

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
725 SW Buchanan Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66606-1426

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# TRINITY TIDINGS

## JULY 2018

### STAFF

Interim Pastor — Alan Saatkamp, Deacon

Cindy McGinnis

*Administrative Assistant*

[office@topekatlc.org](mailto:office@topekatlc.org)

Laurie Jackson

*Music Director*

Marcy Carlson

*Custodian*

[marcyrtpr@gmail.com](mailto:marcyrtpr@gmail.com)

### OFFICE

Trinity Hall, 725 SW Buchanan St.

Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:30PM Mon.-Thur.

Telephone: (785) 233-0767

### WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays, 10:30 AM liturgical service of Holy Communion celebrated every Sunday

### BIBLE STUDY

9:15 AM Sundays in Trinity Hall Lounge

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Trinity Hall-725 SW Buchanan Street

9:00-10:15 AM (September-May)

Ages 3 through Adult

***The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is to:***

- *worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*
- *serve those in need, and*
- *reach out to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ!*

Together in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

# JULY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:15 Hymn Sing-a-long	2 5 pm Women's AA	3	4 5:30 pm Women's AA	5 7 pm Men's AA	6	7
8 Blood Pressure Checks after Worship	9 5 pm Women's AA	10 9 am Quilters  5:30 pm Council	11 6:30-8 pm Historic Old Town NIA meeting 5:30 pm Women's AA	12 7 pm Men's AA	13	14 3-5 pm Samantha Ginter Baby Shower
15 5:30-8:30 pm Youth Group	16 5 pm Women's AA	17 9 am Quilters	18 10 am Priscilla Circle Bible Study 5:30 pm Women's AA	19 7 pm Men's AA	20	21
22	23 <b>August Trinity Tidings deadline</b> 5 pm Women's AA	24 9 am Quilters  7 pm TLHA	25 5:30 pm Women's AA	26 7 pm Men's AA	27	28
29 5th Sunday Special for Topeka Rescue Mission  5:30-8:30 pm Youth Group	30 5 pm Women's AA	31 9 am Quilters	<b>EVERY SUNDAY:</b> ADULT & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ON RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9TH <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>WORSHIP &amp; HOLY COMMUNION</b>			

## Pastor Alan's Column



**2 Corinthians 8:7-15** *Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. <sup>8</sup>I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—<sup>11</sup>now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup>I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a*

*fair balance between <sup>14</sup>your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”*

Abundance—what does that word mean? The dictionary says it's having “more than you need.” It's often used to describe positive qualities, such as “an abundance of love.” This noun comes from the 14th century French, via the Latin *abundantia*, meaning “fullness, plenty.” Paul writes to us about our attitude toward giving. He writes about, as Pastor/professor Mark Allan Powell describes it, seeing the sharing of our gifts as both a duty to give, but also a delight: “but even to desire to do something—<sup>11</sup>now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.”

Our society today views abundance in materialistic terms—how much money in our bank accounts and investment funds, or the

“stuff” we've accumulated—homes, cars, clothes, etc.

One could argue that no matter who we are or how much we “own” everyone gets the same allocation of one thing on earth—time. Yep, rich or poor, we all get the same number of hours each week, 24 hours a day, seven days a week= 168 hours. How do we use that abundance of time? The most common activity that consumes a plurality of hours is what we all need—sleep. But how about the waking hours? God wants us to be good stewards of our person, so that includes nourishment, hydration, and cleanliness. If you take out 10 hours a day for these three tasks, it still leaves us about 14 hours a day or nearly 100 hours a week to do ... what? How do we choose to use that abundance of time?

