



# St. John's

## Ev. Lutheran Church

VOL. 176 NO. 5 MONTHLY

MAY 2023

### WELCOME FROM OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Pastor-elect Nicholas Belcher and his wife, Lauren, are lifelong LCMS Lutherans originally hailing from Texas. Nicholas was born and baptized in Plano, just north of Dallas, and was confirmed at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. He graduated from McKinney Boyd High School and thereupon began a seven-year career with the U.S. Air Force as a computer security specialist. He served with distinction receiving numerous awards including the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak-leaf cluster. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant prior to being honorably discharged from military service. His hobbies include reading early Christian literature and studying military history.

During his time stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base, Nicholas met his beautiful bride at the church they attended together near the home where Lauren's immediate family has resided ever since they moved from Texas early on in her childhood. Lauren is a graduate of Cabot High School and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock having earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She has worked for over a decade in the restaurant industry as a server and bartender. Her hobbies include homesteading projects and playing board games.

Soon after being united by God in Holy Matrimony, Nicholas and Lauren moved to Southern California where Nicholas completed his undergraduate studies at Concordia University Irvine. He graduated Summa Cum Laude earning a bachelor's degree in History & Political Thought. Just prior to graduation, the Lord God blessed Nicholas and Lauren with their firstborn son, Elijah, who was baptized into Christ at Faith Lutheran Church, their home congregation in Capistrano Beach. They also give thanks to God for blessing them with another baby boy, Amos, this past February, whom God received into the waters of Holy Baptism on the third day after his birth.

As Pastor-elect Belcher finishes the academic requirements for the Master of Divinity degree at CTSFW, both he and his family joyfully look forward to coming to St. John's and meeting everyone in the congregation.

## **UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP WITH TRINITY MCFARLAND**

After prayerful consideration, Trinity Lutheran Church in McFarland and St. John's have mutually agreed to dissolve the partnership pastor agreement. The Voter's Assemblies at both congregations have approved this action. Changing conditions and needs at both Trinity and St. John's has led to this decision. Please continue to pray for Trinity and their congregation that they may successfully call a pastor to serve their congregation.

## **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, 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, May 7.

## **SOUND WORDS ACADEMY ENDS MAY 10**

Sound Words Academy will have our last meal on Wednesday, May 10. Be sure to sign up on SignUp Genius by Monday of each week. Rhythm of Faith (children's) choir and Kantorei will be singing during the Choral Evening Prayer that evening at 7:00 p.m. Join us in prayer and song as we hold our last Sound Words Academy.

## **POTLUCK BREAKFAST ON MAY 21**

We look forward to celebrating Yvonne Berry's retirement as office manager with a special potluck breakfast after the early service on Sunday, May 21. Join us in Luther Hall for food, fellowship and celebrating Yvonne and her 18 years of vocation to St. John's.

## **CAPITAL JOURNAL AD**

Unfortunately, we are continuing to have difficulties with reaching someone with the Topeka Capital Journal. There is an advertisement in the Capital Journal newspaper that 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. If you know of anyone that is not part of advertising that we could contact, please let the office know. We thank you for your patience as we get it resolved.

## **HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR EMAIL?**

We would like to keep our member's information up to date which includes your phone number, address and email. If you have moved, changed your phone number or email – please notify the office. The best way to notify the office is by emailing the information to [secretary@stjlcms.org](mailto:secretary@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. We hope that you will find this information useful.

YTD Projected Receipts through March 2023	\$178,666.74
Actual Receipts through March 2023	\$258,515.90
Year to Date Receipts Over (Under) Budget	\$79,849.16

**HYMN OF THE MONTH**  
**“DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL REJOICE” (LSB 556)**

This coming Sunday, May 7, is a special day for our confirmands as they will publicly confess the faith and receive Christ’s Body and Blood in the Lord’s Supper for the forgiveness of sins. What is unique about an individual’s confession is that he is also part of the larger Church that confesses together, “we believe...” This is something we should always treasure and remind ourselves and others: the faith that we confess in God’s Word is the one true faith that unites all believers to Christ. We join with each other in confessing this faith and praising God in word and song.

