend, Lazarus, in John 11:35. Yet a few verses earlier Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die” (John 11:25–26).

As Christians, God calls us to know and see death for what it truly is, a result of the fall into sin. In Romans 5:12, God through St. Paul teaches us, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” Sin and death go together. Knowing this we face death head on as only Christians can do because we know the only answer, consolation, comfort, and peace in response to sin and death, Jesus. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

There are no mincing words when it comes to death and no amount of putting it out of sight and out of mind will change it. It is tragic when one faces death apart from Christ because apart from him there is only everlasting condemnation and hell. Another tragedy is when we want to take Christ out of our dealing and experience death and think we can repackage it in such a way as to soften the blow or just focus on the “positive” and “happy things.”

One of the great blessings of our services is how well they teach and confess the faith even in the saddest of times. The Funeral Service in Lutheran Service Book begins, after the Invocation, with placing a pall on the casket while the pastor and congregation speak responsively the words of Romans 6:3–5. With those words, the people gathered, listen, and speak this wonderful proclamation of what this dear brother or sister in Christ who has died has now even in death. Not only that, but it is a confession of the dearly departed saint of his or her baptism and life in Christ that God had graciously given to him or her. These words ring out: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might

walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

Christians mourn our loved ones who have died in the faith, and this is good and proper to do. Yet in our mourning there is great hope. God once again teaches us in 1 Thessalonians 4 about how we view death and our mourning as those who belong to Christ. “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).

Christ has paid the price for our sin atoning for it by his perfectly obedient life and his death as the sacrificial spotless Lamb in our place. Risen from the dead, the Father proclaims to us that we now stand righteous before his throne. Baptized into Christ we share in this death and resurrection and look forward to that day when our bodies will rise from our graves just as Jesus is risen and lives. It is in this work of Jesus that we find consolation and, in our baptism, find comfort knowing that we have what our Lord has accomplished and has graciously given it to us.

Elements like the Bible verses above and so many other things along with the readings and good faithful hymns are reasons why a Christian funeral in the church is such an important thing. It is for those who are still here on this side of the grave, to be sure, but it is also a confession of faith of the one who died (which is one reason why funerals in the church are done for those who confessed this faith faithfully in this congregation). Christians don’t shy away from facing death rather we hold before our eyes to Christ and confess him as he and he alone is the “Resurrection and the Life.”

As this Lent goes on and gets closer to Good Friday take to heart all these things. On Good Friday, Jesus died. The Hymn, “O Darkest Woe” (LSB 448) in stanza two says, “O sorrow dread! Our God is dead, upon the cross extended. There his love enlivened us as his life was ended.” God died on the cross, yet this was for us so that by his death we have life. Those cries of woe are turned to cries of “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” on Easter morning. Our song of sorrow becomes, “Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done; now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun. My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made when to the realms of light our spirit wings its flight” (LSB 467 stanza 1).

Our Lord has won the day and the day is coming when death will be no more. “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:56–57). We face death as a defeated enemy in Jesus, and know what we have baptized into him. Call a thing for what it is, death is terrible and at the same time call a thing what is, death has been defeated, our sin is forgiven, and we have eternal life.

Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring
Even there I’ll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I’m a child of paradise! LSB 594 sts. 4–5

Your brother and servant in Christ,
Pastor Wright

BECOME A VOTING MEMBER

Our constitution defines “voting member” as a communicant member who has reached the age of 18 years and been received as a voting member upon application for such privilege and approval of the voters of the assembly. **We encourage all eligible St. John’s members to join the voters assembly.** If you would like to become a voting member of our congregation, you can contact the office, pastor, or any elder to get instructions on how you can become a voter. Our next voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 30 at 12:30 p.m.

ADULT CATECHESIS

A new Adult Catechesis is taking place on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. For more information on joining the class, contact the church office.

NO SOUND WORDS ACADEMY, MARCH 15

Friendly reminder there will be no Sound Words on Wednesday, March 15 due to spring break. This means there is no meal, Jr. Lutherans, or Adult Bible Study. However, our Lenten Vespers at 12:00 p.m. and Lenten Compline service will be held at 7:00 p.m. that evening.

