Christ the King Weekend Sunday, November 22, 2020, 9:00 am



Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

We are "a worshiping and caring Christian community, sharing God's compassion and grace with all people in need of love and acceptance within this congregation, the community, and the world!"

PRELUDE

Introduction to the day

On this final Sunday of the church year, our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

WELCOME

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

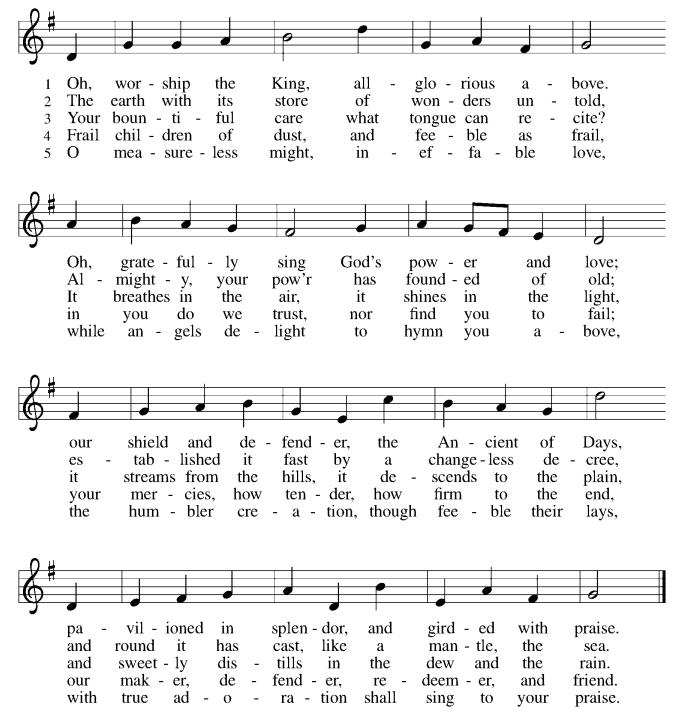
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through ⊕ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus, you are welcome, in Jesus, you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.
Amen. **GATHERING HYMN**

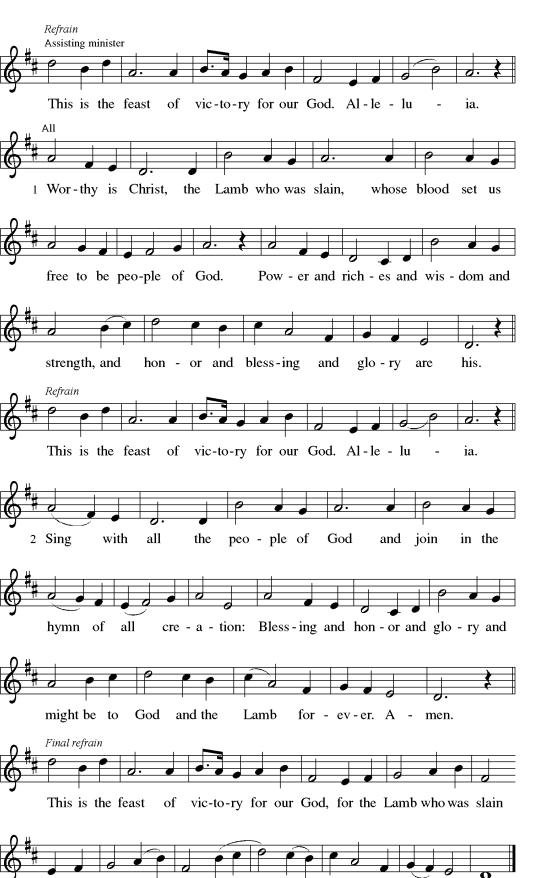
"Oh, Worship the King"



Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.



has be - gun his

reign. Al

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le - lu-ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him, we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Word

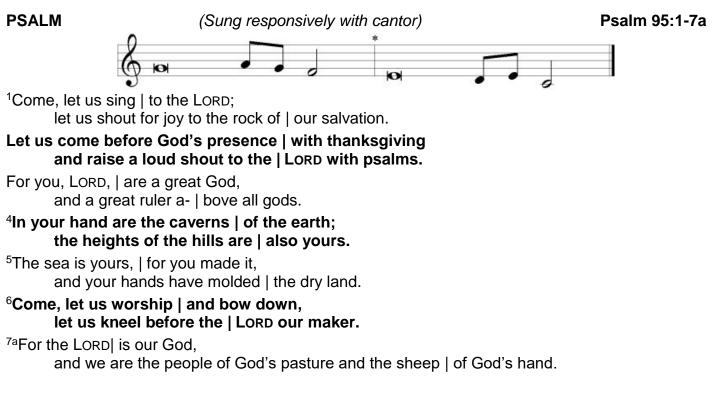
FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people. A reading from Ezekiel.

