

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



TRINITY TIDINGS

APRIL 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

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 1 thru 15 Doorstep fundraiser at Play It Again Sports. See pg 7 for more info.	1	9 am Quilters 2	3	4	5	6
 10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along  Bring food for Doorstep 10:30 am Worship 12:00 Noon Congregational Life committee meeting	7	9 6am Quilters 9	10	11	12	13
9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Congregational Meeting w/Pr. Merle 2 pm PFLAG meeting	14	15	9 am Quilters 16	17	18	19
6 pm Stroke Support Group		5:30 pm Council		May 2024 Trinity Tidings deadline		20
9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg 10:30 am Worship	21	22	9 am Quilters 23	24	25	26
		6:30 pm Doorstep Annual Banquet & Quilt Drawing 7 pm TLHA				27
9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School 2 pm Piano Recital 3 pm KSU Campus Ministry Celebration	28	29	9 am Quilters 30	EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION		
						6 pm Camp Tomah Shinga Dinner See pg. 3



Pastor's Letter

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*
1 Peter 1:3

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a **new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" Isaiah 43:18-19*

Dear Partners in Ministry,

"He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!"

As I write these words, I am missing the last of our 2024 midweek Lenten services so as to tend to my family as grief surrounds so many following the death of a beloved one. Grief and sadness are real and must be expressed and acknowledged. Tomorrow I will attend the funeral. I'll weep and reflect and hug and share. There will be tears and laughter, pain and comfort, despair and assurance — **HOPE!** Joe lived in this assurance and **HOPE!** He was and IS, part of the **EASTER PEOPLE!** So am I, and I believe, so are you! It's a wonderful thing! **"He is Risen!"**

As I write these words, a long-time friend, colleague and fellow church musician is, along with his family, navigating the unknown as sudden illness (while vacationing out of state) and hospital stay has left him in the oncology unit awaiting test results. The shock, fear and uncertainty are real and must be expressed and acknowledged. I keep up to date on Guy's condition, checking the daily FB posts his adult daughters make. The posts are honest and frightful, yet thankful and **HOPEFUL!** You see, they are all **EASTER PEOPLE,** too! **"He is Risen Indeed!"**

As I write these words, I'm sitting at home at my desk, looking outside. The trees in my yard, just a week ago dark, dry and bare, are now budding and blossoming.

The pinks and lavendars smile at me. The yellow daffodils under the window shout **"New Life!"** The grass is green, the birds sing. We love our yard, but it takes a lot of work. We share the caring (yes! my husband does more!) weed and seed, trim and mow, rake and water, but it's worth it. **New life** and beauty, strengthened muscles and relationships. Garden produce to share, a safe gathering place for friends and family. **HOPE** fulfilled. **"Alleluia!"**

As I write these words, I am reflecting on my four months as your Bridge pastor. Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS is in transition. Some days there is grief and sadness, fear and uncertainty. Some days are dark, dry and bare, not what it used to be. BUT — I see **EASTER PEOPLE!** Partners in ministry serving together in God's mission, sharing tears and laughter, uncertainty and dreams, food and fellowship, hard work and reflections. Time spent in listening and honest sharing, suggesting and dreaming, listening some more and supporting each other to "think outside the box" and vulnerably envision all of the ways the gifts of Trinity Lutheran can help reach the needs of our neighbors in Topeka and beyond. It's a lot of work, but it's worth it! **New life** and purpose will emerge, relationships will be strengthened and missions will be clarified. **HOPE** fulfilled! — Yes! We are **EASTER PEOPLE!**

*"Christ, our companion, **hope** for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes. Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise."*

(ELW 374 Day of Arising vs. 4)

In Christ's service,
Pr. Barb



APRIL READINGS

April 7 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

- Acts 4:32-35
- Psalm 133
- 1 John 1:1—2:2
- John 20:19-31

April 14 — 3rd Sunday of Easter

- Acts 3:12-19
- Psalm 4
- 1 John 3:1-7
- Luke 24:36b-48

April 21 — 4th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 4:5-12
- Psalm 23
- 1 John 3:16-24
- John 10:11-18

April 28 — 5th Sunday of Easter

- Acts 8:26-40
- Psalm 22:25-31
- 1 John 4:7-21
- John 15:1-8

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Naomi Walker
- 6 Mike Andrews
- 10 Breanna Lewis
- 10 Emily Schwartz
- 11 Isis Pomeroy
- 18 Pr. Barb Jones
- 21 Peggy Buchholz
- 30 Marsha Ridinger

