



Messenger

F a i t h L u t h e r a n C h u r c h

December—2024

volume 64 . issue 12

a message from senior pastor, Jacob Heine

And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great:

*He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels,
preached among the nations,
believed on in the world, taken up in glory.*

~1 Timothy 3:16~

I was driving to pick up my daughter from school the week before Thanksgiving and was scanning my preset radio stations looking for a station that didn't have any ads going. As I hit the next button my radio started to play forth Christmas music. It is one of favorite times of the year when I get to hear some of my favorite music, nonstop, on the radio and in public with no one looking at me funny. (Try blaring some Bing Crosby *White Christmas* from your car in August and watch people stare!)

I also appreciate that in the mix of the secular Christmas songs of Frosty, *White Christmas*, and the like you get to hear sprinkled in some of the songs that proclaim the truth of the Holiday like *Silent Night*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, and *Joy to the World*. It is the one time of the year when the message of God's love in sending His Son to us breaks through in the midst of the secular world.

However, I never get to hear my favorite Christmas song on the radio (as least I haven't up to this point). It isn't one of the most popular of the Christmas carols. It doesn't get sung often during the Advent and Christmas season at worship either. Although, I always place it as the Sermon Hymn on Christmas Morning. It is my little way of getting to sing my favorite Christmas song on the day we celebrate Christ's birth.

It is Hymn 384 in the Lutheran Service Book – *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.

This song deeply proclaims the mystery of the incarnation, that God the Father, would send His Son to us, to save us. This is something that God, who has always been and always will be, is willing to do because of His great love for His creation, especially for you and me. It is something foretold by prophets of old and brought forth for our eternal victory, evermore and evermore.

If you have never heard this wonderful Carol I encourage you to look it up and let the beauty, wonder, and grace of God wash over you. My prayer for you this Christmas tide comes from the 3rd verse of this wonderful hymn:

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

In Christ's Hands,
Pastor Jacob



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Upcoming Holiday Worship



**Advent
Worship**
WEDNESDAYS | 5PM & 7PM
DEC. 4
DEC. 11
DEC. 18




CHRISTMAS
choir, bells, praise team
CONCERT
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8
3:00PM

**Children's
Christmas
Worship**
Sunday, Dec. 15 | 10:45am
Children will be helping to lead
worship!

CHRISTMAS EVE
4PM | 6PM | 8:30PM
Family Service Modern Traditional



Christmas Day Worship
9:30am | Festival Service



*New Year's Eve
Worship*
DEC. 31
7PM



*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our
salvation!*
Psalm 95:1

DEBORAH GROUP was very busy for our annual Noodle Dinner fundraiser on November 3rd. Thank you to all our groups for very successful fundraiser. We will be gathering together Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 pm Janet Zima's home for devotions and fellowship. Call Brenda Perry at 785-231-9397 about joining us.

EVE CIRCLE recently welcomed two new members to their group and all are looking forward to their annual Christmas Party, Dec. 9 at 7pm at Gisela Bartling's home (1524 SW Lakeside Dr). Sherrie Dick will have the devotions. Fun! Games! Gifts! Beginning January 13, all meetings at Church will be held in Room 206 on the first floor. Need more information about the Eve Group? Call Sherrie Dick at 785-506-5764 or Karen Tardiff at 785-845-2600.

HANNAH CIRCLE usually meets the first Monday of the month at 5:30PM. Please contact Claire Banion at 785-250-8905 to find out more.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet December 11, 9:30am in the Parlor. We plan to clean the kitchen and complete a Christmas project. For more information contact Brenda Reynolds at 785-844-1966.

The Mission Grant #3 to Kansas University campus Ministry, Lawrence, Kansas had been approved for payment. Next up is #4 Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. Funds will be used for pastors, teachers, and other full-time church workers and their spouses who need extra financial assistance to attend Shephard's Canyon Retreat, a week-long counseling retreat in Arizona.

Thank you to all who helped to make our Chicken Noodle Dinner such a success. As always it was fun and delicious. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Faith has created the Faith Lutheran Church fund at the Topeka Community Foundation (TCF) to handle non-cash donations to the church.

Donations that can be made to Faith through TCF include stocks, bonds, IRA RMD distributions, real estate, estate bequests and life insurance proceeds.

For details to make a non-cash donation send an email to bookkeeper@faithlutherantopeka.com, put "Investment Donation" in the subject line and include your contact information in the email.

**FAITH IS ENROLLED IN THE DILLONS
COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**

Anyone with a Dillon's Shoppers Card can designate Faith Lutheran Church – Topeka (organization # CX912) as the reward recipient for their purchases.

To designate Faith on your Shoppers Card account, go to www.dillons.com/communityrewards Sign into your Dillons account. Go to "Link your Card to an organization." Then click on "Search for your organization here."

