



E piphany

Trinity Lutheran Church



January
18
2026

2nd Sunday
of Epiphany

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

He on whom
you see the
Spirit descend
and remain is
the one who
baptizes with
the Holy Spirit.
John 1:33

www.trinitylutherantopeka.org

We are glad you are here!
It is always good to be together, hearing the Word proclaimed and sharing in the Lord's Supper.
Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.
We offer our thanks and welcome to Pastor Melissa Woeppel as she joins us to preach & preside at communion today. Pr. Melissa is campus pastor at Bethany College.

PRELUDE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able.

P As we gather together for worship,

C We bring our wonder.

P As we gather together for worship,

C We bring our questions.

P As we gather together for worship,

C We bring our dreams.

P As we gather together for worship,

C We bring our fears.

P As we gather together for worship,

C We bring our wrestling.

P In our wrestling and our fears,

C We are named.

P In our dreams and our questions,

C We are blessed.

P In our wonder,

C We are transformed.

P Let us worship God.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come

ELW 314

1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

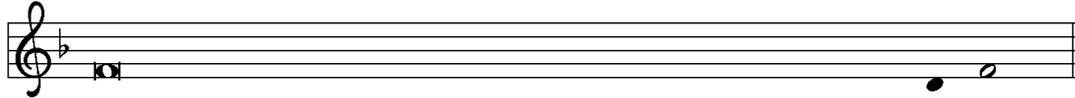
GREETING

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



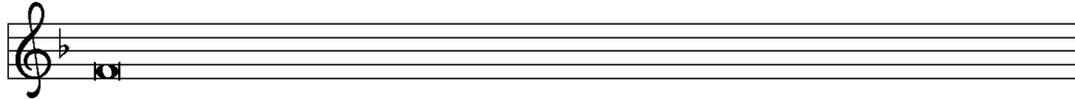
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



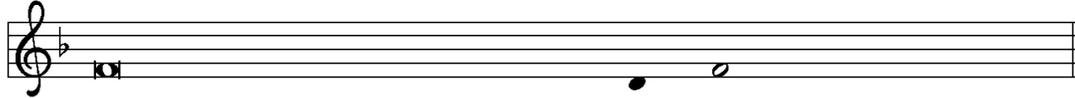
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



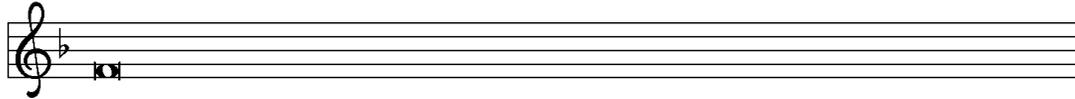
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



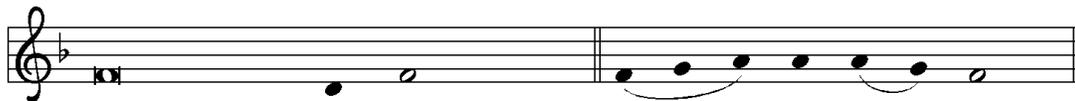
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



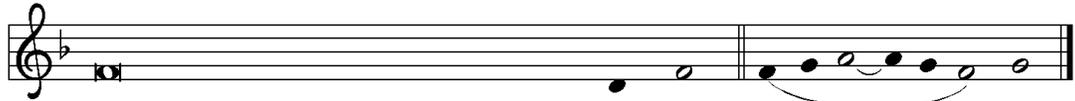
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



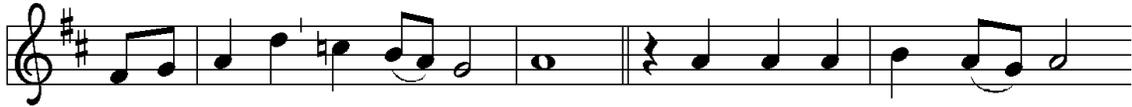
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

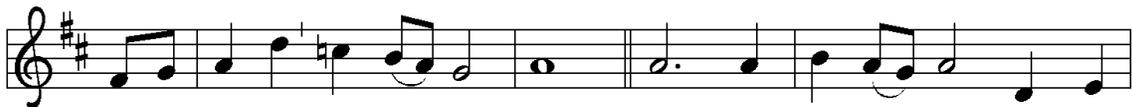


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

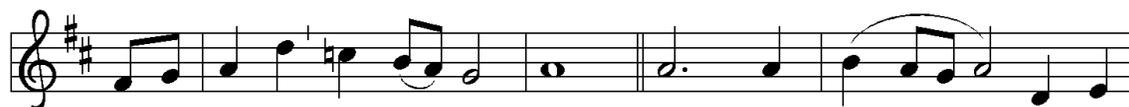


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, bless the wrestlings of our faith. Draw near to us when we struggle. Inspire our questions and deepen our yearnings as we seek to embrace one another with love. Transform us for ways of justice. In the name of the Triune we pray,

C Amen.

