



Growing in faith and sharing Christ's love

The Messenger

A publication of
Faith Lutheran Church
Topeka, Kansas

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Why we worship midweek in Lent

A message from Jim Bender, senior pastor

I asked a Baptist turned Lutheran what she thought of her migration, after she had settled into things Lutheran. What excited her the most and gave her a new lease on her spiritual growth was the church year. She loved particularly, the season of Lent. I think we often take our faith heritage for granted and an "outsider's" view reminds us of the gifts that church life offers our spiritual growth.

Do you worship on the midweek Lenten services? Did you do so as a child? Have you fallen away from that practice? If so, how come?

Perhaps, these lyrics from Jonathan Rundman's song "Ashes" may remind us why we gather during Lent to prepare ourselves for Holy Week. The Bender family plays this song when Lent rolls around. Check his music out-- it comes from the album "Sound Theology."

*got ashes on my forehead
and i'm trying hard to learn
this dust that i have started from
is where i shall return
and i will follow out of love
'cause there is nothing i can earn
i got ashes on my forehead
and i'm trying hard to learn*

*sometime in the dead of winter
this Wednesday rolls around
we got purple on the altar
we got snow upon the ground*

*and this world starts spinning slower
and we sing some quiet songs
facing our mortality
and all that we done wrong*

*i got ashes on my forehead
and i'm trying hard to learn
this dust that i have started from
is where i shall return
and i will follow out of love
'cause there is nothing i can earn
i got ashes on my forehead
and i'm trying hard to learn*

*forty days in the wilderness
forty days on the ark
driving home this evening
i can still trace the mark
everybody sees the big sun setting
everybody rides the hearse
yeah, but you can't build up nothin'
'til you knock down somethin' first*

*i got ashes on my forehead
and i'm trying hard to learn
this dust that i have started from
is where i shall return
and i will follow out of love
'cause there is nothing i can earn
i got ashes on my forehead
and i'm trying hard to learn*

**Worship with us on Wednesdays
beginning Feb. 22 at either 5 or 7 p.m.
during the six weeks of Lent.**

**A meal will be served by the Youth
from 5:45-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall.**

'Light Castings' schedule of events

The congregation is invited to participate in any of these Light Castings sessions. You do not need to be in a Light Castings group. Questions? Contact Vicar Hugh.

Faith Talk — *"Remembering Your Story...Discovering God in It"*

All sessions will be the same.

- Sunday, Jan. 29, 3-5 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Prayer — *"Getting Closer with God through Prayer"*

- "Prayer 101" - Monday, Feb. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. (Rm 100)
- "Lord's Prayer Seminar" - Thursday, Feb. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. (Rm 100)
- Prayer Time - Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (sanctuary)
- Prayer Events - Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (around Topeka)

Service — Various service projects at Faith and in the community



WOMEN'S Selah LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 . 12-2 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

. APPETIZERS .
. CHICKEN CORDON BLEU WITH RICE .
. GREEN BEANS ALMONDINE . ROLL .
. DESSERT BAR .

. entertainment by Men's Quartet of Faith .
. gift give-aways . uniquely decorated tables .

**\$10 tickets available on Sundays in the lobby beginning Feb. 12
or in the church office anytime**

'Selah' is Hebrew often used in the Psalms. It means "stop and listen."

NEW **Phone System**

The church office finally has a new phone system with voice mail for each staff member. If you need to leave a message, you have the option to press the designated number anytime during the recorded greeting:

- 1 **Sharon Lowe**
- 2 **Linda Meyer**
- 3 **Audrey Duensing-Werner**
- 4 **Pastor Jim Bender**
- 5 **Marilyn Shults**
- 6 **Vicar Hugh Cranford**
- 7 **Don Bartling**
- 8 **Carolyn Watson**
- 9 **Linda Laird**
- 10 **General Message**

'Superbowl' gathers food for Doorstep

Doorstep of Topeka is filling their food pantry by collecting soup and crackers (and other non-perishable food). Bring food to church by Sunday, Feb. 5 and place in the designated bins in the Gathering Nook.

Also, on Wednesday, Feb. 29, Doorstep will have their annual Operation Soup Line fundraiser at the Kansas Expocentre's

Ag Hall, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8/ adults and free under age 5. Enjoy chili, vegetable beef or Portuguese green soup, dessert and a drink. Local celebrities will be serving the soup and entertaining the crowd plus bid on silent auction theme baskets. Delivery for pre-orders of 10+ is available by calling 357-5341 by Feb. 24.

