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Connecting people to Jesus as we gather, grow, and go.



The LCMS Kansas District

Rev. Justin A. Panzer, District President
1000 SW 10th Avenue | Topeka, KS 66604-1104 | (785) 357-4441

February 8, 2021

Dear Saints of the Kansas District:

We're now approaching the one-year anniversary of the declaration of the pandemic. The past year has been challenging, yes, but we've also experienced many blessings. Despite the trials we've faced, our workers and congregations have faithfully carried on—adapting here, modifying there, but always keeping the “One Thing Needful” at the center.

The work of our churches is essential. You've made that clear with your steadfast commitment to our shared mission. Thanks be to God!

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 we read:

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.

How true these words are! The past year has provided us with countless examples. Church workers have found creative ways to bring God's word to parishioners, often partnering with others. Laypeople have stepped up to serve when others have been unable. Members have continued to support their congregations with their talents and gifts (countering some predictions to the contrary).

We've seen the same generous and faithful spirit in our district, too. Some good news that we can ALL celebrate: The Kansas District ended its fiscal year at 98% of budgeted congregational gifts. Expenses came in at 92% of budget, allowing us to end the year on very solid ground, financially. What a blessing! **On behalf of the whole district, I'd like to thank you for supporting the district so generously during such a difficult year.**

2021 will no doubt continue to present challenges, but as we move forward, I encourage you to keep in mind the words of Romans 8:28: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

I pray that God will continue to bless your congregation and our Kansas District as we all seek to do His will.

In the service of Christ,

Rev. Justin A. Panzer

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District President

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY is on Wednesday, February 17. Services are at noon and 7:00pm. Ash Wednesday's theme is "A Call to Return."

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

"Return to the Lord." Is the devotional booklet that follow the sermon series. Those have been placed in a basket in the Narthex. Daily Devotional images are available to use as a resource.

"Together We Pray" is a devotional provided by the LCMS Kansas District and includes prayers for Lent and Easter. These are also available in the Narthex.

Make sure to take one of these home for devotions for you and your family.

RETURN TO THE LORD:

LENT/EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster" (Joel 2:13).

God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord" and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him" (Joel 2:14).

Each sermon in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. Studying the events and people helps to connect the hearers with their own sinful nature, to emphasize how we have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and

rejoice in God's call for us to return to Him with all our heart.

Ash Wednesday: "A Call to Return"

Wednesday of Lent 1: "Return to Prayer"

Wednesday of Lent 2: "Return from Betrayal"

Wednesday of Lent 3: "Return from False Witness"

Wednesday of Lent 4: "Return from Denial"

Wednesday of Lent 5: "Return to the Kingdom of God"

Holy (Maundy) Thursday: "Return to the Table"

Good Friday: "Return to Truth"

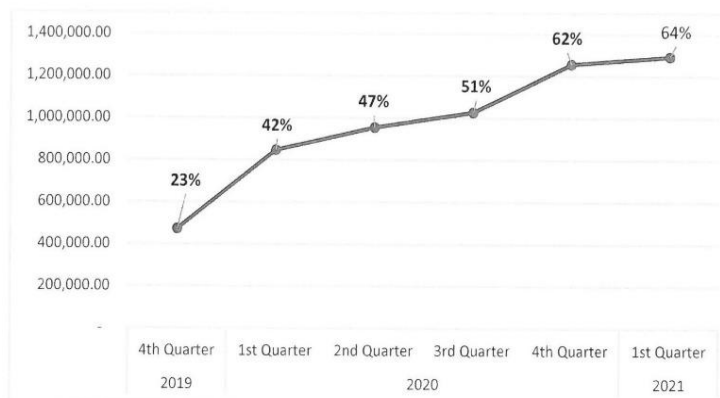
Easter Sunday: "Return and See"

I pray that this series will be a blessing to you this Lenten season.



Trusting Hearts Capital Campaign - Phase 1

		Quarterly Received	Total Received	Committed to Trusting Hearts
###	4th Quarter	471,606.03	471,606.03	2,030,000
2020	1st Quarter	375,381.13	846,987.16	2,030,000
	2nd Quarter	107,847.91	954,835.07	2,030,000
	3rd Quarter	72,087.43	1,026,922.50	2,030,000
	4th Quarter	229,609.50	1,256,532.00	2,030,000
###	1st Quarter	36,688.47	1,293,220.47	2,030,000
Project Funding Summary				
LCEF Loan = \$4,219,730				
BSLC Trusting Hearts = \$2,030,000				



NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE – NOW IN EFFECT:

- **8:00-9:00am** -- In-person worship with communion (Live-Streamed on YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChO-Q0BK4rxN7xKa9gv3mA>
- **9:15-10:15am** -- Bible class/Sunday school
- **10:30-11:30am** -- In-person worship with communion
- **11:45am** -- Parking Lot Communion Service

As more people return to live worship, the Board of Elders with support of the Pastors have decided to adjust the worship/Bible Class schedule for Sunday mornings to make it easier for attendees of both live worship services to attend Bible Class and Sunday School in person while giving those streaming extra time to get to the Church for the Parking Lot Communion service without having to interrupt their Bible Class stream.