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



SECOND READING

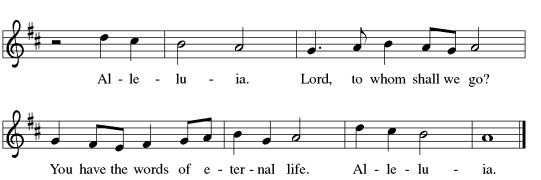
Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come. A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.





The holy gospel according to the 25th chapter of St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

p. 151

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

Jesus said to the disciples: ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or

naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

So, how is your day going?

You've probably been asked that question, or something like it, thousands of times by now. You've been asked it by members of your family, by your friends, by that casual acquaintance you bump into at the grocery store.

And what does your response to that question look like? More likely than not, it's probably a simple, basic, one-word response: fine, good, okay. Forgettable, in other words.

But there is a mother somewhere who has a different way of asking the same question. As she tucks her children into bed each night, their teeth brushed and their hair still damp from the bathtub, she asks them a question: "Where did you meet God today?" And they tell her, one by one: a teacher helped me, there was a homeless person in the park, I saw a tree with lots of flowers in it. She tells them where she met God, too. Before the children drop off to sleep, the stuff of their day has become the substance of their prayer.

Earlier this year, on April 12th, we celebrated Easter together. Not together in person, of course, because, by that time, everything was online. But if you wished, and if you had access to a computer, phone or tablet, you could have worshipped with us that day. And you may be aware that there is more than one option for scripture readings that day. You can always read the story of the resurrection from whatever gospel the church has mainly been reading from that particular year, which, this year, was Matthew. Or, you can always choose to read the story of the resurrection from the gospel of John. I'm sure you remember how that one goes. Early in the morning on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb of Jesus. But when she gets there, she notices that the stone has been rolled away from in front of the tomb. Not knowing what's going on, she runs to tell the disciples. But then Mary herself returns to the tomb to weep. And as she does, she manages to look inside the tomb this time, and there she sees two angels in white, who ask her why she is weeping. Then she turns around, and there's this strange man standing there, a man whom she doesn't recognize. Supposing him to be the gardener, she asks him if he has taken the body of Jesus away. She wants to recover the body so that she can give him a decent burial. Then the stranger calls out her name, and she suddenly realizes that it's Jesus. After this, when she returns to the disciples, she is able to tell them, "I have seen the Lord," and she is the first person who is able to say that. And, as I'm sure you can imagine, her life was forever changed because of that encounter.

And, whether we always recognize it or not, we have had plenty of encounters with the risen Jesus ourselves. We have met him in scripture, in prayer, in song. We have met him in those who have cared for us. We have met him in some of the strangers that have been placed on our way. And when we realize that we have met him, it can change our lives, too.

Today our church gathers to celebrate the last Sunday of the church year, Christ the King Sunday. And our gospel reading for this Sunday gives us a story about the last judgment, and the king who presides over it. And you probably noticed that a lot about that judgment came down to recognition. Do we see Christ in others? Do others see Christ in us? We know that our salvation is dependent upon Christ alone, but when you read a gospel like this one, you can't help but feel that at least some of the final judgment is going to involve how we have treated those who truly are "the least of these."

