

For
GOD so Loved
the WORLD
that He gave His
One and Only Son
that whoever Believes
in Him shall NOT
Perish but have
ETERNAL LIFE



John 3:16

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 10, 2024

4th Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 4

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

ELW 848



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

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

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Spoken responsively

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

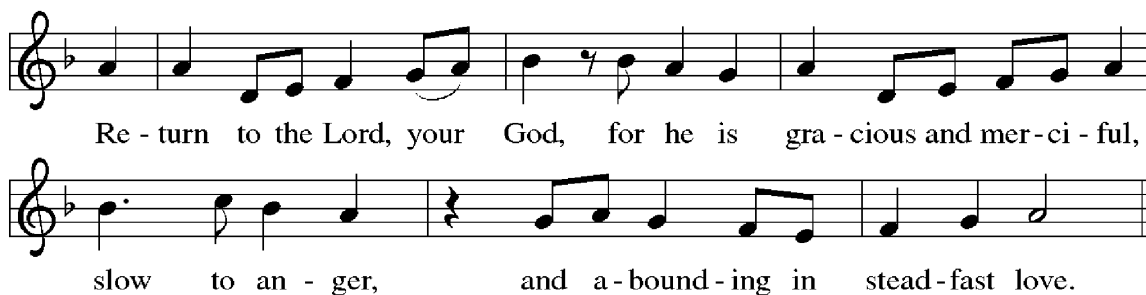
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the third chapter.

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

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

Jesus said: ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

PR. MERLE BROCKHOFF

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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 Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We pray especially 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love, especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Merciful God, your love heals. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic pain and illness, especially Marilyn Heckman, Peggy Buchholz, Naomi Walker, Linda Longren, David McGinnis, Liz Utech, and Martha Nemeth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another as we pray for Bethel Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Salem, Missouri, Falun Lutheran Church in Falun, and Bethany Home in Lindsborg, Kansas. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Loving God, you give us joy. We pray for Bob Kobbeman and Jake Kennedy as they celebrate their birthdays and for David Quarnstrom as he remembers his baptism. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

Please stand as you are able.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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 Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

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.

Please be seated.

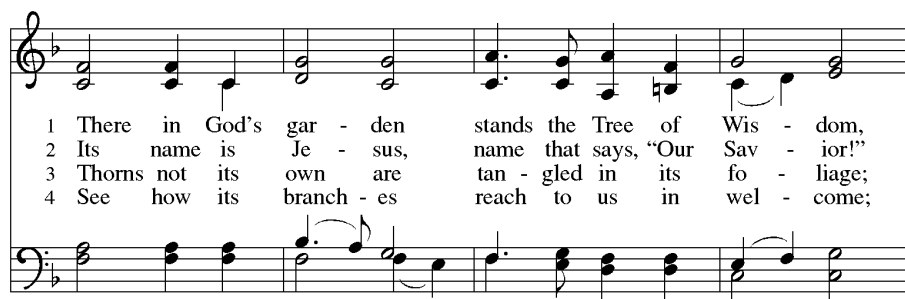
LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

There in God's Garden

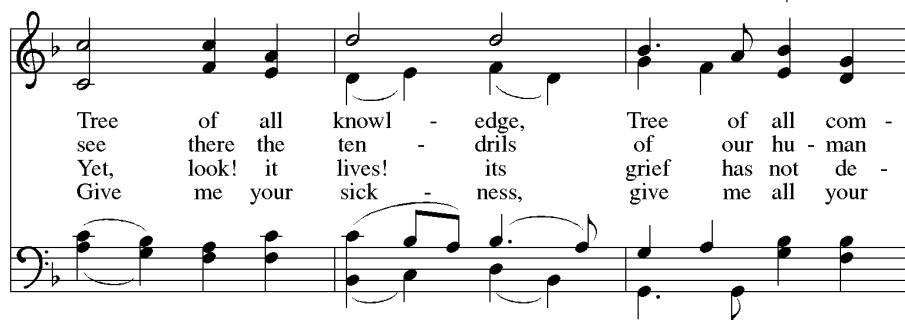
ELW 342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man -
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

