

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Tidings

December 2020

STAFF

Pastor Andrew C. Patty
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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

December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Advent Devotional on Facebook	2	3 6:30 pm Singing the Unsung on Zoom	4	5
6 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	7	8 Advent Devotional on Facebook	9 6:30-8 pm Historic Old Town NIA meeting	10 6:30 pm Singing the Unsung on Zoom	11	12
St. Lucia Day 13 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	14 6 pm Council	15 Advent Devotional on Facebook	16	17 6:30 pm Singing the Unsung on Zoom	18	19
20 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	21 January 2021 Trinity Tidings deadline	22 Advent Devotional on Facebook	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship to be determined	25 Christmas Day	26
27 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		

Trinity Tidings

December 2020

"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." - O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)

The season of Advent brings pleasing rituals of happy anticipation. Open a door on the Advent calendar and find a piece of chocolate. Light a candle in the Advent wreath and know that you are one week closer to Christmas. Begin the process of decorating the house with all the festive colors of the season. The waiting that comes with Advent is fun because it's finite. We know that what is coming at the end of our wait will be good, and we know exactly how many days we have to wait for it.

It seems odd this year that we are entering into our season of Advent already waiting. Often, in the regular course of our lives, it is hard to imagine waiting for anything during this season. Advent challenges us to contemplate the waiting in any other year. Yet, in this year, it seems like waiting has become the practice of life. We are waiting for the day

when we can visit and hug our family members and friends that we have not seen in a while. We are waiting for the day when we can once again invite people to our homes. We are waiting for the day when we can be together in church and be uplifted by the love that we all share for one another.

The hardest thing about faithful waiting is not knowing when it's going to end, if it is going to end. Unlike Advent, those people in the sleepy town of Bethlehem did not know just how long the waiting would take. There was vast uncertainty about when their day would come. Was it going to be a couple of weeks? Months? Years? Waiting brings many questions but provides few answers. It takes what we assume about our lives and like those snow globes we see during this season, shakes up our reality to see the world in a different light.

Advent is about more than just waiting for Christmas. The word "advent" means "coming." During Advent, we not only remember that Jesus came to earth as a man; we prepare our hearts for

his second coming. When we sing, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" we are not role-playing what the ancient Israelites must have prayed before the coming of the Messiah. No, we are praying that Jesus would return and make right all that is wrong with the world. That Jesus in "all the years" meets us in our world this day to confront the challenges we face. The timing for this emphasis on Christ's return couldn't be better for us in this time. Just when we would like to be happiest, when we just want to put up our Christmas trees and forget about this crazy year, Christ reminds us that we are still waiting. And in this time, we are still waiting and praying much like those that were expecting the birth of Jesus. We are praying for justice and peace throughout the world. That "in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light" we pray today that Christ "Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel."

Andrew C. Patty



December 2020

December Celebrations

- Birthdays**
- 3 Junior Utech
 - 14 Sara King
 - 19 Don O'Brien
 - 20 Edwin Brown
 - 23 Jeff Longren
 - 27 Cindy McGinnis
 - 30 Brett Henry
 - 30 Adeline Klamm
- Baptisms**
- 6 Julie Reeves
 - 8 Peggy Buchholz
 - 8 Walt Laughlin
 - 9 Junior Utech
 - 10 Roy O'Neil
 - 15 Ivan Carlson
 - 21 Tresa Johnson
 - 26 Debbie Pomeroy
 - 29 Janice Greenlee
- Wedding Anniversaries**
- 29 Carl & Betty Quarnstrom

December Readings

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2nd Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1st Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent

2nd Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 of Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:1-20

December 27 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



December 2020

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

"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

Council Meeting Highlights, November 9, 2020

- ◆ Altar alcove painting will be added to the annual meeting agenda. December newsletter will request comments prior to the meeting.
- ◆ In-person worship is being considered to start Nov. 29. But safety is of utmost importance as virus cases continue to rise. On-line services will continue.
- ◆ A leaking gas line in church basement has been replaced and several lights have been repaired.
- ◆ Project Food Secure is on hold. The program will resume soon.
- ◆ Decorating the church for Advent will occur Nov. 28, 10 am.
- ◆ We will offer poinsettias for purchase for decorating the church sanctuary and to give to shut-ins. This should be communicated to members prior to the December newsletter.
- ◆ Susan Fitz has stepped down from serving on Memorial Committee.