BAPTISMS

- 6 Howard Reece
- 6 Rhonda Webb
- 9 Ashley Watson
- 11 Everly Lewis
- 12 Isis Pomeroy
- 14 Loretta Hoerman
- 14 Carol Marker
- 17 Linda Longren

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Duane & Debbie Pomeroy



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

MARCH 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

- David Quarnstrom was approved for two year term on TLHA/LG.
- Approved request to have confirmation for Brayden Winsor on May 26. Pr. Barb will do the service. Dean suggested a reception after to honor Brayden. He will take it to Congregational Life meeting in April.
- Stroke Support Group plans to meet on 3rd Monday of month. First meeting March 18 at 6pm.
- Potluck Easter Breakfast, 9 - 10 am. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite breakfast item to share. Coffee and other drinks will be provided as well as table service.
- Next Transition meeting for congregation is Apr. 14.

A full copy of the Council minutes is available in the church office and if desired, you may request a copy be mailed or emailed to you.

Save the date, April 27th.

Join us for our Annual Auction fundraiser. We will be having a semi-formal event at The Farm & The Odd Fellows, 205 W Second St. Minneapolis, KS.

The auction will be held online April 22nd - 27th.

Doors open at 6:00pm.

\$50 per couple. \$35 for individual.

There will be food and drinks available. We can't wait to see you there!

CTS Team, #ForTheKids





DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

This is a busy month for Doorstep! First, **April 1st – April 15th** we are having a fundraiser with ***Play it Again Sports*** where you can take your quality used sports gear and equipment to their location in **Fairlawn Plaza Mall**, let them know it is for Doorstep's fundraiser, and at the end of the month Doorstep will receive the proceeds! We have tried to time this event with 'spring cleaning'! You can recycle equipment you no longer use or need, free up space in your home, and make money for Doorstep, all at the same time!

The **Annual Banquet and Quilt Drawing** will be held on **Tuesday, April 23rd** at 6:30pm. We will have dinner, honor our volunteers, and celebrate the work we did in 2023! Dinner will be taco bake, chips, salad & dessert. RSVP to Doorstep (785-357-5341) by April 19th. We have 13 quilts from wall hangings, baby, KU, K-State, the KC Chiefs and more! Location TBD.

Friday, June 28th is the date of our inaugural **Golf Tournament for Doorstep!** Flyers and information are available on our website: www.DoorstepTopeka.org

The **7th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run** is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th @ 9:30am.

Doorstep, Inc. Endowment Fund brochures were sent to your clergy in March. Help Doorstep continue helping your neighbors in need into the future by including Doorstep in your Legacy and Planned Giving. Brochures are also available at Doorstep and on our website:

www.DoorstepTopeka.org/legacy-giving/.

Sunday School

Adult Sunday school will be April 14 at 9:30 in Trinity Hall lounge. We will be continuing the study of Romans. Please read chapter 12:1-21. *What Does God Want From Us?* All are welcome!

Children's Sunday school on April 28 will be planned around the gospel John 15:1-8. Dean is looking into a special project for the summer.



Transition Consultant Report – “Leadership

It was again my pleasure to work with you on March 10th to do a presentation on “Leadership” and to facilitate the conversation. We had about 26 in worship that day of the time change and gathered around 20 people at tables afterward.

We began this time with a brief presentation entitled “May the Forces Be with You.” I outlined some of the forces internally (things happening in the ELCA, Seminaries, and those preparing for Leadership) and some of the forces that are external to the church that are nevertheless having an impact on your next pastor and future. (General trends in society, changes in the world and the landscape of the U.S.)

I began with an overview of changes in the realm of clergy, citing statistics of how many retirements are taking place and transitions in ministry. We touched a bit on the realities of pandemic burn-out, but also demographics for all main line denominations, changes in the size and participation in churches, and changes in the way Seminaries have responded in their curriculum to educational opportunities.

Your next pastor will be “faith formed” very differently from the pastors in the past where the old model was two years of seminary, a year of internship, and then a year back at seminary. Under such a structure the assumption was that pastors were trained in a “one size fits all” manner and were interchangeable. All pastors had similar training experiences. The assumption was that all churches were somewhat interchangeable.

