

St. Luke's Visitor

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11*

From The Pastor's Pen

*¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
¹²And this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
– Luke 2:11-12*

In church life, December means **Advent** and **Christmas**.

Advent is all about getting ready to meet the Lord. We get ready to meet the Lord through repentance. Repentance is allowing God to do his work on us through Law and Gospel. The Law kills us, and the Gospel raises us to new life. The Law condemns us, and the Gospel restores us. Repentance can be hard. No one likes to have their errors pointed out to them and be convicted. But that's not the only thing that happens in repentance. In repentance, God also lavishly bestows upon us His favor. He delivers forgiveness to us. He says, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Christmas is the celebration that God became man to save us. This Christmas season, I encourage you to pray the hymns. Consider Charles Wesley's second stanza of the Christmas Carol, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (LSB 380, sts. ref, 2):

*"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!"*

God became man ... to save us from our sins. That's why we celebrate Christmas.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

To help us prepare to celebrate Christmas properly, we will have Advent Midweek Services on **Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18**. This year, these services will start at **6:30 p.m.**, not 7:30 p.m. as we have done in years past. Our December 11 service will be the **Children's Christmas Program**. On December 4, we will look at the Song of Zechariah, and on December 18, we will look at the Song of Mary.



ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS

Advent Devotional booklets are available in the narthex. This Lutheran Hour Ministries 2024 Advent Devotional booklet is titled *Come, Let Us Adore Him*.

MAYOR'S SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS LIGHTED PARADE

The Parade is the first Friday in December. The parade starts at **5:30 p.m.** We will have a float in it! Invitations to our church have been attached to candy that will be distributed on the parade route. Can you help? We will meet at the parking lot just north west of the mall on **December 6**. Walkers should aim to be in the parking lot by 5ish p.m. Our Trail Life and American Heritage Girls Troops will each have a float also.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please note the following schedule:

Wed., Dec. 4 – Full group **rehearsal** during regular BASIC Training time.

Sat., Dec. 7 – Full group **dress rehearsal** at 10:00 a.m.

Wed. Dec. 11 – **Performance** at 6:30pm, meet at 6:00 p.m.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER (ELC) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Early Learning Center will also have a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (LLL) CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The LLL Group will be going caroling at the same time as the ELC Christmas Program is taking place – **Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m.** (These types of dueling events happen in large churches with numerous activities). The LLL Group will be meeting at **Stoneybrook** (2025 Little Kitten Avenue, MHK, 66503) at the *north building* at **4:00 p.m.** They will conclude the evening at a restaurant.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (AKA LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML))

The **LWML Annual Christmas Tea** will be on **Saturday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m.** at St. Luke's. Ladies, save the date and plan to be a part of this very enjoyable event.



The **2025 LWML Convention** will be in Omaha, NE. The theme is "Growing in God's Grace" (2 Peter 3:18). Young ladies (between the ages of 21 and 35), please consider applying to be a **Young Women Representatives** (or **YWR**). Questions: Please speak with Julie Hatesohl. If you haven't heard, I (Pastor Schmidt) will be on the ballot for Pastoral Counselor.



VOTERS' MEETING

We will have a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, December 15, at 1:00 p.m. We will be discussing the church budget for 2025.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – December 24

4:00 p.m. – Happy Birthday Jesus Service

This service includes your favorite Christmas carols, flameless candles, balloons, birthday cake, & a living nativity.

6:30 p.m. – A Traditional Christmas Eve Service

This service includes Lessons and Carols with Candlelights.

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m. – The Nativity of our Lord with Holy Communion.

Be thinking about who you can invite to worship with us this Christmas season.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

We are planning on having a New Year's Eve Service. To be consistent with our Midweek Services, this service will be at **6:30 p.m.** Say "good-bye" to the year past and greet the new year in worship, prayer, and praise.

YOUTH

The **Youth** are meeting on Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m., at St. Luke's.



The LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans. We have 10 youth and 4 adults who are registered.