The hymn of the day for this particular Sunday, Cantate Sunday (Easter 5), is “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” (LSB 556). It is one of the great Reformation hymns written by Martin Luther, who wrote this text as a complete summary of the doctrine of justification. Through its ten stanzas, it tells the story of God’s grace toward sinners and how He accomplished His work of salvation for all mankind. The melody of this hymn expresses a certain “Easter joy” that is certainly appropriate for this season of the Church Year.

The “Companion to the Hymns” (published by CPH) provides an excellent summary of this hymn through themes, written by Jon Vieker:

<b>Section Theme</b>	<b>Stanza</b>	<b>Stanza Theme</b>
Introduction	1	Justification: the source of Christian joy
The sinner coram deo	2	The sinner and original sin
	3	The sinner and unrighteous deeds
The grace of God in Christ	4	The Father’s mercy from eternity
	5	The Father’s gracious sending of His Son
	6	The Word become flesh
The basis of justification And its appropriation.	7	The “joyous exchange”
	8	Calvary’s benefits received in faith
The Spirit and the Means Of Grace	9	The promise of the Spirit
	10	The Means of Grace

We pray that by God’s grace we would guard ourselves against human teachings and resist the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. We pray this for ourselves, for our church, and especially for our new confirmands. May God continue to teach us according to His truth and keep us steadfast in the faith in which we believe, teach, and confess.

*Also, I would highly recommend purchasing the book “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice,” illustrated by Edward Riojas and published by Kloria Publishing House (also sold on Amazon). It is an excellent book and hymn, especially for children, and the realistic illustrations capture this Gospel message so clearly and so well.*

*Bethany M Johnson*



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
Topeka, KS

**WORSHIP CONFERENCE**

Rev. Roberto Rojas, keynote speaker

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023**  
**8:30 AM-4:00 PM**

More information to come on our website:  
[stjohnlcmstopeka.org](http://stjohnlcmstopeka.org)  
Hymn Festival at 3:00 p.m.

**Thank you for your support for St. John's Music Academy**

We encourage all children of God to delight in His gift of music for us!

Check us out on Facebook!

Interested in private lessons for piano, organ, trumpet, violin, or flute?

Contact Bethany Johnson

([bjohnson@stjlcms.org](mailto:bjohnson@stjlcms.org))



## ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

### Save the Date!

**May 10:** 7:00 p.m. Choral Evening Prayer featuring the Adult and Children Rhythm of Faith choirs

### Summer Camps

- **Music Camp** will take place 9-11:30 a.m. on June 26-30 for children in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. See the flyer below for more details!
- **VBS** will take place July 10-14 from 9-12:00 p.m. for children preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children are encouraged to volunteer!



### *Rhythm of Faith Music Camp*

ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 26-30

9:00-11:30 a.m.

901 SW Fillmore, Topeka

Ages: entering 1st-5th grades

Cost: \$40 per child

music, snacks, crafts, & games  
gathered around God's Word



Led by Bethany Johnson and Erin Grass

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

Register: [stjohnlcmstopeka.org/learning/music-camp/](http://stjohnlcmstopeka.org/learning/music-camp/)

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our volunteers and donors who made our Doorstep volunteer month a success. We collected 327 pounds of food. What a blessing and gift for our neighbors in need. – *St. John’s Doorstep Directors*

Thank you for sending an Easter lily to Verda. It really brightened her day. – *Pam & Pat Tierce*

Thank you for the beautiful Easter lily. – *Richard and Mary Allen*



Members of the women’s quilting group and LWML presented Rebekah Wright with a quilt for Pastors wives appreciation month in March. She was also given flowers and a cross.

