



Ad Te Levavi
30 November 2025

In the Congregation

The Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service will be held Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Nave.

Share the Harvest: This Sunday, November 30, is the last Sunday for “Share the Harvest.” This donation goes to local agencies to assist the needy in the Topeka area. Use the “Share the Harvest” designated offering envelope from your contribution envelopes. Donations may be left in the offering plate or sent to the office. “Share the Harvest” donations will be split 25% to each of these local agencies: Door Step, Let’s Help, Topeka Rescue Mission, and St. John’s Human Care fund.

Join us for our annual Christmas Luncheon, Bazaar, and Bake Sale on Friday, December 5 from 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., with lunch starting at 11:00 a.m. Tickets for the soup luncheon will be sold in the courtyard on Sunday, November 30 between services. See p. 5 of newsletter for more details.

Women’s Bible study will not meet on November 26 or December 3.

There will be no monthly breakfast in December. The next monthly breakfast will take place Sunday, January 11.

A few housekeeping notes: 1) Please do not fold or wad up bulletins when placing them in the recycling bin. 2) Please do not put any trash in the bulletin recycling bin. 3) If you notice that a page in a hymnal is torn or otherwise damaged, please give that hymnal to an usher. Thank you!

A reminder from the Board of Stewardship: With 2025 ending soon, we want to remind you that your charitable contributions are allowed only in the year in which the contribution is actually paid, regardless of when the contribution was pledged. If the contribution is paid by a charge to a credit card, it is deemed paid at the time the amount is charged to the card. If payment is made by check, the contribution is deemed made on the date the check is postmarked with a stamp date of December 31 or earlier, or delivered to the church office by December 31 (provided the check clears the bank).

If you would like to join Altar Guild in 2026, please email secretary@stjlcms.org.

Thanksgiving Eve altar flowers are given by Rob Polter, and **Sunday flowers** are given by Roger and Donna Barr and Kay Everitt, in thanksgiving to God for all of His blessings.

In our prayers: All those who are hospitalized along with our homebound members, including Susan Sims, Jesse Thacker, and Don Traylor.

Coming Up

Sunday

8:00 Divine Service
9:20 Coffee & Fellowship
9:45 Bible Class & Sunday School
11:00 Divine Service
12:30 Adult Catechesis

Monday

8:30 Chapel
1:00 LWML Exec

Tuesday

8:30 Chapel

Wednesday

12:00 Advent Vespers
5:00 SWA
6:30 Advent Evening Prayer

Thursday

8:30 Chapel
6:15 Ecclesia Bells
7:15 Kantorei

Friday

8:30 Chapel
10:30-1:00 LWML Bazaar

Sunday

8:00 Divine Service
9:20 Coffee & Fellowship
9:45 Bible Class & Sunday School
11:00 Divine Service
12:30 Adult Catechesis

Psalm of the Week... Psalm 24 (antiphon v. 7)

Hymn of the Week... LSB 334 "Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Daily Readings...

Monday (12/1): Isaiah 7:10–8:8; 1 Peter 3:1–22
Tuesday (12/2): Isaiah 8:9–9:7; 1 Peter 4:1–19
Wednesday (12/3): Isaiah 9:8–10:11; 1 Peter 5:1–14
Thursday (12/4): Isaiah 10:12–27a, 33–34; 2 Peter 1:1–21
Friday (12/5): Isaiah 11:1–12:6; 2 Peter 2:1–22
Saturday (12/6): Isaiah 14:1–23; 2 Peter 3:1–18
Sunday (12/7): Isaiah 24:1–13; 1 John 1:1–2:14

Prayer of the Week...

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Looking Forward to Next Week...

~ Populus Zion ~
Malachi 4 Romans 15:4–13 Luke 21:25–36



Advent

This Advent we will be looking at various canticles (songs) in the Bible associated with Advent and the Christmas story. This series will be in conjunction with our Children's Christmas Service this year, "Saints and Angel Hosts Rejoice."

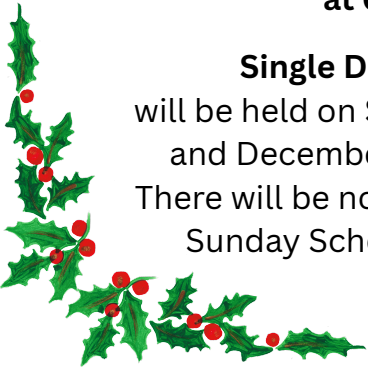
Midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesdays

December 3, 10 and 17

Vespers at 12:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

The PreK-8th grade Children's Christmas program, "Saints & Angel Hosts Rejoice" will be on **Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.**



Single Divine Services

will be held on Sunday, December 22 and December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

There will be no Adult Bible Study or Sunday School on those days.



Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24
5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols
Service with Candlelight

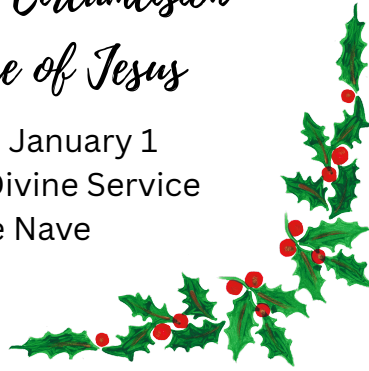
8:00 p.m. Divine Service
with Candlelight

Church office closes at 12 p.m.