LCMS U CAMPUS MINISTRY

Our LCMS U Campus Ministry is alive and well. We meet on Monday nights at the Blue House (354 N. Delaware Ave., MHK, 66052). Fellowship is at 8:00 p.m., and Bible Study is at 9:00 p.m.



Lunch for the college students on Sundays is called **Table Talk**. It is at St. Luke's on the 2nd-5th Sundays of the month, and at Christ Lutheran the 1st Sunday of the month. Please consider hosting a college lunch. To add your name to the schedule, click on the QR code.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE KANSAS (<https://lflfokansas.org/>)

The vision of Lutherans For Life of Kansas is for every Lutheran, both individually and in their local church, to uphold the God-given value of every human life and to influence society to do the same.



St. Luke's is part of the **Flint Hills Lutherans for Life (Chapter #257)**. Judy Boye is our chapter president. Please ask her how you can get involved.

A big "thank you" to our **service men** and **women** who have fought for our freedom, which includes our right to worship as we believe.

A big "thank you" to all who made our 100th Anniversary a wonderful event to remember.

A big "thank you" to all who served in the afternoon, following the 100th Anniversary service. Your service is greatly appreciated.

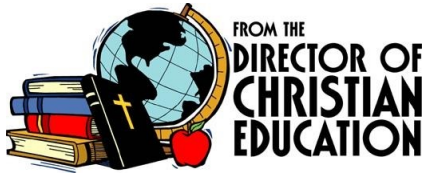
A big "thank you" to all who put on a fantastic Thanksgiving Meal, especially Bonita Tegtmeier and the elders.

If you can't join us in worship in *person*, please join us via YouTube.



It is an honor to serve as your pastor.





Wow! Advent is here!

November went by very quickly!

During November our students participated in the Kansas District Youth Gathering at Rock Springs 4H Camp. The theme was "RUN" based on Hebrews 12. It was a great experience, and our students made our congregation proud in their participation and their commitment to connect with the other students and to grow in their faith.

Speaking of our students, you will have your first opportunity to support the students going to the 2025 LCMS Gathering in New Orleans next summer. During the Advent season the students will be providing Poinsettias for a donation. The donation will get you a poinsettia and provide our students with funds to offset the cost of participating in the Gathering next summer.

This month, I also experienced my first St Luke's Thanksgiving Dinner. That was the most people I have seen in our building at one time!! According to the kitchen team we served over 200 people. The Elder had to bring more chairs and some of the new benches from our new fire pit!! It was amazing to see our whole family together and to meet the friends they invited. God is working in, though, and around us!!

I am also blessed to have had the opportunity to partner with our Child ministry team to do an Advent wreath building family night. We had 20 families come together to learn more about the season of Advent and to create opportunities for deeper participation in Advent by building a family Advent wreath together. Hopefully all 20 families will be working through the daily family Advent activities AND then participate in St Luke's Advent services on Dec 4th, Dec 11th, and Dec 18th at 6:30pm. Hopefully, YOU will join us too!!

I am really looking forward to December and all the opportunities for our St Luke's family AND our community (BY YOUR INVITATION) to take a break from the earthly hustle and bustle and celebrate the Coming of Our Savior!

Stay focused: God is growing St Luke's in ministry and in the number of people we call St Luke's family! Make sure you are looking for opportunities to help out with the different ministries AND to warmly welcome everyone that comes through our doors!

Please continue your partnership with me as I pray for our Pastor, our leaders, our volunteers, for all the families at St Luke's. God is working in, around, and through us for His glory and for the benefit of the community around us. In situations like these Satan takes immense pleasure in causing discord and unrest. Please pray that each of us will "Fix our eyes on Christ" and that we would not be distracted by Satan's efforts.

William Prann, Director of Christian Education



“Sharing Jesus Christ’s love with those around us.”



