

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Tidings

November 2020

STAFF

Pastor Andrew C. Patty
pr_andrew@topekatlc.org

Cindy McGinnis
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OFFICE

Trinity Hall, 725 SW Buchanan St.
Office Hours: 10:00AM-3:30PM, Mon thru Thur.
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

November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day 10:30 am Online Worship	2	3 Election Day 6:30 pm 40 Day Journey w/Martin Luther on Facebook	4 <i>Hearing the Hymns</i>	5 6:30 pm Midweek ZOOM Prayer Service	6	7
8 10:30 am Online Worship	9 6 pm Council	10 6:30 pm 40 Day Journey w/Martin Luther on Facebook	11 <i>Hearing the Hymns</i> 6:30-8 pm Historic Old Town NIA meeting	12 6:30 pm Midweek ZOOM Prayer Service	13	14
15 10:30 am Online Worship	16 December Trinity Tidings deadline	17 6:30 pm 40 Day Journey w/Martin Luther on Facebook	18 <i>Hearing the Hymns</i>	19 6:30 pm Midweek ZOOM Prayer Service	20	21
22 Christ the King 10:30 am Online Worship	23	24 6:30 pm 40 Day Journey w/Martin Luther on Facebook 7 pm TLHA	25 <i>Hearing the Hymns</i>	26 Thanksgiving Day 6:30 pm Midweek ZOOM Prayer Service	27	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent 10:30 am Online Worship	30	JOIN US FOR ONLINE WORSHIP, 10:30 SUNDAY MORNINGS. GO TO WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TOPEKATLC				

Trinity Tidings

November 2020

"The Holy Ghost which abide in their (Christians) hearts, teaches them and brings it to pass that they do no wrong, but love all men. . . ."— Martin Luther (1523)

In the coming month of November, it seems unsettled like never before in many of our lives. The virus seems to be increasing every day in a country where some are mindfully donning their mask and others believe that it is a hoax. Both sides of our political spectrum are not speaking to the good that we can do as a nation but are instead bringing us to fear what might be if the other side wins. And while we got through Easter socially distanced from each other, the thought of celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas alone seems like the world might be at its end.

We might think that we are unique in these times, but as a historian, I can tell you that nature and humankind are not that surprising. We often find ourselves stuck in the same situations and conflicts. God made us creatures of habit and therefore one can always look back to see what gave hope to those before us. In 1523, Germany seemed like a mess much like our present day. The once powerful Holy Roman Empire of Germany was falling apart as kingdoms and principalities separated over being Catholic, Lutheran (Evangelical), or Reformed. People were being kicked out of their homes and forced to move if they did not agree with the rulers. And even the peasants themselves started to revolt to overturn the whole system. Luther saw people fending for themselves

depending upon if they were Catholic or Protestant. He saw the dysfunction of the governments around him. He saw poor people being kicked off of their lands (their only source of income) and Luther himself started feeding these refugees out of his own kitchen. While I won't say that our current reality is directly akin to Luther's struggle...I think we can see many similarities between the two.

This is when Luther developed his idea of the "Two Kingdoms" by writing his letter called *Von Weltlicher Obrigkeit*. In this letter, he says there are two kingdoms that as Lutheran we belong to...the Kingdom of God and Our Worldly Kingdom. Therefore, our loyalty has to be held in both. If Luther were writing in our modern day, it would be like us having dual citizenship with passports as Christians and Americans. So we live under two versions of the law so that we maintain our faith and goodwill toward our neighbors. For Luther, while he did acknowledge the negative parts of the kingdoms of his era, he stated that the worldly kingdom was for peace among various peoples. Luther never wrote that he thought the world would be full of Lutherans or even Christians, but that government is for the care and wellbeing of all. Then Luther states that it is our place, with our own commitment to the Gospel, that we help our governments no matter how they are, live into that calling where all people are loved and cared for. Luther thought that Christians were to be the front-line citizens in

making sure that all our fellow humankind are taken care of as seen in the quote at the start of this letter. That we are the peace makers in a world that seems to be ruled by chaos.

