

## *In the Congregation*

### *February 2025*

**Support Our Missions:** Our international missions commitment cards are now available. Commitment cards are on the table in the breezeway to fill out and return in the offering plate or to the church office. Or you can email your commitment information to our bookkeeper, Coleen, at [cakers@stjlcms.org](mailto:cakers@stjlcms.org).

**Our next monthly breakfast** will be potluck on Sunday, February 9 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.

**The School Board of St. John's Classical Lutheran School** is in the process of hiring a full time teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. We offer competitive pay and benefits. Our school consists of teachers and students that are members of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church. If you have any interest or questions contact Robyn Smith.

**Diapers for Dean:** One of our young St. John's members has been fighting a brain tumor for several months. If you would like to support Dean and his family during this difficult time, consider donating toward a diaper collection (size 6 & up) or give a gift card for a local restaurant, grocery store, etc. You can drop off diapers to the church office or give a gift card in the drop box, located in the narthex. Donations will be accepted through February 9.

**Dates are available for altar flowers.** Do you have a special anniversary, birthday or other celebration coming up? If you would like to provide flowers for a service in the coming year, print your name beside the date you choose. The church office will send you a reminder a week before your date. You are welcome to take home the flowers after the late Divine Service. Any questions, contact the church office.

**Support Doorstep** with their SouperBowl Sunday, February 9. Bring canned soup and crackers to help stock their food pantry. Bring donations to our Doorstep area, located near Luther Hall, or you can take them to Doorstep directly. Be sure to mention you are a St. John's member.

**Dates are available for altar flowers.** The 2025 Flower Chart is posted outside of the church offices. If you would like to provide flowers for any of the services in the coming year, print your name beside the date you choose.

	Monthly	YTD
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>		
Dec 2024 Total Income( General Fund)	\$92,296.55	\$742,365.02
Dec 2024 Total Expenses	\$68,595.80	\$883,740.68
Current Monthly Total	\$23,700.75	(\$141,375.66)
<b>Financial Secretary's Report</b>		
Dec 2024 Contribution Receipts	\$76,059.48	\$711,467.29
Dec 2024 Projected Monthly Receipts	\$61,652.00	\$739,823.00
Over/Under Budgeted Contribution	\$14,407.48	(\$28,355.71)

**2025 International  
Missions Support  
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
Topeka, Kansas**

**Pastor Olav Panchu  
& Pastor Alexander Furs**  
St. John Lutheran Church, Saratov, Russia

**Pastor David Preus**  
Romania

**Pastor Wilhelm Weber**  
Wittenberg, Germany

**Lutheran Classical College**  
Casper, Wyoming

Checks should be made to St. John's Lutheran Church  
using an "International Missions" envelope.  
For online donations, simply use the  
"International Missions" field.

**My 2025 Missions Commitment is \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Please return the bottom portion. Keep the top for your records.  
Your contribution can be changed during the year per your request.  
Please notify the church office of your wishes.

In addition to praying for Pastors Panchu, Furs, Preus,  
and Weber and others in the Lutheran churches in  
Russia and Germany,

**My Missions Commitment for 2025 is**

A commitment of \$\_\_\_\_\_/month  
January - December, 2025  
Making total amount of gift for the year  
\$\_\_\_\_\_

A one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

My offering envelope number is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Return this to the offering plate or email cakern@stjlcms.org  
your total gift for the year. Make checks to St. John's  
Lutheran Church using an "International Missions" envelope.

**Funds received in excess of St. John's mission commitment  
go toward the LCMS endowment goal for the Siberian  
Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk. If you are unable to  
fulfill your pledge, contact the church office.**

**Starting Friday, February 7, the church office will be closed on Fridays.** The church office will return to being closed every Friday, beginning on February 7. Those who order flowers for the altar are asked to have them delivered on Thursdays. Should you need to contact the office for an emergency on Friday or Saturday, you can call the office and select one of the pastors extensions and it will transfer your call to their cell.

***Save the Date for our Summer Camps***

**Music Camp** will take place 9-11:30 a.m. on June 9-13 for children in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**VBS** will take place 9-12:00 p.m. on June 23-27 for children preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children are encouraged to volunteer!