GIVEN AND SHED FOR YOU – THE LORD’S SUPPER FOR LENT

This Lent for our Midweek services we will be hearing about and meditating upon the Sixth Chief Part in the Small Catechism, The Sacrament of the Altar. Come join us as we study and rejoice in this great gift of our Lord’s Body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Our Lenten Vespers is held Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. and our Lenten Compline at 7:00 p.m.

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. We hope that you will find this information useful.

YTD Projected Receipts through January 2023	\$59,555.58
Actual Receipts through January 2023	\$62,748.17
Year to Date Receipts Over (Under) Budget	\$3,192.59

BOARD OF MISSIONS

The Board of Missions voted to begin its meeting at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:15 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

CAPITAL JOURNAL AD

You may have noticed our advertisement in the Capital Journal newspaper is incorrect and not up to date. We want you to know that we have been attempting to fix it for several months and will continue to contact the paper until it is fixed. We appreciate everyone who has notified the office of the issue and thank you for your patience as we get it resolved.

2023 FLOWER CALENDAR

There are dates available for this spring and summer if you would like to provide flowers for a particular service this coming year. Sign your name next to the date of your choice, and the office will notify you a week in advance. You are welcome to take home your bouquets after the 11:00 a.m. service.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

“CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING” (LSB 420)

There are many good, solid hymns the children of our church love, and “Christ, the Life of All the Living” is certainly one of them! It is one that we will be singing during our Sunday School openings, and I would encourage you to memorize this as well. Each stanza ends with the same phrase, “Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee,” which is especially easy for the little kids to chime in.

“Christ the Life of All the Living” is a hymn that encompasses the details surrounding Christ’s suffering and crucifixion. Thus, it is a hymn we typically sing during the Lenten season, especially as we get closer to Holy Week. (Suggestion: even just reading the hymn stanzas offers a great way to meditate on Christ’s suffering and death in our place.) It is a hymn that cuts to the core of what Christ really went through on our behalf, but it also brings great “comfort in [our] anguish” that our “doom should be prevented” on account of Christ.

Ernst Christoph Homburg (1607-81) wrote his hymn as a response to his recent conversion from an increasingly secular life that was beginning to trouble him. This hymn brings a more “personal” depth to it and thus is especially useful for meditation. The phrase at the end of each stanza offers thanks to our Savior for His bitter sufferings and is derived from 1 Corinthians 15:57, “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The first phrase in this hymn (stanza 1) recognizes Christ as the “life of all the living” and “death of death, our foe.” Christ needed to die in order to defeat death by rising again, thus securing eternal life for us. The second stanza describes Jesus taking upon the pain of the “bonds and stripes, a cruel rod” to deliver us from the “bonds of sin forever.” And, in stanza 3, He was wounded in order that our “wounds might all be whole” and to give rest to our weary soul. Jesus bore the curse of sin and the disgrace of suffering (stanza 4) in order to exalt us and crown us with heavenly glory.

Even as Jesus was “sad and lonely” (stanza 3) and endured the rejection of His people, His disciples leaving Him, and the curse of God, He bore it patiently. Even as He was falsely accused (see also Psalm 27:12, “false witnesses have risen against me.”) and was comfortless on the cross, He freed us from eternal death and comforts us even now in our suffering. Christ went through all of this – groaning, sighing, bleeding, dying, “last triumphant cry” (i.e. “It is finished) – FOR US. Thanks be to God for His suffering and death for our eternal life with Him!

