

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



TRINITY TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2023

STAFF

Pastor Barbara Jones
prbarb.jones@gmail.com

Cindy McGinnis
Administrative Assistant
office@topekatic.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

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Sunday School for adults starts at 9:30 am on the second Sunday of each month and meets in the Trinity Hall lounge. Watch your bulletins for upcoming dates and reading assignments.</p> <p>Children's Sunday school will meet in the Youth Room of Trinity Hall on the last Sunday of the month at 9:45 am. Parents & grandparents are welcome to join in and participate with the kids.</p>					1	2		
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>12:00 Noon Congregational Life committee meeting</p> <p>3-5 pm Fellowship Hall reserved</p>	3	4	9 am Quilters	5	6	7	8	9
<p>9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>2 pm PFLAG meeting</p>	10	11	9 am Quilters	12	13	14	15	16
		6 pm Council				January 2024 Trinity Tidings deadline		
<p>9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	17	18	9 am Quilters	19	20	21	22	23
<p>9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Candlelight Worship</p>	24	25	9 am Quilters	26	27	28	29	30
<p>10:30 am Worship</p>	31	Christmas Day (office will be closed)						
			7 pm TLHA					



President's Letter

After five years, we once again find ourselves between pastors. We have been led in worship by Central States Bishop Susan Candea and other supply pastors. Starting in December, we will have a "Bridge Pastor." Pastor Barb Jones will be with us on Sundays to lead worship and provide pastoral services. She lives in Johnson County but will be available to come to Topeka on other days in addition to Sundays as needed.

The Church Council has established a Transition Team to take us through a Discernment process. The Synod has arranged for Pastor Merle Brockhoff to be our Transition Consultant. His primary role will be to assist the Transition Team. Once the Transition Team's work is completed, the Church Council will appoint a Call Committee.

During this Transition, we once again are in a time of change. While we will have a Transition Team to take us through the Discernment process, it is a time for each one of us to anticipate not only Trinity's path forward, but also reflect on what Trinity has been and is now.

What is Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church?

Trinity is not centered around any particular pastor as is the case with some churches.

Our pastors lead our worship, provide spiritual guidance and comfort, and administer sacraments.

Trinity is this building with its beautiful sanctuary.

Trinity is the liturgy and music.

But most importantly, Trinity is the individuals in the congregation who worship in the pews or at home and who love and care for each other. Together, we will move forward and discover what God has in store for us.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Duane Pomeroy

Trinity members, please note the pledge cards inside this issue of Trinity Tidings. As it states on the card, to pledge is to make a commitment or promise to do something. This church — our church — is asking you to pledge a sum of money to be given joyfully and prayerfully during 2024 so that the work of the church — our work — can continue its service to us as members and to the neighbors in our community near and far.



DECEMBER READINGS

December 3 — 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1st Corinthians 1:3-9
 Mark 13:24-37

December 10 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

December 17 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

December 24 — Christmas Eve

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

December 31 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

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

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3 Junior Utech
 22 Troy Pomeroy
 27 Cindy McGinnis
 30 Karen Arney
 30 Brett Henry
 30 Adeline Klamm

BAPTISMS

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



Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$280 via our 5th Sunday Special on October 29th. The money has been sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help the island of Maui recover from the devastating wildfires they experienced in August.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 13, 2023

CONGREGATION
COUNCIL

President

Duane Pomeroy
785.234.4385

Vice President

Curt Lewis
785.633.6661

Secretary

Diane Bottorff
785.231.0379

Treasurer

Bob Kobbeman
785.478.0381

Members

Shelley Andrews
785.554.1454

Pam Kobbeman
785.633.5984

Carol Marker
785.338.1734

Dean McGinnis
785.221.7141

- Transition: Bridge Pastor – Met with Rev. Barbara Jones via Zoom and approved proposal for her to be our Bridge Pastor beginning December 3. She will lead worship on Sundays and be available for pastoral care/visitations on Sundays. She lives in Shawnee, Kansas.
- Transition Consultant – approved proposal for Rev. Merle Brockhoff to work with our Transition Team by having regular meetings with them and meeting with congregation monthly. Team is in process of being formed.

Committee reports:

- Congregational Life – Recommended Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24 at 10:30am with carols, scripture reading, and candle lighting. No service on Christmas Day. Add to bulletins that white grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available at communion. Adult Sunday School moving their start time to 9:30am on second Sunday of month. Children’s Sunday School continues fourth Sunday of month at 9:45am. Christmas

trees and other decorations will be put up after worship on November 26. A taco bar will be served during coffee hour followed by decorating for those who would like to help.