### ST. JOHN’S WOMEN’S LEAGUE

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

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

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**LWML 2023 Topeka Zone Spring Fling!**

“He Showers All with Many Blessings”

Philippians 4:19: And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**The LWML Topeka Zone Spring Fling** was held April 29, 2023 at St. John’s LCMS in Topeka, Kansas. An update on the event will be in the June newsletter.  
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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 are appreciated. The group continues to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. All women are welcome to come. They are now meeting next to the old kitchen in the South basement.  
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Plans are underway for the Annual Bargain and Bake sale for August 17 and 18, 2023. We will also be assembling Health and School kits for the Orphan Grain Train. More details on both will be in our June and July newsletters.  
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**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.*

### **Dates to Remember**

June 22-25, 2023  
 August 14-18, 2023  
 November 10-11, 2023  
 December 1, 2023

National LWML Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Annual Bargain and Bake Sale  
 Fall Women's Retreat, Wichita  
 Annual Christmas Bazaar



## **8th Grade Graduation**

2022-2023 8th grade  
 graduation has been  
 changed to Wednesday,  
 May 17th.

*Emilio*

*Megan*

*Frankie*

*Emilee*

Please note this date  
 change and join us at  
 7:00pm at Faith Lutheran  
 Church to see these hard  
 working students receive  
 their diplomas.



## DOORSTEP

### **Doorstep Newsletter Article – May, 2023**

Last month we were finally able to have our first Annual Banquet in three years! It is always fun to see the faces of our supporters, current and past volunteers, board members, and coordinators! We all came together to share a meal, celebrate all of the things Doorstep does, and to honor our wonderful volunteers! With a total of five staff members, we could not do all of the programs and services offered at Doorstep without our dedicated volunteers, who are here week after week! We all feel an ownership in Doorstep, to make it the best we can, and to help our neighbors in need. And, I like to think of us as one big Doorstep family.

We received a thank you note from a retired couple who came to a LIEAP application event, and learned the many ways Doorstep could help them meet their basic needs while struggling financially, and with illness...

*“To Everyone at Doorstep,  
Thank you so very much for the groceries and hygiene supplies.  
It’s hard to ask for help, but thank you for being there when we do need it.  
Thank you for help with some of our utilities. Everything is going up.  
God bless you all.”*

It is always heartwarming when we receive those messages that the assistance we provided really makes a difference to those we’ve helped. It is a great reminder, and we cannot do any of it without our member congregations and supporters! Thank you!

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Mark your calendars and save the date for **Doorstep’s 6th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run is Sunday, October 1st** at Lake Shawnee. Plan to join us, get a group of family and friends together, and help raise funds for Doorstep this October.

**Office hours are M-F from 8a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Donations are accepted M-F from 9a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Client services provided on Mondays from 10a.m. – 2 p.m., Tuesdays – Friday  
9a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Clients must be in our office by 1:30p.m. for assistance.**

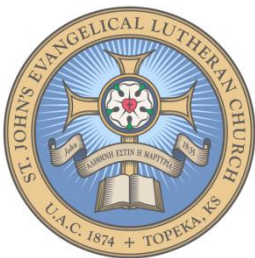


# May 2023 St. John's Lutheran Church - Topeka, Kansas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1pm LWML EXEC 7pm ADULT CATECHESIS	2	3 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 5:15pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 6:30pm CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL 7pm EVENING PRAYER	4 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7pm TLS BOARD 7:15pm KANTOREI	5 6pm CONFIRMATION EXAMINATION 7pm CONFIRMATION DINNER	6
7 <b>CANTATE</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE & CONFIRMATION 9:20am CONFIRMATION RECEPTION 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10am VOTERS MEETING 11am DIVINE SERVICE	8 6pm SARAH CIRCLE 7pm ADULT CATECHESIS	9 1pm DORCAS CIRCLE	10 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 5:15pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm CHORAL EVENING PRAYER	11 6:30pm ELDER CALLING 7pm ELDERS	12	13
14 <b>ROGATE</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	15 7pm ADULT CATECHESIS	16 4pm PARISH ED 4:30pm TRUSTEES 5:30pm STEWARDSHIP 6pm MISSIONS/EVANG	17 2:45pm TLS CHAPEL 7pm TLS GRADUATION at Faith	18 <b>ASCENSION</b> 7pm DIVINE SERVICE in Courtyard	19 <b>TLS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
21 <b>EXAUDI</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am POTLUCK & YVONNE RETIREMENT CELEBRATION 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 11am DIVINE SERVICE	22	23 6:30pm COUNCIL	24	25	26	27
28 <b>PENTECOST</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & DONUTS 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	30	31	1	2	3



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)