ST. JOHN’S MUSIC ACADEMY

“Meditatio” in Music

Among the other musical pieces and exercises for method instruction for their instruments, students at St. John’s Music Academy also learn from some of the greatest treasures of church music – our hymnody! Here is a snippet of the “meditatio” (a theologian’s meditation on God’s Word) that takes place during the lesson and while playing music:

Have you ever thought of how a hymn tune reflects the character of its hymn text? Both melody and rhythm are constructed in such a way to serve the words faithfully. In one student’s hymn, “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure” (LSB 533), the melody dips down fairly low at different places in the hymn. It also jumps higher in places, especially phrases that brings out a certain word on that high note, such as “Jesus has **come**” at the end of every stanza. To accomplish our salvation, Christ became man and came to take our place in a lowly manner to suffer and die for us. From death to life He lifts us to Himself in

glory and frees us from the bonds of sin and death. He is our “mighty Redeemer” which this hymn so wonderfully portrays in both text and tune.

We encourage all children of God to delight in His gift of music for us! For more information on SJMA, please contact Bethany Johnson (bjohnson@stjlcms.org or 469-400-4382) or visit our website: <https://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/learning/sjma/>



Thank you for your support for St. John's Music Academy
 Check us out on Facebook!
 Interested in private lessons for piano, organ, trumpet, violin or
 flute? Contact Bethany Johnson
 (bjohnson@stjlcms.org)

SJMA Spring Recital

By piano, violin, and trumpet students

Sunday, April 2 at 4:00 p.m.

St. John's Luther Hall

All are invited and encouraged to
 attend!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Clocks “Spring” ahead early Sunday morning, March 12

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING SATURDAY, MARCH 25

St. John's Lutheran congregation is cordially invited to attend the annual church cleaning to be held on Saturday, March 25 starting at 8am. Please come to Luther Hall to sign in and decide which “spot” fits your need to clean! All the essential cleaning products and utensils will be there for you to choose. Coffee and doughnuts will also be there for you. Any questions can be directed to Sharon Rosenow at 785-640-7317 or rosenowsk@gmail.com.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST IN MARCH

Our next monthly breakfast will be biscuits and gravy served by our St. John's Elders on Sunday, March 12 in Luther Hall after our early Divine Service. There will be no Adult Bible Study, but the children's Sunday School will be held. We look forward to food and fellowship with you.

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

Our next youth events will take place Sunday, March 26 for grades K-5, and Saturday, April 1 for grades 6-12. Look for more details coming to you via email.

Save the Date!

St. John's youth have several opportunities to serve with music and their talented voices!

5 March, both services: all St. John's TLS students

12 March, both services: youth girls choir

2 April, both services: Sunday School choir

10 May, 7:00 Choral Evening Prayer: Rhythm of Faith choir

Summer Camps

- **Music Camp** will take place 9-11:30 a.m. on June 26-30 for children in 1st-5th grade.
- **VBS** will take place 9-12:00 p.m. on July 10-14 for children preK-5th grade. Older children are encouraged to volunteer!

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS NOW AVAILABLE

The St. John's office has new large print hymnals available. You are welcome to borrow one for services and return to the office or purchase one to keep. Contact Erika in the church office for more details.

Larger Text, Same Hymnal

All the LSB hymns, psalms, and services you love are included, with a 40% font increase. The Large Print Edition keeps the same page numbers and footnotes as the original, so worship can continue without needing to adjust for different hymnals.



THANK YOU

We want to give a big thank you to all our volunteers! We are grateful for all the extra hands that make our church so wonderful. Thank you for your time, hard work and support. We appreciate you!

– St. John's Staff

Thank you to all St. John's members who stepped up preparing/serving meals for Sound Words Academy in my absence. A special thank you to Nancy Taylor and Donna Barr. Also, I want to thank Dave Graversen who assisted with my duties in the office. Your efforts are all greatly appreciated! – Pam Harms

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Sarah circle meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. for bible study, a short meeting and fellowship.

Dorcas circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for bible study, a short meeting and fellowship.

Distribution of our Bazaar profits and Circle input was discussed with the circles. A motion was made to distribute \$5,000 with \$1,000 going to each of the following: LCMS Joint Seminary Fund, Lutherans for Life, Orphan Grain Train, St. John’s Welfare Fund and The Wittenberg Project. The total Bazaar profit distribution is \$6,000. A motion passed in January to give \$500 each to David Woelmer and Vicar Kastner.

