

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



TRINITY TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION			1	2	3	4				
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along 10:30 am Worship</p>	5	<p>9:00 am Pr. Andrew @ KIFA meeting</p>	6	<p>9 am Quilters</p>	7	<p>Pr. Andrew @CSS Ministerial Development in KC & Salina</p>	8	9	10	11
<p>9:45-10:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2 pm PFLAG meeting</p>	12	<p>6 pm Council</p>	13	<p>9 am Quilters</p>	14	15	16	17	18	<p>8:30 am Fiber Arts Workshop @ Faith Lutheran</p>
<p>10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Bach Bash Organ Recital @ 1st Lutheran</p>	19	 <p>PRESIDENT'S DAY</p>	20	<p>9 am Quilters March 2023 Trinity Tidings deadline</p>	21	 <p>Ash WEDNESDAY SERVICE 5:30 pm Worship followed by soup supper</p>	22	23	24	25
<p>9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School with preparation for 1st Communion 10:30 am Worship</p>	26	27	<p>9 am Quilters 7 pm TLHA</p>	28	<p>Sunday School for adults will start at 9:45 am and on the second Sunday of each month and we will meet in the Trinity Hall lounge. Watch your bulletins for upcoming dates and reading assignments. Children's Sunday school will meet in the new Youth Room in Trinity Hall. Sunday school will meet on the last Sunday of the month, also at 9:45 am. Parents are welcome to join in and participate with the kids.</p>					



Pastor's Letter

As soon as the tinsel and ornaments of Christmas were put away for the season, it seems like our grocery stores have quickly been invaded by hearts, chocolates and sweets of all kinds in preparation for Valentines Day. While we are often confronted with romantic love during this season, as a Christian, we need to be reminded that for us the meaning of Love is more complex and deeper than just that fuzzy feeling in your heart. Indeed, Love is one of the central descriptions of God we find throughout the scriptures (Psalm 86, John 3:16, 1st John 4:8) and is one of the central commandments given for us to do (Matthew 5:43-48, Matthew 22:36-40, 1st Corinthians 13:1). There are even four different words used in the New Testament alone to describe Love in its various capacities. So what are these characteristics of Love that are found in the Scriptures?

The first type of love that is described in the scriptures is what we would call friendship (Greek: Philia). John 13:35 uses this word

in Jesus telling us that we are called to love one another. It is also the way that Jesus tells the disciples that followers will know them by their love for each other. Therefore, this kind of love involves respect, compassion, and charity for those around you. "Philia" is indeed the most used form of Love in the New Testament and when the early Quakers came they named their city after this love that they hoped would rule their city (Philadelphia).

The second type of love is that famous romantic love that we all think about with Valentines Day (Greek: Eros). While our romantic notions are quite tame, the Biblical notions of romantic love were those like when we were teenagers falling in love with a celebrity or super model. It is an irrational love for someone that consumes all your thoughts. The Song of Solomon opens up with this expression of love with songs being sung of a bride and a groom and all of the things they will do after they are wed. If you thought those daytime soap

operas were scandalous; just open up the Bible to the Hebrew scriptures around David and Solomon. It is interesting to note that Jesus never once speaks about this type of love in the New Testament. "Storge" is the third type of love given in the scriptures. This focuses on the special love that you have as a family. It recognizes that there is a unique bond that we have as parents and children that are forms of love that are special. This kind of love produces care, honor, faithfulness to one another. Indeed, Paul in Romans 12 calls all followers to treat each other with this kind of love in the church. Paul believed that the whole church was a spiritual family that should give each other honor, patience, and hospitality to each other.

Finally, we get to "Agape" that is the love most characteristic of God. This love is not defined by actions though. This love is defined by its steadfastness and certainty. We commonly use the term "unconditional" to describe it. This love is what is

found in John 3:16. It is love a love so broad and encompassing that one would do or give up anything for someone else. It is a love that is defined by unbounded grace. This is also the love that is shown in the Shepherd and in the Father of the Prodigal Son. That no matter what that person has done; that your love for them will always be present for them.