October 2024 OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

**Theodore David Hutter
Beau Layton Alexander**

Transferred to the Kingdom of Glory
Janice O’Briant

Date	Saturday 6:00 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
December 4	Advent Midweek 1 @ 6:30 p.m. - Annabelle Burton		
December 7/8		Isaiah Hickman-Roten	Tucker Lynch
December 14/15		Gavin Hudson	Sarah Oelke
December 18	Advent Midweek 3 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cora Davies		
December 21/22		Anna Larson	Macsen Wells
December 24	Happy Birthday Jesus @ 4:00 p.m. - Samuel Lyons Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30 p.m. - Archer & Carter Manning		
December 25	Christmas Day Service @ 10:00 a.m. -		
December 28/29		Taryn Thiele	Allie Winter





December 1: Ian Carter
December 2: Luke Wilson
December 3: Kasey Sorell, Anna Larson
December 6: Carol Deetjen, Kallen Hudson
December 7: Bob Hertzler
December 9: Zoe Riggs
December 10: Jane Goff
December 13: Gayle Heitman
December 15: Lois Brunmeier
December 16: John Armbrust, Kim Davis
December 17: LaRae Kraemer
December 18: Tom Orazem
December 20: Gerald Robker, David Hatesohl, Ann Williams, Pearl Caponera
December 21: Gary Myers, Taryn Thiele, Eli Smith
December 24: Nancy Zidek
December 27: Amy Riggs
December 29: Dennis Tegtmeier
December 30: Braylee Kortan
December 31: Fran Veatch

December 11: Doug & Sheila Frihart
December 14: Ed & Doris Park
December 15: Grant & Rebekah Lyons
December 20: Jeff & Jacinda Tucker
December 22: Kevin & Joyce Jones
December 26: Carroll & Barbara Hackbart
December 27: Kim & Nancy Zier, Steve & Diane Mosier



Children's Ministry Chair: Tiffany Manning
BASIC Sub-chair:
Sunday School Sub-chair: Marilyn Fick
Children's Care Sub-chair: Darci Paull
Family Events Sub-chair: Sarah Larson
VBS Sub-chair: Tracie Hudson

- December 4 - Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program
- December 11 - Christmas Program
- December 18 - Family Night/BASIC Store
- December 22 - No Sunday School
- December 29 - No Sunday School
- December 25 - NO BASIC
- Sunday School - Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.
- BASIC - Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.
- Emergency Shelter Donations - December is Paper Towels



Youth Night Leader: Natalie Winter
Youth Events Sub-chair:
Gathering/Fund Raising Sub-chair: Jana Winter

- December 17 - Youth meet at the church @ 6:00 p.m.



LWML

All women of the congregation are invited to the annual **LWML Christmas Tea, "A Sweet Christmas"**, on **December 7 at 2:00 p.m. here at the church**. Join us for Scripture readings, Christmas carols, fun, and, of course, sweet treats. Dress is Christmas casual. Bring a friend!



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (LLL)

Come join us for Christmas Caroling. **St. Luke's LLL group will be going Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 15th. We will meet at 4:00 PM at Stoneybrook Nursing Home, North Building.** For questions, please call or text David Hatesohl 785.845.8124 or email djhat427@gmail.com. After caroling we will be meeting at Pizza Ranch for supper.



CONNECT GROUPS

Sunday Adult Bible Class, Pastor Schmidt

Lutheran Layman's League, David & Julie Hatesohl, 785-845-8124 or 785-236-0493 or phoebehat@gmail.com.

Table Talk, Sundays at Noon during the school year. Meal for college students here at the church

Women's Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, Diane Mosier, sdmosier_2000@yahoo.com

Card Making, Janet Beach and Ann Williams

Campus Ministry Bible Study, Mondays @ 9:00 PM, during the school year; meets at the Blue House

Men's Bible Breakfast, 7:00 AM Tuesdays, Vista Drive In, Walt Fick, 785-776-0879 or fick.walter@att.net

Mission of Love (working on quilts), 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:00 AM, Dorothy Burtness, 785-341-5530.

Cancer Companions, Jamie Spikes, 785-313-1587; Judy Boye, 785-320-6355

Theology on Tap, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM, Rockin K's, 1880 Kimball Avenue, Manhattan

TRAIL LIFE USA AND AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

St. Luke's owns and operates **KS0057 Troop**, Trail Life and American Heritage Girls. **These groups meet during the school year.** For TLUSA, boys Kindergarten through 12th grade meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM.

