



Messenger

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Topeka, Kansas

March—2023

volume 63 . issue 3

a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

As the calendar turned to 1958 the members of Faith Lutheran Church were blessed to see their congregation grow exponentially over the 10 years since its founding. At the beginning of 1958 there were 402 communicate members and 694 baptized members. The growth of the congregation physically was a reflection of their faithfulness to the mission and message of Christ.

Although June of 1958 came and went with no public service of celebration for the 10th Anniversary of the congregation that is perhaps because greater things were in the works. In January of 1958 the leadership of the congregation announced that they were embarking on a \$170,000 (roughly 1.7 Million today) pledge drive “to add its permanent church unit to the first edifice what was erected at the time of the congregation’s organization in 1948. The first spade of dirt will be turned in the spring of 1958 and construction will be completed within a year.”

Although it took a little longer than expected, with the complete \$170,000 pledged and plans with the architect complete, the congregation voted unanimously on July 1, 1958, to move forward with construction of the new sanctuary. On Sunday July 6, 1958, at 10:00am the congregation gathered together for a groundbreaking ceremony that would provide a new worship space, one that we still use and worship in today.

As the groundbreaking ceremony began, Rev. Paul Heckmann prayed:

Whereas, by the grace of God, we are permitted to begin the erection of a new church at this place, with this spade I now break this ground in the name of the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, in Order that the building which shall here be constructed may serve as a place where our God will record His name, where His honor will dwell, and where He will come unto His children and bless them.

Following Pastor breaking the ground first several members also joined in turning the dirt with specific and directed prayers.

(The Head of the Building Committee) As I turn this spade of earth, may we be reminded in the task before us of the command as well as the promise of the Lord of the Church, ‘Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.’ (1 Cor. 15:58)

As I turn this spade of earth, it is with the prayer that we as a church will never be ‘...ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.’ (Romans 1:16)



LENT

Join us for
Wednesday
night worship at
5:00 and 7:00
as we journey
through
“Promised
Treasurers”

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As I turn this spade of earth, may it serve to remind us as members of the church of our purpose in this world, 'Ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.' (Acts 1:8)

As I turn this spade of earth, may we as members of the Church be reminded of our duty toward our community, in the words of the Book of Proverbs, 'By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted; but is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.' (Proverbs 11:11)

As I turn this spade of earth, it is with the prayer that we will heed the Lord's world-encircling command, 'Go ye unto all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.' (Mark 16:15)

(For the children of the church) As I turn this spade of earth, may it remind us of our solemn duty to 'feed the lambs' of the Savior's flock, for He Himself has said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God.' (Mark 10:14)

(For the youth of the church) I turn this spade of earth for the youth of the church. May they find in this new building opportunities for growth in Christian knowledge and growth in Christian service, for then shall be fulfilled the appeal of the Psalmist, 'Both young men and maidens,...let them praise the name of the Lord.' (Psalm 148:12 – 13)

(For the women of the church) I turn this spade of earth for the women of the church, with the prayer that we may ever seek to 'serve the Lord with gladness.' (Psalm 100:2)

(For the men of the church) I turn this spade of earth for the men of the church, reminding us that we are only strong when we are 'strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.' (Ephesians 6:10)

(For the choirs of the church) I turn this spade of earth for the choirs of the church. May God continue to bless us with the gift of such who will fill these future hallowed courts with anthems of praise, for He Himself has said, 'Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord.' (Eph. 5:19)

(For the founders of the church) This groundbreaking service today reminds us particularly, the founders of this congregation, of the truth of the Savior's pledge and promise, 'My word shall not return unto Me void.' (Isaiah 55:11)

(Architect) When this building is completed, may we say with Jacob, 'This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' (Genesis 28:17)

(Builder) The Psalmist reminds us, 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. (Psalm 127:1). With this in mind, we pray God's benediction upon those will labor in the erection of this building.

As we celebrate 75 years of ministry in Topeka this year we echo these prayers. We know that it is not the building that we worship, but rather it is the one who we meet in this building, Jesus Christ Himself that we worship. We are truly grateful to those leaders and visionaries that have gone before us to provide a place to worship. They left us a legacy, and we are called to go forward in faith to continue living as disciples who bring Christ to people and people to the church!

