

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
725 SW Buchanan Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66606-1426

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# TRINITY TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2026

## STAFF

Cindy McGinnis  
*Administrative Assistant*

[office@topekatic.org](mailto:office@topekatic.org)

Laurie Jackson  
*Music Director*

Marcy Carlson  
*Custodian*  
[marcy4tlc@gmail.com](mailto:marcy4tlc@gmail.com)

## OFFICE

Trinity Hall, 725 SW Buchanan St.  
Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:30PM, Mon thru Thur.  
Telephone: (785) 233-0767

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 10:30am



TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

LIVING WITH CHRIST'S LOVE

CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

# February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>1</b> 10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along  Bring food for Doorstep  10:30 am Worship</p>	<b>2</b>	<p>9:00 am <b>3</b> Quilters</p>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<p>9:30-10:15 <b>8</b> Adult Sunday School  10:30 am Worship with Communion Pr. Chad Langdon  2 pm PFLAG meeting</p>	<b>9</b>	<p>9:00 am <b>10</b> Quilters</p>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<p>9:30 am <b>15</b> Community Relations committee mtg  10:30 am Worship with Communion Pr. Bob Dealey</p>	<p><b>16</b> March 2026 Trinity Tidings deadline  6 pm Stroke Support Group</p>	<p>9:00 am <b>17</b> Quilters  11:00 am Widowed Women of FaiTh</p>	<p><b>18</b>  7:00pm @ Our Savior's Lutheran Church</p>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<p>9:45-10:15 <b>22</b> Children's Sunday School  10:30 am Worship</p>	<b>23</b>	<p>9:00 am <b>24</b> Quilters  7 pm TLHA</p>	<p><b>25</b> 6:15 PM Lenten Midweek Service @ OSLC <i>Sacrificial Love: Bearing the Weight of Another</i> Simon of Cyrene  Soup Supper at 5:30 PM</p>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**10:30 AM WORSHIP**  
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND  
 REFRESHMENTS IN FELLOWSHIP  
 HALL DOWNSTAIRS IMMEDIATELY  
 AFTER WORSHIP.

February  
 Council meeting  
 date & time to  
 be determined.  
 Possibly 2/10, 1pm



## *President's Update*

January 18 Annual Meeting Review

Election results:

Council 3 year terms: Curt Lewis, Troy Abbott; 2 year term: Bob Kobbeman, 1 year terms: Howard Reece and Parker Jackson.

Continuing on council through 2026: Steve Luoma, Diane Bottorff; through 2027: Duane Pomeroy, Marilyn Heckman

Nominating Committee for 2026: Janice Greenlee, Dean McGinnis, Marcy Carlson, Debbie Pomeroy, LaVell Winsor, Laurie Jackson

Audit Committee: 3 year term: Bob Horton. Continuing through 2026: Debbie Pomeroy;

Continuing through 2027 LaVell Winsor

Doorstep Board: 1 year term Bob Horton

Doorstep Coordinator: 1 year term Janeen Horton

Lutheran Fine Arts Council: 1 year term Marcy Carlson, Roxann Quarnstrom

Topeka Lutheran Home Association/Luther Gardens: 3 year terms Carol Marker, David Quarnstrom. Continuing on TLHA/LG through 2026 Diane Bottorff, Loni Reece; through 2027 Marilyn Heckman, Debbie Pomeroy

Budget for 2026: Voted to accepted budget of \$118,850.

Constitutional Update: Voted to approve updates to Trinity's constitution to bring it in compliance with ELCA constitution changes that were approved at 2025 Churchwide Assembly

### **February Worship Leaders**

Feb. 1

Feb. 8 Rev. Chad Langdon

Feb. 15 Pr. Bob Dealey

Feb. 22 Parker Jackson

Please make each one of our pulpit supply persons and lay leaders feel welcome.

Time and Talent forms were distributed and those present were asked to complete and return to church office. Forms will be available on table in narthex for pick-up for persons not receiving one today.

Internship item was removed from meeting agenda. Seminary student who would have filled this role is no longer available.

Outgoing council members Dean McGinnis and Shelley Andrews were thanked for their service the past three years.

In a short Council meeting immediately after the annual meeting, officers were elected:

President Duane Pomeroy  
Vice-President Steve Luoma  
Secretary Diane Bottorff

The meeting date & time is yet to be determined.