On the next screen, in the field "Find an Organization", enter Faith Lutheran Church and press enter. Click on "Enroll" under the name "Faith Lutheran Church – Topeka". You will see a message you have successfully enrolled and you are finished. Shoppers Card holders must re-enroll annually to designate Faith in this program.



Solid Foundation Campaign

Thank you for moving forward in faith! Commitments can be turned in to the church office!



Handwashing may seem extremely basic, but it is a vital step in preventing illness and the spread of harmful viruses and germs.

During this season of fall, with changing seasons and the increased number of cold-



weather illnesses, such as colds, flus, pneumonias, RSV, COVID, and other “common” illnesses, it is highly suggested that all people be more aware of practicing good handwashing to help prevent illnesses. And, of course, if soap and water are not readily available, cleaning your hands with hand sanitizer is your next best decision.

Handwashing was first identified as a link to preventing infections and disease by a Hungarian doctor, Ignaz Semmelweis, in the mid 19th century. Unfortunately, he could not convince other physicians of the importance of good hand hygiene. The prevailing theory at that time was that water was the potential cause of disease. Near the same time during the Crimean War, the pioneer of modern-day nursing, Florence Nightingale, implemented, with positive results, handwashing and other hygiene practices in the war hospital where she worked. Now, almost 200 years later, we have an abundance of supporting research and proof that handwashing is essential in the prevention and containment of the spread of infection. Handwashing with soap and other forms of hand hygiene are critical tools in achieving and maintaining good health.

I can still remember learning early on in nursing school that handwashing is the most important practice anyone can perform to prevent the spread of disease. So exactly when should a person wash their hands? Always wash your hands: before, during and after preparing food; before eating; before and after caring for someone who is sick; before and after treating a cut or wound; after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom; after blowing your nose (or a child’s nose), coughing, or sneezing; after touching garbage; or after touching an animal’s

food, cage, or waste. Some of these examples may seem like no brainers, but watching the public leads me to the very general conclusion that most people need to see this list!

What is the best handwashing technique to achieve maximum germ prevention results? 1) Wet hands with clear, running water and apply soap. 2) Lather hands by rubbing them together, scrubbing all surfaces, including fingers, between fingers, and under nails. Scrub for at least 20 seconds...you can sing Happy Birthday or the Doxology to count 20 seconds. 3) Rinse hands under clean, running water. 4) Dry hands using clean toweling or paper towel, or air dry your hands. 5) If soap and water are not available use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

Let’s help keep ourselves and others as healthy as possible, especially during this busy season when many germs are everywhere! With many holiday events on our calendars, handwashing can help all of us stay healthy so that we can enjoy these events without the devastation of having someone in your house or family suffering with a likely-preventable illness! Enjoy this beautiful season of Advent and Christmas!

Parts of this article taken from article written by Carol Broemmer, RN, MA, LCMS Missouri District Parish Nurse Representative, for the Lutheran Parish Nurses International July 2022 newsletter.

Prince of Peace is planning their annual Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 8, at Prince of Peace, at 3 pm. This service is offered for anyone experiencing feelings of loss.



Some up-coming opportunities which will be offered early in the new year include The Daniel Plan, a Bible Study/journey towards health that addresses Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends, and an eight-week class-like presentation on maintaining balance and preventing falls, presented by Stormont-Vail Hospital staff here at Faith. Dates and times will be determined and available later. Watch the Weekend Updates for more details!

DECEMBER



Alyssa Maxwell	2
Dylan Munson	3
Matthew Bleich	4
Fern Buckmeier	5
Nadene Albrecht	6
Brecken Brassel	7
Daniel Lehman	9
Lindsey Guffey	10
Justin Campbell	11
Dillon Johnston	11
Brenda Reynolds	11
Pat Schmidt	11
Arlene Turrentine	11
Robert Carlson	12

Brad Grotbeck	13	Barb Bleich	25
Cate Falk	14	Eric Hoyt	25
Amanda Vines	14	Joshua Landman	25
Preston Moran	12	Pam Boetcher	26
Christopher Wells	15	Michael Domingo	26
Erik Meyer	16	Lindsey Munson	26
Dan Stiers	16	Carol Kaufman	27
Ed Carmona	17	Nora Westjord	27
Taylor Reinert	18	Steve Franken	28
Ella Campbell	19	Josh Mahon	28
Zach Snethen	19	Branfon Saunders	28
Connie Crowder	20	James Barrett	29
Avary Domme	20	Dawson Durkes	29
Vestanna McGuigan	20	John Holter	29
Koty Mize	20	Kali Poe	29
Brooke Rush	20	Oliver Snethen	29
Norma Haley	21	Linda Wulfkuhle	29
Betty Schwant	21	Eric Boling	30
Ron Kufahl	22	Bryson Hale	30
Cindy McCormick	22	Emma Johannes	30
Grace Morlock	22	Brent McGuigan	30
Susan Rollenhagen	22	Chris Meyer	31
Robert Vincent	22	Kelley Richardson	31
Joe Zima	22	Gary Robinson	31
Gisela Bartling	23	Janet Zima	31