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL Today, we will study "The Weakened Judge." God grants Samson great strength to defeat the enemies of God's people. Seeking to overcome Samson, the Philistines bribe Delilah to find the source of Samson's strength. Samson deceives Delilah each time to uncover the secret, but he finally reveals the key to his powers. Shorn and blinded by the Philistines, Samson is brought to entertain thousands of revelers at the feast to Dagon. Identifying the house's supporting powers, Samson prays, and God grants him power to bring down the temple, killing everyone.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Lectionary Images for Feb. 14

https://www.bsclks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-02-14_Lectionary-Images.pdf

Children's Worship Notes Feb.14

https://www.bsclks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-02-14_childrens-worship-notes-1.pdf

THURSDAY EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY are meeting via Zoom for January and February. at 7:00pm. We are studying the book "God's Relentless Love: A Study of Hosea" by Sharla Fritz. If interested in joining, please contact Lisa Gruhn (see [church directory](#)).

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

meets Thursdays via Zoom from 9:30 - 10:30 am. We are studying the book "God's Relentless Love: a Study of Hosea" by Sharla Fritz. Sharla will be joining us on February 18, so we'll allow time for Q & A that day. If you are interested in learning more about the study or would like to join us, please contact Eden Keefe.

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS VIRTUAL EVENT

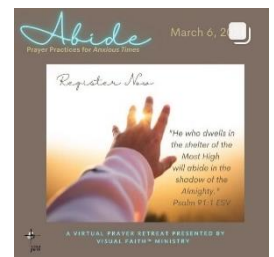
Be inspired by the stories of three men who were - ARRESTED. INTERROGATED. IMPRISONED. But God remained faithful. Don't miss this special opportunity to meet three Christian workers who were imprisoned for their faith! The Voice of the Martyrs, with help from LifeWay, is hosting a FREE virtual event on Friday, **March 5, 2021** (6:30 to 10:00pm) that will feature three inspiring speakers: Petr Jasek, Dan Baumann and Andrew Brunson. If you have questions, you may contact Danny Hundley. Registration is free. To register go to: https://www.persecution.com/event/?source_code=WHPB20G

TACKLING HUNGER!! We received a total of 471 cans (Chiefs -407. Bucs-64) of food for our Super Bowl Challenge. This will help **TACKLE HUNGER** in our community. For those of you who were not able to bring your donations of canned hearty soup, chicken and tuna last Sunday, we are extending the donation time through this next week. Let's show our support to those less fortunate in our community! All of the donations will be divided between the Pioneer Trail Backsnack program and the Catholic Charities' food pantry. Thank you all!! Let's keep the Mission going!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

ABIDE: PRAYER PRACTICES FOR ANXIOUS TIMES VIRTUAL PRAYER RETREAT MARCH 6, 2021

In this season of fear, uncertainty, and social distancing, Visual Faith™ Ministry invites you to find rest with God. Join us for a day of **abiding** with God and one another as we hear, see, and experience prayer practices that can be done in your personal devotional life, with your family, or in the larger context of a Christian community. Twelve Visual Faith™ Ministry



coaches and leaders will introduce you to a variety of prayer practices that are **achievable** and **grace-filled**. Connect with these speakers and visual faith practices that will guide you as you walk in relationship with Jesus, your Savior. For more information or to register visit: <https://visualfaith.wixsite.com/visualfaithministry/abid-eretreat> Click on the REGISTER NOW button to see all the options - including a FREE registration the day of - including printable guidebook and resources! If you have any questions, contact Alli Bauck or Eden Keefe.

THE KANSAS DISTRICT LWML has a new website -- CHECK IT OUT! www.kansaslwml.org Greetings from the LWML Kansas District! As this **new** website is unveiled, in this **new** year, with a **new** president, I present to you the President's theme for my 2020-2024 term. **FOLLOW THE SON: Serve** grace-fully in joyful **Obedience** with a **New** focus. May you find ways to **Serve** grace-fully as a Christian full of grace. Do so in joyful **Obedience** as this is how our Lord has taught us. Fix your eyes on Jesus and set a **New** focus on Him and not what we see in the world.

LWML MEETING is cancelled for tomorrow (Monday, February 15).

WILL YOU BE MY LWML VALENTINE?

