

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



TRINITY TIDINGS

MARCH 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

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP
& HOLY COMMUNION

Service times for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be announced later;
be sure to watch your bulletins.

Also watch for a special event Easter morning. Details to follow.

1

2



3

4

9 am
Quilters

5

6

7

8

9

10:30 am
Worship

12:00 Noon
Congregational
Life committee
meeting

Lenten Midweek
Services

Noon @ Trinity
Worship

5:30 @ OSLC
Soup Supper
6:15@ OSLC
Worship

9:30-10:15
Adult Sunday
School

10

11

9 am
Quilters

12

13

14

15

16

10:30 am
Worship

Congregational
Meeting w/Pr.
Merle

2 pm
PFLAG meeting

Please note new
time & date for
council meeting
**5:30 pm
Council**

Lenten Midweek
Services

Noon @ Trinity
Worship

5:30 @ OSLC
Soup Supper
6:15@ OSLC
Worship
6:30-8 pm
Historic Old Town
NIA meeting

7 pm
Luther College
Orchestra @
1st Lutheran

9:30 am
Community
Relations
committee mtg

17

18

9 am
Quilters

19

20

21

22

23

10:30 am
Worship

April 2024
Trinity Tidings
deadline

Lenten Midweek
Services

Noon @ Trinity
Worship

5:30 @ OSLC
Soup Supper
6:15@ OSLC
Worship

9:45-10:15
Children's
Sunday School

24

25

9 am
Quilters

26

27

28

29

30

10:30 am
Palm Sunday

Maundy
Thursday

Good Friday

10:30 am
Easter Sunday



31

7 pm TLHA

Pastor's Letter



Greetings to my Partners in Ministry,

Spring is in the air!! This week has been filled with sunshine and warm temperatures and bird songs! My daffodils have pushed through the earth and “yard work” actually sounds inviting! I love Spring and the renewal and new life that this season manifests!

Our Christian faith is known to be paradoxical. In the midst of the freshness and hope of our Spring setting comes the Lenten invitation to face our own mortality, reflecting on the fallibility of humanity, our need for a Savior and what it means to be Christ’s disciple. What a perfect paradox!

Lent has long been the primary time for renewing our discipleship by adopting some more rigorous discipline to heighten our spiritual awareness. On Ash Wednesday we were invited “to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor” by exercising the Disciplines of Lent: repentance, fasting, prayer, sacrificial giving and works of love. Living out a discipline takes our Lord’s words about self-denial seriously (Matt.16:24). *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”*

The idea of discipline relates to the experience of being a disciple. The disciple is a learner, and discipline is the way of learning. It includes instruction for the mind and exercises for the body.

No matter what we decide to do for Lent, the important thing is our inner motive. As Jesus so often warned us, the outward action can be done for a wide variety of reasons. If we are going to fast merely to look good, then we are committing what the poet T. S. Eliot called “the greatest treason, to do the right thing for the wrong reason.”

The importance of discipline cannot be overestimated. Only through discipline can we achieve genuine freedom. Discipline indicates a regular pattern of training for any activity. If we wish to play the piano, for example, we must submit to the discipline of learning the finger movements to produce the correct notes. Just as many want freedom to play anything on the piano, virtuosos know that freedom only comes after long hours of disciplined practice.

So likewise, we who want freedom to live a deeper spiritual life, must remember that freedom only comes if we are willing to pay the price of learning to discipline ourselves. Repentance, fasting, prayer, sacrificial giving and works of love, practices that we might wish to adopt for our Lenten observance can help us to achieve our spiritual goal—freedom in Christ.

We journey together! Thank you for your partnership!

Lenten Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Barb



MARCH READINGS

March 3 — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

March 10 — 4th Sunday of Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

March 17 — 5th Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

March 24 — Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-47

March 28 — Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 29 — Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—54:12
 Psalm 22
 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
 John 18:1—19:42

March 31 — Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
 Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

10 Bob Kobbeman
 16 Jake Kennedy
 19 Carol Marker
 25 Pam Kobbeman
 31 Larry McGinnis

BAPTISMS

1 Ben Carlson
 1 Adeline Klamm
 15 David Quarnstrom
 20 Jane Lewis
 21 Diane Bottorff
 27 Chance Hutchison

Trinity's Facebook page is **Trinity Lutheran Topeka.org**. Please like and follow our Facebook page. Whenever you watch, click on "like" and leave 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 your contacts.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 12, 2024