Tom & Deborah Pufahl	10
Ron & Carol Olson	28
Betsy & Bob Thompson	28
Juli & Keith Mazachek	29
Meridee & Eirik Westjord	29
Amber & Michael Long	31

DECEMBER



THANK YOU from LWML

- TO: DR. TIM BOLZ FOR BEEF DONATION
 TO: RESER'S FOR MASHED POTATO DONATION
 TO: JOANNA BRADSHAW, ANNE JOHNSON, KAREN TARDIFF, AND THE FLC QUILTERS FOR QUILT DONATIONS
 TO: ALL WHO PURCHASED NOODLE DINNER TICKETS OR QUILT RAFFLE CHANCES

Faith Lutheran's Women in Mission deeply appreciate your support of the 2024 Noodle Dinner, which raised over \$3,300 to be distributed to the Ben Helge missionary family serving the Czech Republic; Compassion Strategies, a Topeka nonprofit whose mission is to assist vulnerable populations and end chronic homelessness; and the visual arts ministry of Faith Lutheran Church. We also extend our gratitude to the quilters who devoted their time and talents to create 148 quilts that were distributed to Orphan Grain Train and to groups here in Topeka.

We had a total of 148 quilts on the pews on LWML Sunday. We have donated them as follows:

- 12 to Topeka Rescue Mission
- 12 to Doorstep
- 13 to Center for Safety and Empowerment
- 13 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 98 to Orphan Grain Train

Thank you to all those who donated to a chance at winning a quilt.

- The winners:
 Nativity picture: Kat Tangari
 Fall table runner: Janet Zima
 Red/white/blue quilt: Kay Logan
 Christmas table runner: Heather Myers

.CHILDREN. .YOUTH. .FAMILIES.

Heather McCormick, director of youth & family ministry

JUNIOR YOUTH will have their annual Christmas event on Friday, Dec. 13 from 5:30-10:30pm! We will meet at Faith for dinner before.

SENIOR YOUTH will have their annual Caroling to the Homebound on Sunday, Dec. 22! We will meet at Faith at 3pm before heading out to carol. We will eat dinner at a stop along the way. We will return to Faith at 8pm for parent pick-up.

ANNUAL ZOO LIGHTS EVENT: Join us at our annual Zoo Lights event on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 5:30-8:30pm at the Kay McFarland Building at the Topeka Zoo! Enjoy the lights, warm up in the Ky McFarland building with drinks and snacks, and join us for a devotional service at 7:15pm. Tickets are available from the church office now (while supplies last). \$10/Adults, \$7/Children under 12 & Seniors, Children under 2 Free (no ticket).

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER: Save the date for our next Murder Mystery Dinner on Friday, January 24 from 6:30-8:30pm at Faith! Our senior youth will be hosting and serving dinner, while we unravel the mystery progressively throughout the evening. Tickets will be available from the church office starting on Sunday, Dec. 29 (\$10/ticket). Funds raised will go towards the senior youth trip to the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering.

ADVENT MEALS: Junior & senior youth will support

Dec. 4: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Cupcakes

Dec. 11: Lasagna, Olive Garden Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Brownies

Dec. 18: Baked Potato Bar, smoked pork & Cake

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Our pre-k through 5th grade children will be helping to lead 10:45am worship on Sunday, Dec. 15! Join us to hear parts of the Christmas story with young people serving as readers, ushers, sound booth techs, vocalists, instrumentalists and more!

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Join us in decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10:30am! We will put up the humongous Christmas tree, set out nativities, hang wreaths, and much more!

MIRACLE ON KANSAS AVE PARADE: Faith will once again have a float in the Miracle on Kansas Ave Parade! Join us finishing up with the float on Dec. 3 at 6pm. The Parade is on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6pm! We will need many people to ride on and walk with the float- talk to DCE Heather if you are interested!

Update from our treasurer. . .

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS (GENERAL FUND)

- Donations for October were \$80,206 and expenses were \$83,437 resulting in a **net negative** balance for the month of \$(3,231.)
- Year to date donations are \$932,122 and expenses were \$906,138 resulting in a year to date balance of \$25,984.
- Donations for September were \$2,329 below 2023 . YTD donation are \$63,364 higher than 2023.



QUILTERS NEEDED

Our Monday morning quilters are always in need of more help. Please consider joining them on 2nd & 4th Monday mornings here at Faith. December quilting dates: Dec. 9 & 23. No experience necessary. We meet in a room in the south campus building. Questions? Contact Anne Johnson, 408-8004.