Painting Proposal

We are entertaining a proposal to paint the alcove around the altar window in a blue color. After meeting at the church sanctuary, Darrin McCall, owner & operator of Picasso Painting proposed the following:

- Blue color will be selected by comparing samples held against the wall to be painted.
- Trinity Lutheran Church donor will pay for the paint.
- Picasso Painting will donate the labor in exchange for a letter stating in-kind services/donation valued at \$2500.00.
- Picasso Painting will be recognized as a donor of services in honor of Trinity's 150th anniversary celebration. (Media mention if possible!)
- Work will be done on a rain day when Picasso Painting has a crew available for inside work.

This proposal will be voted on during the annual meeting. In the meantime, we are asking for comments, positive and negative, regarding this proposal. Please call the office, 233-0767, or email office@topekatl.org with any thoughts you may have regarding this proposal.

Doorstep News – December 2020



This month is all about the Christmas Store, even if it is completely different than in years past! This year is more of a Christmas adoption project. All families who signed up through the Christmas Bureau will receive a food order and \$15 gift card per person in the household. Doorstep is also adding a blanket and health kit for each household. Distribution days this year will be December 14th – 16th.

What we currently need for Christmas: Towel sets (bath & hand only), full-size shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, combs, deodorant, full/queen and king blankets, and money. We need money to purchase the gift

cards, the 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.

We appreciate anything you can do to help this year during Covid Christmas. Don't forget your year-end donations as well! Doorstep would gratefully accept your donations to help us start out 2021 in the black. Our extra Covid funds will be nearly spent, but people will still be in need in 2021, whether it is Covid related, or life has just happened, and they need our help!

Facebook Activities for the Advent and Epiphany Season:



During this season, Pastor Andrew encourages us to all dig into the scriptural story of the season. Each Tuesday, he will post a devotional focused on an aspect of the Gospel messages we have around the birth of Jesus and what that means for our faith in these times.



On Thursday nights at 6:30pm, we will continue to meet on Zoom for fellowship and learning together. With the importance of music during Advent and Christmas, it only seems fitting that we do a series on music and worship. "Singing the Unsung" is a program by *Living The Questions* featuring world-renowned musician and theologian John Bell. "Singing the Unsung" guides the participants' reflection on the theology of the Church's song and offers practical techniques on how we can sing and pray together with integrity.



2020 Doorstep Christmas Adoption Wish List



As with everything else in this year of COVID, Doorstep's Christmas adoption will not be a "Store" this year.

We are still adopting 260 Households from the Christmas Bureau which includes 800+ individuals for Christmas, and **we greatly need your help with a few select donations!**

This year we are all trying to work together as a community and provide for Christmas. The Christmas Bureau and adopting agencies have agreed to provide each household at least a food order and \$15 Visa gift card (no activation fee) for each household member.



This year each household will receive from Doorstep:

- ◆ Christmas Food Order
- ◆ \$15 Visa gift card for each household member listed on their intake
- ◆ Blanket
- ◆ Health Kit



We will not have the volunteer opportunities we have had in the past. In an effort to be safe, we are keeping our circle of volunteers small, and using our regular volunteers to help with Christmas Adoption this year.

How You Can Help...

This year we only need a few things, but we need larger numbers of each.

Money - Our Biggest Need -

To purchase the food, gift cards for 800+ people, and other items we don't receive in donations.

Blankets - Twin (40), Full/Queen & King sized (165)

Towel Sets - Bath & Hand (130 each)

Health Kit Items - Full Size

**Shampoo & Conditioner (200 each),
Toothpaste (75), Deodorant (250)
& Combs (200)**

**Please Bring Donations to Doorstep at 10th & Buchanan,
Mon - Fri from 9am - 2pm (South Door) By Monday, Dec 7th.**

Send your monetary donation to Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Ks 66604 or visit www.DoorstepTopeka.org - Donate.

Prayer Chain

After many years of dutifully serving as the Prayer Chain Coordinator, Barbara Apps has stepped down from that role. LaVell Winsor will be serving as the coordinator for the Prayer Chain going forward. If you are not currently part of the prayer chain and would like to be on it, please let the office or LaVell know.

Intercessory prayer is prayer for another. The goal for intercessory prayer is to hold that person in the healing presence of God and pray that all might be well for the person.