For AHG, girls Kindergarten through 12th grade meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM.



ELC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

You are invited to the ELC Children's Christmas Program on December 15th @ 4:00 p.m. Please come to enjoy the hard work of the children as they present this program.



100th BIRTHDAY RECEPTION

The family of Robert Hetzler, a long time member of St. Luke's, is having a birthday **"Come and Go" reception** for him **Saturday Dec 7th** to celebrate his **100th birthday**. The reception will be held at the **Manhattan Senior Center, 301 N. 4th St. from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** One thing planned is a presentation of an "Honor Quilt" from the Honor Flight representatives for his WWII service. There will be cake and drink and he'd enjoy those who visit.

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Building Planning Committee

The building planning committee at this time includes Larry Wesche, Donna Myers, Jim Jenkins, Ian Hartsook, Susan Spain, and Brad Brunkow. The group is working on plans on how to gather additional planning information from individuals, groups, and the congregation at large for how to facilitate our ministry with facilities. A field trip was made

to visit three Lutheran Churches in Wichita to see what they do to be welcoming and effective. The churches visited were Holy Cross, Ascension, and Risen Savior. Each location had opportunities for our consideration.



OGRS – Old Guys Repairing Stuff

The last major project of the new grass up around the church building looks pretty good so far. The curb project around the circle is ready and waiting for the contractor to put in the curb. If you would like to participate in repairs, maintenance, or smaller projects at church contact Brad Brunkow 580-716-8187 brunkow24@outlook.com .

St. Luke’s American Heritage Girls/ Trail Life USA Troop News

AHG has been super busy the past few months. The campout that was in October went well. The girls learned about conservation and foraging, and how to tie some knots, call a Barred owl, and identify Sycamore trees. They also went fishing and watched the catch be cleaned. There was also the service project for Orphan Grain Train in October and the crochet workshop in November where the girls learned to crochet. Even though AHG was not able to participate in the Veteran's Day parade, we hope some of the girls still were able to attend and enjoy the parade with their family. Coming up, we are looking forward to a hike on the twenty-third of November at Mt. Mitchell and spending time with our family and friends on Thanksgiving. Please continue lifting our troop up in prayer.

Kate McNeal, AHG Troop 0057_Charter Representative, katemcneal51@gmail.com
Dave McNeal, TLUSA Troop 0057 Troop Ministry Liaison, cmcneal100@gmail.com



Adventure › Character › Leadership



AMERICAN
HERITAGE GIRLS®
FAITH | SERVICE | FUN



DILLON'S REWARDS

In case you were not aware, there is a **Community Rewards program sponsored by Dillon's** where they donate money to organizations who have signed up as **Community Rewards recipients. St. Luke's is one of those organizations.** Following are the instructions for signing up for this program. It costs you nothing and once you make the choice there is nothing more you have to do. You will see St. Luke's Lutheran printed on your receipts as benefiting from that purchase. Please consider taking just a few minutes of your time to do this.

- Go to Dillons.com
- Log in or create an account and link your shopper's card to that account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.
- Click on your account name and then click on "My account"
- Then click on "Community Rewards" (on left side of screen) then search for St. Luke's Lutheran Church. It may still be listed on Sunset Avenue.
- Click on the blue **Enroll** box and then **SAVE**. You will be set.

Money is sent to the church quarterly. Although it looks like a very small amount, over a year's time and with everyone participating it adds up. The amount your organization receives is based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Dillon's Community Rewards organizations. We need to get the percent of St. Luke's members participating larger to reap the benefits of being the larger percent of the total.