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2024

Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We need your help to make Christmas bright for these families and individuals.

We still need the following NEW items: (Needed by 12/10/24)

Household Items:

- ◆ Sauce Pans, Dutch Ovens & Griddles
- ◆ Kitchen Utensil Sets
- ◆ Kitchen Food Storage Sets
- ◆ Laundry Baskets & Cleaning Supplies (glass, all-purpose, toilet, micro-towels, dish soap)
- ◆ Queen & King Sheet Sets (darker colors)



Toys, Teens & Gifts:

- ◆ Learning Toys ex: Vtech
- ◆ Basketballs & Footballs
- ◆ Teen Books ~ Fantasies
- ◆ Family Board Games
- ◆ Dominoes & Card Games
- ◆ Canvases (Value Packs)
- ◆ Paints & Brushes
- ◆ Ear Buds & Headphones

Women's Gifts:

- ◆ Candles
- ◆ Nail Sets
- ◆ Body Care Sets (Body Wash, Lotion, Spray)

Men's Gifts:

- ◆ Wallets
- ◆ Tool Sets
- ◆ Body Care Sets (Axe, Adidas, Old Spice)

Money for Gift Cards & Food

Visit Doorstep's Walmart Christmas Registry:

<https://bit.ly/doorstepchristmas2024>

Purchase gifts directly from our registry!

Visit Doorstep's Amazon Wish List:

<https://a.co/ff4EokG>

Purchase gifts directly from our list!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Tuesday, December 17th ~ Opportunities from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Wednesday, December 18th ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am – 1:30pm, 1:30pm – 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

Thursday, December 19th ~ Opportunities available from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Call Doorstep (785) 357-5341 to sign up & help during distribution week!



Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan).
Christmas Donation hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 2pm thru Dec. 13th.

You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website:
DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate Tab.

Please note the following dates in December:

No Donations of used clothing or household items will be accepted Nov. 27 – Dec. 27. Doorstep will be closed for all services and donations December 16 – 20.

Doorstep Holiday Hours:

Closed from Noon on December 23 through December 26 & January 1.
Open for **donations only** December 27 – 31, January 2, 9am-2pm.
Closed for **ALL services** December 27 – January 2 for year-end wrap-up.
Resume normal operation on Friday, January 3, 2025.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Staff at Doorstep!



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	2 5:30pm Hannah Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	3 6:30pm Spiritual Life 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	4 11:00am Care Card making 5:00pm Advent Worship 5:15pm Advent Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Advent Worship	5 9:00am Scrap-booking 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	6 9:00am Scrap-booking	7 8:00am Concert rehearsal 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club 10:30am Hanging of the Greens
8 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm Christmas Concert	9 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Eve Circle 7:00pm Scouts	10 6:00pm LLC	11 9:30am Ruth Circle 5:00pm Advent Worship 5:15pm Advent Meal 5:50pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:00pm Site Planning 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Advent	12 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	13 5:30pm JH Christmas	14 8:00am MOST Ministry 9:00am Breakfast Club
15 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern worship w/ Children's Christmas 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm DCE Anniversary Celebration	16 6:00pm Cub Scouts	17 5:30pm Zoo Lights 7:00pm Deborah Circle	18 11:00am Care Card making 5:00pm Advent Worship 5:15pm Advent Meal 6:00pm WOW 7:00pm Advent Worship 7:45pm Praise Team Rehearsal	19 11:30am Senior Saints 6:00pm Bell rehearsal 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	20 Sunshine Connection Christmas	21 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
22 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship 3:00pm SH Caroling to the Homebound	23 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm Scouts	24 Church Office closes at Noon 4:00pm Family Worship 6:00pm Modern Worship 8:30pm Traditional Worship	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day 9:30am Christmas Worship	26 Church Office Closed	27 6:30pm Boy Scout Lock-In	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club
29 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Modern Worship 12:15pm Traditional Worship	30 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Scouts	31 7:00pm NYE Worship	1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	3	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Breakfast Club



CARE CARDS

Join friends at church every-other Wednesday in room 206 to make 4"x4" Care Cards. All materials are provided and no experience is necessary. Card making days this month are December 4 & 18. Finished cards are placed in a box at the Care Card Center near the church's front entry - to be sent to members who need to know people CARE about them. Please write a note to the person(s) whose names appear on the white board at the Care Card center.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00* - Traditional Worship

10:45* - Modern Worship

12:15 - Traditional Worship

* also live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube

EDUCATION

Sundays for all ages: 9:30am

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

The Messenger is emailed monthly to all members. Next edition deadline is

Dec. 16 to

sharonlowe@faithlutherantopeka.com.