

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 2

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.
- C Amen.
- P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.
- C Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Everlasting God,
- C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.
- P Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.
- C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

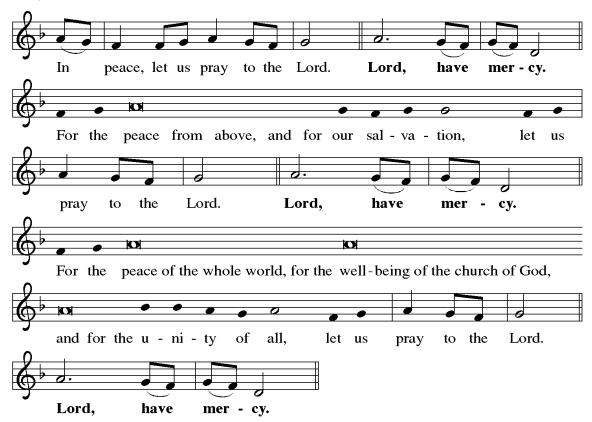
Advent Two:

P We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent stands for the coming of our Lord. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

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







PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD; you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people and blotted out | all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their † hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you, that your glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together; righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

SECOND READING: 2ND PETER 3:8-15A

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

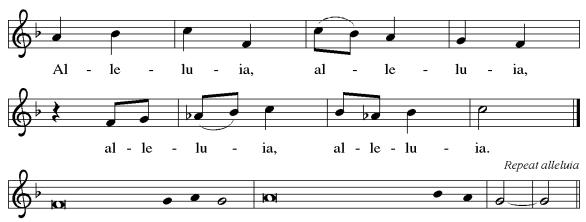
¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way:

3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON PR. BARBARA JONES

Please stand for the final verse 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 With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

A Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Offer your protection from violence to those living in areas of war. We lift the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Ukraine, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land to you in prayer as they face these times of conflict. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing, especially Peggy Buchholz, Naomi Walker, Linda Longren, David McGinnis, and Martha Nemeth. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God.
- C receive our prayer.
- A We pray for Ivan Carlson as he remembers his baptism. Merciful God.
- C receive our prayer.
- A Let us join in prayer with Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran in St. Ann, All Saints Lutheran in Blue Springs, Missouri, and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
- C Amen.

THE PEACE

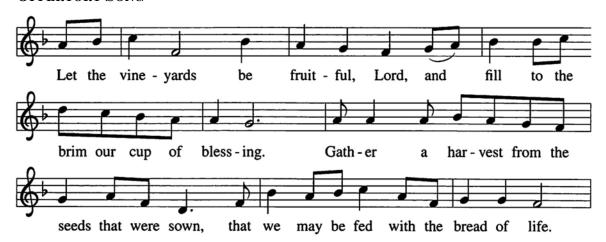
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING OFFERTORY SONG



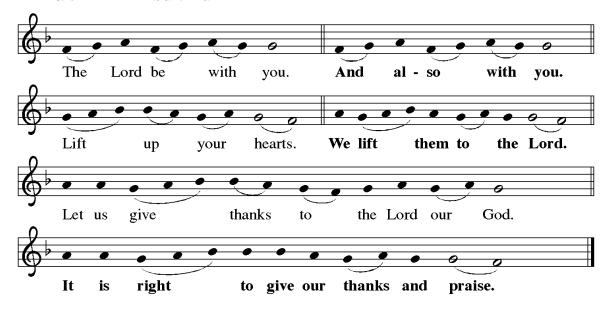


OFFERTORY PRAYER

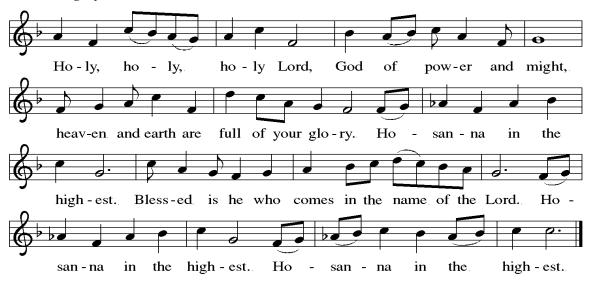
A God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



EUCHARISTIC 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.

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.

