



**Northeast Kansas
Lutheran Church Partnership
*LCMS***



DECEMBER, 2022

*From the Pastors Study
Saint Martin's Day, 2022*

Do you have an Advent Wreath?

John said “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome Him” (John 1:5). Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12) so Christmas is about when the Light of the World was born. Because of that, much of our Christmas celebration and decoration surrounds lights. The days are darker so we need more lights—we have Christmas trees, Christmas lights, and advent wreaths.



In 1 Corinthians 9:25, Saint Paul wrote, “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” The image of the advent wreath is the image of a crown of victory. As our Victor, Christ has won the wreath for us. In His death our sins are atoned for and we see the fullest of his divine love. In His death, we have victory. In the Revelation of Saint John, chapter 4, we hear of the 24 elders who stand before the throne of God with *wreaths* on their heads. Having been united with Christ, we wear that wreath of which John speaks. So our Advent wreaths refer to the victory wreath, which does not wither through death but rather remains eternal, because God Himself places it on our heads.

As a whole, the candles represent the advent (the coming) of the Light of the world as with each week the wreath becomes brighter. As Christians, our lives, our families, our souls, and our homes are to be filled with the light of Christ. Jesus says that you are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). You are the light of the world because you are in Him who is the light of the world (John 8:12). Nobody *has to* do this, but it is a nice tradition that teaches us about Jesus (as all good traditions do). In this tradition, we see our homes filled with growing light and warmth each week of Advent until we anticipate the celebration of the coming of the Light of the World. In these short and darker days, our evenings are lit by the light of the Advent wreath until we celebrate the Light that shines forth from the Child in the manger. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, the Light no darkness can overcome, and this is the confession made by the Advent wreath.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Partnership Office Address: 613 S. First, Hiawatha, KS 66434 Phone: 785-740-0268 <i>office@nekpartnership.org</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office hours: <i>8 am-1 pm Mon & Wed 8 am-3pm Tues & Thurs</i></p>	<p><u>Member Congregations:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p>First Lutheran, Sabetha 311 Cedar Sabetha, KS 66534 785-284-3566</p> <p>St. Paul, Fairview 110 East Maple Fairview, KS 66425 785-467-8816</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p>Immanuel, Fairview 656 240th St. Fairview, KS 66425</p> <p>Zion Lutheran, Hiawatha 613 South 1st Hiawatha, KS 66434 785-742-3995</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>First Lutheran, Sabetha 311 Cedar Sabetha, KS 66534 785-284-3566</p> <p>St. Paul, Fairview 110 East Maple Fairview, KS 66425 785-467-8816</p>	<p>Immanuel, Fairview 656 240th St. Fairview, KS 66425</p> <p>Zion Lutheran, Hiawatha 613 South 1st Hiawatha, KS 66434 785-742-3995</p>	<p>Pastor Michael Dunaway Cell 785-285-1714 revdunaway@gmail.com (Day off-Friday)</p> <p>Pastor Ian Kinney Cell 260-348-1891 pastoripkinney@gmail.com (Day off-Saturday)</p>
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How?

Here's how it works. On the first day of Advent (Nov 27), Christian families have historically set up an Advent wreath. This is a wreath of greenery adorned by a set of four candles. Typically, three violet or blue colored, and one rose-colored to match the vestments the pastor wears for each of the 4 Sundays in Advent. One candle on the first Sunday, two on the second, three on the third (this is the pink one), and then all four on the last Sunday of Advent. The wreath is often set up on the dining room table and the respective candle(s) are lit for dinner and evening prayer each week. At midnight on Christmas Eve, the Advent wreath has a white "Christ candle" placed in the middle. This Christ Candle is used until Epiphany (Jan 6).

Why?

After our people had come out of Egypt, Moses told them "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'" (Deut 6:20-21). So when your children ask you about why the Church does certain things—like the advent wreath— you can tell them it is because we were slaves in sin but Christ has come, born of Mary, to redeem us with a mighty hand nailed to the cross. The Church is all about catechesis and that is what traditions like these are so good at doing. They teach. This is part of the heritage we have been given to pass on to our children. So that every Advent, they might be reminded of who Jesus is, what He has done for them, and the importance of this wreath of victory He has placed on their heads.



SCHEDULE for Beginning of Year

January 1st - St. Paul at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

January 8th - Zion at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

January 15th - St. Paul at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

January 22nd - Zion at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

January 29th - St. Paul at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

February 5th - Zion at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

February 12th - St. Paul at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

February 19th - Zion at 8:30am - First at 10:30am

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: (F) Liam Blum, Kelsey (Blum) Holsapple, Cory Holsapple, Aaron Foist; Allan Feek, Kevin Remmers; (I) Tristan Knott, Daniel Wheeler, Paul Reynolds Jr.; (SP) Mary Burkett, Spencer Ernst, Bert Ernst.

