

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



TRINITY TIDINGS

JANUARY 2023

STAFF

Pastor Andrew C. Patty
pr_andrew@topekatlc.org

Cindy McGinnis
Administrative Assistant
office@topekatlc.org

Laurie Jackson
Music Director

Marcy Carlson
Custodian
marcy4tlc@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



TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

LIVING WITH CHRIST'S LOVE

CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10:30 am Worship 1  10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along 	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45-10:15 Adult Sunday School 8 10:30 am Worship After worship: Congregational Life committee meeting 2 pm PFLAG meeting	9	9 am Quilters 10	11	12	13	14
10:30 am Worship 15	16	9 am Quilters 17	18	19	20	21
					February 2023 Trinity Tidings deadline	
10:30 am Worship 22 TLC Annual Meeting after worship	23	9 am Quilters 24	25	26	27	28
		7 pm TLHA				
9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School 29 10:30 am Worship	30	9 am Quilters 31	<i>Every Sunday 10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion</i>			



Pastor's Letter

"¹³Stay awake, stand firm in your faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴Everything should be done in love." – Paul (1st Corinthians 16:13-14)

We forget why Paul wrote two letters to the Corinthians. We may assume that it was because Paul liked them or that he had too much advice for them for just one letter. The reality is that the Christians at Corinth were in disarray. The Corinthians were revolting against their leaders and breaking into fighting sects. In the first letter, we see they had issues of jealousy and sharing of resources that broke into a debate about Jesus' resurrection. This halted them from their goals of sending aid to the struggling Christians in Judea. Then later, we see that they are fighting again and in response to Paul telling them they should refocus on their ministry, they argue if Paul is even someone that can be trusted to speak for the church. Paul is so upset at their internal finger-pointing that he sends Titus instead of going himself to help them refocus. In challenging times, we must not be like the Corin-

thians and place blame. It is easy for us to say that everything wrong is due to a person, a group, or an action taken. Challenging problems are often the accumulation of many people and actions and they require us to work together to rediscover our place and purpose. We have to acknowledge that challenging problems require us to let go of the past and be willing to be a member of the transformation for shared ministry.

We are facing challenging problems as we enter this new year. And not only this congregation, but all levels as the synod and churchwide are trying to figure out ways to survive. We all have fewer members and fewer resources that will force us to cut budgets, layoff staff, and even close congregations. Churchwide has asked if we should rework the whole denominational structure of the ELCA because it is not sustainable anymore. This is not a future reality; this is the present reality. We are not alone in these struggles. Barna Group surveys have found that average attendance in American churches is around 30% lower than before COVID

and 70% of members in the pews have stopped volunteering at church. Take a second and think about that situation in this example. What if you went to the DMV to renew your driver's license? A third of the stalls would be empty because the employees didn't show up. Then, only three of the lines are moving at all because the other attendants are tied up on their computers. So out of 10 lines, only three are functioning. The lines are out the door and frustration builds as you stand in line. While in line, you speak to those around you as complaints and blame are directed at the employees, the manager; even the government in general. Some even storm out of the line proclaiming to not renew their driver's license until the problem is addressed. Does this example sound familiar to us in the church? Is this the church now?

We need to state the things creating frustration in church, create change that is needed for us to function, and figure out how we can refocus on our mission. This year we will be faced with many conflicts as we try to find our future. We

need all of you present and active so that we are not creating a burden on the organization. When you are not present and contributing like you always have, it creates those same lines of worried and angry people as in our example. Fewer people are left to carry the weight and eventually both servants and attendants end up frustrated. We become the conflict from within; we become the Corinthians. In both of Paul's letters, he reminds them not to give up on each other in the church, to use their talents to further the message of God's grace, and to show love to each other as they navigate their challenging times. Therefore, as we face the challenges that await us in this new year, let us remember Paul's words that we can find a path forward if we all work together, that God has blessed us all with gifts to participate in God's mission of grace. Most important, we must work with each other with love knowing that no one has all the answers for the problems we are facing. Stay awake, keep the faith, be brave, be strong, and lead with love in this coming year.