And so it would seem, going forward, that one of the things that we can always be working on is striving to recognize Jesus. And how do we do that? Well, I have a few suggestions:

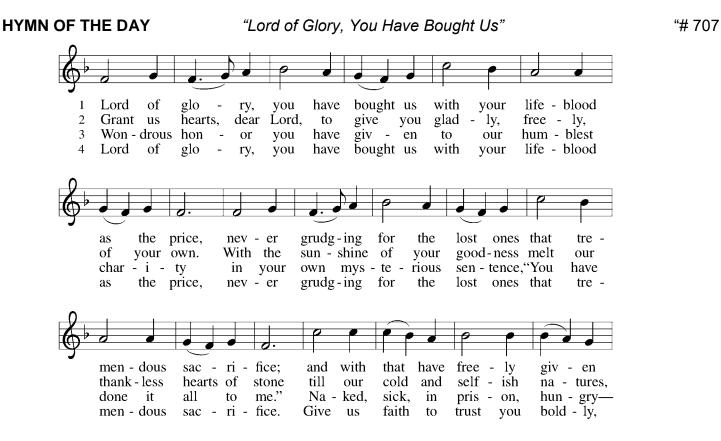
1. Show kindness to strangers. The person who brings you your groceries, or checks them out in the store. The one who comes to your house to repair or clean something. The one driving in front of

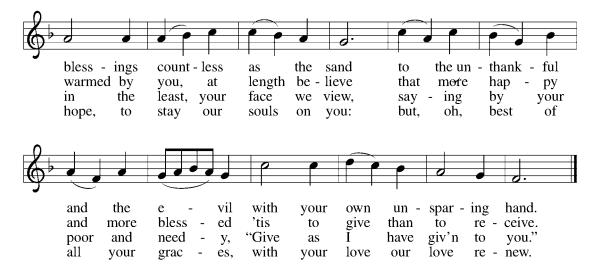
you who seems to be driving a little slow because they're looking for an address. Even in small ways, our patience and kindness with others is going to make a difference. And it'll be good for your blood pressure, too!

2. Feed the hungry. You've been very good about dropping things off to give to Doorstep and the Rescue Mission—and their needs have only increased during the pandemic. So let's keep up the good work and continue to show support for those who provide food and shelter to the most vulnerable.

3. Care for the sick. While visiting those who are hospitalized, those in nursing homes is still pretty limited right now, there are other ways that we can show our care. I know some of you have brought meals to those who have returned home after a hospital stay, and I thank you for doing that. Others in our community may need help in other ways—putting out their trash, for instance, or offering to rake some leaves. When possible and appropriate, rides to doctor's appointments may be needed. Even sending a card or giving someone a call can be much appreciated.

We do these sorts of things not because we're trying to earn points with God, or because we're afraid of God, but simply because it's what God wants us to do. One of the very best things that we can do with our lives is to go out there and see Christ in others. Every day that we're blessed to have on this earth can be a blessed day when we meet God. So, go ahead. Answer the question. Where have you met God today? Amen.





Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

NICENE CREED We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father: through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

- For the church, that God will help us to minister faithfully to all considered least in our society, we pray: Your kingdom come.
- For our bishop, Susan, and for all bishops, that God will bless their ministry as shepherds of the church, we pray: **Your kingdom come.**
- For all who serve us in government, that God will lead them to work together, providing for those most in need and guiding all people towards safety in their response to the virus, we pray: **Your kingdom come.**
- For the United States. Save us from violence of all kinds and restore national good will. End prejudice of all kinds and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future, we pray: **Your kingdom come.**
- For all who are in need. Visit with health and good medical care all the sick, especially the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. Prepare a vaccine to save our world from COVID-19. Give food, employment and housing to the countless who are struggling to live. And we especially pray for our family and friends who are sick, whom we now mention out loud or in the silence of our hearts...we pray: **Your kingdom come.**
- For those who will be traveling for Thanksgiving this week. Protect them safe in their travels, and may all gatherings be safe and joyful, we pray: **Your kingdom come.**
- Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING

"Soon and Very Soon"

Grace Notes

OFFERING HYMN "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" # 678 (sung to "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven" ELW #771)

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store: nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door, gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
- 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone; born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
- 3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred; ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of wisdom, in your Son Jesus you teach us to love one another and to share the gifts of our lives. Receive these gifts in thanksgiving for all you have done for us. Bring forth from us a rich yield in lives dedicated to your service. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