Care Facilities & Shut-Ins: (F) Stan Kohlmeier, LaVonne Thieme; (I) Gene Rice; (StP) Carol Bauer, Betty Allen; (Z) Darlene Covert, Connie Kneisel, Jaynell & Donald Robidoux, Charles Fritz, Tom Hansen.

Also in our prayers: (F) John Perry, Joyce Paulsen, Evelyn Goodman, Karen Aeschliman, Carla Bishop, Roger Riekenberg, Lisa Riekenberg, Curtis Cook, Crystal Kinkler; (IMM) Doris Rice, Traci Rahe, Fred Meeks; (St.P) Jane Hoppe, Wes Duesing, Deb Bailey, Chris Torrey; (Z) Dale Mueller, Mark Mueller, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley.

We Remember the blessed saints who now rest in the Lord (Judy Clay), and we pray for their families that they remember all who die in the Lord live with the Lord. (Romans 6:5)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1-Mark Tanking, Dec 1-Charlotte Kruse, Dec 2-Chase Deckinger, Dec 3-Scott Gigstad, Dec 6-Donna Thonen, Dec 6-Jackson Manche, Dec 7-Diane Davis, Dec 8-Corey Dunaway, Dec 8-Kenny Stephens, Dec 9-Curt Deckinger, Dec 10-Memphis Cochran, Dec 10-Allan Spellmeier, Dec 11-Ryan Schuette, Dec 12-Jennifer Lowe, Dec 13-Jeff Tanking, Dec 14-Bud Bauman, Dec 14-Madisen Cochran, Dec 14-Leah Deckinger, Dec 16-Patty Remmers, Dec 16-Cale Heiniger, Dec 17-Debbie Lehwald, Dec 18-Helen Bauerle, Dec 20-John Feek, Dec 20-Whitney Lehwald, Dec 24-Christa Schuette, Dec 25-Nancy Brockhoff, Dec 25-Tanner Smith, Dec 27-Daniel Kruse, Dec 28-David Middendorf, Dec 28-Emery Bulk, Dec 30-Anne Arnesen, Dec 31-Hannah Kinney

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 3-Larry & Carol Walter, Dec 4-Janis & Ken Krug, Dec 12-Richard & Barbara Shefferd, Dec 19-Cory & Angie Bass, Dec 26-Matt & Jill Sprick, Dec 30-David & Lela Middendorf, Dec 31-Chad & Amanda Hinton, Dec 31-Larry & Lorene Strahm

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all kids to come and join us for Sunday School!
Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at **9:15am** at **First and Zion**.
Sunday School at **St. Paul** starts after the service at **9:30am**.
The Zion Adult Bible Class and the **First Adult Bible Class** meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. Please come join us!!

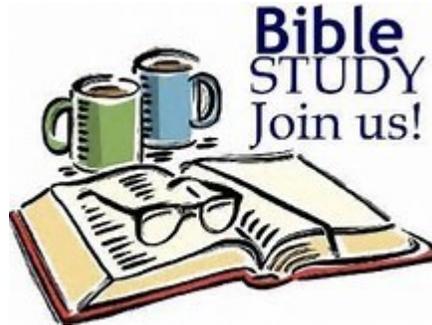


MEETINGS

JOINT ELDERS – December 12th @ 7:00pm
JOINT COUNCIL – December 8th @ 6:30pm

PARTNERSHIP ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday nights at 6:30pm
at St. Paul, following
Evening Prayer Service which
starts at 6:00pm.



Partnership Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday nights at 6:30pm
at Zion Lutheran.
Please join us!

VISIT THE PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

Our website, (www.neklutherans.org), contains the history of the partnership and partnership churches, a calendar of events, recent happenings and future events.

Special announcements are also placed on the website.

New pictures are added frequently.

It has past copies of the newsletters and the calendar for you to reference.

Go to www.neklutherans.org.



UPCOMING EVENT at First

Our 3rd annual Christmas Ham gift away

to help supply hams for those less fortunate
will be after church on December 18th from 1:00-2:00.
You can donate in box at back of church or in giving plate
(please note on your check for hams)

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir of Zion Lutheran Church, Everest,
along with several members of the community,
would like to invite you to the performance
of the beautiful Christmas Cantata, Unto Us A Child Is Born.
The cantata will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, December 11th,
at Zion Lutheran Church, 1521 Prairie Road, Everest.



