



Trinity Lutheran Church

Matthew 11:5

*The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.*



December  
**14**  
2025

3rd Sunday of  
Advent

Together  
in Community  
Living  
with Christ  
Caring  
for Neighbors

This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Matthew 11:10

[www.trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://www.trinitylutherantopeka.org)

***We are glad you are here!***  
*It is always good to be together, hearing the Word.*  
***Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.***  
*Thank you, Parker Jackson, for leading worship today.*

**PRELUDE**

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3***

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**GATHERING**

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**ELW 242**

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **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

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

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

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

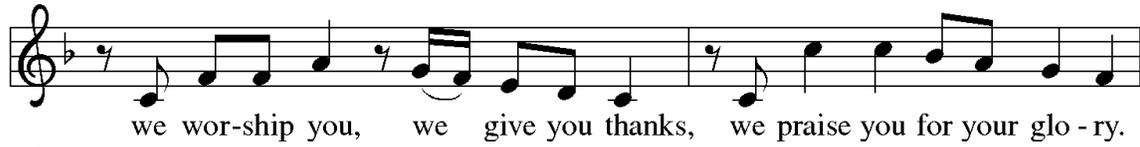


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



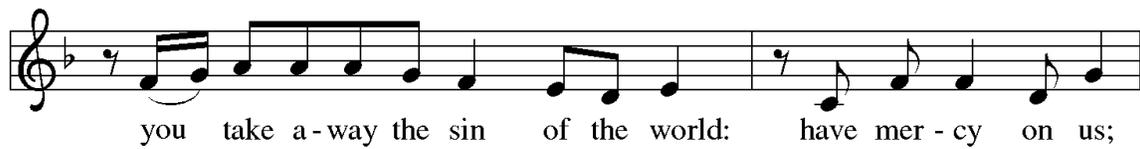
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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.*

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**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:5-10

*Sung responsively*



<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
 whose hope is in the | LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**  
**who keeps promis- | es forever;**  
<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
 The LORD sets the | captive free.  
<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are**  
**bowed down;**  
**the LORD | loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
 the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall | reign forever,**  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>”Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

**SERMON**

**PARKER JACKSON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

**ELW 264**

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

2 God’s people, see him coming: your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev’ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTLES CREED

P Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

A God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of grace. Lead us to proclaim the good news as we place our hope in you. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A When lands are parched, bring rain and fill the lands with trees and plants and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the splendor. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A When there is injustice among nations and leaders, root it out. Call attention to inequity. When people are imprisoned, offer release and relief. Strengthen our work toward justice as we break the cycle of poverty and welcome the immigrant. Instill compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray for Parker Jackson, Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, and David McGinnis. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

P As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire us. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**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.*

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**THANKSGIVING**

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**OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG**

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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady harmonic accompaniment with some melodic lines in the right hand.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly  
provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering  
and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way  
through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to  
the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be  
honor and glory forever. **C Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

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### SENDING

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### BLESSING

P May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant us  
patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and  
always.

### SENDING HYMN

*People, Look East*

**ELW 248**

- 1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Star, is on the way.
- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965. Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY**

Today, Dec. 14 ..... Adult Sunday School..... 9:30 AM  
 ..... Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
 ..... PFLAG meeting..... 2:00 PM

Mon., Dec. 15 ..... January Trinity Tidings deadline.....

Tues., Dec. 16..... Quilters ..... 9:00 AM

Wed., Dec. 17 ..... Soup Supper..... 5:30 PM  
 ..... Advent Midweek Worship..... 6:15 PM  
 ..... at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.....

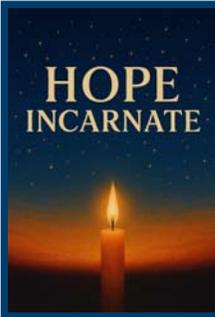
Sun., Dec. 21 ..... Worship ..... 10:30 AM

**Worship Assistants**

Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Worship Leader	Coffee Hosts
Dec. 14	Ella Bosch, Curt Lewis	Duane Pomeroy, Howard Reece	Laurie Jackson	Debbie Pomeroy	Ashley Watson & Team 1	Ted Murphy	Parker Jackson	Duane & Debbie Pomeroy
Dec. 21	Cindy McGinnis	Bob Horton, Curt Lewis	Mitchell Bean	LaVell Winsor	Ashley Watson & Team 1	Marcy Carlson	Duane Pomeroy	Marilyn Heckman
Dec. 24						Bob Horton	Pr. Deb Cantrell	
Dec. 28	Janeen Horton	Diane Bottorff, Dean	Mitchell Bean		Ashley Watson & Team 1	Bob Horton	Marcy Carlson	Carol Marker



We need worship assistants for Christmas Eve. Pr. Deb Cantrell from Our Savior’s will be our worship leader. Please call or email the office if you are willing to serve as acolyte, lector, or usher. Thanks so much!