## FEBRUARY READINGS

*February 1 — 4th Sunday of Epiphany*

Micah 6:1-8  
 Psalm 15  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
 Matthew 5:1-12

*February 8 — 5th Sunday of Epiphany*

Isaiah 58:1-12  
 Psalm 112:1-10  
 1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
 Matthew 5:13-20

*February 15 — Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Exodus 24:12-18  
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
 2 Peter 1:16-21  
 Matthew 17:1-9

*February 18 — Ash Wednesday*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or  
 Isaiah 58:1-12  
 Psalm 51:1-17  
 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*February 22 — 1st Sunday of Lent*

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
 Psalm 32  
 Romans 5:12-19  
 Matthew 4:1-11

## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

2 Collin Horton  
 6 Marcy Carlson  
 16 Jane Lewis  
 19 Howard Reece  
 23 Loretta Hoerman  
 24 Erin Lewis  
 26 Brayden Winsor

### BAPTISMS

10 Martha Nemeth  
 18 Troy Pomeroy  
 20 Brett Henry

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

17 Sam & Charlotte Blenden

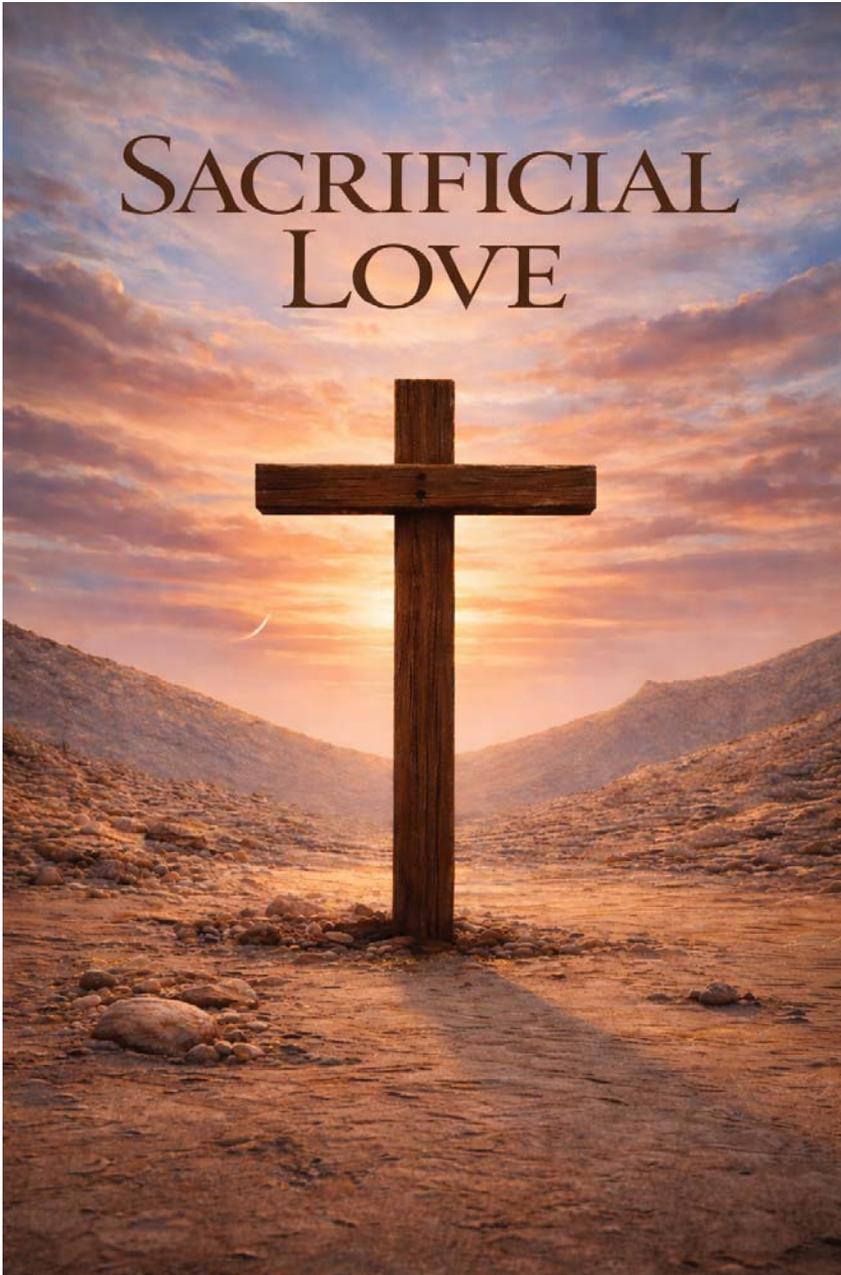
## Sunday School

Feb. 8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

We will study 2nd lesson for that day, 1st Corinthians 2:1-12  
 Join us in Trinity Hall lounge at 9:30 am.