LWML - Lutheran Women in Mission shares the love of Christ through Word and mercy work. During the month of February, please respond to God's love for you by supporting LWML's mission work here at home and across the globe. Donations can be placed in the beautifully decorated "Valentine boxes" or the LWML Mite Box in the narthex. They will be available during drive through communion later this month, too! The Kansas district mission grant we are currently working to fund is for the Food Bank & Clothing Co-op at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS happened on February 9th and 10th. We had a short week because of Parent Teacher Conferences this week. We always enjoy this opportunity to partner with our parents in the early development of their child. School will

resume on Tuesday, February 16th, after the President's Day holiday on the 15th.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT for the 2021-22 school year will continue this spring and summer here at BSLC. Almost half of our classes for next year are already full with a waiting list. Contact the preschool office at 913-780-6889 or preschool@bslcks.org for more details. Your word of mouth is our best advertisement so thank you for telling your friends and neighbors about our church's preschool ministry!

COMMUNITY NEWS

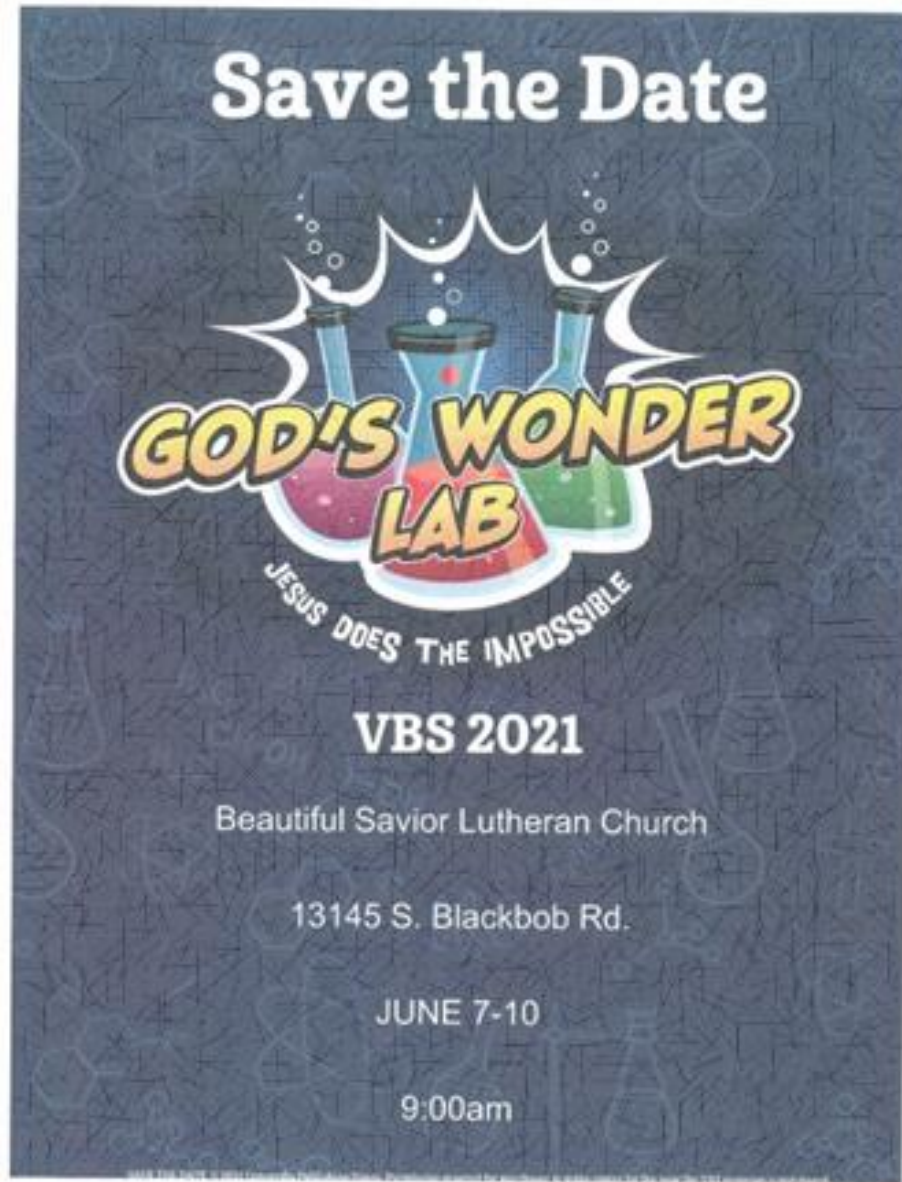
COVID VACCINE . Carol Vandenberg is volunteering to drive anyone to KU for their vaccine if they need help. Driving into the city can be scary and finding your way around KU is equally scary. Being retired from KU downtown I believe I can help. Instructions to sign up: If you are not a patient (in the last 3 years). Go to the Kansas University Health System - select COVID 19 update -select COVID 19 vaccine -select not a patient (those who are patients within the last year will be notified when their age group is up through my chart) -then scroll down and select the form and fill it out. Can be a little complicate to some. Hope this helps. Email Carol Vandenberg. (kansaswego@yahoo.com).

