

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2021

STAFF

Pastor Andrew C. Patty
pr_andrew@topekatlc.org

Cindy McGinnis
Administrative Assistant
office@topekatlc.org

Laurie Jackson
Music Director

Marcy Carlson
Custodian
marcyrtpr@gmail.com

OFFICE

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 10:30am Holy Communion
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 2021

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p><i>Every Sunday: 10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion</i></p>		1	2	3	4	
<p>10:30 am Worship 5 After worship: Nominating committee meeting</p>	6	<p>9 am Quilters 7</p>	8	9	10	11
<p>10:30 am Worship 12 St. Lucia After worship: Administration committee meeting 2 pm PFLAG meeting</p>	13	<p>9 am Quilters 14</p>	15	16	17	18
<p>10:30 am Worship 19 After worship: Spiritual Care committee meeting Home Communion Ministry training</p>	20 January 2022 Trinity Tidings deadline	<p>9 am Quilters 21</p>	22	23	<p> 24 Noon Christmas Eve Worship</p>	25
<p>10:30 am Worship 26 1st Sunday of Advent After worship: Congregational Life committee meeting</p>	27	<p>9 am Quilters 28 7 pm TLHA</p>	29	30	31	

Trinity Lutheran Church
Topeka, KS

Pastor's Letter

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." - Martin Luther King Jr.

During this COVID pandemic, we have all been stressed in new and unknown ways with churches touched by the same stresses that the world has experienced. Over a third of small congregations (those with under a 100 members) decided that it was too much for them and started the process to close their faith communities. Many congregations, even mega-churches, are seeing average attendance at 40-50% of their pre-COVID numbers. Finally, while churches experienced increased giving during the worst of COVID, the current problem is that everyone from local congregation to synods have experienced a downturn in giving as we have begun to meet in-person again.

As the vaccine has been approved for children and the booster shot is made available for all, we will be entering a new stage in this drama that has been going on these past two years. I have no doubt that sometime in the next month we

will meet the 70% community vaccination goal requested by the ELCA before we return to "normal" worship. We will be discussing ways to return to "normal." To return to communion at the rail. To return to greeting our loved ones. To return to being able to have groups and coffee hour together once again.

Yet, while I note that we will soon be returning to "normal," we have to keep in mind that it will take an effort from all of us to go back to how it was before. We will first need to dedicate ourselves to attend worship in-person. We will continue to invest in our online presence but this should not be our default. Our online ministry is for those that are homebound and for those visitors that are not ready to step into our space. As members, you should want to come and be together on Sunday mornings. That should be your priority just like it was before COVID. Next, we need all hands-on deck as we rebuild from this COVID time. This means that all of us should dedicate ourselves to at least one committee. I think we all love this church enough to give an

extra 20 minutes after church. You don't even have to do anything but give your option for most of our work together. And this applies to all ages. You might retire from a job, but your life in faith is dedicated to being a member of this community.

We have to take our first steps out into the future. Just like Martin Luther King Jr. states, we have no way to know what God has in store for us as we move forward. We have to be faithful to God; we have to show our faith in this community. We cannot be paralyzed by fear nor laziness. Our church will have many major decisions moving forward these next couple of months that will determine our future. I am asking each and everyone of you to step forward. Let's start to walk in our faith together into the future and not return to "normal" but to be the church of the future. A church where all of its members are vital, active, and have purpose in the mission that God has given us.

*Peace of Christ,
Pr. Andrew Patty*

December Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3 Junior Utech
- 14 Sara King
- 19 Don O'Brien
- 23 Jeff Longren
- 27 Cindy McGinnis
- 30 Karen Arney
- 30 Brett Henry
- 30 Adeline Klamm

Baptisms

- 6 Julie Reeves
- 8 Peggy Buchholz
- 8 Walt Laughlin
- 9 Junior Utech
- 15 Ivan Carlson
- 21 Tresa Johnson
- 26 Debbie Pomeroy
- 29 Janice Greenlee

December Readings

December 5 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

December 12 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

December 19 — 4th Sunday of Advent

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Luke 1:46b-55
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-55

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 26 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

- 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52

Cemetery Plots for Sale

Walt & Helen Laughlin are offering their Memorial Park cemetery plots for sale. The plots are in the Lutheran section of the cemetery. The section is #163, plots 5 & 6 on the hill near Gage Blvd.

They are asking \$2,370 for each plot. You may contact them at 1.918.298.3472 if you would like to discuss further or make an offer.

St. Lucia Day Service December 12, 2021

This year, our St. Lucia celebration will take place during our Sunday morning worship service. We need child volunteers to serve as St. Lucias and Starboys. Please contact Pr. Andrew to let him know if your child(ren) would like to serve in this way.



Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be at noon on Friday, December 24.

Please invite friends and family to join us for a candlelight service as we share the Christmas story and song.

Home Communion Ministry



Home Communion Ministry Training After Church on December 19th

The Spiritual Life Committee is working to have congregation members visit and give communion to our homebound members. During our October meeting, we had 7 people dedicate to this ministry. We need 10 people to cover all our home-bound members. Please consider joining this ministry. Contact Pastor Andrew or Vickie Jacobs for more information.

Advent Devotional Online



Every day of Advent on our Facebook Page

Please check out our Facebook page during this Advent season as we use ELCA World Hunger's Advent Calendar. Each day, there will be a post with a hymn, prayer, Bible verse, or quote to help us prepare for the season.

Doorstep News & Needs — December 2021



This month is all about the Christmas Store, even if it is completely different than in years past! This year is not a 'Store', but more of a Christmas Adoption Project. All of the households we have adopted through the Christmas Bureau will receive a food order, health kit, blanket, a household item,

a family fun pack with games, puzzles, etc., school supplies if appropriate and a \$20 gift card per person in the household. Distribution days this year will be December 14th – 17th.

What we currently need for Christmas: We have asked for items to be at Doorstep by December 1st this year because distribution will take extra organization on our part. However, with the cost of the gift cards and the food, our budget is already at least \$30,000. Where we have asked for items in years past, please help us monetarily with the gift cards and food by sending a check, or go to our website (www.doorsteptopeka.org) to donate by credit card. Please note your congregation with your donation.

We appreciate anything you can do to help this year while we are still in midst of a COVID Christmas. Don't forget your year-end donations as well! Doorstep would gratefully accept your donations to help us start out 2022 in the black. And, don't forget our 55th Anniversary Fund to replace our 60+ year old HVAC system. Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Staff at Doorstep!

Donations Needed for Our Christmas Project

Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 821 individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We are receiving calls about what items are needed for our annual Christmas Adoption.

We need the following **NEW** items:

- *Blankets - Full/Queen & King Only
- *Coffee Pots
- *Electric Skilletts
- *Board Games
- *Money for Gift Cards
- *Crock Pots
- *Skillet Sets
- *Toasters
- *Puzzles

We no longer need school supplies or health kit items (hygiene items and towels).

These have been assembled, and are ready for December.

We would like donations of gift items by December 1st, if possible, so we know what we have, and what we still need for distribution week.

However, we will still take donations after that date.

We are not doing the full Christmas Store this year due to the ongoing pandemic & safety issues.

Each household we adopt will receive:

- Blanket ~ Health Kit ~ School Supplies (if appropriate)
- One household item such as coffee pot or crockpot
- Christmas food order
- Family Fun packs with board games, puzzles and toys
- \$20 gift cards per person in the household.

Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan). Hours for donations are 9am - 2pm, Monday - Friday. You can mail monetary donations or use our website: DoorstepTopeka.org

A container will be available in the narthex during November for deposit of donations. Diane Bottorff will deliver donated items to Doorstep on December 1.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President

Diane Bottorff
785.271.7131

Vice President

Ted Murphy
785.817.0372

Secretary

Treasurer
Bob Kobbeman
785.478.0381

Members

Shelley Andrews
785.554.3005

Vickie Jacobs
785.379.5430

Howard Reece
785.221.8992

Council Meeting Minutes, Nov. 8, 2021

- ◆ Spiritual Care committee needs 10 persons to take communion monthly to homebound members, beginning in January. Training will be provided prior to that. Each communion minister will visit same person each month.
- ◆ We are continuing to move some older funds from Memorials into General Fund to help cover cost of church roof repairs.
- ◆ Reflection on Messy Church format used on October 31. Tentative plan to use this format six times a year.
- ◆ Council will decide at its December meeting on a January date for our annual meeting. Agenda items to include: adoption of budget, voting on new logo and mission statement, three year long term planning and election of Council members and other positions.

There have been some delays in getting the 151st Anniversary booklet ready for publication. As soon as it is available an announcement will be placed in bulletins, Tidings and on social media.

Notice about Tithing: Please notice that we are getting behind on our tithes. We currently are about \$5,800 behind our giving goal for the year, but as of the start of November, only about \$3000 in the red for the year. Therefore, I encourage all of you for this last month to think about giving extra before the end of the year. If we each put in another \$120 dollars over the month or \$30 extra each week, we will surely end the year in the black instead of the red.

Church Committee Meetings for December 2021

**Dec. 5 – Nominating Committee
discuss open positions**

**Dec. 12 – Administration Committee
review draft mission statement**

**Dec. 19 – Spiritual Care Committee
meeting—home communion
training**

**Dec. 26 – Congregational Life
worship planning**

