



Epiphany (Observed)
4 January 2026

In the Congregation

A Divine Service for the Circumcision and Name of Jesus will be held on Thursday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. Please note that this service will be in the Nave this year, as opposed to the Courtyard. The Rev. James Woelmer is the guest preacher.

Both Women's Bible Study and Sound Words Academy return on Wednesday, January 7. Women's Bible Study is at 10:00 a.m., and SWA begins at 5:00 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who gave to match the anonymous donor's gift. Over \$10,000 has been received.

Please remember to pick up your 2026 contribution envelopes from the church office.

The Installation of Officers will take place at the 8:00 a.m. Divine Service on Sunday, January 11.

Monthly Breakfast is Sunday, January 11. Join us for potluck in Luther Hall after our early service. There will be no adult or high school Bible study, but the children's Sunday School will be held.

St. John's Youth in grades 3 through 12 are encouraged to help with the monthly breakfast. Parents, please check your email for details from Rachel. Assistance is needed to prepare and cut the food and pour drinks prior to the breakfast and clean up afterwards.

Our next Voters Meeting is Sunday, January 25 at 12:30 in the Nave. 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.

New Portals of Prayer booklets are now available on the breezeway table. Pick one up and put it with your Bible in a place at home to remind you to have daily devotions. Portals of Prayer is offered to the entire congregation free of charge; take an extra copy to give to a friend.

The 2026 Flower Signup Chart is posted outside of the church office. If you would like to provide flowers for any of the services in the coming year, print your name beside the date you choose. *Flowers are needed for January 18 and 25.*

In our prayers: All those who are hospitalized along with our homebound members.

Coming Up

Sunday, January 4

EPIPHANY (Observed)

8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:20 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Bible Class/SS
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
12:30 p.m. Adult Catechesis

Monday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Chapel
1:00 p.m. LWML Exec

Tuesday, January 6

8:30 a.m. Chapel

Wednesday, January 7

8:30 a.m. Chapel
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
5:00 p.m. SWA
6:30 p.m. Devotion

Thursday, January 8

8:30 a.m. Chapel
6:15 p.m. Ecclesia Bells
6:30 p.m. Elder Calling
7:00 p.m. Elders
7:15 p.m. Kantorei

Sunday, January 11

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

8:00 a.m. Divine Service
& Installation of Officers
9:15 a.m. Monthly Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Divine Service

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Family Prayer

For the Week of January 4th–January 10th

Psalm of the Week

Psalm 24 (antiphon v. 7)

Hymn of the Week

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”
(LSB 395)

Daily Readings

Monday (1/5):

Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20

Tuesday (1/6):

Isaiah 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38

Wednesday (1/7):

Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28; Romans 1:1-17

Thursday (1/8):

Ezekiel 2:1-3:11; Romans 1:18-32

Friday (1/9):

Ezekiel 3:12-27; Romans 2:1-16

Saturday (1/10):

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Romans 2:17-29

Sunday (1/11):

Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Looking Forward to Next Week

The Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1–7; 1 Corinthians 1:26–31;
Matthew 3:13–17

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

Thank You

Thank you for your tremendous generosity. Thanks to your generous support through the Rev. and Mrs. J.G. Jacobsen Scholarship Fund I am able to continue my studies here in St. Louis. During the Advent season, we prepare for Christ's coming and remember God the Father's generosity towards us by sending His Son into the world. I see a picture of God's generous giving which helps me continue studying.
—*Seminarian Andrew Cheyne*

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to our adopted family!
—*St. John's Youth*

Thank you for the Christmas card and the beautiful poinsettia you gave me for Christmas. It was very thoughtful of all of you. Merry Christmas!
—*Marilyn Forgy*



Kansas District Life Conference

The 2026 Kansas District Life Conference will be held **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**, at St. John's.

Registration is now open. 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."

The Life Conference will once again be in conjunction with the 2026 Kansas March for Life. The march begins at noon. The march route starts at the Topeka Performing Arts Center and ends at the Kansas State Capitol.

Share the Harvest Update

Share the Harvest contributions for 2025 were \$3,873. These gifts were distributed in support of Topeka Rescue Mission (25%), Let's Help (25%), Doorstep (25%), and St. John's Human Care (25%).

We thank you for your generous support of this human care effort.

Sound Words Academy

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 **Chapel Devotion in the Nave for everyone**

6:50-7:10 Grades 5-8 Handbell Choir

Volunteers needed

St. John's needs volunteers to help clean up the coffee after Sunday morning fellowship. If you are interested in serving, please sign up! The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the Courtyard.



Upcoming St. John's Youth and Family Events

Monthly Breakfast on Sunday, January 11

3rd-5th grade will help with set up, and 6th grade and up will help with clean up.

Skiing and tubing on Saturday, January 31 (weather permitting)

Contact Rachel Kathman or sign up on the youth board if you are interesting in joining
More details to come soon.