The Spring LWML Topeka Zone Rally will be held April 29, 2023 at St. John’s LCMS in Topeka, Kansas. Registration and Servant Event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting following at 10:00 a.m. The theme is “He Showers All with Many Blessings” based on Philippians 4:19: And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

For this event we will be collecting personal hygiene items, shampoo, conditioner, bath gels/soap, deodorant, men/women’s socks and underwear, towels and wash cloths. We can also use toothbrushes and small tubes of toothpaste. If you have any hotel size soaps, shampoos, and conditioners, we can use them also when making our health kits.

All women of the congregation are invited to this event. We will be providing breakfast and lunch. Any help and contributions are appreciated.

Donations for quilt projects are being accepted. Items needed at this time include bed sheets of any size or color and embroidery floss. Thank you in advance to anyone who donates. Monetary donations can be sent to the church office and Erika will see it gets to the Women’s League.

LWML will host its annual Women’s Retreat at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, (600 N. Greenwich Rd. Wichita, KS 67206) on Saturday, March 4, 2023. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for registration and breakfast. The retreat begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The retreat theme is “Love Rules: A Study of the Ten Commandments” (based on John 15:10–12) and the presenter will be Christina Hergenrader. Tickets are \$30. Registration is open at holycrosslutheran.net/LWMLretreat/.

Mission Statement *Led by the Holy Spirit, the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, Kansas District will equip women to proclaim Christ, support missions and serve the Lord with gladness.*

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	
March 4, 2023	Holy Cross Wichita Women’s Retreat
April 29, 2023	Zone Gathering, St. John’s, Topeka
June 22-25, 2023	National LWML Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Thank you 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 generous donations helped stock their pantry, providing meals for our neighbors in need.

Doorstep is continuing on finding a “new normal” and currently working on a plan for returning to all in-person services instead of phone intakes and appointments. In addition, they are planning to hold its first Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing in four years. The annual banquet celebrates Doorstep and its volunteers and member congregations. Several quilts will be available for the drawing this year, so come and have a chance to win one! No date is selected yet, but it plans to be held in April.

Reminder that this month is St. John’s volunteer month. Consider volunteering with sorting and restocking the clothing room and pantry. For more information on how you can volunteer and help Doorstep, contact our St. John’s members Cheri Berggren or Chris Graversen.



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**March is St. John’s
Lutheran’s Month at
Doorstep!**

How You Can Help...

Volunteer at Doorstep any **Wednesday** during the month of March. You will assist with sorting donations, running dryers, and assisting clients with clothing. (8:45am–1:30pm)

Or volunteer on Monday, March 13th, sorting donations and re-stocking the clothing room. (9am–1pm)

Donate food items for the pantry. We are one of five congregations responsible for stocking the food pantry during the month of March. **Needed items are:**

Macaroni N Cheese	Pinto Beans	Powdered Milk
Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Fruit	Oatmeal
Evaporated Milk	Canned Soups	Dry Cereal
Peanut Butter/Jelly	Tuna	Egg Noodles

Make a monetary donation to Doorstep and note your membership with St. John’s Lutheran for credit.

Your Doorstep Contacts are:
Board Member - Cheri Berggren
Coordinator– Chris Graversen

Doorstep Annual Banquet & Quilt Drawing

Watch for information on the Banquet for 2023! We have not had this special event where we honor our volunteers, and celebrate Doorstep for the past three years, due to COVID. We are hoping to bring it back this year!

LUKE SAVAGE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



9th Annual Luke Savage Memorial Golf Tournament

The tournament this year will be held on Saturday, April 29th, at the
Great Life Shawnee
Country Club @ 913 SE 29th St.

Registration will begin at 8:00 am with a shotgun start to follow
at 9:00am.

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.