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President

Diane Bottorff
785.231.0379

Vice President

Curt Lewis
785.633.6661

Secretary

Shelley Andrews
785.554.1454

Treasurer

Bob Kobbeman
785.478.0381

Members

Parker Jackson
785.633.3353

Steve Luoma
517.974.9191

Carol Marker
785.338.1734

Dean McGinnis
785.221.7141

Janelle Meredith
785.408.2566

Duane Pomeroy
785.234.4385

- Election of Officers: President- Diane Bottorff. Vice-President- Curt Lewis, Secretary-Shelley Andrews. Bob Kobbeman continues as Treasurer.
- Assignment of Committee chairs - Administration – Shelley Andrews & Parker Jackson; Spiritual Care -Carol Marker & Duane Pomeroy; Maintenance – Curt Lewis; Congregational Life – Dean McGinnis; Community Relations- Steve Luoma & Janelle Meredith. If you are interested in participating in a committee, contact the chair(s) for more information.
- Committee reports: Administration-When considering renting some of our space, it must be to a not-for-profit organization to avoid loss of our tax exempt status. An additional pledge was received that now makes total pledges for this year at \$84,000 with a budget of \$115,000. Community Relations–Bob & Janeen Horton, our Doorstep board member & coordinator suggested designating one Sunday per month to emphasize

bringing food for Doorstep. Council approved and is to be done the first Sunday of each month, beginning in March.

Congregational Life-There was discussion of goal setting and who would be responsible for this. Each committee was challenged to develop goals with council oversight of the process.

Maintenance–A leaking pipe was found in the boiler room under the sanctuary. It was repaired. A new water heater was installed to replace leaking water heater at the cost of \$1,000.

Spiritual Care–Two persons were added to prayer chain this month.

- Transition Process-Review of meeting for congregation held on February 11. Next meeting is March 10. Copy of Sustainability Survey completed by council last Fall will be sent to each council member and made available for members who wish to receive it.
- Request for building usage by a Stroke Support Group was approved.
- Council agreed to change regular meeting night to the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm. Next meeting is March 12.





DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you to everyone who donated soup and crackers during our **Souper Bowl Sunday** collection! At this writing we have received three days of donations from the event from 16 member congregations for a total of 3,545 pounds!! We know more will be coming, but we are more than halfway to our goal for the event! We know that a can of soup can be a meal or two, and your generous donations helped stock our pantry, and provide meals for your neighbors in need! And, how exciting that our local team, the Kansas City Chiefs, won back-to-back Super Bowls!!

Upcoming Events in 2024 for Doorstep include:

The **Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing** to be held in April, where we have dinner, honor our volunteers, and celebrate Doorstep! We already have some nice quilts collected! Date and location are TBD.

Friday, June 28th is the date set for our inaugural **Golf Tournament for Doorstep!** Materials will be made available soon. Golfers, please put this on your calendars!

Doorstep's annual **Christmas in July** to get a jumpstart on collecting items needed for adopted families in December, and running concurrently we will have **Summer Cash Bash** with at least \$10,000 matching funds available.

Our **7th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run** is moving back to Saturday morning in the hopes of growing the event more... Mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, October 12th for this year's event!

Each member congregation should have volunteers from their congregation serving as their Doorstep board member, and coordinator. Some of our congregations have openings in those positions, and our Congregation & Volunteer Development Committee has started making contact with those members. If you are interested in filling one of these positions for your congregation, contact Doorstep (785-357-5341), and ask for Jim or Lisa.

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet Sunday, March 10 in the Trinity Hall lounge at 9:30am.

We are continuing the study of Romans. The theme of this month's lesson is *How can I keep from singing?*

Scripture is Romans 10:1-21. All are welcome even if you have not joined us previously.

Watch for news about children's Sunday school on March 24th.



Transition Consultant Report – “Community.”

It was my pleasure to worship with you on February 11th and to do the first of our “Process Sessions” together on “Community.” I’ve written this report to help you catch a flavor of what took place that day, if you were “Super Bowl” or otherwise engaged.

A total of 23 people gathered for a delicious meal of BBQ sandwiches, and I introduced the process.

We will meet a total of three times as a larger group: a session on “Community.” one on “Leadership” and a final gathering to discuss “Programming and Theological Perspectives.”

The purpose for these larger group gatherings is for the Transition Team to listen as we discuss areas together. Their listening will help them in completing the paperwork needed for searching for your next leadership.

This puts you on a timeline to begin filling out your “Ministry Site Profile” in April. That document is used by the Synod and potential candidates as a “snapshot” of your church to be shared.

I began the day with a look at some work that your leadership (council) has already done. They completed a “Sustainability Study” of the congregation that is helpful in getting an overview of facilities you have and the needs required for continued ministry.

Here are a few “highlights” from that presentation.

Facilities – We did a general overview of your facilities, dating from 1930’s to present. We noted the age of some mechanical systems, the work you’ve done to make the building accessible and how much utilization the building itself receives. Overall, your facilities are identified as under-utilized and a potential weakness in terms of sustainability.

