

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

725 SW Buchanan Street, Topeka KS 66606

Telephone: (785) 233-0767 email: office@topekatlc.org

Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

God of all creation who gives us this beautiful day
and life itself,

who hung the stars in the sky,
and who also generously provides our daily bread,
we welcome you into our presence.

Dear Lord, what can I do for you today?

December 23, 2018 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Love



4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 2

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

See Bulletin Cover

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

A Today we light all of the blue Advent candles. First we light the candle for HOPE because Jesus is our hope. Second, we light the candle for PEACE because Jesus is our hope and peace. Third, we light the candle for JOY because Jesus brings joy. Fourth, we light the candle for LOVE because Jesus is love. Here is a reading from John: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16.

ADVENT HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW HYMN 240

VERSES 1 & 4

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C Amen.

P Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P To you, O God,

C we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

P Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ☩ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW HYMN 251

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

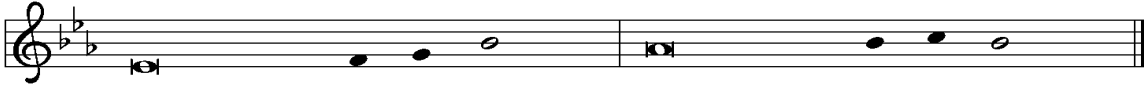
²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: LUKE 1:46B-55

Sung responsively



^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made | to our forbears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

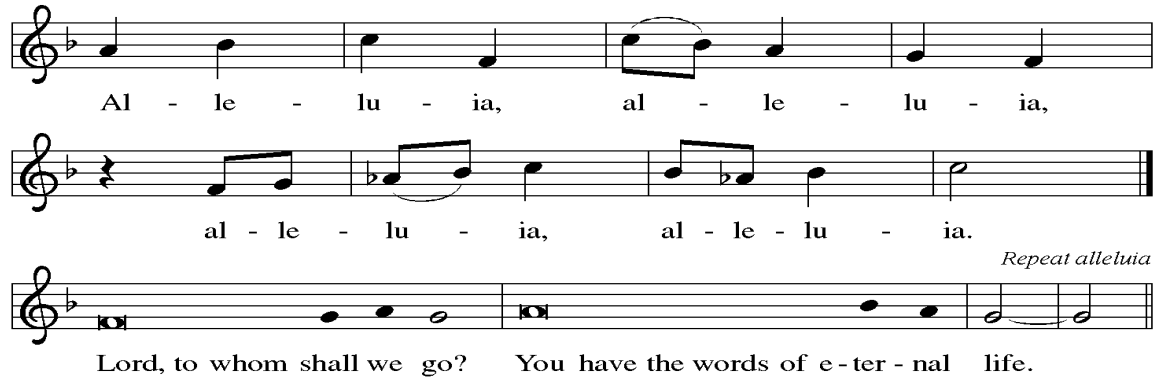
⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME & SERMON

PASTOR DINAH DUTTA

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW HYMN 279

Please stand for the final stanza of the hymn.

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. Teach us to sing of you all our days. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all. Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have them serve. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick, especially Junior & Liz Utech, Linda Longren, Russell Winsor, Susan Fitz, Jane Velen, & Debbie Pomeroy. Send us to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of joy, you are with us always. Grant blessings to Jeff Longren and Cindy McGinnis as they celebrate birthdays this week, and to Andrew Carpenter, Dustin Carpenter, and Debbie Pomeroy as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of love, hold the congregations of Hope Lutheran in St. Charles, Christ & Trinity Lutheran in Sedalia, Our Savior Lutheran in Salem, Missouri, and St. John Lutheran in Salina in your arms and bless them richly. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

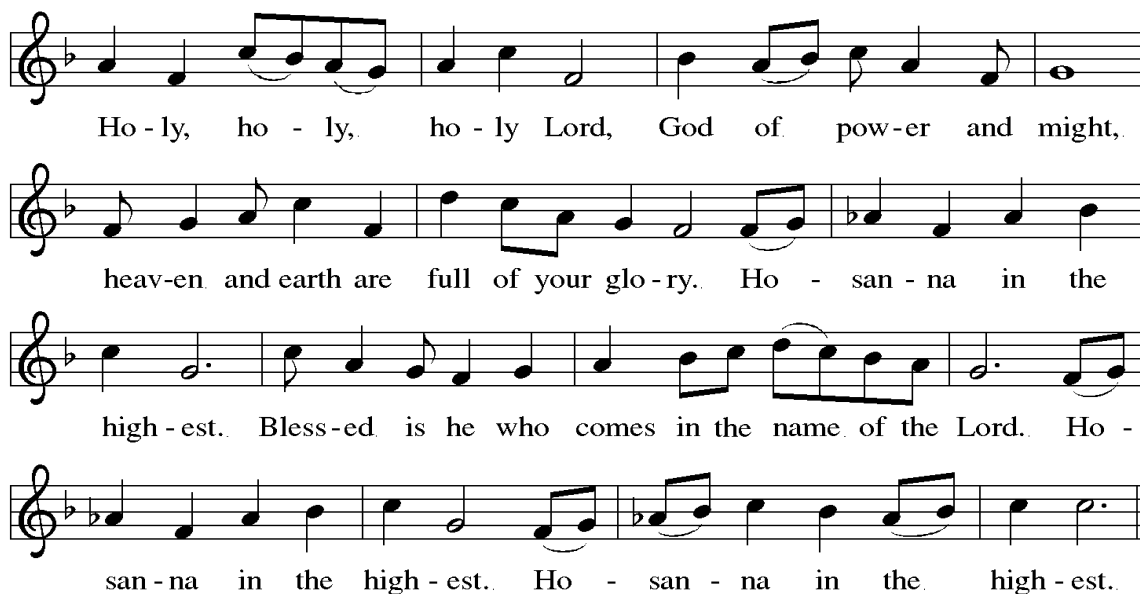
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all

the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

We invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior to share with us in Holy Communion. All are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available as an alternative to wine. Everyone is invited forward to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing.

