

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Trinity Tidings

March 2021



## STAFF

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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

Online 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

# March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 6:30 pm Midweek Zoom	5	6
10:30 am Worship on Facebook 7	8 5:30 pm Council	9	10 6:30-8 pm Historic Old Town NIA meeting	11 6:30 pm Midweek Zoom	12	13
10:30 am Worship on Facebook 14	15 April 2021 Trinity Tidings deadline	16	17	18 6:30 pm Midweek Zoom	19	20
10:30 am Worship on Facebook 21	22	23	24	25 6:30 pm Midweek Zoom	26	27
Palm Sunday 28 10:30 am Worship on Facebook	29 <b>Holy Week</b>	30	31	<b>Every Sunday: 10:30 am Worship &amp; Holy Communion via Facebook</b>		

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Topeka, KS

## *A Note from Pastor Andrew*

“May the road rise up to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.  
May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.  
May God be with you and bless you”  
-An Irish Blessing

While the origin of this prayer is lost, generations of Irish have passed down this simple prayer; some even attribute it to St. Patrick himself as it resembles some of his other writings such as St. Patrick’s Breastplate. When you see this prayer pop up on Facebook as we get closer to St. Patrick’s Day, this year it may have a new importance for us as a church. At the end of February, we marked the one-year point of COVID closing our church for in-person worship. Some of us are feeling defeated and saddened by this. Some of us are frustrated and upset that we have not reopened due to the waves of infection that

keep buildings closed (and might find yourself screaming “Why can’t people get their act together! Wear a mask! Social distance!”) Some might feel disappointed because church activities and committees have been slow or sleepy during this time. I want you to know that I have felt and hear you. I have also felt all these things at some point or another during this time.

Yet there is also this deep sense that our experience with COVID might be time that the Holy Spirit is giving us to reset. A time to figure out what is important for our congregation and how we want to move forward. A moment to try new ways of being church and working together in mission. It might look like the road is uphill, that the wind is in our faces, and that clouds cover our route ahead. As I said in our annual meeting, the Alban Institute reports that churches with memberships under 100 members have been closing at a rate of

about 7% over the last decade and this past year, that rate has tripled. Therefore, this Irish prayer finds new meaning for me in this moment: that we can find the hope, inspiration, and faith to come out stronger. The Irish had many hardships through persecution of their faith, domination of their country by a foreign power, and famine unlike any seen anywhere in the world. Yet, they were not content to stay the same. They moved to new lands, learned to plant other crops, and fought for their independence. They had a deep sense that God was with them in their struggles and that brighter days would be ahead. I ask us all to pray for our church in this coming year as we greet new leadership for our council and committees; that we might come out of this pandemic with the road ahead of us, the wind at our backs, and the sun shining as we move into our future stronger than before.

## March Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 4 Zoe Brown
- 10 Bob Kobbeman
- 16 Jake Kennedy
- 17 Trey Horton
- 19 Carol Marker
- 25 Pam Kobbeman
- 28 Helen Laughlin
- 31 Larry McGinnis

### Baptisms

- 1 Ben Carlson
- 1 Doug Quarnstrom
- 1 Adeline Klamm
- 4 Merle Adams
- 10 Alex Nichols
- 18 Cathy Tunnell
- 20 Jane Lewis
- 21 Diane Bottorff
- 27 Chance Hutchison
- 30 Edward Emmons

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 14 Roy & Rosemary O'Neil

## March Readings

### March 7 — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

### March 14 — 4th Sunday of Lent

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

### March 21 — 5th Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

### March 28 — Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1—15:47  
or  
Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

### *Dear Friends of Trinity,*

We wish to thank all of you for the cards, letters, calls and prayers, as mother passed to be with her Heavenly Father. She loved her church family and had many wonderful memories at Trinity. She would have loved to have had a service in her church, but due to Covid, we were unable to provide that for her. So, we will have a Celebration of her life to share her memories at a later date at Trinity. May God Bless each of you for the kindness you shared with mom.