The emptying of rural America, the change in birth rates, family size, mobility in society in general and the growth of suburban areas have, however, drastically changed the way churches look and operate.

“One-Size-Fits-All” no longer works in churches, nor in training leaders. As the Seminaries recognized the changing dynamics of the church landscape, they began to get busy reorganizing their curriculum for a changing church. Now Seminaries are less residential.

More Seminaries are using distance learning models, intensive courses where a student may spend just a couple of weeks on a campus and the rest of the time learning in “cohorts” of fellow students who are also currently working in ministry settings. We are seeing more of such things as extended internships, residencies, and leaders being lifted up within existing communities (Parish Ministry Associates, TEEM, Lay preachers and Associates in Ministry.)

One practical outcome of this is that mobility is very different. Some are now training for ministry with the intention of staying right where they are. Some are training with an eye toward bi-vocational service, being a part time pastor and a full time (whatever else.) This new reality has pros and cons for assignment, mobility, and placement.

We also looked at the trends in the ELCA and main-line denominations and talked about how economic and systemic consideration will mean continued drastic change over the next few decades.

All of these internal forces may mean that finding the right ‘fit’ for a leader for Trinity may be a bit more complicated. It also means that there may be opportunities if the congregation is willing to think creatively and collaboratively! The trick will be matching up skill sets, opportunities, spouse and family needs, and flexibility in understanding the role the pastor plays in the congregation.

We also looked at the general trends in religious participation in the United States, which are all “external factors” that will affect the pastoral search, but over which congregations have very little control. We are “along for the ride” in the perception that “trust in institutions” is at an all-time “low”. Phyllis Tickle (Author, Journalist and Church Historian” identified





in her book “The Great Emergence” that it appears that every 500 years or so, the church and society as a whole has the equivalent of a “great rummage sale.” In 500 A.D. Pope Gregory the Great oversaw the “Great Schism” in which the Eastern Orthodox church and the Western Roman church parted ways. In 1000 A.D. the Middle Ages and the time of the Monastic Movements reshaped Europe and the church. In the 1500s, Martin Luther and the Reformation split from Roman Catholicism and the Protestant Reformation was born. Now, in the 2000s, church and society are currently in the very midst of another such “rummage sale” as both the church and society are re-evaluating foundational systems and beliefs.

We do not know what institutions will emerge as being worthy of continuation. We do not know how people will choose to organize and adapt in the areas of faith, participation in churches and organizations, or even governance. The old patterns of offering niche experiences (music, education, ethnic enclave, worship style, etc) which oriented around being a place that people “found” and then “joined” appear to be less effective. Increasingly you hear about ministry as being relational work that is done as you go out to meet people where they are with the story of Jesus. May the “Forces” be with you as you navigate the future!

We then turned to the “Leadership” questions on the Likner Scale. We had some disagreement with the instrument itself, as is natural and predictable. The scale is meant to be read as a spectrum, which “side” are we more like? However, some prefer to draw a line down the middle and rank each side. (are we a little, or a lot, like this?) In the end that doesn’t matter much, as it is always the discussion around the scale of questions that serves your transition team best in their task of crafting a document that captures your situation.

Results

In the tabulation of the surveys and responses, it was revealed that:

Trinity is a “little likely” to welcome ideas that are provoking and challenging. *Comments ranged from a tendency to compare ideas presented with current practices, an affinity to “bringing back” things rather than launching into new things. The current membership is filled with good followers and willing hands, but not necessarily folks who will initiate things on their own.*

Trinity is a “lot likely” to look to Leaders for direction, with an expectation of group involvement. *Comments included that there is a tendency to rely on council and committees for decision making because they are considered “closest to the context.” Heavy reliance on previous pastors to initiate things was mentioned. Some indicated that not as much consultation with others as could have been sought out was done to involve more members.*

Trinity is a “little likely” to see conflict as constructive, but leans heavily toward being conflict averse. *This is not a big surprise as most congregations are conflict averse. Comments identified that Trinity tends to deal with conflict in indirect ways instead of directly addressing situations.*

Our next session together will be on April 14, when we will gather to talk about “Church Programming and Theological Perspective. These two sections tend to be inter-related, and so we will do six scaled questions and the conversation surrounding them.

As a consultant, I’ve also heard feedback of some general dissatisfaction with the use of this particular instrument, and that’s not a surprise to me. I will be working on several other means of contacting members who may not be able to attend these sessions in order to get their input and feedback.