SERVERS FOR DECEMBER

FIRST LUTHERAN

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

Dec 4th: **Elders**–Kurt Detweiler & Patrick Cochran, **Acolytes**–Lily Pearson & Millie Stoller,
Ushers–Paige Strahm & Bud Bauman, **Greeters**–Bob & Kathy Steiner, **Counters**–Ken & Joyce Meyer

Dec 11th: **Elders**–Allan Spellmeier & Scott Schremmer, **Acolytes**–Hadden Bachelor & Tinner Bachelor,
Ushers–David Bauman & Darrell Schuette, **Greeters**–Jason Steiner Family, **Counters**–Vicki Edelman & Steve Aeschliman

Dec 18th: **Elders**–Dwight Edelman & Shane Schuette, **Acolytes**–Paycen Schremmer & Tyson Detweiler,
Ushers–Dwight Edelman & Shane Schuette, **Greeters**–David & Julie Bauman, **Counters**–Heather Lehwald & Darrell Schuette

Dec 25th: Joint Partnership Service at Immanuel Lutheran starting at 10:00am

Altar Guild for December: Sue Schuette, Heather Lehwald, Linda Swogger, Deb Sjulín
Trustees for December: Ed Hatheway & John Feek

ZION LUTHERAN

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

Dec 4th: **Elder**–Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**–Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**–Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters–Bob & Virginia Freese, **Lector**–Kurt Killman, **Sound System**–David Middendorf

Dec 11th: **Elder**–Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**–Remington Killman, **Ushers**–Leon Wissmann & Richard Clay,
Greeters–Bob & Virginia Freese, **Lector**–Leon Wissmann, **Sound System**–Derrick VanDusen

Dec 18th: **Elder**–Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**–Brady Killman, **Ushers**–David Middendorf & Derrick VanDusen,
Greeters–Larry & Carol Walter, **Lector**–Derrick VanDusen, **Sound System**–Bob & Virginia Freese

Dec 25th: Joint Partnership Service at Immanuel Lutheran starting at 10:00am

Altar Guild for December: Lela Middendorf, Diane Davis, Barb Mueller

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

Dec 4th: **Greeters**– Dwight & Charlotte Kruse

Dec 11th: **Greeters**– Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme

Dec 18th: **Greeters**– Wes & Linda Duesing

Dec 25th: Joint Partnership Service at Immanuel Lutheran starting at 10:00am

Altar Committee for December: Leslie Brockhoff, Kathy Heiniger, Wes Duesing

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran LWML was called to order by Lela Middendorf on November 13, 2022 with 5 members present. Our November meeting was held on Sunday, November 13 instead of November 15 as our previous minutes stated because there is a Church Council meeting scheduled for that night at Zion.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was provided by Diane Davis.

Sharon Lowe made a motion and Virginia Freese seconded that our Christmas donation would be \$100.00 to the Concordia Seminary Food Bank in St. Louis, and gifts to Pastor Dunaway and Pastor Kinney each, as we did last year. Motion carried.

We will prepare seven Christmas goodie bags to be taken to our shut-ins at our next meeting to be held on December 13, 2022.

Anne Arnesen
Secretary

FIRST LWML

The November 3, 2022 meeting of First Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by President Tami Rutten. Opening devotion "Pray Always" was read by Brenda Meyer.

Roll call was answered by 5 members telling what they were thankful for. In the absence of Ruth Swart, secretary, the October minutes were not read. Carole Feek, treasurer, gave the financial report. Mites and dues were collected.

Election of officers was discussed and was voted to leave the officers the same for another year.

A motion was made by Kathy to donate \$400.00 to the pre-school soup day, Lorene second, motion carried.

There was some discussion about our shrinking number of LWML members and how we might encourage others to join.

The December Christmas meeting was discussed and Tami and Kathy will look into our options and get back to everyone.

Tami led the Bible study lesson, "Lord Teach Me To Pray" part one. Part 2 will be next month's lesson from Lutheran's Woman's Quarterly, fall 2022.

Our meeting closed with a prayer.

Kathy Steiner

St. Paul Dorcas Society

The November meeting of the Dorcas Society was held on November 6, 2022 in the church basement following church service.

President Nancy Manche opened the meeting with the lesson of the candy cane. She followed with an article from the 2008 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, "Does the Bible really say that?" We had to decide if well known quotes were from the Bible or another source. Nancy gave the answer to each quote and its source. An overwhelming result was most of the well known quotes came from the Bible.

President Nancy called the business meeting to order. Roll call was answered by 12 members and one guest. Cindy Manche read the October minutes and they were approved as read. At October's meeting we assembled school kits and hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train. We assembled 42 school kits, 68 hygiene kits, and sent 35 quilts.

Leslie Brockoff gave the treasurer's report. The report was approved.

Kathy Heiniger and Karen Bauman took the kits to the Orphan Grain Train pick up in Topeka. She reported it was a big success, but the organizers have some issues to work out.

The Circuit Pastors meeting is Nov. 15, 2022 at St. Paul. Cindy Manche volunteered to get doughnuts, juice, and coffee.

President Nancy and Kathy Heiniger will work on next year's Dorcas yearbook.

Becky Meyer shared the poinsettias. We agreed to use them, but will have live poinsettias on the altar. Church decorating will be Nov. 26, 2022 at 6pm.

