

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@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

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION		1	2	3					
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along 10:30 am Worship 12:00 Noon Congregational Life committee meeting</p>	4	5	9 am Quilters	6	7	8	9	10	
<p>9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Congregational Meeting w/Pr. Merle 2 pm PFLAG meeting Doorstep's Souper Bowl Sunday</p>	11	12	9 am Quilters	13	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> Service</p> <p>6:30-8 pm Historic Old Town NIA meeting</p>	14	15	16	17
<p>9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg 10:30 am Worship</p>	18	19	9 am Quilters	20	21	22	23	24	
	March 2024 Trinity Tidings deadline				Lenten Midweek Service				
<p>9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	25	26	9 am Quilters	27	28	29	 <p>Souper Bowl Sunday Bring soup & crackers Feb. 9 thru Feb.11 to help stock Doorstep's food pantry.</p> 		
			7 pm TLHA		Lenten Midweek Service				



Pastor's Letter

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It's hard to believe that the season of Lent is nearly upon us. Historically, Lent is a forty-day period of discernment and preparation. Lent invites us to take the time to journey with Jesus through the wilderness to Golgotha, the place where he will be crucified. The Lenten season was an especially important time for catechumens (individuals growing in their understanding of the Christian faith) because it often culminated in Holy Baptism during Easter.

Given its deliberate nature, Lent, when combined with the three traditional disciplines of alms giving, prayer, and fasting, creates space in our busy lives for discernment and reflection. The intentionality of the season, combined with its emphasis on returning to the Lord your God with all your heart, also creates a wonderful opportunity in our lives together to think deeply about our own baptismal callings and how God might be inviting us to participate in God's mission in new and exciting ways.

In the weeks to come I invite you to intentionally make time for quiet reflection on your wilderness journey, personally and collectively with our mission partners here at Trinity, throughout Topeka and globally, to reflect upon God's ongoing activity in your life and in

our lives together. In so doing, we will return to the Lord in prayer and live into our identity as God's beloved children washed and claimed in the waters of holy baptism, empowered by the Holy Spirit, gifted with our callings and sent!

We will begin our Lenten journey by trusting God's promise to be with God's people. As we prepare ourselves for the wilderness season of Lent, may we do so by listening deeply and watching intently with the eyes of faith as we engage Scripture, allowing God's spirit to guide us, and pondering how God is calling us to be the church together. May we discern the many ways that God is inviting us to be the body of Christ in a broken and hurting world.

I give thanks for the opportunity to journey with you as your Bridge Pastor. The past two months I have become familiar with you and Trinity. Thank you for sharing your stories. I look forward to more! The vibrant history of this congregation is the solid foundation for moving forward into both new and familiar places, serving together in God's mission in this place and time. God is with us!

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Barb



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.



FEBRUARY READINGS

February 4 — 5th Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
 1st Corinthians 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

February 11 — Transfiguration of Our Lord

2nd Kings 2:1-12
 Psalm 50:1-6
 2nd Corinthians 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

February 14 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
 Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2nd Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18 — 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1st Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

February 25 — 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38

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



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 continue the duties of worship, visitation and meeting with committees. Due to bad weather, our January 14th meeting was postponed to February 11th. 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 May.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 8, 2024

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

- Majority of meeting was spent preparing for annual meeting. Draft of 2024 budget was not available. Council is to approve proposed budget prior to annual meeting. Council agreed to meet on Zoom on January 10 for this purpose.
- Congregational Life Committee presented a form that could be used to track participation in communion at

each worship service. This is needed as part of criteria to determine who is a voting member.

