

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



TRINITY TIDINGS

JANUARY 2024

STAFF

Pastor Barbara Jones
prbarb.jones@gmail.com

Cindy McGinnis
Administrative Assistant
office@topekatlch.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 2024

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	
	Office will be closed on New Year's Day					
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>12:00 Noon Congregational Life committee meeting</p> <p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>All reports for annual meeting booklet due to the office.</p> <p>6 pm Council</p>	<p>9 am Quilters 9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30-8 pm Historic Old Town NIA meeting in person & via Zoom</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>2 pm PFLAG meeting</p> <p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>9 am Quilters 16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>Annual Meeting after worship</p> <p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>February 2024 Trinity Tidings deadline</p>	<p>9 am Quilters 23</p> <p>7 pm TLHA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>9 am Quilters 30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>Watch for news about Doorstep's SuperBowl Sunday next month.</p>		



Pastor's Letter

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Rev. 21: 3-5

Dear Partners in Ministry,

2024, a NEW year is here. Living into all the NEW that is before each and every one of us is an exciting, wonderful and ominous adventure. None of us know what tomorrow and this NEW month, this NEW year will bring. The joy of the NEW, new babies, new jobs, new homes, new opportunities, will touch many of us, as will the fear and anxiety of the NEW, new responsibilities, new financial, or health problems, new loneliness. NEW is exciting. NEW is unknown. NEW can be frightening.

What we do know, is who holds all our NEW today's and tomorrow's. We are promised NEW beginnings (exciting, joyful, ominous, or frightful) that are never alone! *"See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them, he will wipe every tear from their eyes."*

The NEW ahead of us is ripe with opportunities to serve together in God's mission! Together as the Body of Christ, we move into this NEW year supporting, empowering and equipping each other to serve with gladness into and beyond our "usual, regular and normal"; greeting all the NEW and CHANGE ahead of us with the security of God's covenant sent to us in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel – God With Us!

In Christ's service,
Pastor Barb

ANNUAL MEETING

January 21, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Annual Meeting is planned for January 21, 2024, after worship. We need all of our voting members in attendance. The definition of a voting member, as dictated by Trinity constitution follows:

c. *Voting* members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

If you serve on a committee (Administration, Community Relations, Congregational Life, Maintenance, Spiritual Care), please ensure that your report is submitted to the office by January 8th so it can be included in the Annual Report booklet. In addition to committee reports, we also need minutes of 2023 annual meeting, pastor's & statistical report, president's report, memorial report, and reports from Doorstep and Topeka Lutheran Home Association. If you have any questions, please email the office—office@topekatlc.org—or ask any council member.



JANUARY READINGS

January 7 — Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14 — Second Sunday of Epiphany

1st Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1st Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21 — Third Sunday of Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1st Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28 — Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1st Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Everly Lewis
- 16 Ben Carlson
- 16 Linda Longren
- 23 Ivan Carlson
- 25 David Quarnstrom
- 27 Zane Kennedy

BAPTISMS

- 10 Kendall Horton
- 23 Betty Patton

Transition Process Begins

The Transition Team – Bob Horton, LaVell Winsor, Marilyn Heckman, Steve Luoma, Ashley Watson – first met December 17 with Transition Consultant Pr. Merle Brockhoff and council members. Over the next four months Pr. Merle will be at Trinity one Sunday a month to preach and meet with the congregation and Transition Team. Pr. Barb Jones will continue as our Bridge Pastor and will continue the duties of worship, visitation and meeting with committees.

After worship on Sunday, January 14 everyone is asked to come to Fellowship Hall for conversation around the topic “History and Story” – what have been “high points” and “challenges” that our congregation has come through in the past as well as what the future may hold. After this session ends the Transition Team will meet with Pr. Merle. Monthly conversations with the congregation involved will continue the second Sunday of the month after worship through April.



Trinity's Facebook page is
TrinityLutheranTopeka.org.

Please like and follow our Facebook page. Whenever you watch, click on “like” and leave a comment even if you just say “hi”.

Our services are on Facebook live every Sunday and can be watched 24/7 on our page anytime. When you like and follow our page, it helps our placement when people search Facebook for a church. Please share this information with contacts you have.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 11, 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 process: Council has formed a Transition Team that will work with Transition Consultant Pr. Merle Brockhoff, who is currently interim pastor at Our Saviors. Members of Transition Team are Bob Horton, LaVell Winsor, Marilyn Heckman, Steve Luoma, Ashley Watson. The team held their first meeting December 17 with Pr. Merle, and council members were also present. The work of the Transition Team will extend through April. A Call Committee will be formed after the Transition Team has completed their work. (see related article Transition Process begins)
- Budget for 2024: Budget is being developed for adoption at the Annual Meeting January 21. Pledge cards were included in December Tidings. As of December 11, 12 cards had been returned. Members who have not completed their pledge cards are urged to do so by the end of December. Completed pledge cards assist with the process of developing a budget. Council recognized that lack of budget deficits during 2023 has been possible as a result of gifts being received from several members who at the time of their death asked their family to make a gift to Trinity. Their gifts ranged from \$10,000 – 15,000 and were added to the General Fund. We can't count on generous gifts like these to occur in 2024 and will continue to depend on the financial support of our members.
- Guide One insurance risk assessment was submitted and as a result our future quarterly installments are being decreased.

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet Sunday, January 14 in Trinity lounge at 9:30am. We are continuing the study of the books of Romans. The theme of this month's lesson is *Where is God When We Suffer?* Scripture is Romans 8:18 - 39. All are welcome even if you have not joined us previously.

Watch for news about children's Sunday school on January 28th!





DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who assisted Doorstep to provide Christmas for 260 households with 811 individuals this past December! We tried to provide each person with an item from their wish list, along with books, board games, health kits, blankets, food for several meals, school supplies, and if appropriate, gift cards.

This year we asked our adoptees if they would like to provide a word of thanks to share with our volunteers and donors. One of the first ones we received said:

“We just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make a very difficult Christmas so much better. With my husband not working because he is taking care of me with my cancer diagnosis, things have been very hard. Not only for us but our children too. It’s because of all the very caring people at Doorstep that my kids will have something under the tree this year. So, thank you so much.”

Our family wishes you a very Merry Christmas. God bless.

This is just one of many stories shared with us on how much our

adoptees appreciated the assistance, especially at Christmas, and the caring of others meant so much to them. Again, thank you for helping your neighbors in need, at Christmastime, whether you donated gifts, blankets, money, time, or prayers, it takes all of us working together to make this program work!

A major theme of 2023 was food... the increased need by our neighbors, the increased costs to keep food in the pantry to help, the increased need of Doorstep by asking for food and monetary donations. By year-end we spent over \$54,600 on food purchases, and the need has remained at an increased level.

One way to help in the first part of 2024 is by donating towards our annual SouperBowl Sunday’s collection of soup and crackers! During the weekend of the Super Bowl (February 9th – 11th) we ask our member congregations to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves. A really successful event will keep our shelves stocked for a few months, at least! In 2023, we had a goal of 5,000 pounds, and we received

nearly 8,000 pounds!!!! I say, “Let’s do it again this year!!”

I cannot stress enough just how thankful and blessed we feel to have the partnership and support of our member congregations as we all work to help our neighbors in need. Of course, our volunteers are an incredibly valuable resource, and Doorstep could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our whole community when Doorstep, and those we help, are in need continues to be inspiring to the work we do!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director