See page 14.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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, Mar. 10	Adult Sunday School	9:30 AM
.....	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
.....	Coffee Hour.....	after worship
.....	Transition meeting w/Pr. Merle	during coffee hour
.....	PFLAG meeting	2:00 PM
Tues., Mar. 12	Quilters.....	9:30 AM
.....	Church Council meeting	5:30 PM
Wed., Mar. 13.....	Lenten Worship @ Trinity	Noon
.....	Soup Supper @ Our Saviors.....	5:30 PM
.....	Lenten Worship @ Our Saviors.....	6:15 PM
Sun., Mar. 17	Community Relations meeting	9:30 AM
.....	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
.....	Coffee Hour.....	after worship

Lenten Services

March 13th – “Sacrificial Giving” 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Barb

5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Barb

March 20th – “Works of Love” John 4:9-12

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Merle

5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Merle

Worship Assistants								
Date	Acolytes	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Asst. Minister	Presiding Minister	Coffee Hosts
Mar. 10	Brayden Winsor	Diane Bottorff, Curt Lewis	Mitchell Bean	LaVell Winsor	Donna Allen & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Pr. Barb Jones	Dean McGinnis
Mar. 17	Laurie Jackson	Dean McGinnis, Duane Pomeroy	Laurie Jackson	Debbie Pomeroy	Donna Allen & Team 3	Bob Horton	Pr. Barb Jones	Janelle Meredith & Charlotte O'Brien
Mar. 24	Curt Lewis, Ella Bosch	Ted Murphy, Bob Horton	Mitchell Bean	Loni Reece	Donna Allen & Team 3	Marcy Carlson	Pr. Barb Jones	Carol Marker
Mar. 28	Cindy McGinnis	Diane Bottorff, Bob Horton	Laurie Jackson	Shelley Andrews	Donna Allen & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Pr. Barb Jones	
Mar. 31	Brayden Winsor	Marcy Carlson, Curt Lewis	Laurie Jackson	Diane Bottorff	Donna Allen & Team 3	Bob Horton	Pr. Barb Jones	

Please remember that we meet again today, **Sunday, March 10th at 11:30 a.m. following worship.** This time we'll focus on the area of "Leadership."

A Likner scale was included in your bulletin last week for you take home and think about. We will discuss your thoughts today.

Your input, concerns and thoughts as a congregation will be the information that the Transition Team will use when they begin the process of writing a **Ministry Site Profile**. This document will then be shared with the Bishop, potential candidates, and possible partners in ministry.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship for this time of discussion.



Food Donation for Doorstep = Food for Our Neighbors



Janeen Horton reported that she and Bob took **192 items** equaling **194.1 pounds of food** to Doorstep last Monday. Very impressive! Even as a small congregation, we can do so much when asked. Thank you!

OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS						
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly Expense	Weekly Income Minus Average Weekly Expense	Attendance/ Communion
Feb. 11	\$1,287.34	\$0.00	\$1,287.34	-\$2,211.54	-\$924.20	29/24
Feb 18	\$4,162.00	\$0.00	\$4,162.00	-\$2,211.54	\$1,950.46	33/26
Feb. 25	\$2,943.00	\$75.00	\$3,018.00	-\$2,211.54	\$806.46	37/30
Mar. 3	\$2,558.00	\$158.60	\$2,716.60	-\$2,211.54	\$505.06	28/22
				Expense		
		Jan.2024	\$8,851.47	-\$8,849.15	\$2.32	
		Jan. - Jan.	\$8,851.47	-\$8,849.15	\$2.32	



Symphony ORCHESTRA

**LUTHER
COLLEGE**

TOPEKA, KANSAS
SATURDAY, MARCH 16 • 7 P.M.
First Lutheran Church, 1234 SW Fairlawn Rd