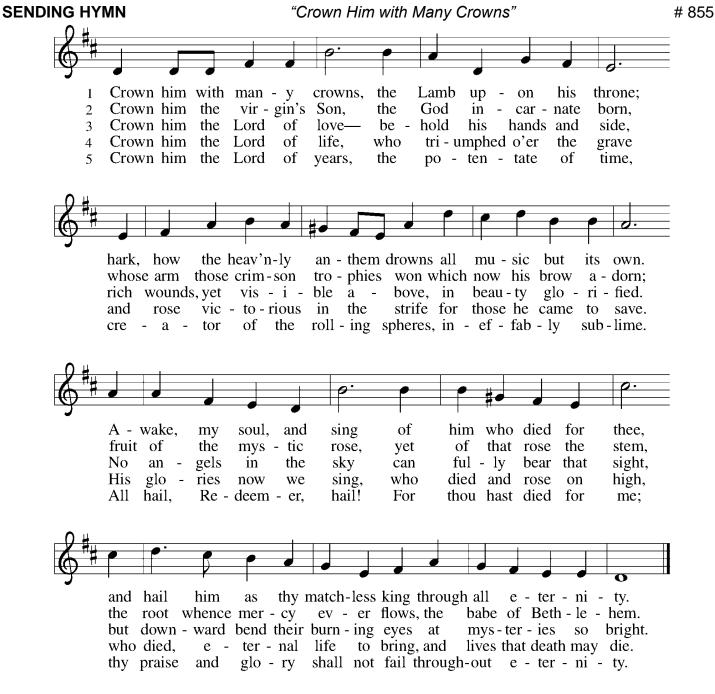
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God of abundance, we give you thanks for the pleasure of gathering together on this Thanksgiving Day. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. We give thanks for life, the many gifts you have given us, the freedom to enjoy it all and all other blessings. As we share this food, we pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as You would have us. We ask for all of these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Father, \pm Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Sun. 11/22 9 am	This week at Our Saviors Commitment Weekend/Christ the King Online Worship	i
Tues. 11/24 6 pm 7 pm	Outreach meeting Men's Reading Group	Zoom FH
Thurs. 11/26	Thanksgiving – office closed	
Fri. 11/27	Thanksgiving holiday – office closed	
Sun. 11/29 9 am	First Advent Online Worship This is the last day to order your poin	nsettia!!

What's Happening at OSLC

- The church offices will be closed this Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving. The offices will open again on Monday, November 30 at 9 am.
- We are sad to report that due to the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in the Shawnee County community, the county has issued an order limiting gatherings to 10 or less. This means we will not be able to have in person services, at least through the end of the order on December 14th. We will continue to make a video service available each week on the OSCL YouTube channel. If the order is rescinded prior to December 14th, we will continue in-person services as usual.
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service-**-Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will not be a shared Thanksgiving worship this year. However, look for a special video from the pastors encouraging support for Doorstep and the Topeka Rescue Mission.
- **Poinsettias will be available for purchase again this year.** The cost of the 6" potted plants will be **<u>\$10.00</u>**. A signup sheet is at the Welcome Center, or if you wish, you may call the church office and let them know of your desire to purchase a poinsettia, and we will write your name on the sheet. If you wish, you may designate the plant to be in memory of/honor of/or celebration of your choosing. Put your payment in the offering plate with a designation in the memo line of POINSETTIA. **Payment is due by November 29.**
- Make Christmas a little brighter for the **residents of Oak Creek Living Center!** We are adopting the approximately 30 residents of Oak Creek this Christmas. Each resident will receive a gift bag of items just for them. We will be collecting gifts for the bags throughout the month of November. A list of items requested can be picked up at the Worship Center or you can find a list later in this bulletin.
- Start your Christmas cards now! Christmas cards for the residents of Oak Creek will be available in the concourse during the month of November. Stop by, fill out a card, and make their Christmas season a joyful one.
- Barb Keil, RN is the Parish Nurse for OSLC. She can be reached at 408-4114, at bkeil4514@gmail.com, or you may leave a message with the church office or her mailbox in the Fellowship Hall. She would also like to let you know that monthly blood pressure checks are on hold due to COVID distancing and cleaning requirements.
- Thank you for your **continuing monetary support of our congregation**. Although we are not able to gather like we are used to doing, the expenses and needs of the church go on. Your support makes this ministry possible. As we continue to navigate these unprecedented waters, please continue to be safe. Please remember that God is with us.
- You are invited to **borrow a hymnal from church** for use in your own times of devotion and worship. These are in the kitchen area. Sign the form to let us know.