JANUARY READINGS

January 1 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23

January 8 — Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

January 15 — 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 1st Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42

January 22 — 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 1st Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23

January 29 — 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15
 1st Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Mary Heald
 16 Ben Carlson
 16 Linda Longren
 23 Ivan Carlson
 27 Zane Kennedy

BAPTISMS

10 Kendall Horton
 23 Betty Patton

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1 Michael & Laurie Jackson

SAVE THE DATE!

The Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka's **FIBER ARTS WORKSHOP** will be happening again this year, after a two year hiatus.

The workshop will be on February 18, from 8:30am - 11:30am at Faith Lutheran Church, 1716 SW Gage in Topeka.

Breakout sessions that will include some make and takes will be a part of this workshop.

More details will be given after the first of the year.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

DEC. 12, 2022

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President

Duane Pomeroy
785.234.4385

Vice President

Howard Reece
785.221.8992

Secretary

Diane Bottorff
785.231.0379

Treasurer

Bob Kobbeman
785.478.0381

Members

Carol Marker
785.338.1734

Ted Murphy
785.817.0372

- The Candidacy Committee of the Central States Synod has approved Pr. Andrew to be added to the roster of ministers of word and sacrament of the ELCA. There is a possibility as a result of this action Trinity may have to vote again to call him as our pastor.
- Update on Pledging Process for 2023: Out of the current 38 giving units, only 12 of them have filled out a pledge card for 2023. While this is low, it makes up 75% of our current giving during 2022. Pr. Andrew will be sending out letters to all our giving units. The letter will include their current giving and a break-down of what it would look like to increase their giving for the next year. For those who have already made their pledge for 2023, the letter will thank them for their generosity and if they have not increased their pledge ask them to consider an increase. Trinity will not survive if people continue their current patterns of giving. At the end of November, we have 92K in the bank. We are running a negative budget of 37K for 2022. At this rate, Trinity will be out of funds in two years. There are only three paths forward: drastic increase in tithes, drastic cutting of the budget, or closure of the church.
- Church Committees: Still in need of volunteers for Administration and Maintenance committees. The goal is to have at least five church members per committee plus the council liaison.
- Date for Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 22, immediately after the worship service. The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to prepare the ballot for the Annual Meeting. They will be seeking persons for council, 2023 nominating committee, Doorstep board and coordinator, Topeka Lutheran Home Association board.
- Constitution update is needed to bring our constitution in compliance with the Model Constitution approved during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in August.
- Trinity has received a bequest from the estate of Dorothy Strom in the amount of \$15,000. It is designated for Capital Improvements.
- A new computer will be purchased for the church office, using funds from the Susan Fitz memorial.
- Marcy Carlson made presentation to council about a program called Text in Church. The purpose of this program is to improve communication within and about Trinity. Some of the features of the program are text messages and emails about upcoming events/meetings and guest follow-up. Council approved use of Text in Church for a four month trial period and formation of a team to work with Marcy on the implementation of this program. Diane Bottorff will be the council liaison to the team.



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

December 14, 2022

Trinity Lutheran Church
Attn: Council President
725 Buchanan St.
Topeka, KS 66606

Greetings to all the saints at Trinity Lutheran Church,

Andrew C. Patty was approved for Word and Sacrament ministry at our most recent Candidacy Committee meeting. We wanted to share that decision with you, and to thank you for your partnership in the work of preparing leaders for the church.

We thank God for the gifts for ministry Andrew has been given, and for your support and encouragement in his continuing ministry.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Barbara Jones". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Rev. Barbara Jones (she, her, hers)
Central States Synod Candidacy Manager

CC: Rev. David J. Whetter
Andrew Patty

God's work. Our hands.