- Person who tunes the organ reported to Laurie Jackson that some of the leathers are fraying. Action on this is not needed at this time.
- There was a request to use the sanctuary the afternoon of April 28 for a music recital.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 21

Election results:

- Council - 3 year term through 2026 - Janelle Meredith . Steve Luoma, Diane Bottorff;
1 year term - Parker Jackson
(Continuing on council through 2024 - Carol Marker, Duane Pomeroy; through 2025 - Dean McGinnis, Shelley Andrews, Curt Lewis)
- Nominating Committee - 1 year term - Shelley Andrews, Marcy Carlson, Janice Greenlee, Dean McGinnis, Howard Reece, 1 position still open.
- Doorstep Board Member - Bob Horton;
- Doorstep Coordinator - Janeen Horton
- Lutheran Fine Arts Council - 1 year term - Marcy Carlson, Janelle Meredith, 1 position still open

Topeka Lutheran Home Associa-

tion/Luther Gardens - 3 year term - Loni Reece, Diane Bottorff, one 2 year term still open

(Continuing on through 2024 - Marilyn Heckman, Debbie Pomeroy; through 2025 - Carol Marker)

Audit Committee - 3 year term through 2026 - Debbie Pomeroy; *(Continuing on Audit through 2024 - Janice Greenlee; through 2025 Donna Allen)*

- Adopted 2024 Budget of \$115,500. Pledges received to date of \$83,400. Annual Report booklet is available in church office and was sent as an attachment to an email prior to the meeting.





DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

FEBRUARY 2024

Each year has its challenges when it comes to providing basic needs services; often they are the same as the previous year. In 2023, we saw a sharp increase (88-90%) in the number of households and individuals needing food assistance. Our member congregations answered the call to help, donating an additional 11,608 pounds of food over 2022 for a total of 44,164 pounds of food. We received \$11,000 in Project Topeka funds to purchase food, but we also had to spend an additional \$54,632 out of pocket to keep enough food on the shelves to meet the need.

In total, Doorstep provided 127,370 pounds of food to 2,307 households in 2023.

So far in 2023, we are not seeing a decrease in the need for food assistance in our community. And this year having a successful Souper Bowl Sunday weekend is even more important than in years past. We have had many empty pallets in the basement where cases of food are stored. Help us fill those pallets and show your neighbors you care!

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 11th and we are asking our member congregations to collect soup and crackers that weekend again this

year to help stock our food pantry! Watch for sales, and gather your donations! We can use all varieties of soup, big and small cans, and crackers. A successful Souper Bowl Sunday weekend can stock our pantry with these items into the spring months!

Our goal for 2024 is 5,000 pounds = 2.5 ton!

We set the same goal in 2023 and exceeded it by 3,000 pounds... Let's do it again!!

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet Sunday, February 11th in Trinity Hall 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 February 25!

**DOORSTEP'S 2024
"SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY" IS
FEBRUARY 11TH**



**BRING
SOUP
AND
CRACKERS**



**TO YOUR
CONGREGATION
FEBRUARY 9th – 11th
TO HELP STOCK
DOORSTEP'S FOOD PANTRY!**

Our Goal this year is 2.5 ton... 5,000 pounds!

We beat it last year... Let's Do It Again!!!

CAMP

TOMAH SHINGA

K X S



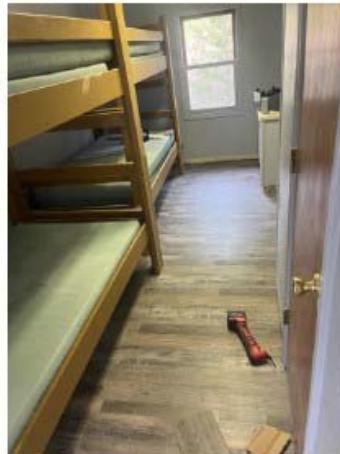
Middle School Retreat
Feb. 23rd-25th



High School Retreat
March 8th-10th



Taste of Camp Retreat
April 21st



-Cabin Update-

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord" -Psalms 92:1

Updates to Cabins 4-7 are rolling, new paint is done, new flooring is in. Tile is getting put down in the bathrooms!

Next steps include:

- New Trim
- New doorknobs
- New HVAC units
- New water heaters

Thank you to all those who help make this possible! Email Jordan to see how you can help us complete this project!

jvalentine@camptomahshinga.com

IT'S BACK!



What you all have been asking for, the Tough Camper 3k/5k race is back for the second annual event! Join us **April 13th** for obstacles, mud and competition! Sign-up before it is too late.