While I am sure that I am preaching to the choir knowing how many in our congregation I have seen that have worked to think about how the church continues during this time safely, to make masks during the early stages, to deliver food to those that are hungry and have lost their employment, and even those of you that have been locked down for several months now, for you are also keeping our communities safe by reducing the spread! I know that while you most likely have never read Luther's letter and might have never heard about this idea from Luther, it lives within the lives of many of you without words. It is demonstrated in how you live lives as Christians in our community spreading the Gospel and God's love to all those around us. Therefore, I just want to thank all of you this day. We are entering into the month of Thanksgiving and I am thankful for the example that all of you have made in our community. And whatever might happen over this next month with the virus or elections, just remember that we still have a job to do both in this Worldly Kingdom and for God's Kingdom.

Andrew C. Patty



November 2020

November Celebrations

Birthdays 4 Walt Laughlin
8 Julie Reeves
9 Pr. Andrew Patty
10 Rosie Nichols
13 Betty Quarnstrom
15 Liz Utech
18 Susan Fitz
20 Martha Nemeth
26 Debbie Pomeroy

Baptisms 4 Laurie Jackson
9 Russell Johnson
11 Ameerah Esquibel
14 Marlene Hassan
17 Dean McGinnis
19 Sammy Ginter
24 Heather Klamm
24 Dorothy Strom
25 Carl Quarnstrom
29 Eleanor Jewell

Please join us as part of Trinity's online worship team.

- ◆ Online Worship Team would like to welcome anyone in the congregation to read the lessons & weekly prayers.
- ◆ Please schedule a time to be recorded with Pastor Andrew. Call the office, 233.0767 or email office@topekatic.org. Or call Pr. Andrew, 423.748.9922 or email pr_andrew@topekatic.org
- ◆ For those concerned about virus safety, only Pastor Andrew and yourself will be present during the recording time.

November Readings

November 1 – All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1:12

November 8 – 23rd Sunday of Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1st Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 – 24th Sunday of Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
1st Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 – Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:1 11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 – 1st Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1st Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

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, October 12, 2020

- ◆ Julie Reeves attended the meeting via phone to discuss painting church interior.
- ◆ It was decided that the 150th anniversary celebration be postponed to next year. Pr. Andrew proposed some tentative activities throughout the year which were recommended to the Council which will be seated in January.
- ◆ Policy & Procedure Manual was accepted. Individual committees are charged with reviewing their sections by the end of the year.
- ◆ WiFi improvements as itemized & proposed by Pr. Andrew were approved.
- ◆ Approval was given to allow Pr. Andrew to purchase health insurance through Portico if needed.
- ◆ There was discussion, but no action taken, regarding committee structure. Executive Committee will be charged with writing bylaws.
- ◆ There will not be a joint Thanksgiving service this year. A fund raiser and/or food drive is recommended.
- ◆ Howard reported that boiler has been repaired. It was approved that some memorial funds be used to pay this expense.
- ◆ Rescue Mission food delivery is up & running. More delivery drivers will be needed.
- ◆ Outdoor in-person worship services will not be held if rain or temperatures below 50° are predicted. Decision will be made on Friday & communicated to the congregation.
- ◆ Prayer chain will now be handled by someone within the congregation, per Barbara Apps' recommendation.

"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

Eleanor Jewell has moved to Brookside Retirement Community in Overbrook, KS. Her new address is:

Brookside Retirement Community
Cottonwood Unit Room #139
700 W. 7th St.
Overbrook KS 66524

Phone: 785.665.6068

Watch for Eleanor's estate sale to be held November 14 & 15, depending on virus status at that time.



Doorstep News – November 2020



This year has certainly been a different one! Our 3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run became a virtual event. We had half the number of participants as previous years. We still made \$5,900 thanks to our sponsors, and those who did participate. However, we didn't meet our goal of \$9,000, and we had to cancel the cinnamon rolls and tamales sale, losing more event income for 2020.

We appreciate everyone and our member congregations who have continued to bring in food to stock the pantry, and send monetary donations to keep our doors open and help even more people in need during this time of COVID-19.

Our focus now is the Christmas Store. It won't be a Store this year in which the clients we adopt through the Christmas Bureau come in and shop for their families. This year we are working even more closely with the Christmas Bureau, United Way, Topeka Rescue Mission and the community by streamlining how we are approaching Christmas adoptions.

Doorstep will still adopt the 260 households and 800+ individuals as before, but what and how we provide food and gifts will change. In 2020, adopted families will receive a \$15 gift card for each family member, our regular Christmas food order, a health kit, and a blanket or quilt.