Please be seated.

⁷ And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

⁸ **I love to do your will, | O my God;
your law is | deep within me.’”**

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and | your deliverance;**

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great as-
sembly.**

¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;

may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our 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 John, the first chapter.

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

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-42

²⁹John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

L The Gospel of the Lord.
Please be seated.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR MELISSA WOEPPEL

HYMN OF THE DAY

By All Your Saints

ELW 420

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 1 By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest, your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed! For you arose victorious that they might wear the crown and share the light of glory reflected from your throne.
- 2 All praise, O Lord, for Andrew, the first to welcome you, whose witness to his brother named you Messiah true. May we, with hearts kept open to you throughout the year, proclaim to friend and neighbor your advent ever near.
- 3 Give praise to God Almighty, and worship God the Son, and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One, till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne, and honor, pow’r, and glory ascribe to God alone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Bethany Blessing 2025-2026 - An affirmation of community

**C We believe in care and connection,
where all are seen, known, and loved,
where grace and accountability walk hand in hand.**

**We commit to building a beloved community
that values unique contributions,
that invests in the common good.**

**We trust in the transformation that comes
when we ask the complicated questions
when we work together in faith, learning, and service.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Called by name and held in God's care, let us pray for the church, the world,
and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy One, embolden the church to seek justice for those who cry out: for those
who are without food or shelter, for those without medical care, for those who
are victims of genocide and military aggression. May we be witnesses to life that
really is life. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

A Creator, we pray with wonder for your creation. Help us to steward and tend all
that you have made for the good of all. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

A Justice Seeker, give to world leaders humility and compassion. Inspire us to
share resources and work collectively. Direct us to seek wellbeing and equity,
that all may live in peace. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

A Divine Love, we pray for those close to us who are suffering, grieving, or in pain,
especially Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, and David
McGinnis. Help us to walk alongside those who need care. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

A Generous Spirit, we give thanks for the first nations and tribes who inhabited
the land that makes up the Central States Synod: Kickapoo, Kaw, Osage,
Kiowa, Comanche, Pawnee, Sioux and Kaskaskia peoples. We lament the harm
done by colonization. Call us to deeper appreciation and care for the languages,
rituals, and history of all Indigenous people. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

A Dear God, we pray for Ivan Carlson as he celebrates his birthday. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

P Wise Teacher, we give thanks for the work and ministry of Bethany College.
Bless the students, faculty, and staff of the College, that they may be a blessing.
Inspire our collective generosity, that we may continue to support higher education for generations to come.

C hear our prayer.

P Ever-living God, we give thanks for saints, those who have come before us and those who will follow us, who inspire us to faithful living. Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your love and justice, now and forever.

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.

MEAL

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you, O God, source of all creation. May these gathered gifts be signs of our holding on and our letting go, our choosing abundance instead of scarcity, our trust that we will be held together in the great mystery of faith. May our lives and these gifts help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Friend. **C Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Holy One 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 One who guides our life together.

C It is our joy to offer gratitude and praise.

P God, you never promised us that way would be clear. You have, however, created us in your image – the image of One who is Wisdom, who is Love, who is Courage. You breathed your life into us with the assurance that we have, within and around us, everything we need to be your faithful people. Though we sometimes act in disregard for your call on our collective life, still you show up with and for us, relentlessly. And so we join with all the saints who have gone before in gratitude for your abiding presence:

**C Holy, holy, holy One,
God of power and presence
all that is, is full of your glory
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Love
Sacred is your presence and blessed is Christ with us.**

P Through the life of Jesus we saw an example of what it means to navigate an uncertain path, practice creative ministry, and face with courage and compassion all the barriers that work against your Spirit on the move. Jesus lived and breathed a ministry rooted in your Love for all people. He prioritized the lives of those who are suffering and showed us what it looks like to be with and for one another, even under great distress. Though evil attempted to silence his proclamation of an all inclusive Kin-dom of God, not even death could keep Love from growing.