Trampoline park trip on Friday, February 20

Go Ape Zipline and Treetop Course on Sunday, March 22

Financial Update

Monthly

YTD

Treasurer's Report

Nov 2025 Total Income(General Fund)	\$130,371.16	\$750,673.79
Nov 2025 Total Expenses	\$113,815.65	\$812,252.25
Current Monthly Total	\$16,555.51	(\$61,578.46)

Financial Secretary's Report

Nov 2025 Contribution Receipts	\$125,262.14	\$696,550.82
Nov 2025 Projected Monthly Receipts	\$65,382.00	\$719,202.00
Over/Under Budgeted Contribution	\$59,880.14	(\$ 22,651.18)

St. John's Women's League

Thank you!

St. John's Women's League would like to
thank everyone who helped make the
Christmas Bazaar a success!

Meetings

Monday, January 5, 1:00 pm:

LWML Exec

Monday, January 12, 1:30 p.m.:

Sarah Circle

Tuesday, January 13, 1:00 pm:

Dorcas Circle



An Education with Roots

by Bethany Johnson

We all know that roots are important. In gardening, the roots stretch downward to receive the best nutrients for the plant to grow. In proper hair care, we focus on the roots for the rest of the hair to be healthy. When a problem arises, we look to the “root” of the issue. In a family, our roots are important (i.e. who are our grandparents, where are they from, what is their story).

In education, providing a good “root” foundation is also important. In a modern age where humans are so hyper-focused on outward achievement, social skills and status, entertainment, the “here and now,” and a faith-less culture without truth, we lose the depth of our humanity, God’s purpose in creation, and His plan of salvation for us.

In education we stress the importance of nurturing a child’s heart, mind, body, and soul. We want to teach children what is good, true, and beautiful. As they grow further out into the future, we want them to be rooted further into the wisdom of the past, which includes—first and foremost—God’s Word, the great writers and thinkers, artists and musicians, and linguists and historians. We want to ground them not merely with what would be useful for the future (i.e. career, vocations, etc.), but with deep-thinking minds that have been fed with what is meaningful to our life here on earth and our eternal life in heaven.

The “highlights” column to the right shows us only a small glimpse into the rich educational atmosphere, discipline, and life that our students are a part of. We are thankful they are given an education that roots them in the good stories of the past in history, good literature, classical music, special days in the church year, Latin chants and culture from early centuries, and Biblical stories and catechesis, all while enjoying God’s creation, friendship, and taking part in the church’s congregational life.

Plans are already underway for next school year. We will have a Kindergarten Readiness Screening on Monday, January 19 at 10:00. This will be our first time hosting a Kindergarten Readiness Screening. If you know of potential kindergarteners for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact Andrea Kosmicki.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank you that you have redeemed us lost and condemned persons and purchased us from all sin, death, and the power of the devil. Grant that we continue to be your own through faith and serve You in everlasting righteousness.

Amen.



Highlights

- Memorizing the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed
- Learning about Joseph and the various stories about him
- Playing in the snow at school during recess
- Reading *The Magician's Nephew* (5/6)
- Reading *Farmer Boy* (3)
- Reading *Little House in the Big Woods* (2)
- Reading *Frog and Toad* (1)
- Singing for Bill Utech's funeral
- Singing for the Bazaar and eating the soup luncheon
- Listening to Handel's Messiah in music
- Singing for the Children's Christmas service
- Making Christmas gifts in art
- Listening to the story of "The Fir Tree" in Latin Storytime
- Playing basketball in P.E.
- Learning about Christmas in Canada, Sweden (St. Lucia), and Germany.
- Translating John 1:1-14 in Latin (5-6)
- Learning about cave paintings (3-6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31 EVE of CIRCUMCISION & NAME OF JESUS OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON	1 OFFICE CLOSED 10am CIRCUMCISION & NAME OF JESUS DIVINE SERVICE in the Nave	2	3
4 EPIPHANY (Observed) 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	5 8:30am CHAPEL 1pm LWML EXEC	6 8:30am CHAPEL	7 8:30am CHAPEL 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 6:30pm DEVOTION	8 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 6:30pm ELDER CALLING 7pm ELDERS 7:15pm KANTOREI	9	10
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8am DIVINE SERVICE & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 9:15am MONTHLY BREAKFAST 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 11am DIVINE SERVICE	12 8:30am CHAPEL 1:30pm SARAH CIRCLE	13 8:30am CHAPEL 1pm DORCAS CIRCLE	14 8:30am CHAPEL 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 6:30pm DEVOTION	15 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	16	17
18 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 5:30pm STEWARDSHIP	20 8:30am CHAPEL 9:00am BRAILLE 4pm PARISH ED 4pm SJCLS 4:30pm TRUSTEES 6pm MISSONS/EVANG 6:30pm COUNCIL	21 8:30am CHAPEL 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 6:30pm DEVOTION	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	23	24 ST. TIMOTHY
25 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8am DIVINE SERVICE 9:20am COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP 9:45am BIBLE CLASS/SS 11am DIVINE SERVICE 12:30pm VOTERS MEETING	26 ST. TITUS 8:30am CHAPEL	27 8:30am CHAPEL	28 DISTRICT LIFECONFERENCE 8:30am CHAPEL 10am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5pm SOUND WORDS ACADEMY 6:30pm DEVOTION	29 8:30am CHAPEL 6:15pm ECCLESIA BELLS 7:15pm KANTOREI	30	31



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)