Children's Sunday school will meet on Feb. 22nd, 9:45am.

Joyce Koenig, a PMA at First Lutheran, has been leading a book study for over four years, and would like to invite our members to join the discussion. Their new study will begin in February, and they will be reading *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancy. They have extra books that the Adult Learning Committee would like to share with us. They have two discussion groups that meet at separate times. One meets in person on Mondays at 1:00 in the 1st Lutheran church library, and the second meets on Fridays at 7:00 on Zoom. The Monday group will meet on February 2nd, 16th, March 2nd, and 16th. The Friday group will meet on February 6th, 20th, March 6th, and 20th. If you have any questions, you may email Joyce at [koenig1942@hotmail.com](mailto:koenig1942@hotmail.com) or call her at 501-781-5692.



**Sacrificial Love: Bearing the Weight of Another**

Simon of Cyrene  
Wednesday, February 25, 6:15 PM  
Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

**Sacrificial Love: Poured Out Without Measure**

Mary of Bethany  
Wednesday, March 4, 6:15 PM  
Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

**Sacrificial Love: Crossing Boundaries**

The Samaritan Woman  
Wednesday, March 11, 6:15 PM  
Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

**Sacrificial Love: Surrender Born of Trust**

Peter  
Wednesday, March 18, 6:15 PM  
Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

**Sacrificial Love: A Faithful Presence**

Mary Magdalene  
Wednesday, March 25, 6:15 PM  
Soup Supper at 5:30 PM

Lenten midweek services will be a joint effort between Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. We are asked for one woman and one man volunteer for the monologues and for us to be responsible for two of the soup suppers. Please call Our Savior's, (785) 266-5313, to offer your support.



JANUARY 8, 2026

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

**President**

Duane Pomeroy  
785.234.4385

**Vice President**

Steve Luoma  
517.974.9191

**Secretary**

Diane Bottorff  
785.231.0379

**Treasurer**

Bob Kobbeman  
785.478.0381

**Members**

Troy Abbott  
785.554.6765

Marilyn Heckman  
785.221.4905

Parker Jackson  
785.633.3353

Curt Lewis  
785.633.6661

Howard Reece  
785.221.8992

- Discussion with Jennelle Hinck, internship candidate, and Deacon Chelle Huth (online) about possible internship role.
- Bob K. reported we ended 2025 with a positive balance, mainly thanks to a significant gift in November.
- Bob presented proposed 2026 budget, noting that intern will add approximately \$30,000 to the \$120,000. He was asked to prepare two budgets—with & without intern—for annual meeting.
- President Diane presented nominees for 2026 ballot.
- Steve & Shelley reported \$86,000 in pledges from 20 households.
- A special collection was approved for Bethany College Sunday Jan. 18, when Pr. Melissa Woepfel will be here. Global Mission will be recognized in February.
- Curt discussed improving our signage to indicate which doors will be accessible during worship & other events.
- Review of membership roles and policy/procedure manual on-going.
- Transition process is on hold until new council is seated.
- Debbie presented updates to constitution to bring it into compliance with those recommended by churchwide assembly. Changes will be available for review in the church office and at the annual meeting.
- Resolutions were approved for a vote at the annual meeting.
- We will be working and worshipping with Our Savior’s for Ash Wednesday and midweek Lenten services.
- Next meeting is tentatively set for Feb. 10th.

*A full copy of the Council minutes is available in the church office and if desired, you may request a copy be mailed or emailed to you.*



Food Donation for Doorstep = Food for Our Neighbors

Bob & Janeen delivered 246 food items, or 238.5 pounds of food, to Doorstep, collected during our January food collection.

We continue to be very generous! Our next collection date is February 1, 2026.