Love In Christ,  
Eleanor Jewell's Family,  
Ellen, Barbara, Kathy & Families

## Doorstep News — January 2021



Thank you to everyone who donated soup and crackers for our **Souper Bowl Sunday** collection! A can of soup can be a meal or two, and your generous donations helped stock our pantry, and provide meals for your neighbors in need! We did not set a goal this year with the pandemic, and most of our congregations are not meeting in person. Last year 5,483 pounds of food was donated! So far by mid-February we had over 4,600 pounds donated. With the cold weather surge there is still more food to come in, which will up that total.

We know these past 11 months have been chal-

lenging for everyone in various ways, and we appreciate all of the support Doorstep has continued to receive! We feel very blessed to have the support that we do in the Topeka community. Thank you!

Last year, we were lucky to get our Operation Soup Line in a few weeks before the pandemic began. However, this year we are not so fortunate! We did ask our regular sponsors to still support Doorstep, and our “un-event” so that we would not lose all of the funds we rely on from the event.

We want to thank **Stor-  
mont Vail Health,  
FHL Bank, Security**

**Benefit, Kansas Gas Service, BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas, CoreFirst Bank & Trust, and Capitol Federal Foundation** for their continuing support for our neighbors in need.

Mark your calendars for Doorstep’s **4th Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk/5K Fun Run** at Lake Shawnee. The big day is **Sunday, October 3rd at 2pm!** Come out and support Doorstep, and get some exercise at the same time! We made over \$7,000 last year, and have a goal of \$10,000 for our fourth year!

## 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, February 8, 2021

- ◆ Pr. Andrew reported that annual report packets were assembled and mailed to members.
- ◆ Annual meeting will be online Sunday, Feb. 21.
- ◆ Bob Kobbeman explained the proposed 2021 budget. Smaller memorial funds have been moved to general fund.
- ◆ Feb. 28 is the deadline for ballots to be returned to the church office. They will be counted on Monday, March 1st.
- ◆ Pr. Andrew reported that Personnel Committee met & reviewed position descriptions.
- ◆ Howard reported that a broken garage door window will be repaired soon. Damaged ceiling tiles in TH basement has been replaced. There are also issues with the boiler and the middle hallway unit.
- ◆ Delivery of food boxes is continuing due to a COVID relief act.
- ◆ Sanctuary piano needs tuning. This will be done before Easter.
- ◆ Kathryn Hosfelt will serve as director of the community garden this year.

**Central States Synod Assembly June 4-5, 2021**

The Central States Synod will hold its annual assembly online  
Sessions begin Friday evening and end Saturday afternoon

Please consider serving as our representative to the Synod assembly. It will be conducted via Zoom so you will want to take that into consideration.

## *Are you a Thrivent member?*

Have you designated your Thrivent Choice allocation for this year? Designations must be complete by March 31, 2021.

Would you consider Camp Tomah Shinga or Lutheran Campus Ministry at KU as the recipient of your Choice Dollars? **Both entities would be very grateful.** To donate, visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice), or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt, or contact your Thrivent financial professional.

For more information about LCM-KU contact Laurie Jackson ([jacksonlk@aol.com](mailto:jacksonlk@aol.com) or 785-224-9683) or visit their website at [Westwood House](http://WestwoodHouse.org) ([westwoodku.org](http://westwoodku.org)) or Jacob Spilker at [tomahshinga@gmail.com](mailto:tomahshinga@gmail.com) or 785-238-3654

*"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 — 1925-2021



Eleanor L. Jewell, 95, of Topeka, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at an Overbrook care facility. She was born September 12, 1925 in Topeka, the daughter of Leonard W. and Ellen C.

(Peterson) Johnson and stepmother, Ruth (Danielson) Johnson.

Eleanor attended Topeka High School. She was a homemaker. She was a life-time member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church where she spent many hours in the kitchen and quilt room. Eleanor was devoted to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, especially enjoying their school and sporting activities.

She and her husband loved to garden, camp, fish, bowl and travel together. She was a great friend and honorary mother and grandmother to many and will be sorely missed by all.