A prayer chain is designed to rapidly communicate a concern and an invitation to pray. The key to success is that each person passes on the message as rapidly as possible! Below are some guidelines for this prayer ministry.

1. Pastor or the prayer chain coordinator will initiate the prayer chain.
2. The coordinator will call the group leaders saying, "I have a request for the prayer chain. The request is..." You are encouraged to write the request down and repeat it back to

the person sharing it with you. Accurate communication is essential when dealing with human vulnerability. Please do not converse about the situation when calling on the prayer chain, to avoid the prayer chain becoming a rumor pipeline.

3. Pass on the request as accurately and quickly as possible. Do not leave a message on an answering machine - however, leave your name and number so you can be contacted - then call the next person.

4. The last person on the list should call the coordinator to complete the chain.

5. The prayer covenant for our prayer chain will be to pray the request for six days and on the seventh day release the request to God. (This is not to say that you cannot continue to pray the request after six days, but to say that the agreement is for six days).

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain list or have a concern that you would like to be prayed for, please let us know!

Sunday morning worship readers wanted!

- ◆ We would like to welcome anyone in the congregation to read the lessons & prayers on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am.
- ◆ The Sunday morning service is live streamed over Facebook. All that is required is that you show up early to prepare for the service.
- ◆ If you are willing to volunteer, please call the office, 233.0767 or email office@topekatic.org. Or call Pr. Andrew, 423.748.9922 or email pr_andrew@topekatic.org



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

November 17, 2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Throughout this pandemic, we have continually adapted and changed plans in response to the Corona Virus with hopes that we would be able to “flatten the curve” until a vaccine could be developed and widely distributed. We are now facing the reality that the curve has become a steep incline, and medical experts are warning that the virus is out of control. While many of our congregations have already taken steps to modify or suspend in-person worship, I strongly recommend that all congregations of our synod suspend in-person worship through the end of the year.

It is my deep concern for you as Pastor of the synod that leads me to make this recommendation, and I do not make it lightly. Over the past few months, I have traveled and preached in several congregations, something I have thoroughly enjoyed because I have missed being with you. I felt that not only could we figure out ways to gather safely, but that we needed these opportunities to gather in-person to support one another during these difficult times. With the explosion of cases across this country, hospitals overwhelmed, and the death rate continuing to climb, I can no longer justify these feelings. What we are doing as a society to control this virus is, quite frankly, not working. Therefore, I am suspending travel for myself and the rest of the synod staff as it is time to pivot once again.

I make this recommendation out of my pastoral concern for you and our whole country knowing and respecting that the decision to suspend in-person worship is not mine to make. The decision is ultimately up to each congregation. I deeply appreciate how challenging these times have been. I know how much work you have done to develop plans and protocols to gather as safely as possible. I also know how difficult these changing decisions have been on you and your congregations. I respect that as the called and covenanted leader of your congregation, you are in the best position to know your context, understand the needs of your community, and work together with your congregational leaders. Therefore, for those of you serving as Synod Authorized Ministers with a yearly authorization to preside at communion, I am not going to suspend that authorization. I will not, however, be granting any new authorizations for PMAs providing pulpit supply through the end of the year. While I respect that this is your decision to make, I am asking that you take this recommendation seriously and share it with your leadership. My staff and I will continue to support you in whatever ways we can. Please do not hesitate to reach out and call us if you have any questions, concerns, or needs.

Finally, I ask that we, as faith communities, not see ourselves as “exempt” from county health guidelines, especially guidelines that limit gatherings. I am calling us to lead by example, showing how we can worship, proclaim the gospel, support one another, care for our neighbors, and be the church in ways that help this nation work together to bring about healing in the midst of this pandemic.

The Rev. Susan Candea
Bishop



Thanks to our AMAZING volunteers, we are fundamentally done with construction & finishing. We have a few items left to install, which are on back order but feel confident they will be 100% open for business by January 1, 2021.