²This is not a typo. Kin-dom language is used to evoke the kind of community Jesus envisions: one rooted in equity and liberation, not hierarchy. To learn more visit: <https://sojo.net/articles/kin-dom-christ>

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P On the night in which he was arrested, he gathered among friends for a meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of Christ with us, and in the assurance of your Love persistent, we offer our lives, our ministries, and our church in the service of your healing work as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Spirit on this community and these gifts. Make them a taste of your Kin-dom through Christ with us, that we might leave the Table both nourished by your Love and still hungry for justice for all your people.

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.

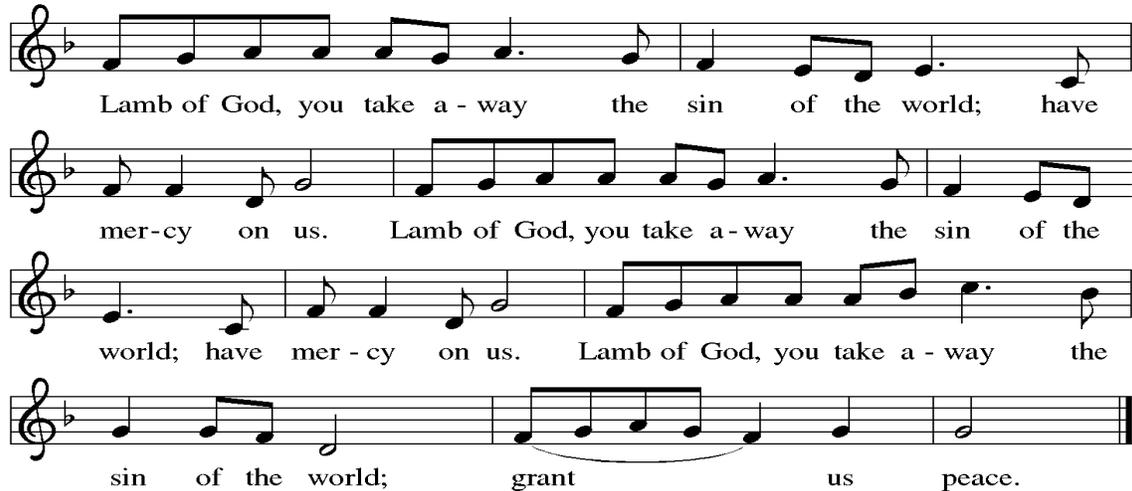
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table. Bring your wrestlings, your doubts, your fears. There is a place for you, and all of us, here.

We invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior to share in Holy Communion. Grape juice is available as an alternative to wine as well as gluten-free wafers. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing.

Everyone who goes forward for communion will be viewed on camera. Should you prefer not to have your image recorded, please stay in your seat and tell an usher you would like to have communion served to you in your pew.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* **ELW 308**

- 1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!
- 2 Come, precious diamond, light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine; there light a flame undying! In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree, your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress us, yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.
- 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure. Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let your mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
- 4 Almighty Father, in your Son you loved us, when not yet begun was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love to live in him here and above: this is your great salvation. Alleluia! Christ the living, to us giving life forever, keeps us yours and fails us never!
- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending! For Christ goes with us all the way—today, tomorrow ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning for the day of your returning.

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 God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

C Amen.

SENDING PRAYER FOR COMMUNION KITS

P Gracious God, loving all your family with a parent's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

C Amen.

BLESSING

Jacob's Blessing by Jan Richardson (The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief)

If this blessing were easy, anyone could claim it.

As it is, I am here to tell you that it will take some work.

This is the blessing that visits you in the struggling, in the wrestling, in the striving.

This is the blessing that comes after you have left everything behind, after you have stepped out, after you have crossed into that realm beyond every landmark you have known.

This is the blessing that takes all night to find.

It's not that this blessing is so difficult, as if it were not filled with grace or with the love that lives in every line.

It's simply that it requires you to want it, to ask for it, to place yourself in its path.

It demands that you stand to meet it when it arrives, that you stretch yourself in ways you didn't know you could move, that you agree to not give up.

So when this blessing comes, borne in the hands of the difficult angel who has chosen you, do not let go. Give yourself into its grip.