## St. John's Youth & Family Events 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Saturday, February 1 (weather permitting)	Skiing and tubing at Snow Creek
Friday, February 21	LEAP trampoline park
Sunday, March 9	Watch <i>The Sound of Music</i> youth edition at Helen Hocker Theater
Sunday, March 23rd	Zipline at Wildwood Adventure Park
July 8th - July 11th	Higher Things Conference in Seward, NE (for high schoolers and confirmed youth)



## St. John's Women's League (LWML)

**Sarah Circle's** next meeting will be February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

**Dorcas Circle** next meeting will be on February 11 at 1:00.

**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 26-29, 2025      LWML National Convention in Omaha, NE



Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart,  
and do not lean on your  
own understanding.  
Proverbs 3:5

## Leaning on Jesus

a Women's Retreat  
led by Author Deb Burma

**March 1, 2025**

Registration begins at 8:30 am  
Retreat 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
*Light breakfast and lunch will be served*

Cost: \$25 until Feb. 9, \$30 after  
Register at [holycrosslutheran.net](http://holycrosslutheran.net)  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
600 N. Greenwich Road    Wichita, Kansas 67206


There is an upcoming conference you may be interested in attending

### *The Faith of Our Fathers Conference: The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*

The proper understanding of the Law of God is essential for a Christian. Unfortunately, there has been much disagreement in American Lutheranism concerning the role of the Law in the Church. Last year, we focused on the dangers of antinomianism, the importance of the third use of the law, and how these topics have impacted the Missouri Synod's preaching and teaching in recent years. This year, we will be focusing on the beautiful harmony of God's Law and Gospel and how His promises shape the Christian life. As recently sainted John Warwick Montgomery said, "The answer to antinomianism, social-gospel legalism, and existential relativism lies not only in the proper *distinction* between Law and Gospel, as C. F. W. Walther so effectively stressed, but also in the proper *harmony* of Law and Gospel, as set forth in the classic doctrine of the Third Use of the Law."

Over two days at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL, February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, we will learn about and discuss God's Law and Gospel, preaching, growth and struggle in the Christian life, and what the Lutheran Confessions have to say about all these matters.


This conference is for both laity and pastors. Come join us for good theology, fellowship, and maybe even a little fun. To learn more about the conference and register go to <https://yourgrandfatherschurch.org/>.



## THE GOSPEL SHOWS THE FATHER'S GRACE

February 28–March 1 | A+D 2025

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1300 Beltline Road, Collinsville, IL 62234



THE FAITH  
OF OUR FATHERS





## News & Notes



### Our School's New Seal

by Jonathan Mayer (*Scapegoat Studio*)

The central element to the school's seal is a large cross with the rose, heart, and cross that hearken to Luther's seal. The laurel wreath encircling the seal has its origins in classical antiquity, and was synonymous with victory or high achievement. The most prominent element—the cross—makes clear that our ultimate victory is in Christ, not in our achievements.

Martin Luther's rose was designed to represent the evangelical church. The cross-inscribed heart represents faith in Jesus Christ, whose death on the cross gives us life. The white rose means that faith in Christ brings lasting peace and joy to the believer. The blue field means that our faith and joy, although real, are not yet complete; the believer hopes for his fulfillment in grave. The gold band that encircles the shield represents the eternal joy and riches of heaven.

The seal design also contains a Bible verse near the bottom, because all godly education is rooted in the word of God. Thus Psalm 119:111 is fittingly included as a motto, which extols God's testimonies as our inheritance and joy.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have promised to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ. We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Help us look to you in faith, firmly believing that our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. Amen.

### Join Us

- Memorizing Confession and Absolution from Luther's Small Catechism
- Office of Matins every morning (8:30-9:00 a.m.) during the school year. Please enter Luther Hall doors by 8:30 to enter



### Highlights

- Learning about the genealogy of Jesus, the virgin birth, Nunc Dimittis, Simeon
- Singing at church on 1/26
- Reading *Dangerous Journey* (4/5)
- Reading *Little House in the Big Woods* (2)
- Reading *Caps for Sale* (1)
- Learning about tastebuds after reading *Bread and Jam for Francis* (K/1)
- Listening to and analyzing "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Soldier's Tale" in music
- Learning the "Gloria Patri" chant in Latin
- Celebrating National Lutheran Schools week

Doorstep's 2025

**“SOUPERBOWL  
SUNDAY” IS  
FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**



**BRING  
SOUP  
AND  
CRACKERS**

**TO YOUR FAITH  
COMMUNITY  
FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
TO HELP STOCK  
DOORSTEP'S FOOD  
PANTRY!**



**Our Goal this year is 5 ton = 10,000 pounds!  
We can beat last year's total... Let's Do It!!!**

**Doorstep News ~ February 2025**

The year 2024 felt a bit like a repeat of 2023 in many ways! The needs of our neighbors remained at an increased level. We provided 2,964 food orders in 2024, exceeding the increased number we provided in 2023. Doorstep assisted with nearly 168,000 pounds of food to feed our neighbors and spent almost \$84,500 on food purchases to keep our pantry shelves stocked to feed our neighbors in need! Our food budget in two years went from \$6,900 to \$84,500; that is an increase of over 1,100%! Doorstep applied for more grants to assist with food purchases and our supporting faith communities and individuals stepped up to donate more food, and gave money so we could buy food in bulk. At this point, we do not foresee a drastic decrease in the need for food in 2025, and our budget reflects the amount we anticipate needing to spend to feed our neighbors in need.