In Christ's Hands,

Pastor Jacob

Update from our treasurer. . .

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS

- Donations for January were \$76,393 and expenses were \$75,866 resulting in a net *positive* balance for January of \$527.
- January donations are \$29,112 *below* 2022 and \$34,676 *below* projected.
- January expenses are \$15,542 *less* than 2022, and \$22,615 *below* budget.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and concerns during my recovering.

Roger Matzke

Are you joining us on our Journey? If you're not, it's not too late to join. We welcome new "walkers" any time.

Hopefully you're following along to all the places we're visiting. If you haven't picked up the handout each week, they are available at the table under the TV monitors in the lobby. These handouts include some really interesting facts about the places we are visiting on our journey.

A highlight of a few of the places we've visited:

Week one took us to St. Louis, where we visited the Concordia Seminary and the LCMS Synodical headquarters. Our Sunday School and mission offerings for January and February went to Concordia Seminary to help students studying to become Pastors. We then stopped for a visit in Perry County, Missouri, which is considered the birthplace of the founding of the LCMS. We made a stop at the Port of New Orleans where the Saxon Lutheran immigration of 1838-1939 immigrants were among the original founders of the LCMS. From there we ventured to Williamston, Kentucky to see the Ark Encounter and then over to Petersburg to the Creation Museum.

Week two brought us to New York City. The Atlantic District governs the LCMS churches in New York. Their mission is "Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope." Then we took to the skies over the Atlantic Ocean.

Week three we arrived in Dublin, Ireland. We learned a little about the Irish Saint Patrick and his influence on the Christian church. Then we headed to Edinburgh, Scotland. Edinburgh boasts many historical sites. We three also were able to learn about several important hymn writers, including Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, John Wesley and Samuel Wesley.

Week four took us first to Wittenberg, Germany. Here we were able to learn more about Martin Luther. Luther's home in Wittenberg still stands as does the Castle Church. From there we headed 296 miles south to Augsburg, Germany. Augsburg is important on our Journey to Jerusalem as this is where Martin Luther refused to recant his writings and beliefs even at the risk of being declared a heretic and put to death. Augsburg is also the location where the Augsburg Confession was presented in 1530. This document contains 28 articles that set forth what Lutherans believe, teach and confess.

We'll be visiting Greece, then onto Galatia, Ephesus, Rome and Madrid, Spain in the coming weeks

Keep walking, as it's going to take all of us to get to Jerusalem before Easter!

Thank you to Jennifer, Jacki and Pat for coordinating this effort for us. If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Jennifer Steere-Offerman, 785-220-0006 or jennso@cox.net

Jacki Theis, 785-221-4526 or trilbyt@cox.net

Pat Schultz, 785-633-8763 or tiredmompls@aol.com



YOUTH

Junior youth will be hosting coffee fellowship on Sunday, March 12 beginning at 8:30am.

Senior youth will be hosting coffee fellowship on Sunday, March 19 beginning at 8:30am.

Junior and senior youth will be on the All Youth Retreat on March 3-5. There will be no Youth Bible Study on Sunday, March 5 as the youth will still be on retreat.

SENIOR SAINTS will be meeting on Thursday, March 16 at 11:30am for lunch and a presentation- hopefully from Hazel Hill!

FAMILY LIFE

Chili Cook-Off: Join us on Wednesday, March 15 for our third Annual Chili Cook-Off! Chili will be served from 5:30-6:45pm. Scan the QR code to enter your chili into the cook-off and have a chance of winning our coveted Chili Cook-Off trophy!



Easter Eggstravaganza: Our annual Easter Eggstravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 8 from 10am-1pm! Children up to 5th grade are invited to join us to hear the story of the real

meaning of Easter through story, games, and activities! (**Junior and senior youth will be hosting this event. Youth need to arrive no later than 9am to begin set-up.**)



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Doorstep

Doorstep wants to thank everyone who donated soup and crackers during their Souper Bowl Sunday food collection. Faith contributed a total of 526 pounds towards the total goal of 5000 pounds. A can of soup can be a warm meal or two, and your generous donations help stock the food pantry.