It will wound you, but I tell you there will come a day when what felt to you like limping was something more like dancing as you moved into the cadence of your new and blessed name.

SENDING HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984. Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



ANNUAL MEETING

Today, January 18, 2026

Some agenda items of which to be aware:

- +All ballot openings have been fulfilled with people who have said yes!
- +There are constitution amendments, recommended by our churchwide body, which we will vote on.
- +We will be asked to vote to approve an internship recommended by the synod office. The intern candidate is Jennelle Hinck.

The meeting will take place in the sanctuary, immediately after worship.

WU CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Bods Feeding Bods pantry will be open soon for the spring semester. Oral hygiene items are really needed. Please consider donating toothbrushes (individually packed), toothpaste, mouthwash, dental floss. The WU box for your donations will be by the east entrance through January 25. Then Debbie & Duane deliver to WU. Thank you!



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Our Jan. 4th food collection allowed Bob & Janeen to deliver 246 items totaling 238.5 pounds of food to Doorstep.



Our Christmas poinsettias were especially beautiful this year. If you purchased one, please feel free to take it home or give to someone.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Jan. 18 Community Relations meeting 9:30 AM
 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 AM
 Pr. Melissa Woepfel presiding
 Trinity Lutheran Annual Meeting after worship
 Mon., Jan. 19 Stroke Support Group 6:00 PM
 Tues., Jan. 20 Quilters 9:00 AM
 Sun., Jan. 25 Children's Sunday School 9:45 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM

Worship Assistants

| Date | Acolyte | Ushers | Musician | Lector | Altar Guild | Assisting Minister | Worship Leader | Coffee Hosts |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Jan. 18 | Janeen Horton | Diane Bottorff, Howard Reece | Laurie Jackson | Curt Lewis | Janice Greenlee & Team 2 | Bob Horton | Pr. Melissa Woepfel | No coffee hour |
| Jan. 25 | | Troy Abbott, Jeffrey Schafersman | Mitchell Bean | Debbie Pomeroy | Janice Greenlee & Team 2 | Parker Jackson | Marcy Carlson | Howard & Loni Reece |
| Feb. 1 | Braxdon Penry | | | | Pam Kobbeman & Team 3 | Ted Murphy | Freddie Sierks | Steve Luoma |

Please note we are in need of worship volunteers in next week and in February. We love volunteers!



WIDOWED WOMEN of FAITH

Join other **Widowed Women of FaiTh** on Tuesday, January 20th for lunch and companionship from 11am to 1pm in the back room at Perkins Restaurant, 1720 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka. No RSVP needed, just come. Please, invite other Widowed Women of FaiTh. We meet every month on the 3rd Tuesday and will continue all through 2026. Come join us! Questions? Call Julie at (913)558-0191 or email WidowedWomenofFaith@gmail.com.

Today we celebrate Bethany Sunday!

The mission of Bethany College is to educate, develop, and challenge individuals to reach for truth and excellence as they lead lives of faith, learning, and service. As a Lu-



theran, liberal arts college, Bethany College is committed to academic freedom, integrity, and courage. The way we approach education is rooted in this Lutheran tradition of freedom from and freedom for: freedom of thought, speech, and religion; freedom to encounter others; freedom to be curious; freedom to ask questions.

We are proud to be a College of the ELCA and the only institution of higher education in the Central States Synod. We continue to provide access to quality education to members of the CSS and beyond. Bethany College serves students who come from 31 states and 21 countries, who represent 24 faith traditions and a wide breadth of ethnic and cultural diversity. Together, we celebrate the rich history of the College and celebrate with the students, faculty, and staff who comprise this learning community today.



We are pleased to have Campus Pastor Melissa Woeppel with us today for worship and communion.

If you would like to make a donation to encourage Bethany in its mission, please make use of the envelope included in this bulletin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Doorstep has two events coming up soon. Their annual Soup Line will be a drive-thru pick-up event. The deadline to order is today; Diane will be happy to take your order. Their second event is one we help every year — Souper Bowl Sunday is February 8th. And it's an easy one; just bring soup and crackers to worship on February 8th, or to the office anytime the week before. Their goal this year is to collect 10,000 pounds to stock the shelves!

Please the bulletin insert for complete information.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th. We will be worshipping with Our Saviors that day. Please mark your calendars.





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

Together in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

Living with Christ's Love

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President 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