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## Miscellaneous

Worship Assistants									
Date	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Musicians	Lector	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Coffee Hosts	Assisting Minister	Presiding Minister
July 1, 2018	<b>Chuck Sodergren</b>	<b>Bob Horton</b>	<b>Laurie Jackson</b>	<b>Betty Quarnstrom</b>	<b>Curt Lewis</b>	<b>Marilyn Heckman &amp; Team 1</b>	<b>Walt &amp; Helen Laughlin</b>	<b>Marsha Ridinger</b>	<b>Interim Pastor Alan Saatkamp</b>
July 8, 2018	<b>Carol Marker</b>	<b>Dean McGinnis</b>	<b>Mitchell Bean</b>	<b>Junior Utech</b>	<b>LaVell Winsor</b>	<b>Marilyn Heckman &amp; Team 1</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Pam Kobbeman</b>	<b>Bob Horton</b>	<b>Interim Pastor Alan Saatkamp</b>
July 15, 2018	<b>Don &amp; Charlotte O'Brien</b>	<b>Bob Horton</b>	<b>Laurie Jackson</b>	<b>Linda Longren</b>	<b>Loni Reece</b>	<b>Marilyn Heckman &amp; Team 1</b>	<b>Linda Longren</b>	<b>Vickie Jacobs</b>	<b>Interim Pastor Alan Saatkamp</b>
July 22, 2018	<b>Bob &amp; Linda Stone</b>	<b>Curt Lewis</b>	<b>Mitchell Bean</b>	<b>Ted Murphy</b>	<b>Laurie Jackson</b>	<b>Marilyn Heckman &amp; Team 1</b>	<b>Janice Greenlee</b>	<b>Jeff Longren</b>	<b>Interim Pastor Alan Saatkamp</b>
July 29, 2018	<b>Cindy McGinnis</b>	<b>Dean McGinnis</b>	<b>Laurie Jackson</b>	<b>Loni Reece</b>	<b>Ted Murphy</b>	<b>Marilyn Heckman &amp; Team 1</b>	<b>Junior &amp; Liz Utech</b>	<b>Walt Laughlin</b>	<b>Interim Pastor Alan Saatkamp</b>



Have you designated your portion of the Dillons Community Rewards money to go to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church?



If you are a Thrivent member, have you designated Trinity to receive your Choice Dollars?



This link will take you directly to the AmazonSmile page that directs the donation generated by your AmazonSmile purchase to Trinity:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0697751>

## Blood Pressure Checks July 8, 2018



Come to the kitchen after worship to have this important health check.

### Prayer Requests



The prayer chain has not been used for a long time. We are here for you when you need prayers. Contact Barbara Apps at 249-7244 to start the prayer chain.



## July Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 2 Donna Southerland
- 4 Bridget Hiltgen
- 8 Andy Winsor
- 12 Trisha Welch
- 14 Janelle Meredith
- 15 Curt Lewis
- 16 Edward Emmons
- 16 Marilyn Hypse
- 20 Rhonda Webb
- 21 Barbara Apps
- 22 Ted Quast
- 24 Don Longren
- 25 Kade Welp
- 26 Hudson Ralph
- 27 Audrey Horton
- 28 Kathryn Axelton
- 28 Lucille Falley
- 28 Alex Nichols
- 29 Parker Jackson
- 30 Brooke Ralph

### Baptisms

- 3 Marsha Ridinger
- 7 John Carlson
- 9 Tyler Tunnell
- 13 Cindy McGinnis
- 18 David McGinnis
- 22 Jennifer Grubb

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Al & Susan Carpenter
- 20 David & Brooke Ralph
- 26 Andy & LaVell Winsor

## July Readings

*July 1—6th Sunday of Pentecost*

**Lamentations 3:22-33**

**Psalm 30**

**2nd Corinthians 8:7-15**

**Mark 5:21-43**

*July 8—7th Sunday of Pentecost*

**Ezekiel 2:1-5**

**Psalm 123**

**2nd Corinthians 12:2-10**

**Mark 6:1-13**

*July 15—8th Sunday of Pentecost*

**Amos 7:7-15**

**Psalm 85:8-13**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Mark 6:14-29**

*July 22—9th Sunday of Pentecost*

**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

**Psalm 23**

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

*July 29—10th Sunday of Pentecost*

**2nd Kings 4:42-44**

**Psalm 145:10-18**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

**John 6:1-21**

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One of my pet peeves is hearing people say “I just don’t have time for that.” Actually, they do have the time, but they choose to spend it differently. They have different priorities. It’s a decision of their choosing. What does Paul say, about our choices? He writes about a balance between our abundance and the needs of others.

