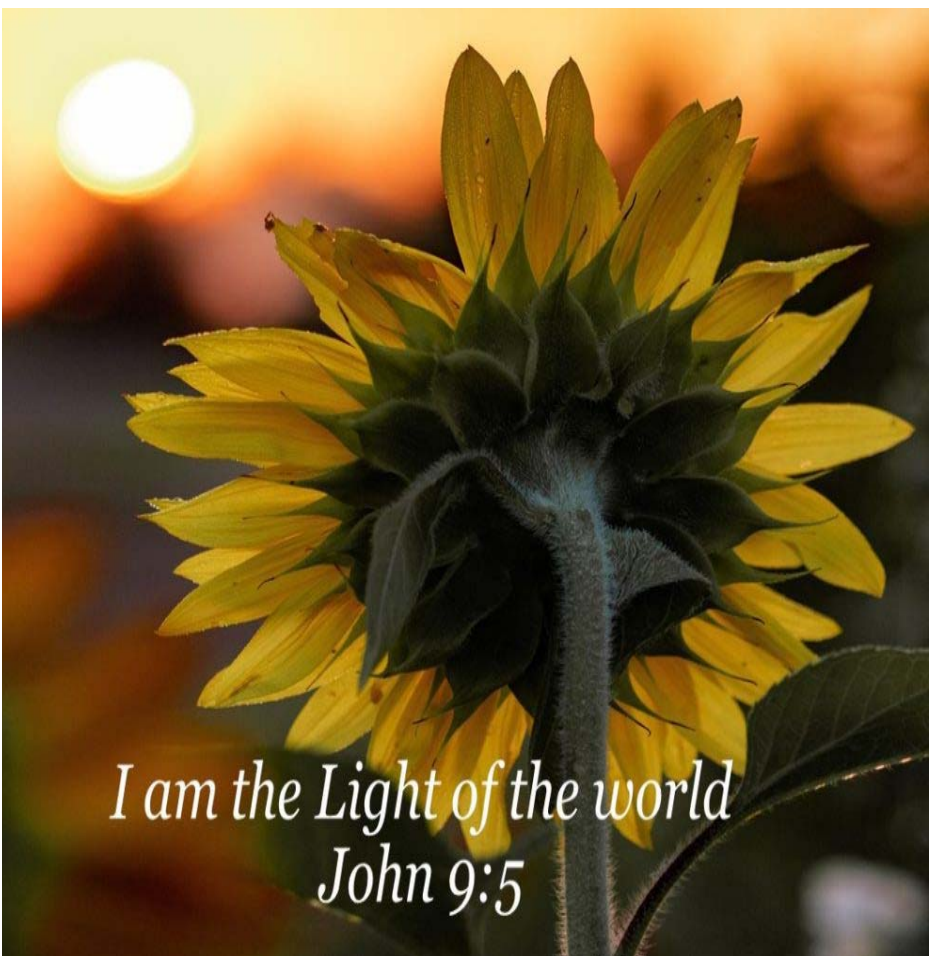




Lent 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church



*I am the Light of the world
John 9:5*

**March
15
2026**

**4th Sunday
of Lent**

**Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors**

*As long as I am
in the world, I
am the light of
the world."
John 9:5*

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, Laurie Jackson and Parker Jackson, for leading worship today.

PRELUDE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3

GATHERING

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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*

2 If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." *Refrain*

3 Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend; and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain* Text: African American spiritual

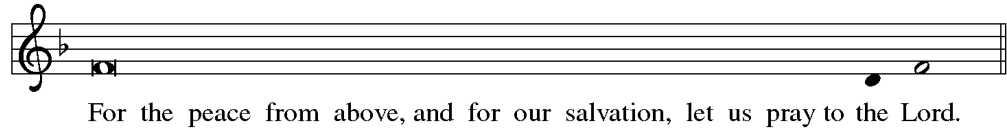
GREETING

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.**

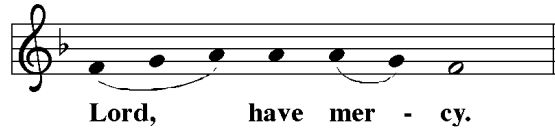
KYRIE



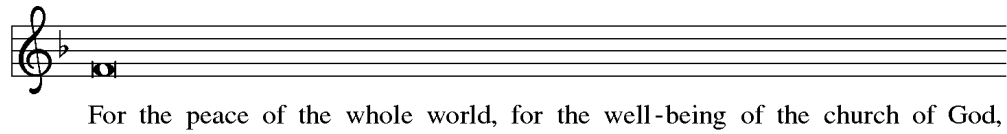
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



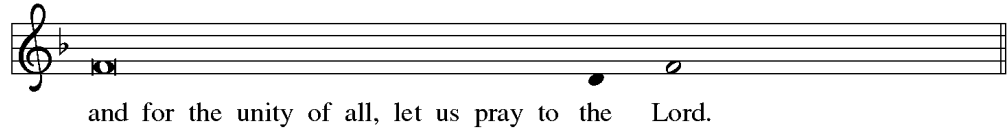
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



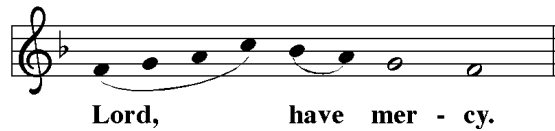
Lord, have mer - cy.