HELP WANTED Christ Lutheran School is seeking a highly motivated, Christ centered individual who is excited about working as a Kindergarten Aide at our Overland Park campus. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree or substantially similar educational background. Experience with Kindergarten aged children is a plus! Individuals interested in learning more about the position are invited to speak with School Principal, David Rindt, David.Rindt@clcop.org or 913.754.5888.

PIONEER TRAIL BACKSNACK REMINDER There are approximately 35 students participating in the Pioneer Trail Backsnack program this school year. Our donations provide a portion of the items that they take home on the weekends. The monthly need for each student is: 2 boxes CEREAL (12-15oz size fits in a backpack), 4 cans HEARTY SOUP (approx. 18-19oz size), 4 FRUIT CUPS. Please consider sponsoring a student and providing these items each month.

Donations can be put in the large wooden box in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY New Hope Food Pantry, 13310 S. Blackbob Road, is looking for volunteers to help with their food pantry. For more information call their church office at 913-782-0955.



CALENDAR:

Sunday, February 14

8:00am - Worship w/ Comm. & live streamed
9:15am - Education Hour live and streamed
10:30am - Worship w/ Communion
11:45am - Communion Service - front parking lot
1:00pm - Music Prep. & recording until 3:00pm
3:30pm - Laudate Ringers until 4:15pm
4:30pm - Youth Choir until 5:15pm
5:30pm - Beata Handbells until 6:15pm
6:30pm - Music Recording until 7:30pm

Monday, February 15

No Preschool, Church Office Closed- President's Day

Tuesday, February 16

8:30am - Preschool
9:30am - Organist Practice
12:15pm - Preschool
7:00pm - 4H Club

Wednesday, February 17 ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00am - Men's Bible Study
8:30pm - Preschool
9:30am - Organist practice
12:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service
12:15pm - Preschool
6:15pm - Chimes until 6:45pm
7:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service
7:30pm - Adult Handbells (Following service)

Thursday, February 18

8:30am - Preschool
9:30am - Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)
12:15pm - Preschool
6:30pm - Trustees Mtg.
7:00pm - Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)

Friday, February 19

8:30am - Preschool
12:15pm - Preschool

Saturday, February 20

8:30am - Altar Guild Prep until 9:30am
4:00pm - Adult Choir Recording until 5:30

Sunday, February 21

8:00am - Worship w/ Comm. & live streamed
9:15am - Educ. Hour in person & Live Streamed
10:30am - Worship w/ Communion
11:30pm - Audit Committee - Conference Room
11:45am - Communion Service - front parking lot
1:00pm - Music Prep. & recording until 3:00pm
2:00pm - LWML Zone Board Meeting until 4:00
3:30pm - Laudate Ringers until 4:15pm
4:30pm - Youth Choir until 5:15pm
5:30pm - Beata Handbells until 6:15pm
6:30pm - Music Recording until 7:30pm
7:00pm - Church Council

Birthdays:

Feb. 14	Kerry Brown
Feb. 15	Mitchell Claussen
Feb. 16	Charlotte Hefte
Feb. 17	Laura Bodensstab, Emmett Gruhn
Feb. 18	Hadley Holste
Feb. 19	Grant Obermueller, Britta Tripp, Emerson Meier
Feb. 20	Dale Harnisch, Patti Brockschmidt, Kristin Smalling, Amanda Gripka

Anniversaries:

Feb. 17	Chris & Michelle Wibe
Feb. 18	Bill & Ellie Doherty

Our Worship 02/07/21

Attendance	TBD
Offerings	\$9,647.17
Sunday School	\$84.00
Trusting Hearts	\$4,457.00
<i>Offerings do not include any Electronic Contributions.</i>	

Stewardship Corner

Our lives as stewards do not start or stop at certain times of the day or days of the week or month. We are not stewards merely on Sundays or other special days. As stewards for Christ, we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to be devoted to a full-time effort and commitment to serve the Lord with our lives and possessions. Being faithful stewards involves a commitment of our time, talents, and money. We are to commit all that we are, all that we have, and all that we will be to God's glory. As we diligently and faithfully serve Him, we will hear His words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:23).

**AS GOD'S STEWARDS, WE
ARE INSTRUMENTS
THROUGH WHICH HE
WORKS TO FURTHER HIS
KINGDOM AND HELP THOSE
IN NEED.**

**Jesus Taught
us how to
Serve Others**

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).