

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 2

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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.

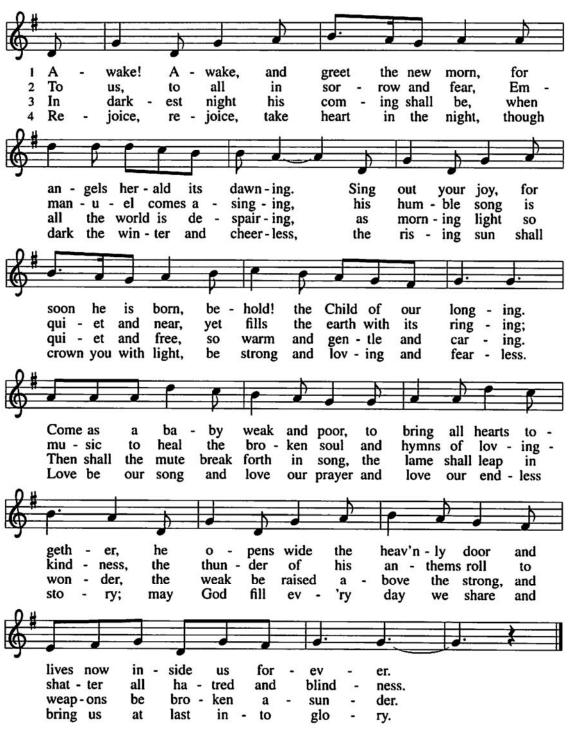
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- 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

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

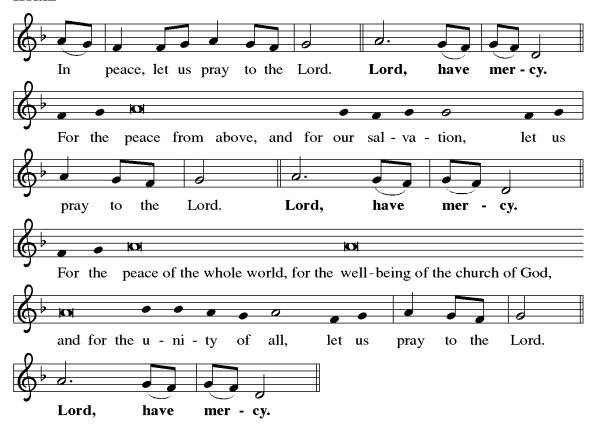
Advent Three:

P We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent stands for the coming of our Lord. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1)

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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



¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,

then were we like | those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great † things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us,

and we are | glad indeed.

⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,

like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁵Those who | sowed with tears

will reap with | songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,

will come again with joy, shoulder- ing their sheaves.

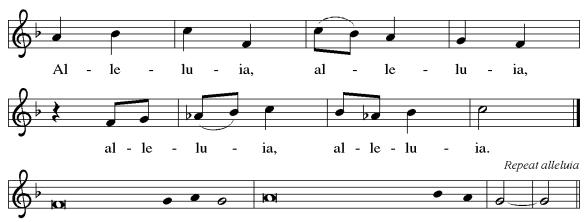
SECOND READING: 1ST THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

- 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 John, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Give your protection from violence to those living in areas of war. We offer our prayers for 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 as they face times of conflict. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and move us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need, especially Peggy Buchholz, Naomi Walker, Linda Longren, David McGinnis, and Martha Nemeth. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A We pray for Troy Pomeroy as he celebrates his birthday and for Tresa Johnson as she remembers her baptism. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Let us join in prayer with Martin Luther Lutheran in Lee's Summit, St. Paul Lutheran in Cole Camp, and Peace Lutheran in Hollister, Missouri. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. 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

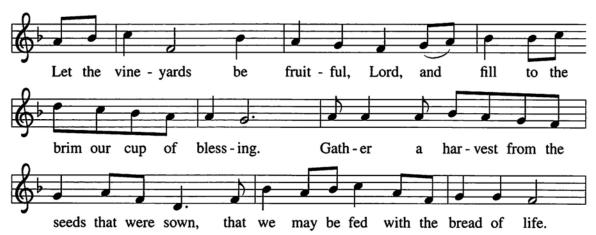
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING OFFERTORY SONG