Contact us at info@holliscenter.org/book-retreat.html to book your retreat. You can view the inside of the cabins by following this link: <https://www.holliscenter.org/tiny-cabins.html>



Zoo Lights features Friends of TLC December 23 at 7 p.m. Laurie Jackson, Loretta Hoerman, Erik Berggren, and Roger Stoner will perform Christmas and holiday music December 23 at 7 p.m. at the Topeka Zoo. The performance is part of a new feature at the Topeka Zoo this season. ZOO LIGHTS begins November 27 and continues through December 30. Each night, volunteer musicians will perform as visitors stroll around the zoo and enjoy twinkling lights, dazzling displays, festive activities, and a visit from Santa Claus. This time of

year highlights some of humanity's best traits, such as kindness, compassion and generosity. Our community has established a festive spirit and the zoo is hoping to provide a new tradition to share with our neighbors, families and friends. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for kids and Friends of Topeka Zoo (FOTZ) members will receive a dollar discount. Proceeds will benefit FOTZ.

Everything's Rosie

Internship leads to role with Dept. of Commerce for recent graduate

By Annie Flachsbarth

Even with international shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world continues to go on – just in a slightly more digital form. Recent graduate Rosie Nichols experienced this firsthand as she interviewed for a job as an international development representative with the Kansas Department of Commerce via a Zoom interview in a McDonald's parking lot in Russell, Kansas.

The best part? She got the job.

“The professors in the political science department are really supportive of their students. They helped me get scholarships that allowed me to study abroad twice and take the internship in the governor's office.” - Rosie Nichols

A Student of the World

Rosie Nichols, ba '20, found a love for international work after attending a study abroad program in Paraguay during high school. She thought it would be interesting to become a diplomat. A 2015 graduate of Topeka High School, Nichols made the decision to attend Washburn University after meeting political science professors Mark Peterson and Bob Beatty during a Junior Days event.

“I didn't know I wanted to study political science, but I knew I wanted to be a diplomat,” Nichols said. “Dr. Beatty had taken the Foreign Service Officer

exam to become a diplomat, so I thought he would be a good advisor.”

During her junior year at Washburn, Nichols went to Belfast, Northern Ireland, for a year to study – an experience she was granted in large part due to a scholarship she received from the Kissinger Political Science Fund. The Kissinger Fund is devoted to helping Washburn political science students, and Nichols received awards from this fund multiple times to provide experiences she couldn't have had if she worked full-time while attending school. It is just one of the many donor-funded options available for Washburn students.

“The professors in the political science department are really supportive of their students,” Nichols said. “They helped me get scholarships that allowed me to study abroad twice and take the internship in the governor's office.”

As she was getting closer to graduation, Nichols was anxious to get some applicable, real-world experience in her desired field. With the help of Beatty, and the close relationships between Washburn and the state government, Nichols got an internship in Gov. Laura Kelly's appointments office.

Ready to Serve

Interns with state government are often called to tackle a wide range of challenges, providing loads of experience and opportunities. During her time in the governor's office, Nichols proved herself a valuable resource – impressing the team there with her strong work ethic and enthusiasm in a fast-paced, challenging environment. This experience set Nichols up to continue to serve the state in a meaningful way. When a job opened with the Department of Commerce, she was a shoo-in for the role.

Nichols applied for the job, but then COVID-19 hit



Rosie Nichols, ba '20, interviewed for a job this spring at the Kansas Department of Commerce while using the WiFi in a McDonald's parking lot while visiting her grandmother in Russell, Kansas. She got the job and works as an international development representative. *Photo by Doug Stremel*

Kansas. With on-site classes canceled, she went to visit her grandmother in Russell, Kansas. Without internet at the house, she took to the parking lot of the local McDonald's for a Zoom interview.

Nichols' experience, drive and interest helped her land the job serving as an international development representative. In this role, Nichols is assisting Kansas in attracting more foreign direct investments and expanding existing business exports.

"Gov. Kelly's administration wanted to make that division a priority again, so it has been really exciting to be a part of this," Nichols said.

Kansas Secretary of Commerce David Toland explained the International Division can contribute to economic growth in Kansas.

"We have so much to offer international firms interested in an ideal location in the U.S.,"

Toland said. "And for businesses already here, our international team works to grow and expand exporting opportunities worldwide, which in turn benefits communities and the state."

The Best Woman for the Job

Even with working remotely and not yet having in-person access to all her new co-workers, Nichols made an impression this summer.

"In her brief tenure at Commerce, Rosie has already shown a willingness to learn with a mindset that helps her embrace all of the complexities of her position," Toland said. "We are so pleased to have her on board, and we look forward to her future contributions on the Commerce team and to the state of Kansas."

"This is a great success story," Beatty said. "Rosie did it, but Washburn professors, administration, donors and supporters were helping her all along the way." 