Thanks also to Faith's Eve Circle who collected 248 food items to add to the congregation's Soup & Cracker donations. (Perhaps you noticed the food pyramid in the narthex) Their drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier Gift of \$150 to Doorstep from Thrivent Member Network-Kansas Missouri Region.

Like many organizations, Doorstep is in the process of finding a 'new normal' now that pandemic restrictions have

eased. Changes will mean more in-person services, and more people seeking food and clothing.

Your gently used spring clothes and household items will be appreciated.

Currently, the clothing room is especially short of the following:

- Small Appliances (toasters, coffee pots, hand mixers, etc.)
- Hand can openers
- Mens' jeans
- Mens' sweat pants
- Women's sweat pants
- Boys' jeans
- Girls' jeans

Donations can be brought to church and left in the gathering nook.

Christ calls us to reach out in love and compassion to our neighbors. Your donations support those in our community who need a little extra help!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

KansaSeed is a ministry of the LCMS Kanas District

Planting the Gospel in the Deaf community . . . One seed at a time

GOALS:

- ♦ Training Deaf leaders to evangelize
- ♦ Reaching out to members of the deaf community and their families, striving to meet their needs.
- ♦ Raising awareness of the unique needs of the Deaf, particularly the barriers to participating in corporate worship and Christian education.
- ♦ Training qualified interpreters..
- ♦ Calling a pastor to serve as a missionary to the Deaf in Kansas.



TOPEKA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

701 SW Roosevelt | 785-357-0382 | TopekaLutheran.org

Dear Father in Heaven: We come before You today with thankful hearts for all the blessings You shower on us here at Topeka Lutheran School. We do not deserve Your bountifulness since we constantly ignore Your Word and daily sin against not only You but our neighbors, our children and each other. As sinners, we are completely helpless to extract ourselves from this condition, but thanks be to You that You gave us the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ who took our rightful place on the cross, died and rose again to assure our place in Heaven with You forever. For this we gratefully thank You and pray in Christ's Holy Name, Amen.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The year-end of 2022 marked the closing of the capital campaign fundraiser. Included with this newsletter is a letter from the Campaign Directors Darrel and Kim Savage as well as a summary of the campaign, gifts received and goals met. The Board of Directors of LSAT and Foundation would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Savage for their leadership and dedication to this important campaign. Thank you also to all the GGC team leaders and volunteers who generously gave their time and talents during this campaign.



THANK YOU!

To Athletic Director Blake Ramsey for organizing and managing the 71st annual TLS Basketball Tournament, to PTL officers and families who volunteered to help with concessions, and to the officials, coaches, parents and players. The tournament proved to be another exciting and competitive event. Thank you also to TLS families and friends who stopped by to support our young players!

To Mrs. Balch and Mrs. Sorensen for organizing and staffing the Kindergarten Step-Up enrollment event held late February. An update on enrollment will be provided at a later date.

To the generous donors who made special gifts to reduce enrollment fees for the new kindergarten families.

TLS GGC BUILDING UPGRADE COMMITTEE

This committee will proceed with approved security and campus upgrades with plans for completion in 2023. The Committee was requested to temporarily delay the upgrades, due to several immediate facility needs - separate from the Building Upgrade Committee's approved projects - which the TLS governing boards are reviewing to prioritize and determine next steps. Additional information will be announced in the very near future.

FROM PRINCIPAL JOHNSON

Enrollment events for K-8 for next school year are being scheduled and families will be notified as soon as details are final. If you know of a family or friend with child(ren) who would be interested in learning more about TLS, please have them call the school office (785) 357-0382 to schedule a tour or a visit with TLS faculty.

"TLS Enrolling Now" yard signs are available at no charge. Call or stop by the school office to pick one up for your front yard. CYC/Jr. Wildcats Preschool and Day Care operation will remain open during Spring Break, week of March 13-17.

A number of TLS students will be participating in the St. John's Music Academy Spring Recital scheduled for Sun., April 2 at 4pm at St. John's Luther Hall. We hope many of you can attend!

