

# The St. John's Lutheran

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## THE ALTAR CRUCIFIX Part II – The Biblical Basis for the Crucifix

Last month we announced that the staff and elders of St. John's are discussing the reintroduction of an altar crucifix at St. John's. A crucifix is a cross with the body of Christ on it. There it was pointed out (and documented with pictures) that St. John's used an altar crucifix in its previous church building(s) from at least 1888 until the congregation moved into our current church building in 1938. In addition, a very brief history of the use of crosses and crucifixes in the Christian church was also sketched. This month we will survey numerous Bible passages that lend support to the use of a crucifix.

### **1. The eternal, invisible God took on our human form and nature in the person of Jesus.**

- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14
- “Christ is the image of the invisible God.” Colossians 1:15
- “In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.” Colossians 1:19
- “Jesus is the express image of the Father's person.” Hebrews 1:3

### **2. Jesus Christ retains our human nature even after His resurrection and ascension to heaven.**

- “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it into my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe!’” John 20:27

### **3. We can know God only through the flesh and blood God-man Jesus Christ.**

- “No one has ever seen God. The only God, who is at the Father's side, He [Christ!] has revealed Him.” John 1:18
- “Jesus said, ‘Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.’” John 14:9
- “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” II Corinthians 4:6

### **4. The cross—whether “empty” or with a corpus—is always about Jesus' bloody death for our sins.**

- “In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.” Colossians 1:19-20

**5. Christ's crucifixion for the sins of the world *remains* the center of His work, and the Christian message, *even since* His resurrection and ascension.**

“We preach Christ crucified.” I Corinthians 1:23

“I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” I Corinthians 2:2

“As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.” I Corinthians 11:26

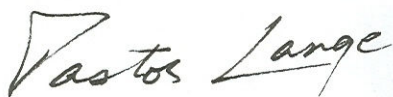
“God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Galatians 6:16

“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

A crucifix emphasizes and keeps before us these important Biblical truths of God's Word!

In the future we will develop further the Biblical and historical reasons for using a crucifix, before finally responding to some of the commonly heard objections.

In Christ,



For the Staff and Board of Elders

**STEWARDSHIP VERSE: JOHN 3:27**

John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven”.

**Pastor - Rev. Peter K. Lange, ext. 101**

**Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz**

**Visitation Pastor - Rev. Glenn R. Bitter**

**Dir. of Christian Education - Dennis L. Hintz, ext. 104**

**Deaconess - Linda S. Cosgrove, ext. 102**

**Day School Teachers - Andrea Kosmicki, Dakota Sorensen**

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Christian Fellowship will meet at St. John's on February 26 at 4:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner. Bring one food dish and table service, drinks will be provided. An antique appraiser has been invited to speak. Feel free to bring a small item for the appraiser to comment on in terms of value and marketing possibilities. All St. John's members are invited.

## 2012 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Following are the individuals elected or appointed to serve in a leadership capacity in St. John's Lutheran Church - Topeka, Kansas. We give thanks to God for their faithful and dedicated work.

*President* - \* Ron Revelle

*President Elect* - \* Roger Barr

*Secretary* - \* Pat Tierce

*Treasurer* - \* David G. Frampton

*Financial Secretary* - Ed Klumpp

*Board of Elders:* Robert Berry, John Kite, Jeffrey LaCrone, Guy Luebbe, Bill Porter,  
\*Al Goodpasture, \* Mark Pheasant, \* Mike Grau, \* Dale Fritsch

*Board of Trustees:* Marc Weir, Joe Kmiec, \* Buck Ellis

*Board of Parish Education:* \* Dakota Sorensen, Jeffrey Pierce, Eric Scott

*Board of Christian Stewardship:* Ron Sims, \* Andy Grittman, \* Dave Graversen

*Endowment Board:* Ryan Weir, Larry Meyer, \* James Gerhardt, Chuck McMullen,  
Jeanine Wiseman

*Board of Missions & Evangelism:* Dave Riley, Ed Lohmann, \* Jim Simpson

*Nominating Committee:* Ron Revelle, Doug Peters, Keith Powell, Mark Pierce

*Topeka Lutheran School Delegate Assembly:* Kacey Cattoor, \* Myron Akers, Jim Stinson

*TLS Board:* Myron Akers, Clay Walters, \* Sherri Edmonds

*Early Childhood Education Board (CYC):* Jim Stinson, \* Tracy Wagner

*KS District Representative:* Clayton Kinnett, Stevin Gehrke

*Archivist:* \* Vera McFaddin

*\* newly elected/re-elected and appointed/re-appointed*

## ST. JOHN'S FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2012

The following services are available in the next few months if you would like to provide flowers for any of them:

*February 26*

*March 11 & 25*

*April 1, 8, 22 & 29*

*May 13*

Just sign your name and phone number on the date of your choice on the Flower Calendar posted outside of the church office. You will receive a reminder call when you are to provide flowers.

## LUTHER COLLEGE NORDIC CHOIR PERFORMANCE

Dr. Allen Hightower, Director

Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m. - **Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka**

*(Ticket required)*

## **YOUR JUNK IS SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE**

April 12 & 13, 2012 are the dates reserved for the **St. John's Women's League Bargain and Bake Sale**. Last year we sold clothes, trinkets, collectibles, games, dishes, televisions, towels, pajamas, jeans, shoes, appliances - just to name a few! More information will be forthcoming as the dates get closer.

## **FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS**

*Saturday, January 28: **Open Youth Room/Luther Hall**, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.* Special guests will be several foreign exchange students living all over Kansas who will be visiting Topeka for the weekend. Come hang out and play games with students from your favorite country!