Music prep begins for Lent, Easter season

Choirs and musicians will soon be preparing for Lent and Easter. The solemn tones of Lent will work their way toward the joyous harmony of the *Hallelujah Chorus* on Easter. The Adult Choir, directed by Linda Laird (286-0281 or masl6@cox.net) rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. The Alleluia Ringers handbell choir, directed by Barb

McComas (633-8220 or barb@kslclms.org) rehearses Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the bell room. Contact the directors with any questions.

The congregation will again join in singing *Holden's Evening Prayer* during the Wednesday evening Lenten Services. Your participation, along with all choirs and musicians, is indeed a blessing from God.

Senior Saints learn to write memoirs

Agnes Krezminski, member of Kansas Authors Group, will be the presenter when the Senior Saints meet on Thursday, Feb. 16. We all have a story to tell and Agnes will help us get started on writing our memoirs for our children and grandchildren. Enjoy a soup and salad lunch at 11:30 a.m. then stay for the fellowship and the presenter. Questions? Call Elaine Eggold, 232-9708, or Barb McComas, 233-7293.

Let's talk kids...

Children's Ministry News

For more on children's ministry, contact Marilyn at 272-4214 or marilyn4kids44@swbell.net.

WOW for February

- **Leaders of the Church: Feb. 15.** In celebration of the love and service offered by leaders at Faith, WOW will have a special "leaders" night. Children will learn about the many different ways people serve the Lord within the congregation such as trustees, altar guild, maintaining candles, music, pastoral care, education, Lay Leadership Council and Spiritual Life leaders. Do you love serving? Do you want to share how you serve with children? Contact the church office.
- During Lent, classes will attend 7:00 worship.

Themes and Menu

- 2/1 - "Let It Snow" - TBA (kid's choice)
- 2/8 - "Lotsa Love" - beef stew
- 2/15 - "Tell Me a Story" - soup/sandwiches
- 2/22 & 29 - Lent

First Bible Recognition

- During worship on Sunday, Feb. 12, parents will be blessing their children with a New International Reader's Version of the Bible. Parents have learned how to use this Bible with their kids and these beginning readers have learned the basics of studying scripture. May they be in the Word that these new Bibles become well worn.

How do I teach my child about...Baptism?

First, God commands us to baptism. At baptism the water is combined with God's Word to work forgiveness of sins, rescue us from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation. Baptism is a means of grace from God. Whether the water is sprinkled, poured or immersed at baptism, "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mark 16:16) What a gift! Life!

Second, what are some ways you can introduce and teach your child about baptism?

- Sit in church where you can see the baptism. Yes, it is okay to sit near the front! Children aren't required to be in the back pews. When you can see and are closer to where worship is being lead, children behave better.

- Have a story book about baptism in your home. One good book is "God Makes Me His Child In Baptism" by Wittenback (CPH).
- Celebrate your child's baptismal anniversary. You celebrate birthdays – this is even more important! Get out pictures, your child's baptismal candle, and talk about this special day. Invite the baptismal sponsors over for a meal. Have a bowl of water and after dipping your finger in the water, make the sign of the cross of each person's forehead as a remembrance of their baptism.

To help you remember your child's baptism, the children (ages 0-10) with February baptismal anniversaries are

listed below. In the next year, each month the baptismal dates will be listed. Celebrate the gift of life given at baptism!

February Baptism Anniversaries

Dawson Durkes	Feb 1
Eric Smith	Feb 10
Michael Brown	Feb 15
Caleb Hillrichs	Feb 15
Levi Wykert	Feb 17
Adam Kamprath	Feb 19
Lexi Smith	Feb 19
Ian Martin	Feb 22
Bryce Liedtke	Feb 24
Myles Alonzo	Feb 26
Tegan Killman	Feb 27
Brynne Liedtke	Feb 27
Alyssa Maxwell	Feb 28

New Year's resolutions--it's never too late for saving

It is February and many New Year's resolutions have already fallen by the wayside. But it's never too late to begin a good habit. For children of Faith, the habit of saving should be instilled at an early age. The LCEF K.I.D.S. Stamp Program is a great tool to help parents teach children to always save a portion of their allowance, money gifts, earned money, etc.

Stop by the stamp table at the foot of the stairs any Sunday and ask Barb for more information. For all those children who have begun a book, it is best to finish the book and get the money invested so it can earn interest and be accessible for use. Any partially filled book has no worth until it is filled and sent to LCEF in St. Louis. Feel free to ask Barb McComas (633-8220) for more information.

Thank-you Notes to the congregation...