Mrs. Brenda Schwartz, teacher of Grade 2/3 combined classes, has resigned effective the end of 2022-2023 school year. We want to thank her for her dedication and love of teaching and will keep her in our prayers as she embarks on new endeavors. TLS is looking for a volunteer photographer to take professional photos of students, groups, activities, etc., which we would use for the TLS website, for marketing brochures and materials, and for social media. If photography is your hobby or interest and you have a flexible schedule, we would love to visit with you! Please contact Marlene at (785) 357-1468.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3: Family Reading Night 5:00 - 7:00pm,

March 5: TLS Sunday at St. John's Lutheran Church

March 13-17: Spring Break, No School -

Classes will resume Monday, March 20

March 27: PTL Meeting at 6:00pm

April 25: TLS Spring Concert K-8 at 6:30pm

April 29: Luke Savage Memorial Golf Benefit for TLS



LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

Oh come, let us sing to
the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise

DEBORAH CIRCLE will meet March 21 at 7pm at the church. Judie Mlynek is the hostess and has the topic.

EVE CIRCLE Eve Circle met February 13th to complete the "Food Shelf Challenge" of collecting at least 150 non-perishable food items for Doorstep. The final count was 248! With this, Thrivent will donate \$150 to Doorstep as well! Eve Circle added their food donations to the big pyramid of items collected from the Congregation. The next Circle meeting will be at Church, on March 13th at 5:30 - to clean the kitchen, have a pizza party, devotions and a discussion of their next service project.

HANNAH CIRCLE .If there are any women at Faith interested in joining an LWML circle, you are more than welcome to join

Hannah circle at any of their events. Contact Claire Banion for more information

- March 11 - Crafting at Firehouse @ 10 AM
- April 16 - meeting & crafting for Tulip Walk @ 2 PM
- April 22 or 29 - Tulip Prayer Walk in the morning
- Summer time winery visit TBD
- Septemberish - tentative Women's retreat

RUTH CIRCLE Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 8 at 9:30 in the Church Parlor. Eva Brunkow will lead the Quarterly Bible Lesson and Pam Boetcher and Joan Reynolds will host.

Worship!

LENT 2023

"Promised Treasures" ... This Lenten season, embrace God's amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. Each week of Lent, journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste several biblical elements.

Lenten Wednesdays – March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 5:00 & 7:00pm [with Holden's Evening Prayer]

Meal served 5:30-6:30pm

HOLY WEEK ...continues "Promised Treasures"

Palm Sunday – April 2

8:00 & 11:00am – Traditional style plus choir

9:30am – Contemporary style plus choir

Maundy Thursday – April 6

5:00pm – with Holy Communion

7:00pm – also includes Rite of 1st Communion, Stripping of Altar, and choir

Good Friday – April 7

12:00pm – follows Jesus' last words from the cross

7:30pm – Service of Darkness (Tenebrae) worship with choir, bells

Easter Sunday – April 9 (all services include Holy Communion)

6:30am – Sunrise traditional worship

8:00 & 11:00am – Traditional style plus choir, brass, bells

9:30am – Contemporary style plus choir, brass, bells

(7-11am – Breakfast served by Scouts)