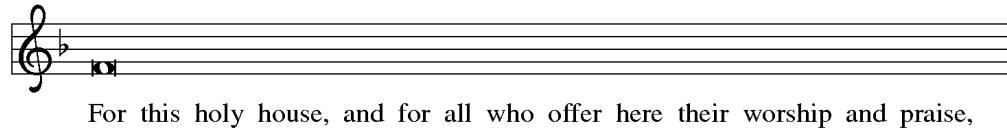
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



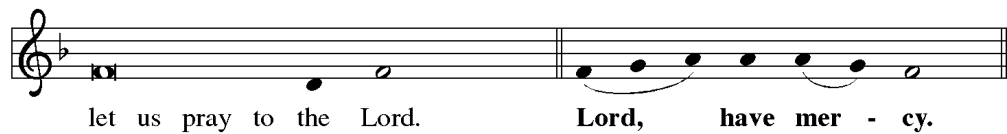
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



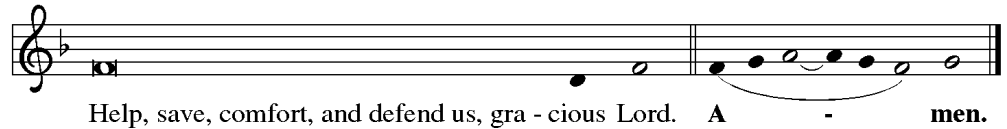
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."
²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"
³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."
⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"
⁵He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD."
⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."
⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."
¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."
¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."
¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

Spoken responsively

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

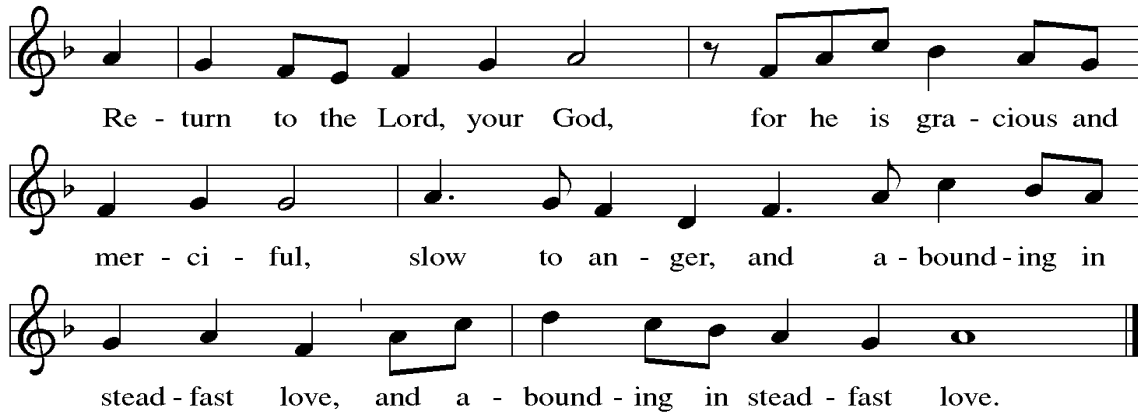
⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

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

GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my

sight.”¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided.¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind,²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

LAURIE JACKSON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you as the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of light from God proceeding, Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding, that our prayers and songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and adoration! Grant us what we need the most: all your gospel's consolation while we here on earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

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 Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day especially Charlotte O'Brien, Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth and David McGinnis. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our life-giver, we pray for our family and friends. We pray for Jake Kennedy and Carol Marker as they celebrate their birthdays and for Dave Quarnstrom, Jane Lewis, and Diane Bottorff as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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.

THANKSGIVING

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 O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

P May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious to us. May God look on us with favor and + give us peace. C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death* **ELW 452**

- 1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light; so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release, to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.
- 3 There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save; with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife. Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984. Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Believe in the good news. C **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Mar. 15	Community Relations meeting.....	9:30 AM
.....	Worship	10:30 AM
Mon., Mar. 16.....	Stroke Support Group.....	6.00 PM
Tues., Mar. 17	Quilters	9:00 AM
Wed., Mar. 18.....	Lenten Midweek worship @ OSLC.....	6:15 PM
.....	Soup Supper	5:30 PM
Thurs., Mar. 19	April Trinity Tidings deadline	
Sun., Mar. 22.....	Children's Sunday School.....	9:45 AM
.....	Worship	10:30 AM



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

Together in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

Caring for Our Neighbors

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)
Vice-President Steve Luoma (Administration)
Secretary Diane Bottorff (Congregational Life)
Treasurer Bob Kobbeman (Administration)
Troy Abbott (Administration) Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)
Parker Jackson (Congregational Life)
Curt Lewis (Maintenance) Howard Reece (Maintenance)