Therefore, in this month of Love, be filled with the scriptural knowledge of all the forms of love that can be present in our lives and use them in honor of God's greatest love for us.

Do you have a special anniversary coming up this year? Did you never get to do your vows at Trinity? If so, please contact Pastor Andrew and volunteer to be our leading couple for our vow renews on Feb. 12th during the worship service.



FEBRUARY READINGS

February 5 — 5th Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 112:1-10
 1st Corinthians 2:1-16
 Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 — 6th Sunday of Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1st Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 — Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 99
 2nd Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

February 22 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2nd Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26 — 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS


- 2 Collin Horton
- 6 Marcy Carlson
- 16 Jane Lewis
- 19 Howard Reece
- 23 Loretta Hoerman
- 24 Erin Lewis
- 26 Brayden Winsor

BAPTISMS

- 2 Mary Heald
- 2 Jeff Longren
- 10 Martha Nemeth
- 18 Troy Pomeroy
- 20 Brett Henry

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Sam & Charlotte Blenden



Ash Wednesday is February 22. We will meet for worship at 5:30. After worship, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a soup and bread supper. Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JAN. 9. 2023

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

Ted Quast
301.514.0307

- Membership Roll: Pr. Andrew asked council to review the Baptismal Membership Roll and indicate which persons have attended a worship service in the past two years. It was mentioned by a council member that there is no official record of who has attended an online service during that time period. Our constitution follows the ELCA definition of who a member is. Pastor would like to add a "Family and Friends" list to our membership roll. On this roll would be persons who have had a connection to the congregation but no longer meet the definition of a member as defined in the constitution.
- Budget discussion: 2023 budget needs to be created to present to Annual Meeting for approval on January 22. Two items to consider eliminating are offering envelopes and advertising. Possibly consider cutting Mission Support for Central States Synod/ELCA and decreasing Building Maintenance line item by using funds from the Dorothy Strom bequest.
- At the end of December 2022 expenses were over income by \$4,351.69 and year to date expenses over income by \$44,303.18
- Update on pledges for 2023: 29 giving units amount to a total contribution of 67k. Those that have pledged have increased their pledges by 12%. A 30% increase would be needed to maintain a budget with a small deficit.
- Congregational Life Committee made the following recommendations to council: Beginning January 15 change liturgical setting to Setting 3 and begin passing the offering plate again. Hold Ash Wednesday service at 5:30pm followed by soup supper. No mid-week services during Lent. Messy Church quarterly with next service February 26. Pastor would like to shorten the service on February 26 by doing the Word section in the sanctuary then going to Fellowship Hall for a simple potluck and communion around the tables.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22

- Election results: Congregation Council: 3 years: Curt Lewis, Dean McGinnis, Shelley Andrews; 1 year: Pam Kobbeman
Nominating Committee: 1 year: Janeen Horton, Jane Lewis, Charlotte O'Brien, LaVell Winsor, Debbie Pomeroy, David McGinnis
Audit Committee: 3 years: Donna Allen
Doorstep: 1 year board: Bob Horton; 1 year coordinator: Janeen Horton
LFACT: 1 year: Jane Lewis, Janelle Meredith, Marcy Carlson
TLHA: 3 years – Carol Marker
- Adopted 2023 budget of \$130,955. Pledges received to date for 2023 are \$86,000.
- Constitution Amendments Proposal Notice: Constitution Committee (Debbie Pomeroy & Diane Bottorff) said two modifications are needed: one to bring our constitution in

- compliance with the Model Constitution of the ELCA adopted at the Churchwide Assembly August 2022; the other to update congregation committees. The first requires 30 day notice to the congregation and the other requires 60 days notice. Members will receive notices by email or postal mail. A special congregational meeting will be held after worship on April 2 for a vote on these changes.
- Pastor has fulfilled requirements to be placed on ELCA roster. A vote was taken to call Pr. Andrew as our pastor. Pr. Gary Teske was present as a Synod witness.
- Council president Duane Pomeroy thanked outgoing council members Howard Reece, Ted Murphy and Ted Quast for their service.
- The Annual Report booklet is available in the church office.


DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Another year has begun, and we have hit the ground running! Each year brings new challenges, new experiences, and often many new blessings for Doorstep! We are looking at having the Doorstep Annual Banquet & Quilt Drawing this year after a 3-year COVID hiatus; perhaps a food sale, and the 6th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run will be Sunday, October 1st!

As always we know we could not do all of our services and activities without the help of our member congregations, volunteers, and the community! We have been here over 56 years, and we still operate on “neighbors helping

neighbors”!

SouperBowl Sunday is February 12th and we are asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers again this year to help stock our food pantry! Watch for sales, and gather your donations! We can use all varieties of soup, and crackers. A successful SouperBowl Sunday can stock our pantry with these items into the spring months! **Our goal for 2023 is 5,000 pounds = 2.5 ton!**

We have decided going forward we will no longer give out clothing and shoes in our Christmas Adoption Project. We will continue to use the distribution

model we started due to COVID, and provide gift cards in lieu of clothing. The only exceptions are: NEW pajamas for kids, and NEW hoodies for men, women, and teens. As winter clearance sales are going on, look for warm pajamas from newborn to sizes 18 for kids (boys & girls), and hoodies (sweatshirts) in all sizes, colors, sports teams etc. (sizes small – 5x)

Finally, **Thank You** to everyone who donated money, blankets, games, puzzles, gifts, school supplies, hygiene items, and their time for **Doorstep’s Christmas Adoption Project** this past December! We assisted a total of **260 households with 822 individuals!**



JANUARY 2023

LUTHERAN FINE ARTS COUNCIL OF TOPEKA

FIBER ARTS WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 18, 8:30-11:30am
Faith Lutheran Church – 17th & Gage

Breakout sessions will include demonstrations, hands-on, and more.

lutheranfineartstopeka.org
will have current information
about sessions and presenters.

Event is free, but please RSVP to
Susan Thowe: srthowe@gmail.com



Rev. Walter George Laughlin, 93, of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away with family by his side on January 7, 2023, at Trinity Woods Retirement Community. He was born to

George and Elsa (Kuehn) Laughlin on Nov 4, 1929 in Osage, Iowa. He was baptized by Rev. T. P. Solem on December 8, 1929 and confirmed by Rev. Solem May 28, 1944. Rev. Laughlin graduated from Osage High School in 1948 then enrolled at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. After working for his dad's plumbing business for a year, he enrolled at Luther College in Decorah, IA before enlisting in the US Navy. He served from 1950-1954 aboard the USS Oriskany and began to consider a future in ministry while serving as assistant to the ship's chaplain. After discharge from the Navy he resumed his studies at Luther and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics. In 1957, he entered Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1961. He served his internship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia MN. He was ordained into the Holy Ministry of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in 1961 in Osage. He also obtained a certificate of Clinical Pastoral Education and training in multiple areas of Specialized Pastoral Care.

His first call was at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cushing OK from 1961-1965. Through their work in the ALC Parish

Education Committee, Walter heard of Helen Fischer and they met on a blind date. After a long distance courtship he married the love of his life Helen A. Fischer on April 11, 1964.

Walter served as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK (1965-1968); Our Saviours Lutheran Church, Dannebrog NE (1968-1975); Concordia Lutheran Church, Concordia KS (1975-1983). He then served as a chaplain at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines Iowa (1983-1985). His ministry continued at United Lutheran Church, Hampton NE (1985-1989) and St Paul Lutheran, Byron (1989-1994) and Hardy (1991-1994) NE until his retirement from the ELCA November 13, 1994. He served as a supply Pastor for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Valley Falls, KS (1997-2001) as well as New Hope Lutheran, Onaga, KS, St. Paul's Lutheran, Palmer KS and Trinity Lutheran in Topeka KS.