So when it comes down to that valuable commodity for which we all have the same ration—namely time, what are your choices? How do you choose to apportion your discretionary time? What do you share within the abundance of what God has entrusted to you, as a steward of God’s creation? May the Holy Spirit give us the wisdom to share this gift wisely with those in need.

Transitional Pastor Alan Saatkamp



**Adult & Children’s Sunday  
School is on recess until  
September 9th.**

## Thank yous

**Thank you to Curt & Jane Lewis and crew** for the new and improved landscaping around the ramp on the east side of church. Weeds were pulled, bushes were trimmed, and new mulch was added. It looks so much better!



## Birth Announcement from Janice Greenlee!

June 7, 2018 was an amazing day filled with abundant blessings from heaven for our family. We added **THREE** new granddaughters!



Carsyn Grace Ralph and Camdyn Monroe Ralph were born that morning to my daughter Brooke and her husband David and big brothers Jackston (8) and Hudson (3).

And then in the afternoon little Miss Anna Elise Greenlee was born to my stepson Zach and his wife Bonny and big brothers Colin (5) and Alex (3)!!

Carsyn was the first twin born at 8:40 a.m., weighing 5 lbs. 8 oz. and 18 ¾ inches tall. Camdyn was the second of the twins born at 9:42 a.m., weighing 5 lbs. 2 oz. and 19 inches tall. Anna was born at 3:23 p.m., weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. and 20 inches tall.

Anna was a full term baby and was able to go home in Lawrence on Sunday. Carsyn and Camdyn were born four weeks early so they were blessed to live in the NICU at St. Francis hospital. Your prayers for all our new grand-babies are appreciated!

Besides the proud parents listed above, the proud grandparents are Janice and Rick Greenlee and proud great grandpa is Charles Sodergren.

God so loved the world, He gave us grandchildren!

Children are the rainbows of life and grandchildren are the pots of gold!

## Learning Committee News

Sunday School for adults and children will not meet in July, or August. Classes will resume on Sept. 9, the Sunday after Labor Day.

Vacation Bible School will be July 9-13, 5:30—8:30pm, at First Lutheran. The theme is *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity*.

Ages nursery through fifth grade are eligible. Suggested donation is \$15; no family will be required to pay more than \$30.

Pre-teen, teen & adult helpers are needed on the playground and at craft stations.

To register a child or to volunteer go to <http://1stLutheranTopeka.org>.



## Lent Offerings — Doubled!!

During Lent, offerings collected at the mid-week Lenten services and coins and bills set aside in the little red barns were designated for God's Global Barnyard.

We recently learned about the ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge, a fund raising challenge to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger. Generous friends of the ELCA are matching all gifts up to a maximum of \$515,000. **Gifts toward the Global Farm Challenge given at ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston will be doubled!** Here at Trinity during Lent we raised \$1,044.30 and our youth and sponsors going to the Gathering are taking a check with them. Thanks to all who contributed to this project!

**Favorite hymns  
PRELUDE at 10:15**

**July 1st**

**August 5th**

**Come & sing!**



## Council Meeting Highlights, June 12, 2018

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

#### President

Bob Horton  
640-5344

#### Vice President

Mary Heald  
221-2790

#### Secretary

Dean McGinnis  
272-0255

#### Treasurer

Bob Kobbeman  
478-0381

#### Interim Pastor

Alan Saatkamp  
605-214-1469

#### Members

Diane Bottorff  
271-7131

Laurie Jackson  
224-9683

Dean McGinnis  
272-0255

Ted Murphy  
817-0372

- ◆ Mary presented update Administrative Assistant job description with Congregation Financial Secretary duties added. Discussion followed.
- ◆ Curt reported on some property issues: broken basement ceiling tile (replaced); on-going water leak in new addition; elevator failures (phone number sign in elevator to be updated); emergency lights not working; bats in the sanctuary; broken window; landscaping around ramp has been redone.
- ◆ Dean reported that the community garden is drawing more involvement and the Smoke-Off was a successful neighborhood event. Dean will ask Jeff Longren to develop & present to Council a detailed social media plan that encourages outreach.
- ◆ Laurie reported some upcoming events: June 24 youth gathering send off; Aug. 12 blessing of the backpacks, students & educators for back-to-school; Aug. 19 lunch/planning meeting for 150th anniversary; Spiritual Spa & Secret Sister program presented for consideration. W&M will not meet in July.
- ◆ June 10 Call Committee/Council meeting with Keith Hohly was discussed.
- ◆ Pastoral care for interim pastor was discussed.
- ◆ A request by Samantha Ginter to use our facility July 14 was approved.
- ◆ Advice from “The Safe Church: Train the Trainer” was considered regarding safety during events.
- ◆ Bob H. distributed two hand-outs regarding Policy & Procedure manual format. They are to be reviewed for July meeting so completed manual can be approved & implemented in August.
- ◆ Next meeting date July 10 may need to be changed.



A safety practice suggested by the Topeka Police Department is to make the church as secure as practical during Sunday services. With that in mind, the Council has decided to have the Head Usher lock all doors to the church except the south doors on 8th Street shortly after the service has

begun. The south doors are most visible from the narthex and thus easiest to monitor by the usher. We will start this practice in the next couple of weeks. Please see a Council member with any questions or concerns.

Thank you!



## Greetings from afar

Dear Friends,

I bring greetings from Pastor Tom Schaeffer who served Trinity several years ago. The occasion for our meeting was the celebration of Dr. Jennifer Schaeffer Sparrow's doctoral degree celebration held recently in Singapore. Jennifer is now the Deputy Superintendent of Singapore American School, the largest and most prestigious international school in the world. As a fellow graduate of Topeka West High School, I was honored to be on Jennifer's doctoral committee and also to be the commencement speaker at the University of Southern California international doctoral degree ceremony in Singapore.



**Jennifer Schaeffer Sparrow, Pr. Tom Schaeffer, Doug Reeves**

Jennifer is already a leading international educator and, I am sure, will be a globally recognized scholar and writer in the future. Topeka has produced many great students!

Pastor and Mrs. Schaeffer fondly remember the faithful members of Trinity, and as happened so often in my international travels, it takes only "one degree of separation" to find people we know in common, from the many choir members, musicians, council members, and leaders of Trinity, and many, many others. Never doubt that your kindnesses and appreciations, however small and incidental, to a pastor and spouse, are recalled with gratitude decades after you offer those expressions of thanks.

Pastor Tom continues to serve the Lord by mentoring a community of Benedictine brothers in the Anglican Church. He is, as many of you probably know, a thoughtful scholar, teacher, and pastor. It was an honor to meet him and Mrs. Schaeffer and to take their greetings to you.

I am a loyal subscriber to *Trinity Tidings* and am very grateful that this faithful congregation continues to serve Topeka. I know that my parents, Jean and Julie Reeves, are very proud of the work of the congregation serving the neighborhood, the youth, the Lord, and those that most need to hear the Word and receive the sacraments. You are all doing important work that is insufficiently appreciated and recognized, and it's a rare opportunity for me, as both a Topeka native and now an outsider, to simply say "thanks for all that you do."

From my home in Boston, I continue to write (38 books and counting) and teach and mentor doctoral candidates around the world. I also serve school systems - particularly the most poor and needy, from Africa and Asia to California and New York and every county in-between. You may know that my brothers, Andrew and Steve, have served the country and the world, Andy as a philanthropist who has built schools and hospitals in Africa and Steve, who served for almost 40 years with distinction in the Army and retired as a Major General. We were all baptized in Trinity Lutheran Church. I doubt that the pastors that baptized us or the Sunday school teachers that taught us foresaw such a future. If there is a meaning to the term "saint" then Eleanor and Willie Martin and the others who taught us deserve that title. The same is true of so many Trinity leaders who influenced our lives and futures.

I regret that I am not in Topeka more often, but along with Pastor Tom, I send my greetings from about 15,000 miles away.

Douglas Reeves

## Synod Assembly Report

Being chosen to represent Trinity Lutheran at the 2018 ELCA Central States Synod Assembly was an honor. The experience was reenergizing for me on a personal level and I hope that energy will show through in my application to our congregation of the knowledge I gained.

I attended two workshops while at the assembly, however, one titled *Evangelism begins with B* stood out specifically to me. My biggest take away from it was that before we can expect people to value our guidance as a congregation to

behave and believe in what we consider to be God's path, we must first make sure that they feel they belong. I think that putting belonging first in our process of assimilation will greatly increase the chance of new members being introduced to Trinity.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity extended to me and I hope that I will be able to apply everything I learned in a helpful way.

Parker Jackson

This was my first time to attend the CSS Assembly and the fact that it was in Lindsborg was a bonus! It was a joy to have Parker Jackson attend also. I loved getting to know him a bit better.

I won't bore you with reciting the events as they happened, but there are some items worth noting.

- Vice President Dennis Allerheiligen said there will be a survey done in the fall by the nominating committee for upcoming elections. Any member of a CSS congregation can nominate someone for bishop.

- Team 500 reported there is more money available for trees. They will also be doing a survey in the fall, along with dinner meetings. Two items to keep in mind!

- Workshop #1 *Evangelism in the City: What Can We All Learn?* I wish that some of our council and Witness/Outreach committee members could have been at this workshop. St. Mark's on Troost Avenue in Kansas City is an example of a thriving church (early 1900s) that fell into decline (1950s thru early 2000s) and is now somewhat rejuvenated after a merger. Trinity is having some similar challenges and may be facing a similar choice for survival. Donna provided some resource information which I will share with anyone who asks.

- Workshop #2 *God's Story in Creation: This Changes Everything.* In this workshop, ways to "green" the church were presented, everything from reusable coffee cups to cars. In one church in Missouri, the local electric company changed all of their lighting to LED at no charge! I've

liked the Lutherans Restoring Creation Facebook page on our Facebook page so you can go there to read more about it.

- During the Friday evening banquet, several familiar persons were honored for their years of service in ministry: Jennifer Jackson—5 years; Shawn Norris—30 years; Susan Candea—35 years; and Charles Hanson was honored for 65 years though he was not in attendance. (BTW, he lives at Atria.)

- The final session happened on Saturday morning. I found it heartening that there was a motion from the floor to increase the synod budget over what was proposed. Treasurer Scott Schulte had presented the proposed budget on Friday, explaining why line items were reduced or not increased. The motion from the floor increased the budget by about \$20,000 for campus ministry & seminary support, and was approved by a vote of members present.

- Also during the Saturday meeting, several resolutions were presented and approved. You can read about them in the Central States E-News that was forwarded on June 21st. And you will be seeing some bulletin inserts, etc., in the coming months.

If you've ever attended this meeting at Bethany in the past and found that Hahn Gym (where most of the meetings are held) was a bit on the warm side (June in Kansas, after all)—well that has changed. Hahn Gym is now air-conditioned! Bring a sweater!

Cindy McGinnis

A quote from Alan Roxburgh in *Joining God in the Neighborhood*: "The primary way to know what God is up to in our world when the boundary markers seem to have been erased is by entering into the ordinary, everyday life of the neighborhoods and communities where we live."