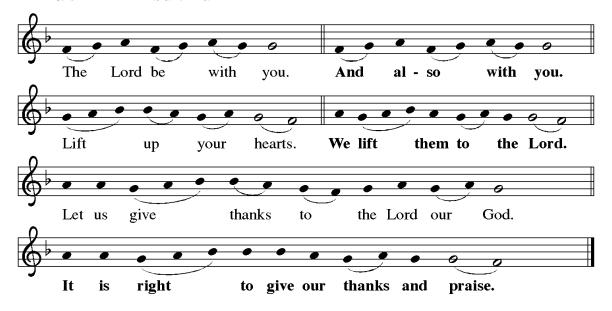


OFFERTORY PRAYER

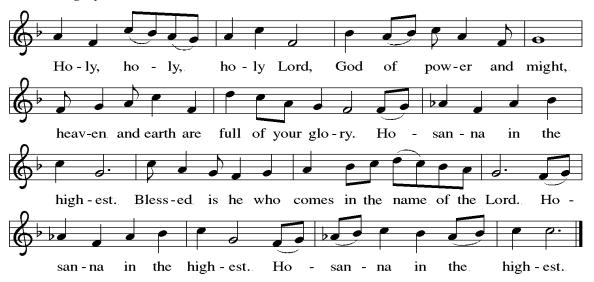
A God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

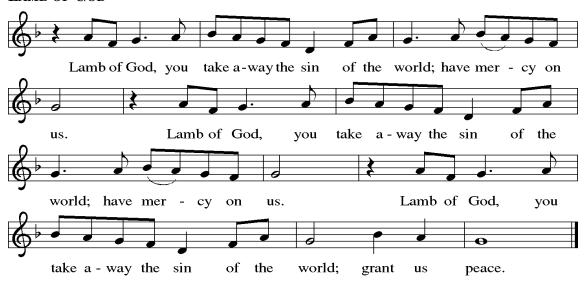
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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





COMMUNION BLESSING

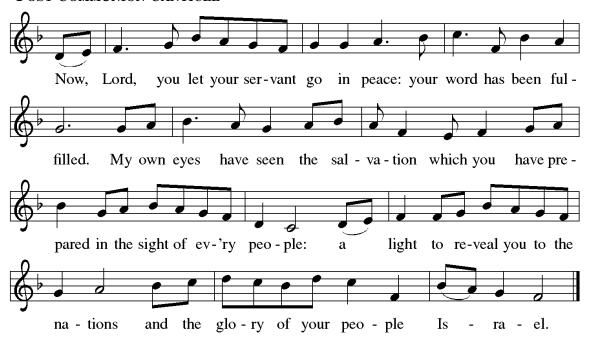
- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

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.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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. 17	3rd Sunday of Advent	
	Community Relations meeting	
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
•••••	Coffee Hour	after worship
	Transition Team/Council meeting	noon
Sun., Dec. 24	4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve	
	Children's Sunday School	9:45 AM
	Candlelight 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 20th. There will be a soup supper at 5:30 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer worship at 6:15 pm.

	Worship Assistants								
Date	Acolytes	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Asst. Minister	Presiding Minister	Coffee Hosts	
Dec. 17	Brayden Winsor	Diane Bottorff, Bob Horton	Laurie Jackson	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,	Mitchell Bean	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. 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			
Dec. 10	\$1,998.00	\$20.00	\$2,018.00	-\$1,653.85	\$364.15	29/27			
				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

Caring for Our Neighbors

Jesus commands us that when we care for the least of these; that we are in the presence of Christ (*Matthew 25:44-45*). As a congregation, we deeply care about serving those in need in our community. We hope to be a place of refuge and support for our neighborhood and to be a place to uplift those people that struggle around us. We also support ministries both local, national, and global as a church in the ELCA. As a congregation, we focus our efforts to partner with community organizations like Doorstep, while expanding opportunities to help our neighborhood through activities like our food ministry and community garden. We continue to be open to the ways that God calls us to be a presence in our community and to create a world where all are cared for in our society (*Philippians 2:4*).

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