Repairs to buildings are costly. You do have reserve funds for them, but replenishing those funds once

tapped out might be an issue. A major mechanical failure would not jeopardize you in the moment but might require you to expend a lot of energy and attention in that area.



Finances – I stood corrected on the first assumption I made about finances. Based on your history documents and the form, I had thought that Stewardship was largely a pastor-driven event, but have since discovered that you have had a robust lay-led effort for annual giving and identifying special gifting needs. Kudos for you! Congregations with deep lay participation in generosity tend to respond well in giving.

The Sustainability study did surface one area of concern, and that is that only 5% of your giving goes outside your own needs. The concern here is of perception by those who have not yet joined with you. Outsiders to the church tend to view the church as a place to go to for hope, help and healing. They evaluate a community by how much it helps others. As financial resources tighten, the amount that flows back out into the community tends to drop, and the community begins to sense that a place looks inward instead of outward. The change of perception of “they try to keep their doors open...” makes it a place less appealing than a place that can be identified as “that’s where you go if you need...” There is a concern that financial resources may begin to have reached a “maxed out” capacity.

People – This area of the sustainability study looks at people resources and asks questions like “Do we regularly have a variety of people willing to serve on council?” “Do we regularly have enough people to fill all our committee positions?”



“Do we regularly have enough people to staff all our important ministries and lead worship?”

The answer to those questions was largely “No.”

The concern here in terms of sustainability is that Jesus regularly challenged his disciples to service, but also recognized the need to “come away.” Sustainability requires the sharing of mutual burdens, and giving people the ability to be renewed and refreshed. “Burn-out” becomes a potential concern when people in a congregation simply “rearrange positions” instead of being able to truly take a step back and rest.

The assessment by your leadership is that Trinity Lutheran is a congregation that it “declining but still sustainable.” We spent a little time in small groups talking about whether that seemed accurate.

“Community Session.” -- We then went into a process session as small groups, looking at the matter of “Community.” Using a “Likner Scale” (Are we a little like this, or a lot like this?) we scaled three questions and held conversations as small groups about ourselves.

On the question of whether we are **“Formal”** or **“Informal”**, the scale showed that Trinity is overwhelmingly on the “Formal” side of things. You have a strong tradition, like formal worship, the formality of liturgy and seasons, and desire such things as printed bulletin format, predictability of scheduling, and tried and true.

That being said, you can be flexible and spontaneous within certain parameters.

On the question of having **“Clearly defined plans”** or **“No goals,”** the Likner preference indicated that you lean heavily into the “no goals” area. Comments ranged from it being difficult to develop clear goals when there is uncertainty about the future, to the need to adjust practices to sustain, to a lack of pastoral shared vision or direction.

The question about community make-up which asked **“Are we Diverse”** or **“Homogenous”** was a bit of a split decision. There was general acknowledgement of having an ethnic specific background, but not a lot of “Swedes” around anymore. There is some diversity acknowledgement in racial diversity, economic diversity and openness to acceptance of LGBTQIA populations, but the overwhelming “view” on a Sunday morning is older and white. Like most congregations, there is a general wish to be accepting and more open, but an acknowledgement that it has been a slow and sometimes stalled process to become more diverse.

The “next step” for the Transition Team will be to review the first “Community” session, assign some writing and research assignments for the profile, and plan for the next large group session, which will be **Sunday, March 10th, at 11:30 a.m.** We will be looking at “Leadership” on that day. Pastor Merle will once again be with you to preach/preside, and then lead the round table conversations.

Thank you for taking this process seriously and engaging in it!

Pastor Merle.



Symphony

ORCHESTRA

LUTHER
COLLEGE

TOPEKA, KANSAS
SATURDAY, MARCH 16 • 7 P.M.

First Lutheran Church, 1234 SW Fairlawn Rd

The Lutheran Fine Arts Council of Topeka will be hosting the Symphony Orchestra from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa on March 16, 2024. This concert will be at 7pm at First Lutheran Church in Topeka.

In March of 2020, we had everything arranged to host this same group, but 10 days prior to the concert,

Luther College cancelled all school travel due to the spread of the covid virus. Now we are preparing to host them once again!!

Susan Thowe
President, LFACT



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

PUTT OUT HUNGER

Golf Fundraiser and Food Drive



Western Hills Golf Club

4-Man Scramble

Friday, June 28th

Shotgun Start @ 10 AM

\$320/Team

Lunch at the Turn

Sponsorship Packages Available

Raffle Prizes

Teams that donate the most food get a prize!



**DONATION GOAL:
500 LBS**

**SPONSORSHIP
DEADLINE
4/30/24**

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
6/17/2024**

**DON'T WAIT!
SCAN THE
CODE TO SIGN
UP TODAY!**

SCAN ME



bit.ly/PuttOutHunger