Eleanor married Orval Stovall on February 13, 1943 in Topeka. They had three children, Ellen, Barbara and Ronald. He preceded her in death in 1948. In 1952, she married Benny Jewell and had daughter, Kathy.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, Orval in 1948, her son, Ronald, her husband, Benny, her great-grandsons, Drew Patton and Mission Patton and

her brother, Harland Johnson.

Survivors include children, Ellen Irwin and Barbara (Kenny) Jessop of Topeka, Kathy Anderson of Chicago, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, brother-in-law, John (Kip) Jewell of Overbrook and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Private inurnment will take place in Topeka Cemetery. A Celebration of Eleanor's Life will be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be given to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 725 SW Buchanan St., Topeka, Kansas 66606.

## Don Longren — 1945-2021

Donald Ray Longren, 75, of Topeka passed away February 13, 2021.

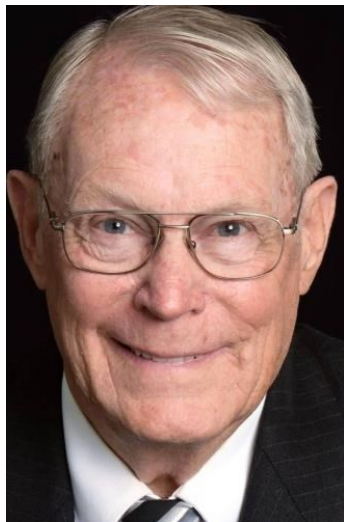
Honoring Donald's request cremation has taken place. A memorial ceremony and inter-

ment of Donald's cremated remains will be planned at a later date. Dove Cremations and Funerals -Southwest Chapel, 3700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka, KS 66610 is assist-

ing the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 725 SW Buchanan, Topeka, KS 66606.

## Charles D. Sodergren — 1934-2021



Charles Duane "Chuck" "Sody" Sodergren, age 86, passed away on February 15, 2021. Charles was born in Topeka, Kansas on February 16, 1934.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles A. Sodergren and Florence Johnson Sodergren Hanson, his sister, Audrey Lou, who died in infancy, and his wife of 60 years Myra.

Surviving is a sister, Barbara Apps and four children; Janice Greenlee (Rick), Jane Lewis (Curt), Steve Sodergren (Jenny), and Janeen Horton (Bob). Also surviving are ten grandchildren: Brett Henry (Janelle), Brooke Ralph (David), Erin Lewis, Heather Klamm (Josh), Breanna Lewis, Sydney Cochran (Tim), Joe Sodergren, Andie Sodergren, Audrey Horton, Trey Horton, and nine great-grandchildren.

Charles graduated from Topeka High School in 1951, from Bethany College with a BA degree in 1956, and from Kansas University with a Master of Education degree in 1962.

He served in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman during the mid-1950s. He worked ten years as a public swimming pool manager, lifeguard, and instructor.

He was a teacher and coach at Spring Hill High School and Lyman Grade School, and principal at Dover Grade School, East Indianola Elementary School, and Logan Jr. High School where the gym is named in his honor. In 1995 after thirty-eight years he retired as an educator. In 2019 he was honored by the Seaman Alumni Association and inducted into the Seaman Hall of Fame.

Chuck was a long-time active member and past president of the Sunrise Optimist Club of North Topeka and founder of the Jr. Viking basketball, softball, and baseball programs. Charles was an active member of the North Topeka On The Move Association (NOTOMA) and the North Topeka Historical Society. He was once designated "Honorary Mayor of North Topeka"

and was an active member and past-president of the Topeka Area Retired School Personnel (TARSP). He was a life-long member and past president of the Church Council of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Chuck was a published author/poet and enjoyed sharing his many thoughts and philosophies through writing. He was a super fan of all of his grandchildren's sporting events and activities. He also spent many years delivering Meals On Wheels. A private funeral service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church followed by interment at Memorial Park Cemetery in Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be donated to Trinity Lutheran Church, 725 SW Buchanan Street, Topeka, KS 66606.

A public celebration of life will be announced at a later date.