Inspiring passion for science is Joshua Grass' way of showing God's love



Standing by a greenhouse within his classroom Thursday, Topeka Lutheran teacher Joshua Grass holds up his 2023 Distinguished Teacher Award by KAIRS. Evert Nelson/The Capital-Journal

Above is a photo courtesy of the article found online at <https://www.cjonline.com/story/news/education/2023/02/28/topeka-lutheran-schools-joshua-grass-is-kairs-distinguished-teacher/69933192007/>

Congratulations to Josh Grass, a St. John's member, and teacher at Topeka Lutheran School. He recently received the KAIRS Distinguished Teacher Award for Lutheran Schools. The Topeka Capital Journal wrote a wonderful news article about him and shared details on his teaching at Topeka Lutheran School.

We greatly appreciate his devotion, care, and excellent work in Lutheran education. Mr. Grass has made a significant impact on children and families at TLS for the past five years, especially by teaching the faith and incorporating God's Word daily within the classroom.



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



Dear Friends of TLS,

March 1, 2023

Four years ago, when we met in a classroom at Topeka Lutheran School (TLS) to start the planning for a capital campaign, there were feelings of excitement mixed with feelings of "can it be done?" Over the past four years, we have seen so much love and support for TLS, we never should have doubted that with God's help and guidance, we would wrap up the "Growing God's Children for Generations to Come" (GGC) with feelings of thankfulness and excitement for a better future for TLS.

We praise God for the amazing response to the GGC campaign. With your prayers and support, there have been:

- 125 donors who pledged a gift(s)
- \$846,943 pledged
- \$845,258 pledged gifts and \$179,189 unpledged gifts received
- 62 new families/donors who responded with a gift(s)
- 36 TLS alum who responded with a gift(s)
- Two student walk-a-thons and alumni 5K events (42 alum participated/supported the 5K events)
- Eight corporate gifts/match gifts/memorial gifts received

With 12-31-2022 marking the end of this important effort, we reflect on the vision of the campaign which was shared with you over the past 36 months. This vision included working to solidify the fiscal health of TLS and the Foundation and to enhance the school campus and facilities. Through your generosity, the school debt to the Foundation has been retired in its entirety and the financial stability of the Foundation has been strengthened. In addition, there is a balance of \$182,000 that will be used to make physical improvements to the building. These funds will be used to enhance security, add cameras, fencing, lighting, signage, landscaping and improve the security of the west entrance and office area. These improvements are planned to begin in 2023, and progress updates will be shared in the school and church newsletters.

With all this great news, there is still work to do. It is important that we continue to invest in TLS and support the Foundation to allow for long-term financial stability for the school, additional scholarships, increased educational opportunities, improvements to the playground area and parking lots, and critical facility maintenance. We pray that you continue your giving to TLS to help us build the Foundation, strengthen our school, and keep our nearly 150-year history of Lutheran education and academic excellence growing strong.

Thank you to all the many donors who have already made generous financial commitments to the future of Topeka Lutheran School. And thank you all for your prayers and your love and support for TLS. Please continue to pray for God to bless TLS and our families as we work together to grow God's children for generations to come.

God bless you!

Darrel and Kim Savage
GGC Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



TOPEKA
LUTHERAN
SCHOOL



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

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven: We come before You today with thankful hearts for all the blessings You shower on us here at Topeka Lutheran School. We do not deserve Your bountifulness since we constantly ignore Your Word and daily sin against not only You but our neighbors, our children and each other. As sinners, we are completely helpless to extract ourselves from this condition, but thanks be to You that You gave us the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ who took our rightful place on the cross, died and rose again to assure our place in Heaven with You forever. For this we gratefully thank You and pray in Christ's Holy Name, Amen.

SUPPORT TOPEKA LUTHERAN TODAY!

<https://www.topek Lutheran.org/pledge-tracker>

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The year-end of 2022 marked the closing of the capital campaign fundraiser. Included with this newsletter is a letter from the Campaign Directors Darrel and Kim Savage as well as a summary of the campaign, gifts received and goals met. The Board of Directors of LSAT and Foundation would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Savage for their leadership and dedication to this important campaign. Thank you also to all the GGC team leaders and volunteers who generously gave their time and talents during this campaign.