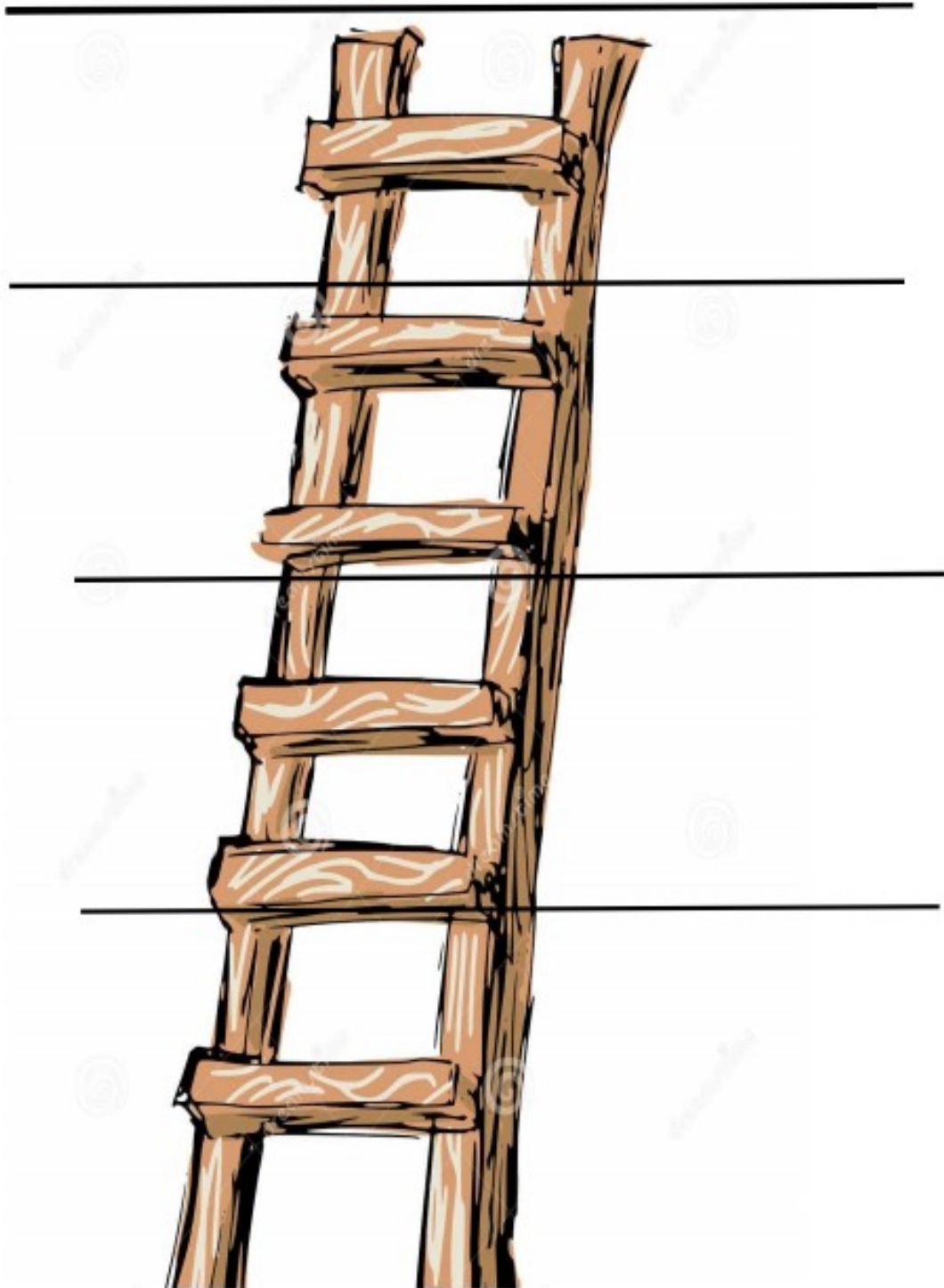


100 Year Celebration

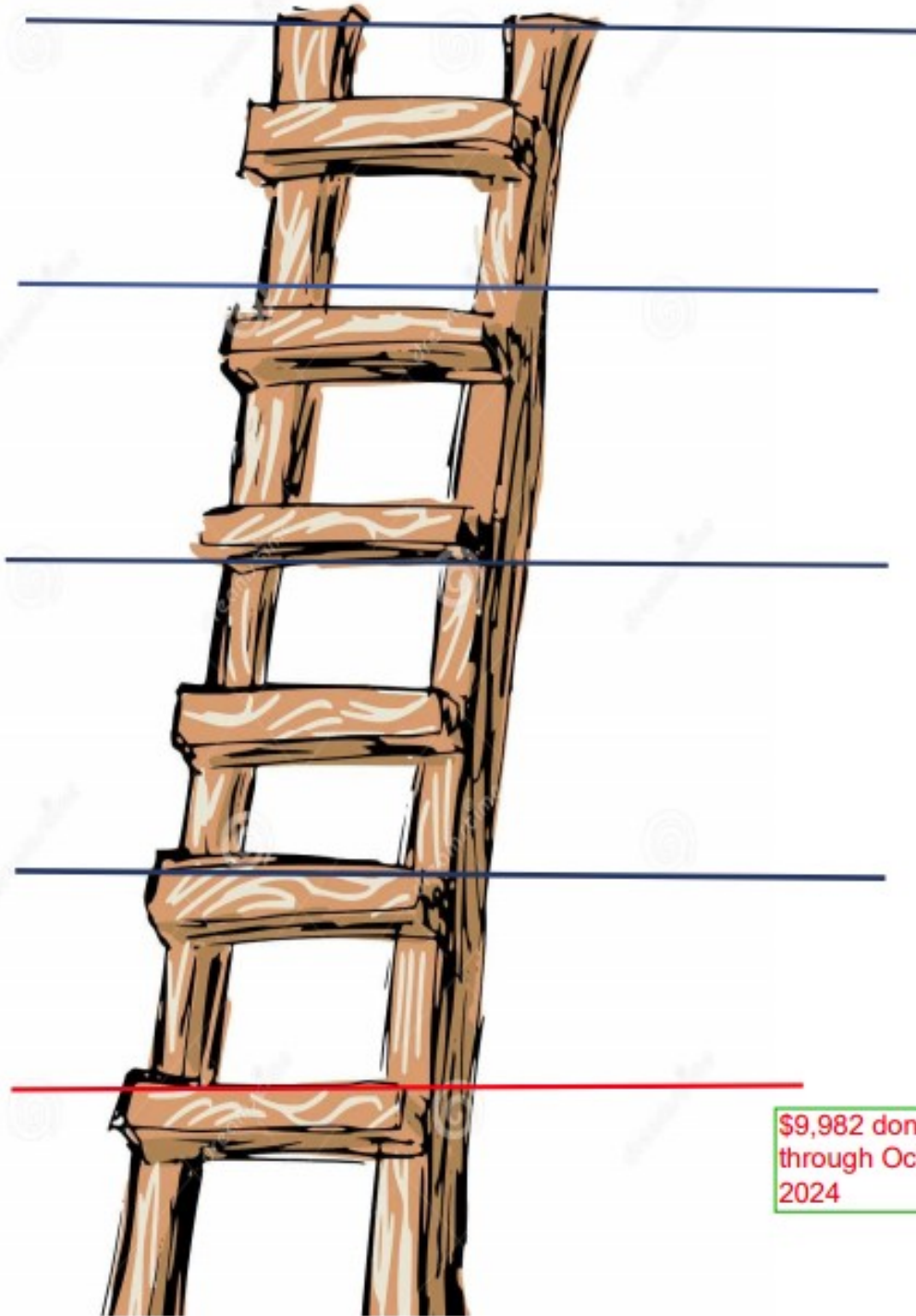
Giving Ladder December 1, 2023 to
November 30, 2024

Mortgage donations

**\$139,274 donations
through October 31,
2024**



Next Phase donations



\$9,982 donations
through October 31,
2024



December



TRAVELING BULLETIN

King of Kings Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO
Kaitlin Krause

Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE

Risen Christ Lutheran Church & School, Myrtle Beach, SC
Kevin & Joyce Jones

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Kimberling City, MO
Steve & Ann Williams

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alta Vista, KS
Brad & Susan Brunkow

(When you worship at another church, please bring the worship folder and bulletin to the church office with your name on. We will post your name and where you've worshipped, hopefully stimulating conversation of where you've visited. And, our staff will get the chance to see what other churches are doing. Thanks!)