What we need for Christmas this year is: towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth), shampoo/conditioner, combs, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, full/queen and king blankets only, and money. We need money to purchase the gift cards, food, and any of the above items not donated. Where we have asked for items in years past, please send a check or go to our website (www.doorsteptopeka.org) to donate by credit card.

All of the items we have collected to date will be saved for next year. This is the best way to reduce the number of people we need working together at one time. We know it is not ideal, but with COVID, nothing is normal, and unfortunately, the Christmas Store process will not be either. Please help where you can.

Doorstep is in need of some food items that they are completely or nearly out of... If you can assist...please bring any of the following items to Doorstep, Mon – Fri, 9am – 2pm.

Peanut Butter
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Canned Fruit – Any Kind
Tuna
Pork N Beans

Spaghetti Sauce
Miscellaneous Soups... Chunky, Progresso, etc.
Egg Noodles
Peas



Phone & Internet Service

As of September 24, 2020, our phone and internet service is provided by Cox. We had been with AT&T, but with increasingly unsatisfactory service. In addition, we also made the decision to inactivate one phone line. For your records, please note that 785.817.9133 is no longer a phone number that can be used to contact Trinity Lutheran Church.



Project Food Secure

On October 22, 2020, Project Food Secure delivered 49 boxes of food and gallons of milk to 45 addresses. Deliveries were done by seven volunteers. Food boxes will be delivered from the Trinity site on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. This ministry is done in conjunction with the Topeka Rescue Mission and the Old town NIA. If you would like to receive a food box, or if you would like to help with deliveries, please call the church office, 233.0767.

Offering Envelopes



Some of us receive our offering envelopes in the mail each month. This is a service from Augsburg Fortress for which we pay a small fee. As I update the list each month, I notice that some folks receive the envelopes, but don't use them.

Please call the office, 233-0767, to update your preference regarding offering envelopes; whether you would like to discontinue receiving them or if you would like begin receiving them. Thanks!



Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka

The Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka (LFACT) events have been put on hold due to the highly contagious virus that has been affecting our lives. Since 1980, LFACT has been proclaiming the Gospel through the fine arts, with more than 100 events includ-

ing choirs and instrumental groups, small groups and individual musicians, art shows and various workshops for children and adults. We now include Lutheran churches outside of Shawnee county to reach more people. For these past 40 years, these events have been free, funded by free-will offerings and generous donations.

As soon as we can safely hold events, we will do so. Even though we are not currently active, we welcome your donations for the future.

Brochures have been shared with your church with donation information in them.

We share posts of music from our colleges, and information about artists on the Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka Facebook page. Please like us, and invite others to do so.

Policy & Procedure Manual

If you are a member of any of our committees and would like to review your section of the procedure manual, please contact the office, 233-0767. I will be happy to provide a copy for you.



Future In-Person Worship

In partnership with Council, Property, and Worship and Music committees, discussions are under way to determine how to safely have in-person worship as we enter the winter months. The worship service will continue to be livestreamed as it has been.

Worship will not be like it was in the past. For example, we are limited to 45 people that may be in attendance. So even if everyone in our congregation wanted to come to in-person worship, that could not happen. There will be other guidelines for the safety of everyone in the congregation. Worship will not feel or look like it has in the past, but it will provide a chance for those that want to attend in-person. Keep an eye on your email this month for an announcement about future in-person worship as plans are formulated.

Thanksgiving 2020

There will **not** be a joint Thanksgiving service this year as has been done the last several years. However, there are plans for an activity yet to be determined.

At the October council meeting, it was decided that **our 150th anniversary celebration must be delayed until 2021**. However, along with this decision, Pr. Andrew suggested a tentative plan for events to occur throughout the year:

June 26 Midsummer Picnic;
August 7 & 8 Homecoming
which would commemorate

the groundbreaking ceremony of our current building the first weekend of August; December St. Lucia & Christmas celebration as Christmas was the first worship service held in the new building.

It was approved to recommend this calendar of events to the council that will be seated in early 2021.

150 years will be celebrated!

Prayer Chain

We are working to reactivate our prayer chain. We have a volunteer to coordinate it (thanks, LaVell!) and will need some folks to be on the chain.

Briefly, your duties will consist of receiving a phone call or

email from the pastor or coordinator, praying as requested, and calling or emailing the next person on the chain. More complete details will be provided to volunteers.

Also many thanks to Barbara Apps who has served as our prayer chain coordinator for many years.