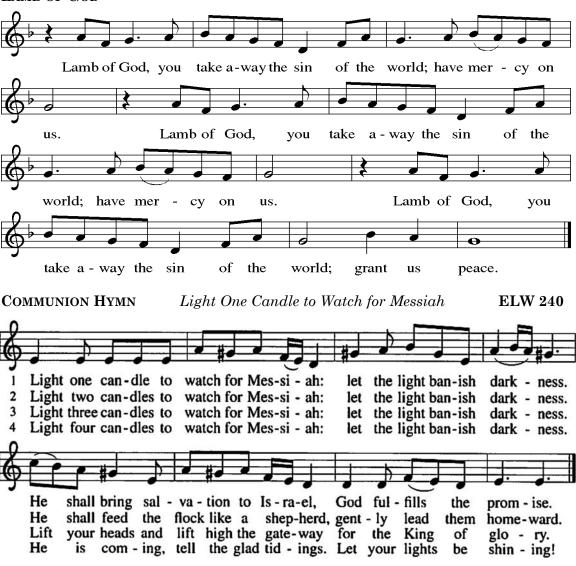
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

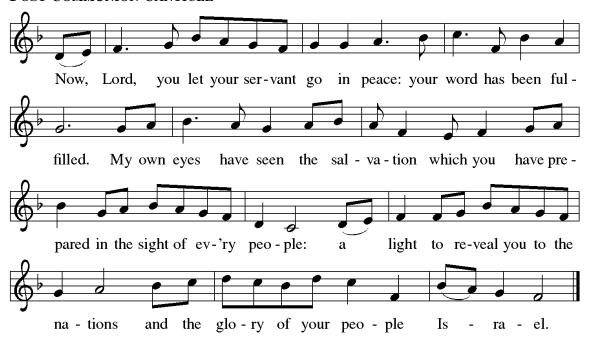
P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

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. 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.

LAMB OF GOD



POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



COMMUNION BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.
- C Amen.



DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Keep awake.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to worship at Trinity!
Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you 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.

	UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY	
Today, Dec. 10	2nd Sunday of Advent	
•••••	Adult Sunday School	9:30 AM
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Coffee Hour	after worship
	PFLAG meeting	2:00 PM
Mon., Dec. 11	Church Council meeting	6:00 PM
Thurs., Dec. 15	January Trinity Tidings deadline	
Sun., Dec. 17	3rd Sunday of Advent	
	Community Relations meeting	
•••••	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Coffee Hour	after worship



Pr. Merle Brockhoff and Our Savior's Lutheran Church has invited us to join them for midweek Advent worship on Wednesday, December 13th and December 20th. There will be a soup supper at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:15 pm.



WELCOME

We are so pleased and thankful to have Pastor Barb Jones begin worshipping with us this week. She will be our bridge pastor while we search for a new pastor.

Pastor Barb Jones

A cradle-Lutheran, Rev. Barbara Jones began her work in the church at First Lutheran in Maquoketa, IA as a teen-aged organist. Earning a BA in Christian Education from Wartburg College, she then taught at St. Paul's Lutheran Day School in Michigan City, IN. Twenty-nine years she was in Pella, IA, raising her three daughters, teaching kindergarten/first grade and being a church musician at Peace Lutheran. Barb finally heeded the life-long call to ordained ministry by earning an MDiv from Wartburg Theological Seminary. Currently on-leave from call, Barb is working part-time at the Central States Synod office and is doing occasional pulpit supply. She loves being Nana to her five grandchildren, all in the KC Metro.

Worship Assistants								
Date	Acolytes	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Asst. Minister	Presiding Minister	Coffee Hosts
Dec. 10	Parker Jackson	Duane Pomeroy, Howard Reece	Laurie Jackson	Marcy Carlson	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Pr. Barbara Jones	Dean McGinnis
Dec. 17	Brayden Winsor	Diane Bottorff, Bob Horton	Mitchell Bean	LaVell Winsor	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Marcy Carlson	Pr. Barbara Jones	Marilyn Heckman
Dec. 24	Parker Jackson	Marcy Carlson,	Laurie Jackson	Debbie Pomeroy	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Bob Horton	Pr. Barbara Jones	Mike & Shelley Andrews, Ted Murphy
Dec. 31	Laurie Jackson	Dean McGinnis, Duane Pomeroy	Laurie Jackson	Loni Reece	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Dave Mareske	Steve Luoma

OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS								
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly	Weekly Income Minus Average	Attendance/ Communion		
Nov. 5	\$2,657.99	\$0.00	\$2,657.99	-\$1,653.85	\$1,004.14	36/34		
Nov. 12	\$1,279.00	\$279.00	\$1,558.00	-\$1,653.85	-\$95.85	26/25		
Nov. 19	\$2,820.00	\$473.00	\$3,293.00	-\$1,653.85	\$1,639.15	34/30		
Dec. 3	\$2,861.72	\$0.00	\$2,861.72	-\$1,653.85	\$1,207.87	32/34		
				Expense				
		Nov. 2023	\$6,782.99	-\$13,012.53	-\$6,229.54			
		Jan Nov.	\$140,563.51	-\$141,568.29	-\$1,004.78			

Please note the request for funds to help with road repair (next page) at the Hollis Renewal Center. Dave Mareske, the executive director of Hollis, will be our worship leader on December 31st.