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25
10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Church office closed



Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Thursday, January 1
10:00 a.m. Divine Service
in the Nave

Bible Studies and Classes

Women's Bible Study on
Wednesdays at 10 a.m., studying
the book of Revelation

Adult & High School Bible Study
on **Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**, studying
the book of Romans

Adult Catechesis Class on
Sundays at 12:30 p.m., studying
our Christian faith

Kansas District Life Conference

The 2026 Kansas District Life Conference will be held **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**, at St. John's in Topeka (901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66606). The 2026 Kansas District Life

Conference will once again be in conjunction with the 2026 Kansas March for Life. Visit the Life Conference webpage on the District website (kslcms.org/2026-life-conference) to register and find more information. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Mark Preus, pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center in Laramie, Wyoming. The topic of this year's life conference will be "Why Pro-Natalism is Not Pro-Life."

Sound Words Academy & Advent Service

5:00 **Meal, provided by volunteers and families**

5:30-6:30 Youth Catechesis I in Room 201

Youth Catechesis II & III in Room 202

Issues. Etc. podcast recording in Luther Hall for adults

5:30-6:00 PreK-1st grade Jr. Lutherans downstairs
Grades 2-4 music in Nave

6:00-6:30 Grades 2-4 Jr. Lutherans downstairs
PreK-1st grade music upstairs

6:30 **Advent Evening Prayer**

Thank You

Thank you to those who came to our baby shower and for your generous gifts! We are so excited for this new journey and appreciate your support and prayers!

—Eddie and Jessica Fergel

We are deeply grateful for the support, prayers, and compassion extended to our family during the loss of our loved one. With deepest thanks,
—Wauneta Boerger and family

Birthday blessings are extended to Marge Gehrt, who will be 97 on December 7.

Youth Activities

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Wrap presents for adopted family

Sunday, January 11
Help with serving and cleanup at monthly breakfast

Adopted Families

Help St. John's Youth share the love of Jesus with two families in need this Christmas.

1. Choose an item from the Christmas tree on the youth bulletin board and purchase the item as described. Drop off at church office or give to Rachel Kathman by **December 21**.
2. Donate money towards the family's holiday meal. (Make check out to church and put "LYF Family Adoption" in the memo.)
3. Help wrap the gifts **at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 21** (before 10:00 a.m. Divine Service).

Financial Update

Treasurer's Report

	Monthly	YTD
Oct 2025 Total Income(General Fund)	\$66,703.86	\$620,302.63
Oct 2025 Total Expenses	\$61,821.17	\$698,436.60
Current Monthly Total	\$4,882.69	(\$78,133.97)

Financial Secretary's Report

Oct 2025 Contribution Receipts	\$62,729.83	\$571,288.68
Oct 2025 Projected Monthly Receipts	\$65,382.00	\$653,820.00
Over/Under Budgeted Contribution	(\$2,652.17)	(\$ 82,531.32)



ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, LUNCHEON, AND BAKE SALE

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
10:30AM-1:00PM**

lunch begins at 11:00am

Tickets for soup luncheon:
\$10 for adults, \$5 children (12 and under)

HELP NEEDED

*Volunteers Welcome
Contact Nancy Taylor, Ruth Scott,
or Myrna McClure*

Thursday, December 4, 9am-3pm

Bring donated craft/gift items, baked goods,
cookies for the cookie walk and/or
pies and cakes for the luncheon.

Enter south glass doors.

Please price items that are to be sold

Friday, December 5, Bazaar Day

Baked items will be accepted beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 8, 9-11am

Please pick up all unsold items.



Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2025



Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We need your help to make Christmas bright for these families and individuals.

We need the following NEW items:

(Needed by 12/9/25)



Household Items:

- ♦ Sauce Pans, Dutch Ovens & Crockpots
- ♦ Kitchen Utensil & Food Storage Sets
- ♦ Dish Sets, Silverware & Electric Skillets
- ♦ Laundry Baskets & Cleaning Supplies
(glass, all-purpose, toilet, micro-towels, dish soap)
- ♦ Queen & King Blankets



Toys, Teens & Gifts:

- ♦ Learning & Sensory Toys
- ♦ Basket, Volley & Footballs
- ♦ Teen Books ~ Fantasies
- ♦ Family Board Games
- ♦ Dominoes & Card Games
- ♦ Make-up & Nail Kits
- ♦ Perfume & Cologne
- ♦ Ear Buds & Headphones



Women's Gifts:

- ♦ Wallets
- ♦ Nail Sets
- ♦ Body Care Sets
(Body Wash, Lotion, Spray)



Men's Gifts:

- ♦ Wallets
- ♦ Tool Sets
- ♦ Body Care Sets
(Axe, Adidas, Old Spice)

Money for Gift Cards & Food

Visit Doorstep's Walmart Christmas Registry:

<https://bit.ly/doorstepchristmas2025>

Purchase gifts directly from our registry!