## COMPANION SYNOD MINISTRY CENTRAL STATES SYNOD – ELCA

### ***Who are the Companion Churches to the Central States Synod?***

The Central States Synod is a Companion Synod to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (ELCUSFE) and the Kote (pronounced “cawtay”) District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). This means that the Central States Synod has a formal, mutually recognized covenant relationship with the ELCUSFE, and the Kotte District of the ELCPNG.

***The principle of Accompaniment guides our relationships.*** These Companion Synod relationships are rooted in the model of accompaniment, which promotes the values of mutuality, respect, empowerment and sustainability. Through the Companion Synod (sometimes called Companion Church) Ministry, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources. The Companion Synod program was initiated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shortly after its formation in 1988. It was an effort to broaden the ELCA’s relationships with overseas churches by involving the 65 Synods of the ELCA in very meaningful and substantive ways. Since the Central States Synod en-

tered into companion synod relationships with the Churches in Papua New Guinea and Russia, there have been numerous Companion Synod visits that have helped our relationships develop and grow. These visitations have not just been between church leaders, but between a multitude of individuals from the Central States Synod and the partner churches in Papua New Guinea and Russia. We are finding that these Companion church relationships enrich our lives, our faith and our ministries by exposing us to the witness and perspectives of Christians in other parts of the world as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and share the Gospel with the world.

### ***What are the blessings and benefits to the CSS-ELCA and our overseas partner churches?***

**Encouragement:** Until recent years, the Christians in Papua New Guinea were served and assisted by large numbers of overseas workers, primarily from Germany, America and Australia. Those numbers have dropped dramatically in recent years. This is not a bad thing as some of the dependency upon overseas workers was unhealthy. However, sometimes they feel somewhat abandoned by the people who they consider to be their spiritual parents and mentors. Again and again visitors to Pa-

pua New Guinea have heard the Christians there comment on how good it is to know that they are not forgotten. The Christians in Russia are emerging from nearly sixty years of persecution and violent suppression of religious activities. And even though the Russian government ended its official suppression of religion in the late 80s, the churches still face obstacles and challenges from all parts of the Russian state and society. Our engagement with our CoSyn Christians in Russia expresses our concern for them and gives them support and encouragement. The people of the Central States Synod are also encouraged by the examples of faith, persistence, the evangelistic spirit and resourcefulness of our Companion Christians in Papua New Guinea and in Russia.

**Capacity Building:** Capacity building was a term often used by Pastor Walter Teunzac during past visits to Papua New Guinea. Pastor Teunzac is the Chair of the overseas partnership committee of the Kote District. What he meant was that by sharing ideas, thoughts, perspectives, even criticisms from our respective points of view, we help each other develop more options and a greater capacity to deal with our respective ministry challenges. Through formal and informal sharing, we broaden and deepen our knowledge and under-



standing of God at work in this world, and grow in our capacity for faithful ministry.

**Projects:** While sending money is not the most important part of our relationships, there is a place for the funding of projects in our partnerships. One of the resources that we Americans generally have in greater abundance than do our partners in PNG or Russia is money. Therefore, we have provided funds for projects in Russia such as buying or renovating a room or building as a place of worship. Over the past year the Sunday Schools and congregations of the Central States Synod collected funds to help the congregations of the Kote District purchase new Sunday School materials. Also, the Synod is providing the salary for Russian Pastor Alexander Lapochenko who serves St. Luke Lutheran Church in Arsen'yev in the Russian Far East. He is one of only two ordained pastors in the entire Russian Far East. The synod provided the funds for two young adults from Papua New Guinea to spend the summer of 2017 working as camp counselors at Camp Tomah Shinga and plan to bring more young adults from PNG to work at the camp. The CSS has also gathered donations to help buy a jeep for the ministry in Siberia.

**Seeing the world through different eyes. (Transformation):** If you talk to anyone who has been on a

companion synod visit, you will invariably discover that the person was profoundly changed through contact and interaction with the people in Papua New Guinea and/or Russia. And this is true for our partners as well. At the end of one companion synod visit to Papua New Guinea, the district president said, "we are not the same as we were when you came here a week ago. We have been changed." We are challenged to not be so parochial in our outlook. We are challenged to see our own problems differently when we see what other people around the globe are facing. We sometimes are even able to see that our self-interests, appetites and attitudes contribute to the problems that much of the rest of the world is dealing with.