- **Christmas is a-comin!** In addition to Christmas Eve worship, Grace Notes will be involved in the Lessons and Carols on Dec. 27 and A Christmas Cantata on Jan. 3. If you're interested in singing for any or all of these special events, please join us for rehearsal beginning Dec. 2. We would love to have you!!
- Sometimes it is just a phone call, or a card or note, or a picture that you or your child colored that can make a shut-in's day. So since we are all basically "shut-in's" in one way or another for a while longer, why not reach out and brighten up a friend's day? You might just brighten your own as well! We must take care of each other during these trying times, in whatever ways we can.
- Page Turners will be supporting the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (<u>https://imaginationlibrary.com</u>) again this year for their December project. According to The Library Foundation (TSCPL) they are serving just under 6000 kids in Shawnee Co. It is an estimated cost of \$30/child to send them books for one year. If you would like to join Page Turners with a donation, please make a check out to The Library Foundation with Dolly Parton written in the memo line. Please mail your check to Beth Edmonds by December 10.

In Our Prayers

<u>Those who need healing</u>... Sheila Gutierrez; Carol Brown; Sue Henke; Avis Cowhick; Kay Dobbs; RB Cowhick; Sharon Rumpel; Janice Greer; Betsy Hawkins; Cecilia Harris; Pat Dunavan; Kathi Christman

Those who are homebound...Dean Olson; Melissa Smith

Those in our families and community...Dwight—neighbor of Carol Hunt; Keith—brother of Lila McClaflin; Janet—cousin of Sue Henke; Ralph—brother of Betsy Hawkins; Paula—niece of Betsy Hawkins; Marcia—cousin of Betsy Hawkins; Joe—uncle of Pat Koenig; Ray—friend of Betsy Hawkins; Sharon—mother of Matt Ledell; Cheryl—sister of JoLana Pinon; Nicole—niece of Jodi Ledell; Gary—husband of Betsy Hawkins; Jolene—sister-in-law of Jim Oestreich and Janet Bolton: PJ—grandson of Virginia Mendez; Fred—uncle of Clay and Katie Davis; Claudia—friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; Clark—brother of Betsy Hawkins; Spencer—nephew of Carol Hunt; Ashley—friend of Katie Davis; Cari—-daughter of Dawn & George Bradley; Wyatt—cousin of Dawn Bradley; Paul-friend of Sarah Thomas and Donnita Thomas; Juanita-friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; **Don**—friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; **Ray**—brother of Dwight Rumpel; **Daxton**—grandbaby of a friend of Sue Rohleder: **Ann**—Aunt of Pat Koenig: **Dora**—friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; Dave—friend of Marj Odell; Skip—uncle of Clay Davis; Craig—brother of Betsy Hawkins, Shannon-cousin of Carol Hunt; Gen Cater-former OSLC member; Tess-friend of Betsy Hawkins; Sherry-friend of Idella Basart; Leonard-friend of Geoff Dahlman; Davidcousin of Myron Dunavan; Donna-friend of Idella Basart; Sheila-friend of JoLana Pinon; Roxiesister of Andrea McGee; Gene-father of Jodi Ledell; Dale-brother of Myron Holter

<u>Those serving overseas and other concerns</u>...We pray for front line workers and essential workers during the coronavirus, including **Andrea, Anise, and Riley**—relatives of Virginia Mendez. **Imanee**—granddaughter-in-law of Dawn Bradley who is serving abroad. Pray for the innocent children affected by violence.

Make Christmas Brighter for the Residents of Oak Creek Living Center!

We are adopting the residents of Oak Creek for Christmas. Below is a list of items that residents and staff requested. Each resident will receive a gift bag of items at their holiday party. Donate throughout the month of November.

Blank or Friendship Cards-4x6 or bigger Calendars Picture Frames-4x6, 5x7 Black Velvet Color Kits Puzzles-300 pieces maximum Colored Pencils **Colored Markers Fuzzy Socks** Non-Skid Socks

Toothpaste-Crest Denture Cleaner-3 minute Denture Paste MEN After Shave-Brut, Old Spice Antiperspirant Deodorant-Brut, Old Spice Body Wash-Brut, Old Spice

WOMEN Shampoo Body Wash Body Spray Perfume Deodorant-Secret, Suave Nail Polish