TLS GGC BUILDING UPGRADE COMMITTEE

This committee will proceed with approved security and campus upgrades with plans for completion in 2023. The Committee was requested to temporarily delay the upgrades, due to several immediate facility needs - separate from the Building Upgrade Committee's approved projects - which the TLS governing boards are reviewing to prioritize and determine next steps. Additional information will be announced in the very near future.

TLS UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 3:** Family Reading Night 5:00 - 7:00pm,
- **March 5:** TLS Sunday at St. John's Lutheran Church
- **March 13-17:** Spring Break, No School - Classes will resume Monday, March 20
- **March 27:** PTL Meeting at 6:00pm
- **April 25:** TLS Spring Concert K-8 at 6:30pm
- **April 29:** Luke Savage Memorial Golf Benefit for TLS

THANK YOU!

- To Athletic Director Blake Ramsey for organizing and managing the 71st annual TLS Basketball Tournament, to PTL officers and families who volunteered to help with concessions, and to the officials, coaches, parents and players. The tournament proved to be another exciting and competitive event. Thank you also to TLS families and friends who stopped by to support our young players!
- To Mrs. Balch and Mrs. Sorensen for organizing and staffing the Kindergarten Step-Up enrollment event held late February. An update on enrollment will be provided at a later date.
- To the generous donors who made special gifts to reduce enrollment fees for the new kindergarten families.

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL JOHNSON

- Enrollment events for K-8 for next school year are being scheduled and families will be notified as soon as details are final. If you know of a family or friend with child(ren) who would be interested in learning more about TLS, please have them call the school office (785) 357-0382 to schedule a tour or a visit with TLS faculty.
- "TLS Enrolling Now" yard signs are available at no charge. Call or stop by the school office to pick one up for your front yard.
- CYC/Jr. Wildcats Preschool and Day Care operation will remain open during Spring Break, week of March 13-17.
- A number of TLS students will be participating in the St. John's Music Academy Spring Recital scheduled for Sunday, April 2nd at 4:00pm at St. John's Luther Hall. We hope many of you can attend!
- Mrs. Brenda Schwartz, teacher of Grade 2/3 combined classes, has resigned effective the end of 2022-2023 school year. We want to thank her for her dedication and love of teaching and will keep her in our prayers as she embarks on new endeavors.
- TLS is looking for a volunteer photographer to take professional photos of students, groups, activities, etc., which we would use for the TLS website, for marketing brochures and materials, and for social media. If photography is your hobby or interest and you have a flexible schedule, we would love to visit with you! Please contact Marlene at (785) 357-1488.

March 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church - Topeka, Kansas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm LENTEN VESPERS 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 5:15pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm LENTEN COMPLINE	2 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7pm TLS BOARD 7:15pm KANTOREI	3	4
REMINISCERE TLS SUNDAY 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	6 1pm LWML EXEC 7pm ADULT CATECHISM	7	8 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm LENTEN VESPERS 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 5:15pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm LENTEN COMPLINE	9 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 6:30pm ELDER CALLING 7pm ELDERS 7:15pm KANTOREI	10	11
OCULI 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am MONTHLY BREAKFAST 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 11am DIVINE SERVICE	13 6pm SARAH CIRCLE 7pm ADULT CATECHISM	14 1pm DORCAS CIRCLE	15 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm LENTEN VESPERS 7pm LENTEN COMPLINE	16 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	17	18
LAETARE 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7pm ADULT CATECHISM	21 4pm PARISH ED 4:30pm TRUSTEES 5:30pm STEWARDSHIP 6pm MISSIONS/EVANG	22 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm LENTEN VESPERS 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 5:15pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm LENTEN COMPLINE	23 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	24	25 ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD 8am ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING
JUDICA 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE 3pm K-5 YOUTH EVENT	27 7pm ADULT CATECHISM	28 9:30am MATINS 6:30pm COUNCIL	29 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm LENTEN VESPERS 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 5:15pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm LENTEN COMPLINE	30 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	31	1



901 SW Fillmore, Topeka, KS 66606-1445



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)