#### **Opportunities for Engagement.**

Pray regularly for our Companion Churches, both personally and in your congregational prayers. Check the Companion Synod Packet for prayer ideas and watch the bishop's newsletter and Companion Synod emails for prayer requests from our overseas partners. Also, you can check the following blogs for news and information from our Companion Churches.

Send your name and email address to Gary Teske at [teskimost@gmail](mailto:teskimost@gmail) and receive regular updates on our companion churches by email. Visit the Companion Synod Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoSyn>

[Visit2016/?ref=bookmarks](https://www.facebook.com/CoSyn) or go to your Facebook page and search for "companion synod team central states synod ELCA". For additional news about Russia check out Bradn Buerkle's Blog:

<http://russiancorrespondent.blogspot.com> and the website of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vladivostok, Russia: [www.luthvostok.com](http://www.luthvostok.com). Check in on the Facebook page of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (search for ELCPNG) for news about the Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea.

#### Participate in a Companion Synod Visit

Get on the Companion Synod network and watch for news about visits. Email Gary Teske at [teskimost@gmail](mailto:teskimost@gmail) and have him put you on the list for future visits. Sometimes certain people with specific skills are needed and you might be that person. For instance, individuals with computer expertise were needed for our recent visit to Papua New Guinea to do computer training. During that visit we not only delivered eight laptop computers, but also provided training for the computer operators. We dubbed the visit, "Geeks for New Guinea."

Host a Visitor. Visits go both ways and we often are in need of people to provide housing, meals and transportation for our visiting partners from other countries. Contact Gary Teske if you would be willing to host



a visitor or provide transportation between host sites.

*Have a Companion Synod or Global Church Sunday at your congregation.* The Central States Synod observes the season of Epiphany as the Season of Global Awareness and has set aside two specific Sundays to lift up our partnership with the Kote District of the ELCPNG, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East. Ideas for a Companion Synod Sunday are available on the CSS-ELCA website under Ministries/Companion Synod. Additional resources are available from the Companion Synod Facebook page and by emailing Gary Teske. Also, you will find a speakers list of individuals who can be available (schedule permitting) to speak at your church or group at the end of this document.

*Stay informed about the Global Ministry we share in through the national expression of the ELCA.* The ELCA has a robust global ministry and you can find plenty of opportunities for being involved in that ministry through publications like, “Global Links,” and “Hand In Hand.” You can view and/or subscribe to both of these resources at <http://www.elca.org/resources/globalchurch>.

*Contribute to the Companion Synod Ministry.* Contributions can be sent to the CSSELCA earmarked for the Com-

panion Synod Ministry in general or for any of the specific projects listed below.

*Help underwrite the cost of our visitation teams.* It can cost between three and five thousand dollars per person to visit one of our companion churches. The Synod tries to provide a minimum of \$500.00 to everyone going on a Companion Synod visit and more if possible so that even people with modest incomes can participate in these visits. In late August Committee Chair Gary Teske, Pastor Amy Truhe, Companion Team member Emily Greble and Pastor Keith Holste represented our Synod at a Companion Synod Summit in Papua New Guinea to set guidelines and protocol for all of the ELCA partners of the Lutheran Church in PNG. There was no money in the Synod budget for this visit so we needed to raise enough funds to make this trip affordable for the participants from the Central States Synod.

*The support of the Rev. Alexander Lapochenko in Eastern Russia.* The CSS-ELCA has supported Pastor Lapochenko since 2013 in the amount of \$500.00 per month. We are currently looking for congregations to become sponsor congregations for Pastor Lapochenko and commit to providing at least one month’s support (\$500.00) for Pastor Lapochenko per year.

*Contribute to the ministry of the Russian Far East.* These funds help support the ministry of the nine congregations in the Russian Far East and currently help with the costs of the transition of leadership in the Russian Far East.

*Fund two more young adults from Papua New Guinea to come and work at Camp Tomah Shinga.* Having Noel and Natasha come to Camp Tomah Shinga and work there as camp counselors in 2017 turned out to be a very positive experience for everyone involved and we plan to bring two more young people to serve as counselors in the future. The cost is approximately \$4000.00 per person.

*Participate in the Global Mission Sponsorship Programs of the ELCA.* You and your congregation can become sponsors for a missionary (such as Bradn Buerkle in Russia), a young adult in Global Mission (YAGM), the training and development of International Leaders through Scholarships, and other ongoing mission projects through the ELCA division of Global Missions. Simply go to <http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Church-Sponsorship>, and learn all about it. If you need help getting information, contact Rev. Gary Teske at [teskimost@gmail.com](mailto:teskimost@gmail.com), or 785-393-0965.