Dear Members of Faith, I would like to thank members of Faith for their greetings, cards, kindnesses, and the many ways they have provided support to me as my mother passed away on New Year's Eve. Coming back to Topeka was made easy knowing that people filled in for me as needed so I could remain an extra week in Wisconsin. So many cared for me in so many ways. Thanks especially to Pastor Jim, the bell choir and Linda Meyer, the ladies of Eve Circle, and too many others to name. God bless the caring community that is Faith Lutheran Church.
~ Barb McComas

Faith Lutheran Church, We have had the pleasure of seeing children in the Rescue Mission Medical Clinic receive your stuffed animals. They receive them with such joy and surprise and they always say thank you. I appreciated so much being able to clean and wrap the gently used stuffed animals that you gave me. As I receive more I will deliver them to the Rescue Mission.
~ Carol Olson

Dear Faith Lutheran congregation, We want to thank all who sent birthday cards to Bernice Dettke for her 103rd Birthday. She had a really good day, and has enjoyed having all of the cards read to her. Thank you for your kindness, and also your visits to her.
~ Greg (grandson) and Brenda Schmidt

Dear Faith, Thank you for the beautiful gift of a poinsettia. I look at it everyday and it gives me great joy knowing my Faith family remembered me at Christmas.
~ Renata Rodehorst

Dear Faith members, I would like to thank all of the congregation--you made such a difference in so many lives during the Christmas holiday. Our members of Sunshine Connection greatly appreciated your generosity. Thanks to Nancy Kinney for coordinating the gifts. The Junior Youth and their parents did an awesome job with sponsoring the Christmas party. Dale & Sue Larson headed up the stuffing of the Christmas socks which Sunshine members greatly enjoy. Thanks to Vicar Hugh for taking pictures during the party. And, of course, the hit of the Christmas party was Santa, played by Tim Schmidt with assistance from his wife, Lori. A special thanks to Audrey Duensing-Werner for overseeing the celebration. I truly appreciate the continued support over the years.
~Judy Thompson, Sunshine Connection

Faith Lutheran Church, At Topeka Habitat for Humanity, it's all about providing decent and affordable homes for families in need in Topeka, one family at a time. Faith Lutheran Church's generous contribution of \$292.62 will not only help Topeka Habitat purchase necessary materials that will not only build the home of a family in need, but also assist in the education and community participation of high school and technical school students that are seeking an education in construction. We want to say thank you on behalf of the families and students you will have helped with your contribution and for being such faithful partners.
~ Michelle De La Isla, executive director of Topeka Habitat for Humanity

Sunday School Offerings for this month

The February Sunday School offerings will go to Lutheran Hour Ministries. LHM produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach unchurched people in the United States and more than 30 other countries. If you would like to donate but don't attend Sunday education, place donation in the offering plate, marked "February SS offering."





Circle Meeting Schedule

In January, LWML Circles met on some spring-like days for Bible study and fellowship. Join us anytime, there are “no strings attached” if you want to drop in and learn about Lutheran Women in Mission. In February, Circles will meet the following dates and times:

- **Ruth Circle** – Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor; hostess Eva Brunkow. Contact Karlea Landman, 266-4467
- **Eve Circle** – Feb. 13, 7 p.m.; hosted by Connie Crowder, 3838 SW 39th St, 220-0225.
- **Miriam Circle** – Feb. 14, 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor; hostess Sylvia Borghardt & Edwina Craver-Hamersky. Contact Lavonna Creviston, 271-5510

- **Deborah Circle** – Feb. 21, 7 p.m. hosted by Idell Dankert, 2408 SW Prairie Rd., 273-1936.

Lutheran World Relief Quilting

Quilting dates are Feb. 13 and 27 for Lutheran World Relief quilts. No experience needed... we can always use more hands for assembling and tying quilts. Join us anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Bring a sack lunch if you plan on staying through the lunch hour. Your time and donations of material are greatly appreciated.

Mite Box

On Feb. 12 we will have the large Mite Box available for your donations. Consider placing loose change in the box that day.



Traditional Worship Greeters (8:00 / 11:00)

5 th	Dean & Karlea Landman	TBA
12 th	Eric & Michelle Boling	Wayne & Maurine Owen
19 th	Doug Chitwood & Don Bartling	Gary & Sherrie Dick
26 th	John Barrett & Mary Shaw	Gene & Irma Straub

Traditional Worship Lay Readers (8:00 / 11:00)

5 th	Audrey Duensing-Werner	
12 th	Jacki Theis	Steve Rosel
19 th	Lillian Rexford	Paul Bowers
26 th	Idell Dankert	Jim Janousek

Traditional Acolytes (8:00 / 11:00)