Note: we have gluten-free communion wafers available. If gluten-free is your preference, please let the pastor know when you are at the communion rail.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW HYMN 257

ELW HYMN 272

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW HYMN 289

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

We welcome Pastor Dinah Dutta as she leads us in worship today.

Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you, members and visitors, found the Spirit of God in our midst.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, or have other questions, please contact the church office at 785.233.0767

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| Worship Assistants | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Date | Greeter(s) | Usher(s) | Musicians | Lector | Acolyte | Altar Guild | Coffee Hosts | Assisting Minister | Presiding Minister |
| December 23, 2018 | Cindy McGinnis | Bob Horton | Mitchell Bean | Bob Horton | Laurie Jackson | Pam Kobbeman & Team 3 | Dean McGinnis | Mary Heald | Pr. Dinah Dutta |
| December 24, 2018 | Mike & Shelley Andrews | | Laurie Jackson | Duane Pomeroy | Rosie Nichols | Pam Kobbeman & Team 3 | | Bob Horton | Pr. Dinah Dutta |
| December 30, 2018 | Chuck Sodergren | Ted Murphy | Laurie Jackson | Marcy Carlson | LaVell Winsor | Pam Kobbeman & Team 3 | Curt & Jane Lewis | Jeff Longren | Pr. Dinah Dutta |

Pastor Michael Haar has graciously agreed to provide pastoral care to our members until a more permanent arrangement is in place. Anyone desiring a pastoral visit (hospitalization, illness, communion, etc.) should contact the office (Cindy) during office hours or a Council member (see the back of the bulletin for names & phone numbers) outside of office hours. Cindy, Bob Horton or Mary Heald will contact Pastor Haar about the need.

With the feeling of preparation (Advent, Christmas, etc.) in mind, please remember to prepare your reports for our annual report. **The individual reports are due to the office by December 30.**



| OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Date | General | Other | Total Weekly Income | Average Weekly Expense | Weekly Income Minus Average Weekly Expense | Attendance/Communion |
| Nov. 25 | snow day | | | | | |
| Dec. 2 | \$4,641.00 | \$33.00 | \$4,674.00 | -\$2,643.92 | \$2,030.08 | 49/44 |
| Dec. 9 | \$3,091.00 | \$108.00 | \$3,199.00 | -\$2,643.92 | \$555.08 | 51/46 |
| Dec. 16 | \$1,822.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,822.00 | -\$2,643.92 | -\$821.92 | 53/44 |
| The money shown in the "Other" column is restricted and not available for our general fund. | | | | | | |
| | | | Income | Expense | Behind/Ahead | |
| | | Nov. 2018 | \$5,652.34 | -\$6,096.12 | -\$443.78 | |
| | | Jan. - Nov. | \$116,067.31 | -\$104,396.42 | \$11,670.89 | |

Remember our shut-ins!

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Kathryn Axelton | Don Longren | Keith Springer |
| Lucille Brill | Shawn Nowak | Naomi Walker |
| Peggy Buchholz | Roy O'Neil | |
| Marlene Hassan | Ron Owensby | |



UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------|
| Today, Dec. 23 | Adult Sunday School..... | 9:15 AM |
| | Worship with Holy Communion..... | 10:30 AM |
| | Youth Group Meeting | 5:30 PM |
| Mon., Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Worship | 4:00 PM |
| | Women's AA..... | 5:00 PM |
| Tues., Dec. 25..... | Christmas Day..... | |
| Wed., Dec. 26 | Women's AA..... | 5:30 PM |
| Thurs., Dec. 27..... | Men's AA | 7:00 PM |
| Sunday, Dec. 30 | Adult Sunday School..... | 9:15 AM |
| | Worship with Holy Communion..... | 10:30 AM |
| | 5th Sunday Special for Lutheran Campus Ministry | |





The mission of
**Trinity Evangelical
 Lutheran Church**
 is to

- worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
- serve those in need, and
- reach out to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ!

Together in Community • **L**iving with Christ • **C**aring for Neighbors

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606

Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org

Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

Congregation Council

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------------------|----------|
| President Bob Horton _____ | 640-5345 | Diane Bottorff _____ | 271-7131 |
| Vice President Mary Heald _____ | 221-2790 | Laurie Jackson _____ | 224-9683 |
| Secretary Dean McGinnis _____ | 272-0255 | Curt Lewis _____ | 286-2728 |
| Treasurer Bob Kobbeman _____ | 478-0381 | Ted Murphy _____ | 817-0372 |