The Current Companion Synod Team is made up of the following individuals.

Rebecca Blocksome	Rev. Keith Holste	Daniel Lilienkamp
Rev. Jon Brudvig	Rev. Penny Holste	Peggy Schaefer
Rev. Susan Candea	Gary Kallansrud	Emily Greble
Jim Cooper	Alex Lang	Rev. Gary Teske (Chair)

#### Companion Synod Speaker's List

Amy Truhe (Salina area). [dtruhe@cox.net](mailto:dtruhe@cox.net)  
 Dan Lilienkamp (St. Louis area). [daniel.lilienkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daniel.lilienkamp@sbcglobal.net)  
 Delvin Strecker (Wilson, KS. area) [strecker.delvin@gmail.com](mailto:strecker.delvin@gmail.com)  
 Anita Strecker (Wilson, KS. Area) [astrecker3@gmail.com](mailto:astrecker3@gmail.com)  
 Eli Truhe (Salina area) [fencer9926@gmail.com](mailto:fencer9926@gmail.com)  
 Emily Greble (KC-Central Missouri area) [emilygreble1@yahoo.com](mailto:emilygreble1@yahoo.com)  
 Gary Kallansrud (St. Louis area) [gkallansrud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gkallansrud@sbcglobal.net)  
 Grace Vannoy (KC area) [graciev7@gmail.com](mailto:graciev7@gmail.com)  
 Jim Cooper (Lawrence area) [jscooper36@hotmail.com](mailto:jscooper36@hotmail.com)  
 Jim Strasen (Salina area) [strasen@cox.net](mailto:strasen@cox.net)  
 Penny and Keith Holste (St. Louis area) [pkholste@hotmail.com](mailto:pkholste@hotmail.com)  
 Rebecca Blocksome (KC area) [rblocksome@gmail.com](mailto:rblocksome@gmail.com)  
 Peggy Schaefer, Trinity Lutheran, Chesterfield, Mo; [pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pbschaefer@sbcglobal.net)  
 Rev. Jon Brudvig, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lawrence, KS. [Jon.brudvig@gmail.com](mailto:Jon.brudvig@gmail.com).  
 Brian Hoover (Stover, MO) [immech@yahoo.com](mailto:immech@yahoo.com).  
 Speakers on Refugee Resettlement  
 Bill Say (KC area) [wmbsey@gmail.com](mailto:wmbsey@gmail.com)  
 Ann Say (KS area) [asay1227@gmail.com](mailto:asay1227@gmail.com)  
 Ed Seuc (St. Louis area) [seuc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seuc@sbcglobal.net)



# HEALING

*ourselves and others through*

# FIBER ARTS



SATURDAY, FEB. 21 | 8:15AM TO NOON  
FAITH LUTHERAN | 1716 SW GAGE

**MELANIE HUTCHINSON, SPEAKER**

Attendees will be able to select from  
eight small group presentations.

This workshop is **FREE** and open to everyone.  
More information about the sessions can be  
found on our website: [Lutheranfineartstopeka.org](http://Lutheranfineartstopeka.org)

Pease register by sending an email to [srthowe@gmail.com](mailto:srthowe@gmail.com)

LUTHERAN FINE ARTS COUNCIL OF TOPEKA

Everyone is encouraged to visit the LFACT website: [lutheranfineartstopeka.org](http://lutheranfineartstopeka.org) for all of the information regarding this event. This year they've added the use of a QR code which will connect users with the website.

Once again, this workshop is free, and is open to everyone. It is a mission outreach for LFACT. Over the years we've developed a following of both Lutheran church members, and their friends.

If you have further questions, or would like this information in a different format, please contact Susan:  
[srthowe@gmail.com](mailto:srthowe@gmail.com)



Doorstep's 2026

**SOUPERBOWL  
SUNDAY" IS  
FEBRUARY 8th**



**BRING  
SOUP  
AND  
CRACKERS**



TO YOUR  
FAITH COMMUNITY  
FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>  
TO HELP STOCK  
DOORSTEP'S FOOD PANTRY!

Our Goal this year is 5 ton... 10,000 pounds!

Let's stock the shelves & feed our neighbors!