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year! I think 2022 went by even faster than 2021 did, if that is possible. We had another busy year providing basic needs and services to our neighbors in need with the help of our member congregations, and the community! There was still COVID funding available allowing us to provide additional rent assistance. We assisted with over \$185k in rent and nearly \$86k in utility assistance in 2022. Overall, we provided over \$325,000 in assistance with all of the basic needs services we offer.

We also exceeded our fundraising goal for the new HVAC system by spring, and the new system was installed this past fall!

Doorstep adopted 260 households again this year from the Christmas Bureau with over 800 individuals. Once again our member congregations and community members stepped up and donated the items we needed, and money for the gift cards and food. We appreciate everyone who helped in whatever way they could to make Christmas nicer for those who were struggling during the holidays.

SouperBowl Sunday is February 12th and we will be asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

I cannot stress enough how thankful

and blessed we feel to be so supported during another difficult year as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible. Our volunteers are such valuable resources, and we could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our community as a whole when Doorstep is in need continues to be amazing!

We will start 2023 continuing with phone intakes for services, and appointments for the clothing room. Hopefully, we can return to in-person intakes some time during the year.

Lisa Cain, Executive Director

A NICE THANK-YOU FROM THE LAUGHLIN FAMILY

Trinity Lutheran family,
Thank you again for your support, the lovely memorial service, and sentiments of sympathy with the passing of our dear wife, mom & grandmother, Helen. We miss her especially now as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth but are given hope in his resurrection, and the care of friends like you.

We hope these funds will be of use for a ministry at Trinity, whether it be the community garden, quilting, pastoral support, children's programming, or some other way to reach out.

Dad has had a series of falls and hospitalizations since mom's passing. We will be moving him to long term care at Trinity Woods in Tulsa soon as his mo-

bility has been drastically reduced.

God continue to bless you as you continue to serve others.

Love, Pr. Walt, Steph, John, & Michelle.



TIME TO REGISTER!

The countdown to summer camp has begun, and so has our Early Bird registration! Luckily you don't have to wait until summer to join in on Tomah Shinga activities, so check out our calendar on the website for events coming up in the spring.

Invite a friend and join Camp Tomah Shinga for a fun-filled, Spirit-led camping experience!

Camperships are available, please contact jvalentine@camptomahshinga.com to inquire.

We are excited to welcome back campers for a full summer to Explore Creation, Build Community, and Grow in Faith.



LEGACY OF CAMP TOMAH SHINGA? HERE ARE A FEW OPTIONS FOR YOU!

Amazon Wishlist - We have started an Amazon Wishlist to help us be better prepared for our campers! Sports equipment, co-op items, kitchen gear, and so forth are included and will be added to throughout the month of May.

Rooted Monthly Giving Club - We are always looking to grow our Monthly Rooted Giving Club and without it, we wouldn't be able to do all that we have accomplished. As little as \$10 a month or as much as \$150, it will be pulled automatically from your account each month.

Make a Gift - Of course, we welcome one-time donations as well! This can look like a monetary donation, a need-item donation or if you are a Thrivent member, using your Thrivent Action Grant to apply for a CTS need and further the ministry out at camp. Contact Jordan at jvalentine@camptomahshinga.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE NEW YEAR

Education is an important part of the faith formation of not only children in the congregation but for members as well. Starting in 2023, we plan to have Sunday School at least once a month for both adults and children. **Sunday School will be 9:45-10:15am on the second Sunday of the month for adults and on the last Sunday of the month for children.**

Adult Sunday School, will meet the first time on Jan. 8th in the Trinity Hall lounge. We will be reading and discussing the book **"The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life"**

by Adam Hamilton. For this first Sunday, please read the Introduction and Chapter 1.

You can order the book on Amazon, the public library has it (physical copy and ebook), or contact Pastor Andrew if you are having trouble getting a copy.

For Children's Sunday School, we will meet in the new Youth Room in Trinity Hall. We will do a lesson plan from Messy Church that is fun and interactive for the children. Parents are welcome to not only attend but to join in the fun! We will also have a children's sermon that Sunday during the regular worship service.