He and Helen moved to Topeka, KS where they purchased their first home and became active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. In retirement he continued to enjoy walks with Helen, biking, photography, gardening, tennis, camping, fixing things, fishing, traveling, involvement in interdenominational ministry programs/associations and serving in the community. Over his life, ministry and retirement Walter and Helen welcomed refugees into their home, provided pastoral care to those who were homebound/hospitalized, volunteered in neighborhood schools, served on the Topeka Lutheran Fine Arts Council, Habitat for Humanity, Doorstep, Topeka Rescue Mission, participated in community choirs, mentored new pastors,

served on boards of directors, trained others in hospice, and started a community garden in Topeka recently named after Walter & Helen. His ministry revolved around building up others, developing relationships and encouraging people. He shared this passion for service with his children and grandchildren. Walt and Helen moved to Tulsa, OK in 2020.

Walt is survived by children Stephanie (Michael) Mueller of Tulsa, OK, John Laughlin (Dr. Julie Suhr) of The Plains, OH, Michele (Bob) Peck of Waterloo IA; six grandchildren: Elsa Mueller (Anthony Filipas), Greta Mueller, Dr. Alane Suhr (Austin Alexander), Meredith Suhr, Alison Peck, Ryan Peck; siblings Alvin (Carol) Laughlin of Sarasota FL, James (Helen) Laughlin of Littleton CO, Lenore Olson of Topeka KS and Alice Laughlin of Ridgeland SC; and 16 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Helen (Fischer) Laughlin, sister and brother-in-law Ruth and John Stout, brother-in-law Bill Olson, and nephew Iago Laughlin. Walt's funeral was Friday, January 13, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka, officiated by Pastor Andrew Patty. Burial was at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lohman, MO Saturday, January 14, 2023, officiated by Pastor David Viles. His family invites memorials to Trinity Lutheran Church, 725 SW Buchanan St, Topeka, KS 66606 or Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297 - <https://www.lirs.org/more-ways-to-give/> or Oaks Indian Mission, 155 North Military Road, Oaks, OK 74359 - <https://www.oaksindianmission.org/>.



BACH BASH ORGAN RECITAL

featuring musicians of
Topeka American Guild of Organists

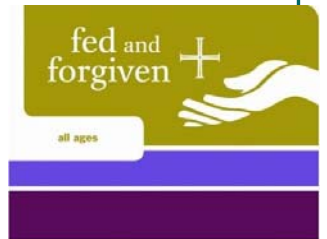
Sunday, February 19, 3:00 P.M.

First Lutheran Church
1234 SW Fairlawn Rd.

<p>Join us for an afternoon of some of the best music of J.S. Bach!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organ plus instruments ● Free will donation
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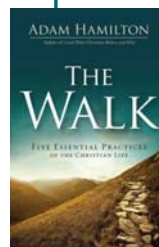
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are a good number of children in the congregation now that are ready to begin their First Communion preparations. During Lent, we will use our Children's Sunday School time in February and March to prepare those that need to come forward for First Communion. We will be using the Augsburg Fortress series "Fed and Forgiven" for our education program for First Communion.



Therefore, on Feb. 26th and March 26th, we will cover two of the four sections with homework for the children to take home with them each month during Sunday School. Then Easter Day (March 9th) will be their day to have First Communion and be recognized by the church for their accomplishments.

Please inform Pastor Andrew by Feb. 10th if your child will be participating in First Communion. Pastor needs to order booklets for the program that each child will have for themselves. Also, please contact your family members who have children that have not done First Communion to invite them and give them notice of this.



Adult Sunday School, will next meet on Feb. 12th in the Trinity Hall lounge. We are 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 2. 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.