**HOPE INCARNATE**  
 Advent midweek evening service  
 Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:15 pm  
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
 2021 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS  
 There will be a soup supper before worship,  
 starting at 5:30 pm.



**Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight  
 Worship**  
 December 24, 2025,  
 4:00 pm



**ANNUAL MEETING**

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2026 immediately after worship.

If you are involved with any committees, please begin preparing your report to be included in the annual report. Thank you!

Congregation Council at its Dec. 9th meeting recommended approval of Constitution updates as approved at the 2024 Churchwide Assembly. This action will bring our constitution in line with changes made at Churchwide. These updates will be presented for a vote to approve at our Annual Meeting January 18, 2026.



**Treasurer report as of 11-30-2025**

**Income and Expense update**

Year to date giving is averaging \$10,206.00 a month or a total of \$112,271.00 thru 11-30-25.  
 Year to date expenses are averaging \$9,809.00 a month or a total of \$107,903.15 thru 11-30-25. This results in a favorable coverage of expenses of \$4,367.50 thru the end of November 2025. During the month of November the church received \$18,979.17 in offerings vs the prior-monthly average of \$9,329.00 (over twice the amount of this years historic monthly offerings).

**This has moved us out of the red and into the black!!**

Restricted giving year to date totals \$7,811.25 — Elevator donations of \$2,460 and \$2853.00 for Doorstep are the majority of the restricted givings thru the end of October.

## 2025 Doorstep Christmas Family Adoptions

This year, through the United Way Christmas Bureau, Doorstep is adopting over 260 Shawnee County households, and we can't hold this event without your support!

☞ Two ways to help:

- **Shop & Drop:** Purchase new items from the list below and bring them to Doorstep or your faith community coordinator.
- **Give & Impact:** Use the form on the right to make a tax-deductible donation so we can buy the needed gifts.

✦ **We're Tax Exempt!** This means 100% of your financial gift goes directly to the gifts we purchase for families.



**Please have your gifts to Doorstep by 12/9/2025**

### Toys & Gifts For All Ages

- Adult Coloring Books
- Learning Toys
- Books / Book Sets
- Sports Balls
- Lego Sets
- Pokemon Toys
- Hello Kitty & Paw Patrol
- Avengers / Marvel Toys
- Star Wars
- Puzzles / Board Games
- Make-Up / Finger Nail Kits
- Art Canvases
- Paints & Brushes
- Markers / Colored Pencils



### Men's & Women's Gifts

- Women Bath & Body Sets
- Men's Gift Sets (Axe / Old Spice)
- Wallets or Finger Nail Sets
- Hoodies (All Sizes)

### Household Items

- Blankets - King/Queen
- Sauce Pans
- Bake-ware Sets
- Dish Sets
- Utensil Sets
- Pots & Pans
- Cleaning Supplies
- Tool Kits



If you would like to donate your time to volunteer for this event, we have many jobs during our distribution days of December 16-18.

Both physical and non-physical jobs are available.

Please reach out to Lisa Cain at 785-357-5341 to sign up.

Our Need	Household and Individual Gifts	Suggested Gift to Doorstep	Quantity	Total
<b>Christmas for Entire Households (Food, Gifts, &amp; Gift Cards)</b>				
5	Household of 8	\$650.00		
6	Household of 7	\$585.00		
6	Household of 6	\$535.00		
10	Household of 5	\$475.00		
70	Household of 4	\$360.00		
65	Household of 3	\$275.00		
80	Household of 2	\$210.00		
18	Household of 1	\$140.00		
<b>Food Orders for a Household (HH)</b>				
27	Large Food Order (HH Size 5-8)	\$110.00		
135	Medium Food Order (HH Size 3-4)	\$70.00		
98	Small Food Order (HH Size 1-2)	\$45.00		
<b>Individual &amp; Household Gifts</b>				
100	Pot / Pan Set	\$50.00		
100	Dish Set / Crock Pot	\$40.00		
470	Adult Gift	\$30.00		
260	Hygiene Kit	\$25.00-\$45.00		
350	Child or Teen Gift	\$25.00		
280	Towel Set	\$20.00		
200	Board Game / Puzzle	\$15.00		
<b>Individual Gift Cards</b>				
821	\$20 Gift Card	\$20.00		

Each Individual in a Household gets a \$20 gift card along with other gifts and food



<b>General Cash Donation</b>	
General Cash Donation	



**Total Gift Enclosed** →

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill out this form and return it with your tax deductible donation to:**  
**Doorstep 1119 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604**

Please note, due to the size and nature of this event, we are unable to provide specifics of how your donation was used. However, you can rest assured that any and all donations we receive will be used to directly benefit the families we adopt.



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606  
Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: [office@topekatlc.org](mailto:office@topekatlc.org)  
Website: [trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://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** Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Shelley Andrews (Administration)

Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)

Parker Jackson (TBD)

Steve Luoma (Administration)

Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

**Treasurer** Bob Kobbeman