Thank you for your participation and involvement! As I can answer questions, please don’t hesitate to raise them. You can contact me at mb17300@gmail.com or by phone at (816)-896-4961.

Pastor Merle Brockhoff.

USED GEAR FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



RECYCLE FOR THE WIN

Equipment & Gear We Need

- Baseball/Softball
- Wrestling
- Football
- Disc Golf
- Water Sports
- Golf
- Fitness Equipment/ Weights
- Track and Field
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Tennis/Pickleball
- ...and much more

Your quality used sports gear can make a BIG difference for Doorstep.

From April 1st to April 15th bring in your quality used sports gear and equipment you no longer need to Play It Again Sports Topeka. Tell the team your items are for the Doorstep Gear Drive. Play It Again Sports will apply your items to the Doorstep account. Doorstep will receive funds at the end of the drive.

Thank you for making a BIG difference in our community.

Located:

Fairlawn Plaza Mall
5331 SW 22nd PL.
Topeka KS, 66614

(785) 286-7237

Open Mon-Fri 10am - 8pm

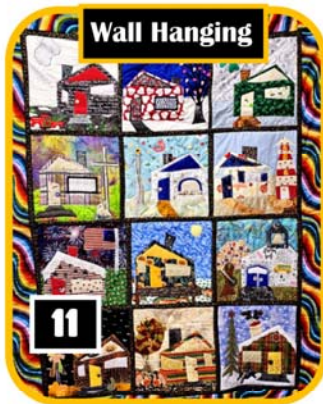
Sat 10am-6pm and Sun 12- 5pm



Doorstep Quilt Drawing

\$1 Donation Per Chance

13 Quilts in Varying Sizes



Need Not Be Present To Win!

Drawing Held At The Annual Banquet April 23rd



Companion Synod Team

Our Companion Synods give us the opportunity to engage with Companion Christians who live out their faith in different parts of the world. As we come together with our CoSyn Lutheran Christians in Papua New Guinea, Russia and other parts of the world, we both bless them and receive their blessings. We both teach and learn. We both encourage and are encouraged.

Every congregation in the Central States Synod is encouraged to celebrate the World-wide church of which we are a part and to find ways to walk more closely together with our partners in Papua New Guinea, Russia, and around the globe.

For a more detailed explanation of the Companion Synod Ministry, read:

[Companion Synod Ministry, CSS-ELCA.](#)

A Season of Global Awareness.

The 2023 Central States Synod Assembly adopted [Resolution SA 23.02, "A Season of Global Awareness"](#).

Which resolved that **Sunday, April 7th, 2024** is designated as the Sunday to celebrate our companion church relationship with the Kote District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). Please include President Erena Waraga, the people of the Kote District, ELCPNG as well as the people of Papua New Guinea in your personal and congregational prayers, especially on Papua New Guinea Sunday, April 7th, 2024.



E-mail THEREVKEV@ATT.NET

To RSVP, or with any questions



Get your Team Ready!

Bring your own trivia team of 3-5 persons, or let us place you on a team when you arrive.

Invite your congregation, friends, or family to form a team, or come just to watch the fun!

Entry Fee is \$5 per person.
Great Prizes for the Top Finishers!

All Are Welcome!



Casual Cornhole in the Backyard for those who wish to conserve brain power!

This Free event is just for fun!

A Campus Ministry Celebration!

Featuring

Team Trivia Contest & Backyard Cornhole

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Doors open at 2:30 pm.

Trivia contest start at 3:00 pm.

Taco bar with students at 5:00 pm.

Worship at 6:00 pm.



Come to the 59th Annual
Temple Beth Sholom



BLINTZE BRUNCH

APRIL 14, 2024

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Delicious Jewish Foods, Jewish Entertainment
Challahs, Jewish desserts, cookies at the Bake Sale

Ticket Cost—\$20

All you can eat

50/50 raffle, Royals baseball tickets and many items to raffle

Purchase Your Blintze Brunch Food orders www.TBSGiving.com
starting on March 1, 2024

Advance purchase of tickets are available at the Temple office
9:00 am to 12:00 pm Monday – Friday or
Einstein Outdoor Store(785-357-4104),
or purchase ticket the day of the Brunch.



4200 SW Munson, Topeka, KS