



## A weekly publication of Faith Lutheran Church

Affiliated with The Lutheran Church--  
Missouri Synod

1716 SW Gage Blvd  
Topeka KS 66604

### Church office:

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 9-9:30, 10:30-11 a.m.

E-mail: [flctop@swbell.net](mailto:flctop@swbell.net)

Phone: 785.272.4214

Fax: 785.272.1046

### Early Learning Center

Mon-Fri: 7:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Phone: 785.272.1070

E-mail: [FaithEarlyLearningCenter@hotmail.com](mailto:FaithEarlyLearningCenter@hotmail.com)

### For more information, visit us on the Web:

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

### Publications for print from our Web site:

- Weekend Updates
- Monthly Messengers

### Welcome visitors

Please stop by the "Welcome Center" in the room off the lobby for information brochures.

### Sunday worship

- 8 and 11 a.m. - traditional
- 9:30 a.m. - contemporary
- 6:00 p.m. - cont. liturgical

### Education for all ages

- 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.
- Look for posters listing options

## Today in worship

**Fourth Sunday in Advent** We continue the season of Advent, the period of expectant waiting for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. On the fourth Sunday we light the last purple candle that symbolizes "love." The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. We light the candles of the Advent wreath as we pray for the Holy Spirit to calm our spirits and to prepare our hearts for the coming Christ.

## What *Child* Is This

### CHORAL EUCHARIST

Come to the Choral Eucharist...  
A music-filled communion worship

### TONIGHT at 6:00

The Cherub Choir, Treble Makers, Alleluia Ringers will participate along with the Adult Choir presenting John Leavitt's cantata, "What Child Is This" with orchestra and harp accompaniment. Sign interpreted for the Deaf.



## Holiday Worship Schedule

### Christmas Eve - Saturday, Dec. 24

- **4:00 p.m.** - Jesus' Birthday Party (worship for families with young children). Sign interpreted for Deaf.
- **5:30 p.m.** - Traditional family worship with communion. Prelude music begins 30 minutes prior.
- **8:30 & 10:30 p.m.** - Candlelight worship with communion. Prelude music begins 30 minutes prior to each service. Sign interpreted for Deaf at 8:30.

**Christmas Day - Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.** (no regular worship or Sunday School)

**New Year's Day - Jan. 1** (worship at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.) No Sunday School or 6 p.m. worship. No New Year's Eve worship.

## CALENDAR: This week at Faith

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	Worship
	9:30	Worship
	9:30 & 10:45	Education Hours
	11:00	Worship
	6:00 pm	Choral Eucharist
<b>Mon</b>	5:30 pm	Deacons Study
	6:30	Webelos
	7:00	Boy Scouts
<b>Thur</b>	7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri</b>	Church office closes at noon	
<b>Sat</b>	4:00 pm	Worship for young children (Birthday Party for Jesus)
	5:30	Christmas Eve Worship
	8:30	Candlelight Worship
	10:30	Candlelight Worship
<b>Sun</b>	10:00	Christmas Day Worship



### Lead Staff:

- Jim Bender, *senior pastor*  
pastorjim@swbell.net or 806-7590 (c)
- Marilyn Shults, *director of children's ministry*  
marilyn4kids44@swbell.net
- Audrey Duensing-Werner, *director of Christian education*  
audreydce@swbell.net
- Hugh Cranford, *vicar*  
hugh.cranford@gmail.com
- Stephanie Erickson, *Early Learning Center director*  
faithearlylearningcenter@hotmail.com or 272-1070

### Support Staff:

- Don Bartling, *office administrator*, donbartling@swbell.net
- Carolyn Watson, nylorac45@aol.com
- Sharon Lowe, sharonsecretary@hotmail.com
- Linda Meyer, lindamsecretary@swbell.net

### Lay Deacons & Parish Assistant:

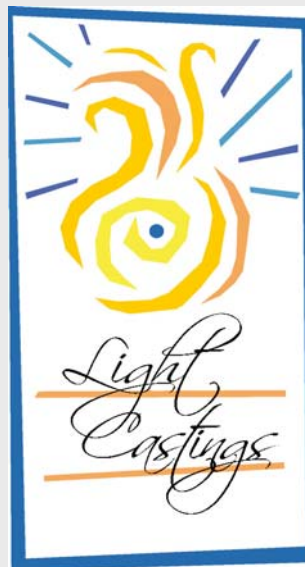
- Martin Albrecht, mkalbrecht77@gmail.com
- Paul Klotz, pmklotzmr@att.net
- Jeff Lane, wjpolane@sbcglobal.net
- Mary Shaw, mjshaw831@cox.net

## Are You Experiencing the Christmas Blues?

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Jan Hoover or Barb McComas.

***Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!***

**Blue Christmas Service** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 36<sup>th</sup> and Wanamaker, invites you to a special service of hope for those hurting emotionally and spiritually during the Christmas season, Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. This service includes special music, scripture readings, meditation, a time of prayer and anointing, and celebration of communion. Stephen ministers will be available for support. For more information, call Prince of Peace at 271-0808.



We aren't even through the Christmas season and already we look forward to the season of Epiphany and the light that is shown to us through this season. During this season we will be having a sermon series about the Light shown by God through our lives. There will be information coming to each household in the coming weeks. Please take a moment in the busyness of Christmas and read it. We ask that you would join others in the church in living out the vision of this church through this endeavor.

## Community Calendar

**Drive-In Light Show** Topeka Bible Church, 11th & Mulvane, continues their Light Show TODAY. The 15-minute show will be held at 6:00, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, and 9:00 p.m. The music of live vocal and instrumental musicians visible in several windows on the south side of the 3-story church building will be coordinated with the 175 channels of flashing rope lights, LED lights, and mini Christmas lights. The free show will take place in the church's south parking lot. Traffic attendants will be on hand to direct vehicles. Guests can stay in their car and hear the music through a car radio.

**Christmas Event** Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2104 Bob Billings Parkway, Lawrence, is holding a FREE event for children and families called "Bethlehem Express," TODAY, 5-6:30 p.m. This program is a takeoff of the beautiful story "Polar Express" but instead the destination is Bethlehem. Come sing, touch, taste and hear the REAL Christmas story.



### **Invitation to Communion**

*Especially at this time of year, we have many visitors in our communion worship services. Here is a helpful resource to prepare your heart for the Lord's meal:*

You are welcome to Communion. Prior to communing, we should examine our hearts as directed in I Cor. 11:28, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." Do you acknowledge your kinship with your brothers and sisters in Christ at this communion rail and do you set aside any refusal to forgive? Do you desire to live a God pleasing life? Are you aware of your sin and your need of God's forgiveness? If so, and you believe that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine through his body and blood, you are welcome to commune in this fellowship of believers in Christ. Children are invited forward for a blessing. If sensitive to wine, clear grape juice is available in the center of the tray. Welcome to this foretaste of the feast to come.

## F.Y.I.

**Ushers for 2012** Are you interested in serving as an usher at the 8:00 or 11:00 a.m. service? Openings are available in either service so you can serve when you usually attend. If you can smile and greet folks you already are qualified. We serve on teams responsible for two months of the year and this is an excellent opportunity to be involved and helping at church. Call the church office or visit with an usher. All are welcome.

**Adult Choir Rehearsal** for Christmas worship will be Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:00 p.m. (not 7:30).

**Dinner for Eight** Sign up this month to participate in this fellowship opportunity running January through June. See the sheet posted on the Information Center in the lobby or contact Gina Brewer at 478-9842 or [ginadbrewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ginadbrewer@sbcglobal.net) by Jan. 1.

**Holiday Outreach** Stop by the Gathering Nook Room and pick up a pamphlet or postcard found on the counter to give to family or friends.

**Men's Basketball** Pick-up games of basketball continue Mondays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Topeka Lutheran School (701 Roosevelt). Contact Chris Meyer, 273-7352 or [meyer@ksdot.org](mailto:meyer@ksdot.org).

**2012 Envelopes** If you regularly used offering envelopes this past year, pick up your new box in the lobby. We only printed a limited number to save costs. If you didn't get assigned a box but would like one for the next year, contact Sharon in the church office and we can get one to you.

# Grow in Faith. Share Christ's love. *A thought about our vision*

**Relational Living--** David is mentioned. Elizabeth is mentioned. The son in her womb (John the baptist) is mentioned, Joseph is mentioned, Jesus is even named. As heart-pounding and confusing as this revelation was to Mary, these familiar names put this strange thing in a familiar context. We know it as the story of salvation.

[italics] = new prayer this week

**OUR MEMBERS**

**John & Cathy Kissling**, at the birth of a granddaughter, Quinn Louise Holton, born to Stacy & Regan

**Ed Richardson**, at the death of his sister, Norma Livingston

**Karen Figge**, hospitalized with health issues

**Pastor Norb Wodtke**, recovering from back surgery

**Joe Pinter**, recovering from knee surgery

**Hayden Frederick**, recovering from tonsillectomy

**Yvonne Hamilton**, recovering from surgery

**Wanda Barrett**, recovering from surgery

**Betsy Hawkins**, upcoming job interview

**Curt Loupe**, recovering from surgery

**Jeni Moss**, health concerns

**Joy Umscheid**, extended hospitalization

**Nicole Giancana**, extended hospitalization

**Gladys Johnson**, back injury from fall

**Merrilee Kuhn**, recovering from surgery

**Freddie Stamm**, health issues

**Bob Eggold**, health concerns

**Janet Kaiser**, health issues

If you or an immediate family member are entering the hospital, call the church office at 272-4214 so a staff member may visit/pray with you.

**FAMILY-FRIENDS**

**Mildred Schmanke**, mother of Shirley Pryor and Mary Schroeder, under hospice care

**Bill & Dorothy Fosler**, parents of Joni Cattoor, on-going health issues

**Tabitha & Tom**, niece of Betsy Hawkins, pending birth of first child

**Jerry**, uncle of Betsy Hawkins, recovering from knee replacement

**Bob Hogg**, uncle of Michael, recovering from cancerous tumor removed on lung

**Tim Heiney**, missionary in Guinea, recovering from surgery to remove kidney due to cancer

When a name is submitted in this "Family and Friends" section, it will be printed for three weeks. If you would like to continue the name on the prayer list, please contact the church office through phone, e-mail or prayer card.

**CANCER or Long-term ILLNESS**

**FAITH MEMBERS:**

**Frances Braun**      **Kay Kemp**  
**Jeff Kuhn**         **Barb McComas**  
**Bill Sparks**        **Norm Sawyer**

**FAMILY & FRIENDS of MEMBERS:**

**Waymond Alumbaugh**, father of Wayne  
**Bob Hogrefe**, father of Kim Hernandez  
**Pat Miller**, mother of Ann Shelton  
**Betty**, mother-in-law of Betsy Hawkins  
**Nancy**, step-mother of Vici Hummell  
**Sarah Ybarra**, daughter of Karen Elsen  
**Dan Richardson**, son of Ed  
**Randy Flanagan**, son of Marty  
**Richard Wilms**, son of Norm & Clarene

**David Wehmeier**, brother of Darrell  
**Lyle Figge**, brother of Myron  
**Mike**, brother of Dee Bowman  
**Barb Miller**, sister of Kathy Thomason  
**Betty**, sister of Chuck Urban  
**Carol Wilde**, sister of Barb McComas  
**Cecile Penney**, sister of Goodings  
**Bill Adkins**, brother-in-law of Charlotte Campbell  
**Mike**, brother-in-law of Zimas  
**Shaun**, uncle of Vici Hummell  
**Joseph McGee**, nephew of Gwen Lehman  
**Marc Teske**, nephew of Jan Williams and Dolores & Verle Kufahl  
**John**, cousin of Jane Nelson

**Kelsey Kataret**, cousin of Sandra Raney  
**Cindy Hammond**, relative of Hullons  
**Adam**, friend of Jessica Atchison  
**Bill**, friend of Laurie Charay  
**Bryan**, friend of Kelly Burke  
**Jenny**, friend of Connie Widdell  
**Jeanne & Laura**, friends of Sandy Sweet  
**Laura**, friend of Diana Beitz  
**Liese**, friend of Mardi Long  
**Jim**, friend of Zimas  
**Nancy & Judy**, friends of Shirley Martin  
**Sabrina**, friend of Amy Dunton  
**Tanya**, friends of Jennifer Harris  
**Kayla**, child-friend of Kate Culbertson

**actively DEPLOYED**

**Matt Campbell**, fiancé of Starla Theimer  
**Joshua Schultz**, son of Gene & Peg  
**Brian Jordan**, son of Larry

**Chuck Taylor**, brother of Dave  
**Joel Gaston**, brother of Juli Mazachek  
**Kyle Long**, grandson of Oren & Karolyn Sharp

**Dane Sorensen**, nephew of Nancy Rhone  
**Tom Palenske**, brother-in-law of Juli Mazachek  
**Josh Gibbs**, friend of Harris family

**IN SERVICE & MISSION**

**Spiritual Life Leaders**  
**Stephen Ministers**  
**Lay Deacons**  
**Topeka Lutheran School & CYC**  
**Faith Early Learning Center**

**Children's Christian Concern Society**  
**Heiney and Carlos families** (missionaries to Guinea)  
**Kory & Cara Fay and family**, LBT  
**LINC Ministry** Dallas, TX

**Outreach/Ministry to Washburn University**  
**Those preparing for church work:** Christina Seva, Amie Zillinger, David Hale  
**Those in college and preparing for life's work**

If you are submitting a prayer request for someone other than yourself for this publication, please be sure to get their permission. If you submit a card for prayer in a worship service, please indicate that you want it in this publication. If you would like your prayer included on the Prayer Chain, call Bobbie Nixon (272-7845) or Eva Brunkow (272-2102).