SCHEDULE OF SERVING

MARCH 5

8:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Kat Tangari

Communion assist
Kirby Wittenbach

Lay Reader
Jan Rankin

Acolyte
Alexa Domme

9:30 Cont. Worship

Service Team
Morans/Huessers

11:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Darlene Strader

Lay Reader
Penny Lane

Acolyte
N/A

Coffee Fellowship
MOST

MARCH 12

8:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Kat Tangari

Communion assist
Kirby Wittenbach

Lay Reader
Jane Schaible

Acolyte

Conner Kirkemide

9:30 Cont. Worship

Service Team
Liedtkes

11:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Darlene Strader

Lay Reader
Karen Brumleve

Acolyte

Parker Moran

Coffee Fellowship

Junior Youth

MARCH 19

8:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Kat Tangari

Lay Reader
Shari Albrecht

Acolyte

Tyler Rollenhagen

9:30 Cont. Worship

Service Team
Saunders

11:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Darlene Strader

Lay Reader

Brent McGuigan

Acolyte

Alyssa & Jaden Decker

Coffee Fellowship

Senior Youth

MARCH 26

8:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Kat Tangari

Lay Reader
Claire Banion

Acolyte

Crue Decker

9:30 Cont. Worship

Service Team
Wilson

11:00 Traditional Worship

Spiritual Life Leader
Darlene Strader

Communion assist

2 Kenlon Johannes
2 Connor Loupe
2 Parker Moran
2 Brandon Poe
2 Dalton Taylor
3 Eva Rollenhagen
4 Miliyah Runnels
6 Ray Moran
7 Brenda Alvarez
7 Wanita Dammann
7 Kris Deiter
7 Mike Landman
8 Carolyn Onek
8 Karissa Stiers
9 Shari Albrecht
9 Marikay Peterman
9 Karen Peterson
10 Kim Holter
10 Judy Pagenkopf
10 Timothy Scott
10 Ellen Wenger
11 Wyatt Riddle

12 Amanda Albrecht
12 Emma Hubka
12 Caroline Signor
13 Brian Brunkow
13 Audra Durkies
13 Lila Gooding
13 Cassidy Haag
13 Rachel Halupa
13 Grayson James
13 Mark Neddermeyer
14 Conner Kirkemide
14 Deborah Pufahl
15 Wayne Aumnbauh
15 Rob Hoover
15 Joseph Myers
15 Twila Theimer
16 Chris Carlson
16 Carissa Trimble
17 Marty Flanagan
17 Mohinder Pal
18 Carolyn Dale
18 Idell Dankert

18 Steve Jones
18 Gabriel O'Shea
18 Don Rankin
18 Ronald Sivertson
19 Leo Perry
20 Lori Biel
20 Sarah Caleb
20 Gary Tenbrink
21 Lisa Haag
21 Edie Snethen
22 Gabby Falk
22 Hannah Heine
22 Aison Rhone
22 Evan Steere
23 Diane Butler
23 Brenda Schwartz
24 Michelle Ideker
25 Daniel Domingo
I25 saiah Wilson
26 Bob Bartlow
26 Rob Sage
26 Isaak Smith

27 Brady Boyer
27 Spencer Mahon
28 Faye Ideker
28 Ron Olson
29 Caryn
29 Sheets
29 Teri Wodtke
29 Alek
Westjord
30 Rachel Bristow
30 David Huesers
30 Dean Landman
30 Adam Offermann
31 Matt Burdick
31 Gen Cater
31 Jaxon Decker
31 Megan Ideker
31 Pet Pierce
31 Abigail Riddle



March Anniversaries

1 Dan & Karissa Stiers
3 Nick & Kelsey Jefferson
5 Galen & Carolyn Dale
6 Duane & Eva Brunkow
10 Bob & Marita Gabler
11 Don & Edie Snethen
12 Nancy & Lee Kinney
16 Mike & Lori Welch
16 Doug & Marikay Peterman
19 Lydia & Jason Spellman-Roberts
23 Michael & Kimberly White
25 Sam & Hannah Elsey
30 Ray & Stephanie Moran
31 Blake & Sarah Ramsey

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FaithLutheranTopeka.com

Follow us on:

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bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com

AUXILIARY

Pat Schultz, RN, parish nurse

TiredMomPLS@aol.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri 8:00am to 4:30pm (closed 12-1pm)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00* - Traditional

9:30* - Contemporary

11:00—Traditional

* also live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube
and available after on our website

EDUCATION

Sundays for all ages: 11:00am

WOW Wednesdays: 5:15-7:30pm (Sept-Apr)

*The Messenger is mailed monthly to all
members. April edition deadline is*

March 20 to the church office.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1716 SW Gage Blvd
Topeka KS 66604

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Christian Service Team has determined 2023 Sunday School /Mission Outreach offering will include:

March & April - Faith Deaf Ministry/
KansaSeed

May & June - Lead A Child

July & August - Doorstep

September & October - (TBD)

November & December -

Sunshine Connection