- Community Relations – Emphasized continued support of Doorstep Christmas adoptions with donations of needed items and money as well as volunteer opportunities during days of distribution. On-going need for food donations.
- Administration – Sample pledge card was shown. Cards to be distributed November 26 and also included in December Tidings. Nominating Committee is being activated.
- Maintenance – Guide One Insurance, who insures our property, is offering 25% discount if a risk management assessment is completed.
- Other business: Approved recommendation from Congregational Life for Christmas Eve service. Set date for Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 21 after worship.



Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet Sunday, December 10th in Trinity Hall lounge. Please note the new start time of 9:30am. We are continuing our study of the book of Romans. In November we began study of Romans 6:1-23 and will continue with those verses in December. All are welcome!

Dean McGinnis has some special activities planned for the kids (and parents & grandparents) on December 24th!



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For many the month of December is about the holidays, gathering with friends and family, decorating, baking, and getting gifts ready to share with our loved ones. At Doorstep, we have been thinking about and planning for our Christmas Adoption Project for months, and now it is time to make the holiday brighter for the 800+ individuals we have adopted from the Christmas Bureau this year! The executive board decided that going forward we will not have the Christmas Store as it was pre-pandemic. We will continue with a process similar to the past three years operating out of the Doorstep building and preparing everything for each household to come pick up at an appointed day and time. Each household we adopt will receive a food order, health kit, blanket/quilt, a household item, gifts, games and toys (children), school supplies if appropriate, and a \$20 gift card per person in the household. We have some limited volunteer opportunities available this year! (See Below)

Current Needs for Christmas:

Gifts needed by December 8th are:
Toys: Nerf Guns, Legos, Puzzles, and learning toys like Vtech.

Any type of KC Chiefs décor, hoodies, etc.,

AXE sets for men,

Hoodies (Sizes Med – 4X, variety of colors),

King size sheet sets

Dish Sets, Silverware Sets, Kitchen Utensil Sets, Skillets and Sauce Pans.

These items should be **NEW** for Christmas.

We also need monetary donations for the gift cards, food, etc. which will total \$35,000 or more. You can mail a check, or go to our website (www.doorsteptopeka.org) to donate by credit card. Please note your member congregation with your donation, and don't forget your year-end, tax-deductible donations!

DECEMBER 2023

Please note the following dates in December:

NO DONATIONS of used clothing or household items will be accepted **Nov. 22nd – Dec. 18th**.

Doorstep will be **CLOSED FOR ALL SERVICES AND DONATIONS** December 11th – 15th.

Doorstep Holiday Hours:

Closed from Noon on December 22nd through December 26th & January 1st.

Open for **donations only** December 27th – 29th, January 3rd, 9am-2pm.

Closed for **ALL services** December 27th – January 2nd for year-end wrap-up.

Resume normal operation on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Staff at Doorstep!



Pastor Barb Jones

A cradle-Lutheran, Rev. Barbara Jones began her work in the church at First Lutheran in Maquoketa, IA as a teen-aged organist. Earning a BA in Christian Education from Wartburg College, she then taught at St. Paul's Lutheran Day School in Michigan City, IN. Twenty-nine years she was in Pella, IA, raising her three daughters, teaching kindergarten/first grade and being a church musician at Peace Lutheran. Barb finally heeded the life-long call to ordained ministry by earning an MDiv from Wartburg Theological Seminary. Currently on-leave from call, Barb is working part-time at the Central States Synod office and is doing occasional pulpit supply. She loves being Nana to her five grandchildren, all in the KC Metro.



Pastor Barbara Jones will be serving as our bridge pastor while we go through the transition process. As a bridge pastor, she will be here on Sundays to preside and preach and will serve at special services, such as Christmas Eve and during Holy Week.

She may be available once month for pastoral care and home visits on Sunday afternoons or for emergency care. She lives in Shawnee, Kansas.



BLESSING OF THE QUILTS—NOVEMBER 19, 2023



On November 19th, we blessed the 24 quilts that our quilting group has made this year. They will be delivered to Doorstep so they can be gifted to the families they sponsor for Christmas.

Our quilt group includes Junior & Liz Utech, Linda Longren, Carol Marker, Jackie Berillon, and Diane Jernigan.