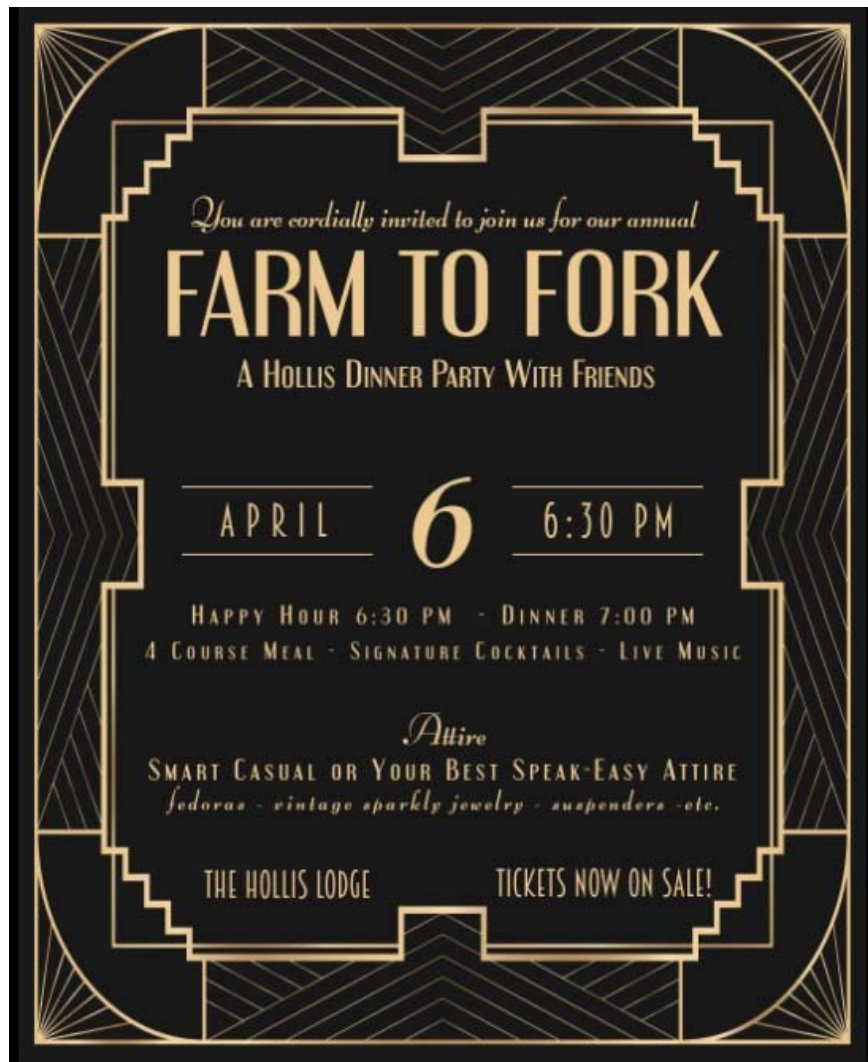
You won't want to miss the performance by this ensemble made up of students from a variety of academic disciplines under the direction of Dr. Daniel Baldwin. The program includes works by Bernstein, Faure, Mussorgsky, Wagner, and Moncayo.

A freewill offering will be collected in support of the orchestra and their travel expenses.

LFACT needs help in housing these students. If you can help, please contact Linda Anderson at 785-221-5513.



I've begun updating our church directory. If you would, please, review your information in the latest directory (updated 2023) and let me know of any changes that should be made to your info, I would appreciate your help so much.



For more information about this event, you may contact the office or see the email from the Hollis Renewal Center that was forwarded March 7th.



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 Diane Bottorff

Vice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

Secretary Shelley Andrews (Administration)

Parker Jackson (Administration)

Steve Luoma (Community Relations)

Carol Marker (Spiritual Care)

Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Janelle Meredith (Community Relations)

Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman