

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Tidings

July 2020

STAFF

Pastor Andrew C. Patty
pr_andrew@topekatlc.org

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OFFICE

Trinity Hall, 725 SW Buchanan St.
Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:30PM, Mon, Tues., Thur.
Noon to 5:00PM Wednesday
Telephone: (785) 233-0767

WORSHIP SERVICE

Cancelled until further notice.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Cancelled until further notice.

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

In place of our calendar this month (since we are all supposed to stay home), here are some important items of which to be aware during this time of Covid-19.

We worship.

Our own online Sunday morning worship services have had some glitches, but it is a learning process for all of us. Bear with us for as long as it takes please. And pray that we can soon be back together in our sanctuary.

Do remember our Mid-Week Prayer Services on Zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. This service is live and we always have a wonderful time checking in with each other about our lives during these times. The new meeting ID is **78285849958**. If you would like to join us and still do not understand Zoom, please call or email Pastor Andrew and he will be more than happy to help get you set up!

We meet.

Pr. Andrew will contact committee members to arrange a time to meet on Zoom. Here's a link in case you want to read up a bit beforehand:

<https://zoom.us/>



We give.

Unfortunately, any time we as individual church members, are not in the pews at church, we forget that expenses continue to accrue. And during this prolonged and unknown period of closure, we are undoubtedly worried about many things. So please remember Trinity financially just as you would when we are gathered on Sunday mornings.

The best and easiest ways to submit your offering at this time are:

via US mail

drop off at the office (there is a mail slot on the north side of Trinity Hall)

set up an autopay service from your bank (if you need help with this, please call the office)

OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS						
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly Expense	Weekly Income Minus Average Weekly Expense	Attendance/ Communion
May 24	\$3,910.00	\$0.00	\$3,910.00	-\$2,792.00	\$1,118.00	0
May 31	\$860.00	\$0.00	\$860.00	-\$2,792.00	-\$1,932.00	0
June 7	\$2,725.00	\$0.00	\$2,725.00	-\$2,792.00	-\$67.00	0
June 14	\$1,550.00	\$0.00	\$1,550.00	-\$2,792.00	-\$1,242.00	0
June 21	\$3,700.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,700.00	-\$2,792.00	\$1,908.00	0
			Income	Expense	Behind/Ahead	
		May 2020	\$11,353.80	-\$7,819.85	\$3,533.95	
		Jan. - May	\$51,636.87	-\$50,765.12	\$871.75	

“Every hand that we don’t shake should become a call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern.” - Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky

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July 2020

...And Noah Returns to the Earth
(Genesis 8: 6-12)

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the hatch of the ark that he had made, ⁷and he released a raven. It flew back and forth until the waters dried off from the earth. ⁸Then he released a dove, to see if the waters had lessened on the earth. ⁹But the dove could find no place to perch, and it returned to him in the ark, for there was water over all the earth. ¹⁰He waited yet seven days more and again released the dove from the ark. ¹¹In the evening the dove came back to him, and there in its bill was a plucked-off olive leaf! So Noah knew that the waters had diminished on the earth. ¹²He waited yet another seven days and then released the dove; but this time it did not come back.

When I read this passage about Noah from the book of Genesis, I can't help think of how much we share in common with him during our times. In many ways, we are in "Ark Time." We are in an ark as a church but we also are in our own little arks at home deciding for ourselves what is best for our spouses, children, and family during this time. A time of waiting and not knowing if the Earth will come back to us the way we left it. Not knowing if there will be firm ground to place our feet on solid as stone. We find ourselves questioning

if this is the right time to "reopen." Where are our doves to send out to test the waters?

There is a good chance that if things hold steady in Shawnee County, then we might start the process of "reopening" this month according to our plan. That will mean Sunday worship outside like a good ole tent revival and the resumption of small groups/committees in the church. Yet, what does "reopening" look like during these times? The truth of the matter is that churches will not be the same. Many of those we love will still be at home due to age or health issues. We are bound to see new people as those that have seen us online come to visit us. It might take a long while before Sunday worship attendance is back to our average. In fact, one of the major centers of church research, called the Alban Institute, forecast in their surveys that over 30% of church members across denominations do not see returning to church this year. Another study from the Center for Healthy Congregations at Belmont University (Baptist) is estimating that 5% of our churches will close this next year due to the pandemic with hindsight that if the pattern continues over 1/3 of our congregations will disappear by 2025 (with small congregations hit the hardest).

In July, we will tread the path that Noah demonstrates in his story. We will be trying our own versions of letting the dove out. The church will begin to come back to normalcy in some areas. We have to remember that just like Noah, our first time releasing the dove might not work out. We might find that the flood of this pandemic is too high and have to modify our plans moving forward to have the safety of all our members at the forefront. I have seen the reports of churches that have opened up, including some in Kansas, that have brought not only sickness to their members but death already this year. My love for each and everyone of you is too great to bear the thought of this happening to us. Yet, we have to move forward and find out how God is calling us to be Church in this moment. On Noah's third time releasing the dove, the dove doesn't return. As they used to sing, "it has found a nest for her own" or in other words it had found its way back home. And that will be our journey together as church these next couple of months. To find our way back home here at Trinity with all our loved family and friends.

Andrew C. Patty



Trinity Tidings

July 2020

July Celebrations

- Birthdays**
- 8 Andy Winsor
 - 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 Alex Nichols
 - 29 Parker Jackson
 - 30 Brooke Ralph
- Baptisms**
- 3 Marsha Ridinger
 - 7 John Carlson
 - 13 Cindy McGinnis
 - 18 David McGinnis
- Wedding**
- Anniversaries**
- 2 Al & Susan Carpenter
 - 20 David & Brooke Ralph
 - 26 Andy & LaVell Winsor

July Readings

July 5 – 5th Sunday of Pentecost

- Zechariah 9:9-12
- Psalms 145:8-14
- Romans 7:15-25a
- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 – 6th Sunday of Pentecost

- Isaiah 55:10-13
- Psalms 65:[1-8]9-13
- Romans 8:1-11
- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 – 7th Sunday of Pentecost

- Isaiah 44:6-8
- Psalms 86:11-17
- Romans 8:12-25
- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26 – 8th Sunday of Pentecost

- 1st Kings 3:5-12
- Psalms 119:129-136
- Romans 8:26-39
- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Thank You

Dear friends at Trinity,

My sincere thanks for your cards, prayers and expressions of kindness during this time.

Love, Helen Laughlin

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President
Curt Lewis
633-6661

Vice President
Ted Murphy
817-0372

Secretary
Shelley Andrews
554-3005

Treasurer
Bob Kobbeman
478-0381

Members

Laurie Jackson
224-9683

Howard Reece
221-8992

Council Meeting Highlights, June 8, 2020

- ◆ A thank you for allowing us to participate with them in online worship was sent to 1st Lutheran.
- ◆ B & T Roofing completed downspout repair.
- ◆ Water pump to community garden is in need of repair. In process.
- ◆ Toilet in the restroom by the narthex is not working properly.
- ◆ Pr. Andrew presented an idea for a pre-recorded service. Will call upon talents within congregation to help.
- ◆ Memorial funds may be used for repair work on roof & downspouts. Curt & Bob will contact families.
- ◆ The December date for our 150th anniversary will be reviewed in October to see if it is still feasible.
- ◆ 5th Sunday Special August 30 will be for the quilters; November 29 will be for Pastor's discretionary fund.
- ◆ Re-opening plan was discussed. Pr. Andrew submitted our plan to Synod; no reply yet. May start with outdoor services, perhaps by June 28 or July 5.
- ◆ Diane is reviewing procedure manual.
- ◆ A Cair Paravel student has asked to use our sanctuary to do some filming for a project. More information is requested.

150th Anniversary Celebration!!

Our 15th anniversary celebration, originally planned to take place in August, has now been delayed to December 12th and 13th, to coincide with our St. Lucia Day celebration.

This date is still tentative, due to the current health crisis and will be reviewed at the October church council meeting.

Due to the date change, some of the original events may not be possible.

Please mark these days on your calendar and pray that we will be able to meet and celebrate again soon!



Doorstep News – July 2020



Doorstep is in need of the following items. If you can help, please bring donations Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm, to the South Door.

Diapers – Sizes 4, 5 and 6
Jelly – Any flavor
Oatmeal
Canned (Evaporated) Milk
Spaghetti Sauce
Hamburger Helper
Egg Noodles
Pork N Beans
Peas
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Cold (dry) Cereal

Please share as you are able.

*Thank you,
Lisa Cain*

This July we are rolling all of our summer events into one month! We have Christmas in July collections for our adopted families this December, our 2nd Annual Summer Cash Bash, and this year Doorstep is the Envista Cares charity for July!

Last December Doorstep assisted 277 households involving 883 individuals with Christmas gifts and food. Each year we celebrate “Christmas in July” to get a jump start on collecting new items for our annual Christmas adoption! Our goal is to help alleviate some of the strain during the holidays by also collecting items mid-year. Doorstep will adopt 260 households with 800+ individuals this December through the Christmas Bureau. Our focus for Christmas in July is household items, health kit items, toys, school supplies, gifts for men and women, sheet sets, and blankets. These are items that are not seasonal, and easy to find this time of year! The families we adopt are in need of basic items. They are so happy to receive a new set of dishes, new sheets, pots and pans, or a crockpot! We give every family a blanket or quilt.

Each school aged child we adopt receives school supplies and a backpack, and each household receives a health kit filled with hygiene products, and wrapped with a new bath towel, hand towel and washcloth! Each child receives one bigger toy as their gift, and other smaller items are available along with games, books, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers etc.

You can bring your Christmas donations to worship in July (if your congregation is open), or to Doorstep, Monday – Friday, 8am – 3pm.

Our 2nd Annual Summer Cash Bash has the same anonymous donor offering up \$8,000 in match money if we can raise \$20,000 during the month of July in donations! And, to make it even better...Envista Credit Union is making Doorstep the Envista Cares charity in July, and will match \$2,500 in donations!

During this rough year of COVID-19, help us have a great July, and push us on through to the end of the year, and the Christmas Store, with your generous donations!