One way to help in the first part of 2025 is by donating towards our annual SouperBowl Sunday's collection of soup and crackers!

During the weekend of the Super Bowl (February 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>) we ask our faith communities and mission partners to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves. A successful event will keep our pantry shelves stocked with soup for a few months, at least!

In 2024, we set a goal of 5,000 pounds, and we received over 8,400 pounds!!! With the increased need last year, we are going to set an increased goal for this year's event...

**2025's Goal for SouperBowl Sunday weekend is...  
5 tons = 10,000 pounds of soup and crackers!**

"This is a caring community made up of neighbors helping neighbors, and I know we can meet this year's goal!!!"

# February 2025 St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>PURIFICATION OF MARY 2</b> <b>PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	<b>3</b> 8:30am MATINS 1pm LWML EXEC 6pm ADULT CATECHESIS	<b>4</b> 8:30am MATINS	<b>5</b> 8:30am MATINS 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm EVENING PRAYER	<b>6</b> 8:30am MATINS 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	<b>7</b> 8:30am MATINS	<b>8</b>
<b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am MONTHLY BREAKFAST 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 11am DIVINE SERVICE	<b>10</b> 8:30am MATINS 6pm ADULT CATECHESIS 6:30pm SARAH CIRCLE	<b>11</b> 8:30am MATINS 1pm DORCAS CIRCLE	<b>12</b> 8:30am MATINS 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm EVENING PRAYER	<b>13</b> 8:30am MATINS 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 6:30pm ELDER CALLING 7pm ELDERS 7:15pm KANTOREI	<b>14</b> 8:30am MATINS	<b>15</b>
<b>SEPTUAGESIMA 16</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	<b>17</b> 8:30am MATINS 6pm ADULT CATECHESIS	<b>18</b> 8:30am MATINS 4pm PARISH ED 4:30pm TRUSTEES 6pm MISSIONS/EVANG	<b>19</b> 8:30am MATINS 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm EVENING PRAYER	<b>20</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am MATINS 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	<b>21</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>22</b>
<b>SEXAGESIMA 23</b> 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	<b>ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE 24</b> 8:30am DIVINE SERVICE 5:30pm STEWARDSHIP 6pm ADULT CATECHESIS	<b>25</b> 8:30am MATINS 6:30pm COUNCIL	<b>26</b> 8:30am MATINS 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 7pm EVENING PRAYER	<b>27</b> 8:30am MATINS 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	<b>28</b> 8:30am MATINS	<b>1</b>

## *Coming Up*

<b>Sun.</b>	8:00	Divine Service
	9:20	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:45	Sunday School/Bible Study
	11:00	Divine Service
<b>Mon.</b>	8:30	Matins
	1:00	LWML Exec
	6:00	Adult Catechesis
<b>Wed.</b>	8:30	Matins
	10:00	Women's Bible Study
	5:00	Sound Words Academy
		<i>Meal: Taco Salad</i>
	7:00	Evening Prayer
<b>Thur.</b>	8:30	Matins
	6:15	Ecclesia Bells
	7:15	Kantorei
<b>Fri.</b>	8:30	Matins
<b>Sun.</b>	8:00	Divine Service
	9:20	Monthly Breakfast
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Divine Service

St. John's Classical Lutheran School attends Matins Service weekdays at 8:30 a.m.  
All the congregation is welcome to attend and worship with the students and faculty.  
Please use the Luther Hall doors to enter.

### Daily Readings...

Monday (2/3): Zechariah 14:1-21; Titus 2:7 – 3:15

Tuesday (2/4): Job 1:1-22; John 1:1-18

Wednesday (2/5): Job 2:1 – 3:10; John 1:19-34

Thursday (2/6): Job 3:11-26; John 1:35-51

Friday (2/7): Job 4:1-21; John 2:1-12

Saturday (2/8): Job 5:1-27; John 2:13-25

Sunday (2/9): Job 6:1-13; John 3:1-21

### Prayer of the Week

*Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### Looking forward to next week.

~ The Transfiguration of Our Lord ~

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9





901 SW Fillmore, Topeka, KS 66606-1445

"CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED"



### **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)