Our next meeting is Dec. 4th. Cindy Manche will check if we can have lunch at Kirkwoods at 11:00am.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and then took an offering for our Society. Nancy Manche and Becky Meyer provided refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Manche

Secretary- Cindy Manche

NATIVITY AND ANGEL DISPLAY

*The Northeast Kansas Lutheran Church Partnership
Outreach Committee
will be hosting a Nativity and Angel Display
at the Fairview Community Building on December 8th.*

This will be from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

*If anyone would like to display a nativity scene
or an angel collection,
please contact Dwight Kruse
at 785-547-6724.*

Everyone is welcome!

*Nativity sets and Angels can be left
at each of the Partnership Churches for pickup and return.
You can also leave at the Partnership Office,
or take to the Fairview Community Building that night.*





2022
HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



*JOINT Thanksgiving Service –
Nov. 20 at Zion - 5:00pm*

*Joint Advent 1 - Wednesday, November 30
at First - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 2 - Wednesday, December 7
at Immanuel - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 3 – December 14
at St. Paul – 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 4 – December 21
at Zion – 7:00pm*

*Children's Christmas Program, December 18
will be held at First at 5:00pm.
There will be a light supper after.*

Christmas Eve Services, December 24
*St. Paul & Immanuel - 6:00pm
Zion & First - 8:00pm*

*Christmas Day services
will be held at Immanuel at 10:00am*

*Joint New Year's Eve service
will be held at St. Paul starting at 6:00pm*

Advent suppers & Advent services

*Supper at 6:00pm
Service at 7:00pm
Bible Study at 7:30pm*

FIRST PRESCHOOL

We are very thankful for our new play set at preschool!



The big news at school is that our play set has been installed! The kids are so excited and love playing on it! It's a great addition to our playground. We appreciate our preschool board and congregation for their help and support. There was a lot of hard work involved!

We are learning songs for our Christmas Program on December 8th. The theme is that Jesus is the best gift of all.

We would like to thank everyone for preparing, serving, and attending our Soup Day! We are very thankful and blessed!

Merry Christmas from the Preschool!

ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL

We have enjoyed learning all about fall this month. We have experimented with all types of art materials, from liquid water colors, tearing paper to make an apple, and stamp painting apple pies. We watched apple seeds dance and learned and tasted all the different apples. We even made apple pies.

Pastor talked about Moses and his people, the parting of the red sea and the ten commandments. Last week we learned about David and Goliath.

I'm happy to say all the students are attending 5 days a week. Thank you everyone for your support of our wonderful program. I am working on establishing a tuition endowment fund. This way we will have no problem helping students in need. We are already off to a good start.

Again thank you everyone, our program wouldn't be what it is without you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<p>1 Week 1 visits 6:15pm AHG Mtg.</p>	<p>2 Pr. Dunaway Day Off</p>	<p>3 Pr. Kinney Day Off 8:30 Confirmation Class</p>
<p>4 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion & First 9:30 St. Paul Bible Study 11:00 St. Paul Dorcas Mtg's. w/Pres. Panzer</p>	<p>5 9:00 Staff meeting</p>	<p>6 6:30 Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>7 10:30 Ministerial Alliance 1:30 First LWML 6:00 Advent supper 7:00 Joint Advent Service @Immanuel 7:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>8 Week 2 visits 6:00-8:00 Nativity & Angel Display 6:30 Joint Council 6:30 First Preschool Christmas Program</p>	<p>9 Pr. Dunaway Day Off</p>	<p>10 Pr. Kinney Day Off 8:30 Confirmation Class</p>
<p>11 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion & First 9:30 St. Paul Bible Study</p>	<p>12 Articles Due for Newsletter 9:00 Staff meeting 7:00 Joint Elders</p>	<p>13 9:00 Circuit @Nortonville 6:30 Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>14 6:00 Advent supper 7:00 Joint Advent Service @St.Paul 7:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>15 Week 3 visits</p>	<p>16 Pr. Dunaway Day Off</p>	<p>17 Pr. Kinney Day Off 8:30 Confirmation Class</p>
<p>18 4th Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study- Zion & First 9:30 St. Paul Bible Study 5:00 Joint Children's Program @First</p>	<p>19 9:00 Staff meeting</p>	<p>20 6:30 Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>21 Start of Winter 6:00 Advent supper 7:00 Joint Advent Service @Zion 7:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>22 Week 4 visits</p>	<p>23 Pr. Dunaway Day Off</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 6:00 Service-Immanuel 6:00 Service @St. Paul 8:00 Service @Zion 8:00 Service @First</p>
<p>25 Christmas  Joint service @Immanuel</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6:30 Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Pr. Dunaway Day Off</p>	<p>31 Pr. Kinney Day Off 6:00 Joint Service @St. Paul</p>