*Friday, February 3, 6:00 p.m. - Saturday, February 4, 8:30 a.m.: **Catechesis Lock In**.* This lock-in is for all 7th and 8th grade Catechesis students, and will include youth from a few other churches. Please sign up in the youth room. **Free** for St. John's members, youth from other churches - cost is \$20.

*Sunday, February 12, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.: **2nd Sunday Youth Night/Meeting**.* In addition to our monthly meeting, we will enjoy appetizer, meat/vegetable, and dessert fondues for our special Valentine's Dinner. Sign up in youth room for what you would like to bring for the fondues.

*Saturday, February 25: **All day Ski/Tubing trip to Snow Creek, Weston , MO**.* Jr. and Sr. High youth will be given \$30 toward their choice of package. Check email, FB and youth room for rates. A minimum of 15 participants is needed. Sign up in the youth room. Friends, siblings, and parents, are welcome but will pay the full Level 2 price. Money will be due on or before February 19. Transportation and departure/return times are yet to be determined.

## **COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY**

The Washburn campus Bible study led by Pastor Joel Pankow from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (WELS) has resumed on Thursdays, at 8:15 p.m., in the Myriad Room of the Living Learning Center at Washburn University. This is a great Bible study for St. John's college age members and friends! Contact information: [topekawels@hotmail.com](mailto:topekawels@hotmail.com)

Cope with Hope – February 16

How Can I Forgive If I Just Can't Forget? – February 23

God Isn't Fair – March 1

“Who do you say I am?” – March 8

## **THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO - RIVER FOREST, IL**

The Wind Symphony will be in concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd, on March 9, 2012 at 7 p.m. The 60 member symphony is under the direction of Dr. Richard Fischer. This event is sponsored by the Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka. There will be a free will offering.

**ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP AND INTEGRATION TEAM  
NEEDS A SECOND TIER OF HELPERS**

Please consider volunteering for one or more of these activities, and then mark and return this questionnaire to the church office.

1. For monthly breakfasts April 8 and/or August 12:
  - a. Prepare casseroles, etc. the day before \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Set up tables and chairs and/or serving tables \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Sunday morning preparations before church \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Prepare and serve drinks \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Wipe down tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Put away tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Wash/dry serving items \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. For Annual picnic in July:
  - a. Set up tables/ chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Decorate \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Prepare drinks \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Cut desserts \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Wipe down tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Put away tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Wash/dry serving items \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. For Oktoberfest in October:
  - a. Set up tables/chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Help prepare food prior to the day \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Decorate \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Prepare drinks \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Sell tickets/collect money on the day \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Help with prep work on the day \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Monitor children's activities \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Wipe down tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Put away tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Wash/dry serving items \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. For possible occasional potluck lunches:
  - a. Set up tables/chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Help with prep work (set out serving items) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Prepare drinks \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Wipe down tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Put away tables and chairs \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Wash/dry serving items \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Provide baked goods for breakfasts/Oktoberfest/other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks!!!**

**THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**

## FEBRUARY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

	<u>4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>12<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>22<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup></u>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Dunn</b>	<b>Taylor</b>	<b>Stiers</b>	<b>Taylor</b>	<b>Magee</b>
	Hawkins		Polter		Scott
	Hefner		Richmond		Simpson
	Nance		Scheuerman		

St. John's to assist with **PROJECT TOPEKA COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE**

Hunger continues to be a growing problem in Topeka and throughout the nation as more and more people are being affected by poverty. To assist with this need, please bring your non-perishable food donations to church during the month of February and place them in one of the boxes labeled "Project Topeka Community Food Drive".

This will help restock the major food banks in the Capital City of Kansas.

### THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

*[Jesus said] "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

Matthew 28:19-20a

So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel.

The Augsburg Confession, Article 5

### THE FEBRUARY 2012 GROWING IN CHRIST SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

#### TEACH THESE LESSONS:

<b>February 5</b>	Jesus Heals a Man Who Is Paralyzed	Mark 2: 1-12
<b>February 12</b>	Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter	Mark 5:21-24, 35-43
<b>February 19</b>	The Transfiguration	Mark 9: 2-10
<b>February 26</b>	Jesus Calms a Storm	Mark 4: 35-41

**YOUNGER CHILDREN, AGE THREE THROUGH FIRST GRADE, ARE LEARNING TO RECITE PORTIONS OF LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM AS WELL AS THESE SCRIPTURE VERSES:**

#### Bible Words

**February 5:** Jesus said, "Let the Children Come to Me". Mark 10:14

**February 12:** (same as above)

**February 19:** (same as above)

**February 26:** Do not fear, only believe. Mark 5:36

**Children in grades 2 through 6 are reciting these Scripture verses:**

**Bible Words for February:**

**February 5:** Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.” *Matthew 28:18*

**February 12:** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

**February 19:** A voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.” *Mark 9:7*

**February 26:** You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. *Ps. 71:5*

*The children have challenged themselves to learn my heart these Scripture verses each week. The kids are rewarded for their efforts with a small treat. Parents, please review these verses with your child at home.*

It is always important for your child to receive the gifts God gives through the teaching of His Word in Sunday School. He also gives good gifts through the message of Christ through the Sacraments, and through the music which proclaims the Gospel in the Divine Service.

We look forward to learning and worshiping with you, parents, and your children.

**CALENDAR PAGE**

To view the calendar, go to the St. John’s website - [www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org](http://www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org) click on the calendar icon on the left side of the page.