5 th	Eric Hoyt / Ali Fowler	Jacob Schwartz / Barrett Robertson
12 th	Austin Kennard / Trey Cipolla	Bryce & Adison Stallons
19 th	Emily Schwant / Quincy Summers	Elyse Myers / Nora Westjord
26 th	Jacob Conwell / Alec Taylor	Nathan Leonard / Ben Reynolds

Traditional Worship Ushers

8:00 -	Rod Bleich (h), Barb, Mark, Matthew Bleich
11:00 -	Phil Gutierrez (h), Wayne Owen, Josh Welge, Jason Crouch

Traditional Worship Communion

8:00 -	Don Bartling (SLL), Jan Lyle, Barb McComas, John Barrett
11:00 -	Jan Hoover (SLL), Jeff Lane, Janet Zima, Eddie Fowler

Contemporary Service Teams

5 th -	Dale & Sue Larson
12 th -	Shaw/McComas
19 th -	Don Bartling
26 th -	Larry & Jolene Saunders

Weekly Money Counters

(counting time: 8:00 a.m.)

Glenn Anschutz,
Rich & Barb Mesloh

Altar Guild

Preparation: Karen Bosch (leader),
Connie Widdell

Cover After: Connie & Fred Crowder,
Terri Bynum



Members' Change of Address:

Gladys Johnson

1031 SW Fleming Ct, Rm 121 66604

Bernice Dettke

1031 SW Fleming Ct, Rm 104B 66604

Lavonna Creviston

4200 SW Drury Ln, Apt. 222 66604

Darlene Miller

4950 SW Huntoon #135 66604

Funerals/Deaths:

1/7 - Leota Williams

1/20 - Bill Sparks

1/14 - Joshua Snow

Baptisms:

1/15 - Alaina Joy Carlson

daughter of Jessica & Kristopher Carlson

1/15 - Hope Nichole Yingling

daughter of Nichole & Brady Yingling

Lead Staff:

Jim Bender, senior pastor
pastorjim@swbell.net, 806-7590

Marilyn Shults, dir. of children's min.
marilyn4kids44@swbell.net

Audrey Duensing-Werner,
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audreydce@swbell.net

Hugh Cranford, vicar
hugh.cranford@gmail.com

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Don Bartling, office administrator
donbartling@swbell.net

Sharon Lowe, receptionist/office
sharonlowe@swbell.net

Linda Meyer, communications/office
lindamsecretary@swbell.net

Carolyn Watson, bookkeeper/office
carowat@swbell.net

Auxiliary:

Martin Albrecht, lay deacon
mkalbrecht77@gmail.com

Jeff Lane, lay deacon
wjpolane@sbcglobal.net

Paul Klotz, lay deacon
pmklotzmr@att.net

Mary Shaw, parish assistant
mjshaw831@cox.net

Linda Laird, organist/music director
masl6@cox.net, 286-0281

Stephanie Erickson, ELC director
FaithEarlyLearningCenter@
hotmail.com, 272-1070

Jennifer Turner, TLS principal
turner@topek Lutheran.org

Office Hours:

M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun 9-9:30 and 10:30-11 a.m.

Sunday Worship:

8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary
6 p.m. - Contemporary Liturgical

Education for all ages:

Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.
Wednesdays (Sep-Apr) - 5:30 p.m.

The Messenger is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church. **The March edition deadline is Feb. 20.** Send to Editor Linda Meyer, via e-mail, mail or drop off at the church office.

**Faith Lutheran Church**

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Address Service Requested**For Your Information...****TLS Foundation invites you to Annual Dinner/Dance**

Topeka Lutheran School Foundation is hosting their 2nd Annual Sweetheart Dinner & Dance on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Top of the Tower Restaurant, 534 S Kansas, 16th Floor. Reservations required, black tie (optional) jacket required. Seating is limited so RSVP by Jan. 31 to TLS Foundation, 701 SW Roosevelt, Topeka KS 66606. Doors open at 5 p.m. for registration, silent auction and complimentary photo, dinner at 6:00 followed by entertainment and message. Dancing begins at 8:00 featuring the Topeka Big Band. \$30 per person or \$55 per couple. Come with an appetite, dancing shoes and your generosity--all donations will benefit Grant-In-Aid helping with student tuition. Questions? Call 580.9216.

Lutheran Fine Arts Council highlights two concerts

The 65-member LUTHER COLLEGE NORDIC CHOIR from Decorah, Iowa, will be in concert at Grace Cathedral on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Craig Arnold. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and may be purchased at Grace Cathedral or www.luthertickets.com, or 800-4-LUTHER. Questions, contact Steve Burk, 235-3457.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY, Concordia University River Forest, Ill. will be performing at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd, on March 9 at 7 p.m. The 60-member symphony is under the direction of Dr. Richard Fischer. Free will offering.