Visit Doorstep's Amazon Wish List:

<https://a.co/ff4EokG>

Purchase gifts directly from our list!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Tuesday, December 16th ~ Opportunities from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm.
(Lunch provided)

Wednesday, December 17th ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am – 1:30pm,
1:30pm – 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

Thursday, December 18th ~ Opportunities available from 8:30am – 12:30pm and
12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Call Doorstep (785) 357-5341 to sign up & help during distribution week!



Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan).
Christmas Donation hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm through Dec. 12th.

You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website:
DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate Tab.

ST. JOHN'S MUSIC ACADEMY
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS RECITAL



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
4:00 P.M.

901 SW FILLMORE, TOPEKA

IN THE COURTYARD, SOUTH ENTRANCE
LIGHT RECEPTION FOLLOWING

Christmas Caroling

Join St. John's for an afternoon of
Christmas caroling!

Sunday, December 21
after the 10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Bring a pot of soup or a salad to share for lunch.
We'll eat in Luther Hall and then head to
members' nursing homes.

Please let Bethany Johnson know if you are
planning to attend (bjohnson@stjlcms.org).

St. John's Women's League Meetings

Monday, December 1, 1:00 pm: LWML Exec

Tuesday, December 9, 1:00 pm: Dorcas Circle

Sarah Circle will not meet in December.

Around the Congregation





School Field Trips

Learning takes place both inside and outside of the classroom. This past month, the students at St. John's Classical Lutheran School recently had several opportunities to connect their learning in the classroom to the outside world.

Students have been reading *Farmer Boy* and *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. They visited a modern-day farm and were able to see real cattle and calves, as described in the books. They also saw how crops are planted and harvested in modern times. They compared and contrasted this with how crops were raised in the historical books we've been reading.

The students also visited the Kansas City Symphony to hear a program based on the character of fairy tales. Each piece of classical music featured different aspects of literature, such as setting, character, and conflict. Similar to literature, music tells a story, and through this art, we learn the beauty of its sound, how the sounds interact together, and how those interactions reveal a masterpiece of art for us to experience and enjoy.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for all you richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support this body and life. Continue to defend and protect us from every evil and give us your grace and mercy that sustains us unto life everlasting. Amen.



Highlights

- Memorizing the First Article of the Apostles' Creed
- Learning about Abram's Call, God's Promise to Abraham, the Three Visitors, Abraham's Faith is Tested, God Provides a Sacrifice, the Birthright and Blessing of Jacob, and Jacob Receives the Promise
- Field trips to the KC Symphony, Kaleidoscope, Hallmark Museum, and a local farm
- Reading *The Magician's Nephew* (5/6)
- Reading *Farmer Boy* (3)
- Reading *Little House in the Big Woods* (2)
- Reading *Little Bear* (1)
- Singing for Dick Boerger's funeral
- Illustrating poetry: "The Grasshopper" and "Out in the Fields with God" (3-6)
- Learning about George F. Handel in music
- Arranging nursery tunes in music (3-6) and making "turkey" songs (K-2)
- Decorating ceramic tiles
- Learning the hymn, "Corde natus ex parentis" (Of the Father's Love Begotten) in Latin

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AD TE LEVAVI 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE 12:30pm ADULT CATECHESIS	1 8:30am CHAPEL 1pm LWML EXEC	2 8:30am CHAPEL	3 12pm ADVENT VESPERS 5pm SWA 6:30pm ADVENT EVENING PRAYER	4 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	5 8:30am CHAPEL 10:30am-1pm LWML BAZAAR	6
POPULUS ZION 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE 12:30pm ADULT CATECHESIS	8 8:30am CHAPEL	9 8:30am CHAPEL 1pm DORCAS CIRCLE	10 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm ADVENT VESPERS 5pm SWA 6:30pm ADVENT EVENING PRAYER	11 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 6:30pm ELDER CALLING 7pm ELDERS 7:15pm KANTOREI	12 8:30am CHAPEL	13
GAUDETE 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE&FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE 12:30pm ADULT CATECHESIS 4pm SJMA RECITAL	15 8:30am CHAPEL 5:30pm STEWARDSHIP	16 8:30am CHAPEL 9am LBW 4pm PARISH ED 4pm SJCLS BOARD 4:30pm TRUSTEES 6pm MISSONS/EVANG 6:30pm COUNCIL	17 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12pm ADVENT VESPERS 5pm SWA 6:30pm CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	18 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 8:30am CHAPEL	20
RORATE COELI 10am DIVINE SERVICE 11am CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH SOUP LUNCHEON 12pm ADULT CATECHESIS	22	23	CHRISTMAS EVE 24 5pm LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE 8pm CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DIVINE SERVICE OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10am DIVINE SERVICE OFFICE CLOSED	26	27
HOLY INNOCENTS 10am DIVINE SERVICE 12pm ADULT CATECHESIS	29	30	EVE OF CIRCUMCISION & 31 NAME OF JESUS OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON	1 CIRCUMCISION & NAME OF JESUS OFFICE CLOSED 10am DIVINE SERVICE in Nave	2	3



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)