Orange cones and barrels are the universal signs of impending construction. At times it seems repair work is never ending and inevitably occurs in places you need and want to go! In reality, there is a simple reason for this, wear and tear is caused by time and travel when thousands of cars use the same path over and over again. The roads less traveled are frequently in pretty good shape. We have a similar problem here at Hollis.

Even though philosophically Hollis is the "the road less traveled", over 6,000 vehicles per year traverse our road. Traffic, weather and time has taken its toll, and 10 years after completely repaving it, our welcome mat needs a facelift.

Every year, more and more people find Hollis, and we are thrilled about this.

Extending intentional Christian hospitality to all is our mission, passion and purpose, and that welcome begins when they leave the narrow, pothole filled Kansas Avenue and descend down the smooth tree lined Hollis hill. As good stewards, we must tackle this maintenance issue now, as opposed to waiting till expensive, complete replacement is needed. Complete replacement of the Hollis Road is NOT needed, but we must resurface and seal the road to guarantee it is safe and welcoming for the coming years of use.



Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2023

Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We have been collecting items for a few months now to help spread out the requests.

We still need the following NEW items: (No later than 12/8/23)

Blankets - Queen & King Only (NO THROWS) 🛮 📤 Tools Sets

King Size Sheet Sets

Cologne/Perfume Sets

Silverware Sets ~ Dish Sets ~ Kitchen Utensil Sets

▶ Nerf Guns ~ Lego Sets ~ Learning Toys like Vtech

Family Board Games & Puzzles

A Men's Body Care Sets (Axe)

Any type of KC Chiefs décor, hoodies, etc. Sauce Pans & Skillets

Hoodies - Sizes Med-4X (Men/Wmn/Teen) A variety of colors, designs, plain

Money for Gift Cards & Food



Each household we adopt will receive:

Blanket ~ Health Kit ~ School Supplies (if appropriate) ~ One household item ~ Christmas food order ~ gifts and toys for household members ~ \$20 gift cards per person in the household.

Volunteer Opportunities:

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

Wednesday, December 13th ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am - 1:30pm, 1:30pm - 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

Thursday, December 14th ~ 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). Donation hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm. You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website: DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate Tab.

Clothing Room Needs

(Gently Used, Not New)

Clothing

- Men's jeans (all sizes)
- Kid's winter clothing (all sizes)
- Winter coats, hats & gloves (all sizes for men, women, & children)

Bedding

- Blankets & Comforters (All Sizes)
- Sheet Sets (Twin, Queen, & King)
- Clean Bed Pillows

Hygiene Items (Full-Size):

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bar Soap
- Razors
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Brushes & Combs

Food Room Needs

The need for food for our neighbors has increased dramatically. This year, we have spent \$38,000 on food to keep our shelves stocked (we projected only \$8,000 being needed), and may very well spend \$50,000 or more by year end. We have already exceeded the total number of households assisted with food in 2022 by 448 households, 1,135 individuals and 13,770 pounds, and we have another 3 months until year-end! Currently, we are in need of the following items:

- Beans, Canned & Dried
- Peanut Butter
- Egg Noodles
- Milk, Canned & Powdered
- Oatmeal
- Soups, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable, Cream of Mushroom
- Tuna
- Boxed Potatoes

- Peas
- Pasta, Boxed Pasta, Spaghetti, Spaghetti O's, Macaroni & Cheese, Ravioli
- Canned Beans
- Pork & Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Hand Can Openers
- Pancake Mix

Donations Accepted Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm

Use the South Door

Please Do Not Leave donations outside our building when we are closed. It becomes a parking lot mess.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606 Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

Together in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

Living with Christ's Love

As Lutherans, we believe that we are justified by faith alone through the grace of God (*Ephesians 2:1-9*). As our namesake Martin Luther made clear, we are both sinners and saints as we live our lives of faith. Together as Christians, we are called to allow God into our lives everyday and to do our best to live according to Christ's love. We do this through being a community of faithful that welcomes all people to join us in prayer, service, study, and worship as we journey together in learning how to live out the Great Commandment.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Duane Pomeroy

Vice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

Secretary Diane Bottorff (Community Relations)

Shelley Andrews (Administration)
Carol Marker (Spiritual Care)

Pam Kobbeman (Administration)
Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman