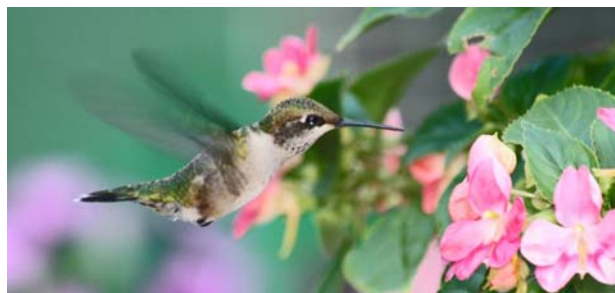


TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
725 SW Buchanan Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66606-1426

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# TRINITY TIDINGS

MAY 2024

## STAFF

Pastor Barbara Jones  
[prbarb.jones@gmail.com](mailto:prbarb.jones@gmail.com)

Cindy McGinnis  
*Administrative Assistant*  
[office@topekatic.org](mailto:office@topekatic.org)

Laurie Jackson  
*Music Director*

Marcy Carlson  
*Custodian*  
[marcy4tlc@gmail.com](mailto: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

# MAY 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP &amp; HOLY COMMUNION</p>		1	2	3	4			
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along Bring food for Doorstep FOOD DONATION</p> <p>10:30 am Worship 12:00 Noon Congregational Life committee meeting</p>	5	6	9:30 am Quilters	7	8	9	10	11
<p>9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2 pm PFLAG meeting</p>	12	13	9:30 am Quilters	14	15	16	17	18
<p>9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg <b>Day of Pentecost</b> 10:30 am Worship</p>	19	20	9:30 am Quilters	21	22	23	24	25
<p>9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School The Holy Trinity 10:30 am Worship with Confirmation</p>	26	27	9:30 am Quilters	28	29	30	31	



## Pastor's Letter

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." ~ Psalm 110:105*

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Walt Disney Pictures has released a modern adaptation of the 1941 animated film *Dumbo*, a film about an orphaned elephant born with really big ears. Dumbo, who is befriended by a circus mouse named Timothy, initially ignores his tiny friend's efforts to convince him to open his giant ears and fly. That is, until Dumbo, who mistrusts his own abilities, receives a "magic feather" from Timothy. It is a gift, promises the mouse, that will help Dumbo fly. As you might imagine, Dumbo placing his trust in the "magic feather," takes a leap of faith, flies, and becomes the star of the circus. Yet, despite his fame, Dumbo discounts his own abilities, believing that only the "magic feather" enables him to fly.

All is well, until the day when an unexpected gust of wind frees the feather from Dumbo's trunk. Discounting his own ability to fly, the terrified elephant plummets to earth. Timothy the circus mouse, who was hitching a ride in Dumbo's hat at the time, yells: "You can fly, you can fly, you can fly." In the midst of the crisis Dumbo discovers the strength to trust in his own abilities. When he finally opens his ears, Dumbo soars to new heights.

A lot of us have collected our fair share of "magic feathers" over the years. Accolades and the promised rewards that come with worldly success, material possessions, and positional power. Ultimately, however, these things, like Dumbo's feather, are fleeting. They come and they go. In fact, many of us may find that we have climbed the ladder of success only to discover that our ladder was lean-

ing on the wrong wall. Though successful by the world's standards, far too many of us work ourselves ragged only to end up unfulfilled, unhappy, and deeply agitated. Yet we still cling to the "magic feathers" in our lives, don't we? Notice, however, what happens when Dumbo loses his grip on his "magic feather." Having lost that which gave him faith in an ability that he already possessed, Dumbo is stricken with fear and begins to fall.

Fear can do that. Fear saps our resolve, deceives us into selling ourselves short, and blinds us to our innate sense of worth. When the inevitable storms of life come upon us, taking with them the external trappings of success and self-worth (jobs, status, health, and material possession) we, too, lose our grip on "magic feathers." When all is said and done what remains is who we really are at the very core of our being and whose we are, beloved children of a God who creates, redeems, and sustains. For the season of Easter proclaims that ours is a Crucified and Risen God who meets us in the midst of life's storms; offering healing, wholeness, and restoration.

Viewed from the perspective of faith, the animated film *Dumbo* challenges us to ask: What are the "magic feathers" in my life? In what or whom do I place my trust? Because, like it or not, the storms of life will inevitably rip the "magic feathers" from our grasp. And, like Dumbo, we too will be called upon to open our ears and to place our trust in what matters most to us.

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Barb



MAY READINGS

*May 5 — 6th Sunday of Easter*

- Acts 10:44-48
- Psalm 98
- 1 John 5:1-6
- John 15:9-17

*May 12 — 7th Sunday of Easter*

- Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Psalm 1
- 1 John 5:9-13
- John 17:6-19

*May 19 — Day of Pentecost*

- Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
- John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

*May 26 — The Holy Trinity*

- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Psalm 29
- Romans 8:12-17
- John 3:1-17

MAY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Chance Hutchison
- 11 Donna Allen
- 14 Daniella King
- 16 Ted Murphy
- 21 Steve Luoma
- 22 David McGinnis

BAPTISMS

- 10 Naomi Walker
- 11 Karen Arney
- 11 Marcy Carlson
- 12 Pam Kobbeman
- 12 Rosie Nichols
- 11 Emily Schwartz
- 13 Erin Lewis
- 20 Tom Arney
- 21 Breanna Lewis
- 26 Bronwyn King
- 26 Daniella King
- 26 Elania King
- 26 Sara King
- 27 Larry McGinnis
- 30 Brayden Winsor

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Tom & Karen Arney



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

APRIL 9, 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

- Steve offered to conduct a utility cost study & present a report at a future meeting.
- The Vickie Jacobs memorial fund and WU 110.260 line item both need to be corrected on the balance sheet.
- An all-congregation church clean-up day was discussed. No action taken.
- The campus ministry group received a response from Our Savior's.
- Marcy coordinated the tree & stump removal on the south side of church.
- Small group Bible studies are under consideration by Cong. Life.
- The new on-line equipment was installed & used for the first time on April 7th. Copyright & privacy issues are being reviewed.
- Educational advancements will be recognized in May.
- Council approved workman's comp insurance package & PCI boiler maintenance contract. They did not approve the AC maintenance contract.
- Carol volunteered to send thank you notes to visitors.

*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.*

## Hymn Sing Along = Food for Our Soul Food Donation for Doorstep = Food for Our Neighbors



Along with our Hymn Sing Along, the first Sunday of each month is also the day we ask you to bring food to church, which will then be taken to Doorstep to help keep their shelves stocked with food for our neighbors.

You can also bring food to the office during office hours; Bob & Janeen will take it to Doorstep at a later time.

**Thanks to our generous church family, Bob & Janeen delivered 207 food items (192.1 lbs!!!) to Doorstep for their food pantry.** These items were collected on Sunday, April 7th during our first Sunday food collection for Doorstep.

Please keep Doorstep in mind as you do your grocery shopping and pick up a few items for the next collection on May 5th.





**Remember to wear red  
May 19, to celebrate the  
Day of Pentecost.**

**Sunday, May 26** is a special day in the life of our congregation as **Brayden Winsor** will be confirmed during worship that day. He has completed his confirmation studies over the past two years with the confirmation class at First

Lutheran. After worship there will be a lunch in Fellowship Hall to honor and celebrate Brayden.



We want to honor and celebrate all members of our church family who are reaching milestones soon.

In addition to his confirmation, Brayden will also be graduating from 8th grade at Cair Paravel and Ella Bosch will be graduating from 6th grade.

Please call the office, 785.233.0767, or anyone on the



Congregational Life committee if you know of someone that we should recognize.

**Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School will meet on May 12, the 7th Sunday of Easter. As the season of Easter draws to a close we will study the second lesson that the lector will read during the service that day, 1st John 5:9-13. In April we concluded our study of the book of Romans. Plan to join us at 9:30 in Trinity Hall lounge.



Children's Sunday school on May 26 will be looking at John 15:1-8



## Transition Consultant Report *Programming & Theological Perspective*

It was again a pleasure to be with Trinity in worship on April 14<sup>th</sup> for our final Congregation-wide process event. I took a few moments at the start of worship and our time together to remind the congregation as to why this process is a little different from your last time. In the past, a Call Committee was formed and they were responsible for completing the paperwork (The Ministry Site Profile, noted hereafter as simply the MSP.) This was an efficient way of doing things, but often meant that a limited number of congregation members felt that their input had been given or heard.

Now the preferred means of preparing the MSP is to use a "Transition Team" whose sole task is to gather information and write the MSP. This allows more congregation members to be hands on, and the Transition Team becomes the listening post and information gatherer. After the Transition Team completes the majority of the MSP, it is sent to the Council for review, to have the "numbers" of compensation available inserted, and any goals or objectives from leadership. Then, the MSP is given to the Call Committee and submitted to the Synod so that candidate interviews can take place. This process means that a good portion of the congregation will have been interviewed, had time to be in conversation, have been surveyed and had their thoughts and hopes solicited. We hope this is a more complete and better "snapshot" of the congregation for candidates to observe.

This time our Congregation-wide conversations focused on Programming and Theological Perspective. Here are the results. The complete report is available in the church office for your reading pleasure, but this gives you the highlights.

### **Results for Programming:**

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

**Trinity rated heavily toward the "Used by community groups" side of the scale.** Groups identified were PFLAG, Stroke Recovery, Community Garden, NIA (neighborhood association). In the past (before Covid)

AA and Cair Paravel for graduation exercises. Funeral dinners, even when the funeral was not held at Trinity. The Lutheran Home and Lutheran Fine Arts Council. Recitals and concerts.

There was a comment that more could be done and the facility is generally open to it, but that there are limitations of supervisory staffing and janitorial staff for set up or clean up is a limitation. The comment "We would be open but few are asking" was made.

**The second question** under programming was "*We train people to minister outside our walls*" or "*We train people to minister inside our walls.*" On the Liker scale the answers tipped toward "outside" but with a couple of caveats. There was significant conversation about "minister" and what it meant. While most agreed it was about serving, some questioned the formal capacity of that word, as it referred to actions. Most of the training appears to be "on the job" or "follow by example" as opposed to formal training procedures or organized events. In the comments, almost all of them had to do with internal ministries (acolyte, altar guild, quilters, shut-in visitation. Those last two were seen as "outside" because the quilts go out and shut-in visitation was getting "out of the building."

**The third question** was "*We focus on ideas and beliefs*" or "*We focus on skills and actions.*" The scale here was an even split, although most answers were "a little like us" in both directions. Comments here were fairly sparse. "Focus" was underlined or circled on several survey responses. "Focus on what is necessary/needed." "Focus on action" A comment was made that we do have background procedures in place, but also flexibility. "All are welcome" was mentioned as an overall belief.

Now we move on to "**Theological Perspectives.**"

**The first scale** was between "*We are obviously Lutheran in identity and practice.*" and "*We are less obvious*





*about our Lutheran Heritage.*” No surprises here, the scale tipped very heavily to “obvious.” Comments were sparse but conversation robust about the appearance of the sanctuary, heritage, and practices. Such comments as “lifetime Lutherans” and “look like a Lutheran church.” Table talk reflected on past heritage, observations, traditions, hymnody, and the term “Swedish” lifted up several times. A comment about living in rich diversity, but appreciating a sense of “belonging” or comfortability.

**The second scale** measured between *being active in the ELCA* and *“not very active.”* This scale attempts to measure a congregation’s connectedness to the larger church, synod and regional activity. The scale here tipped toward “active” with a caveat of identity. While active in ELCA and identifying with it financially and in terms of identity, actual involvement was limited to annual Assembly attendance and more intense activity of a few members. This would indicate that there is a growing sense of historic ties and affiliation and less a looking toward the denomination for direction and guidance. The congregation participates in the Synod and Churchwide but is only marginally aware of national or synodical trends or emphases. Social Statement involvement or response was not a priority. A sense that we look to the Synod in times of transition, but not for programmatic direction. Most of that is local in nature.

**The third scale** was a choice between *“We focus on biblical studies and doctrine”* and *“We focus on contemporary topics and issues.”* The scale here tipped largely toward “Biblical Studies and Doctrine.” Contemporary issues were important only in so much as they underpinned biblical or scriptural priorities. Such comments as “our beliefs are based on the Bible” and (while not using the scale,) circling key words like “focus,” “Biblical” and “No” scribbled over “Contemporary Issues” probably reveals that this congregation prefers not to engage with “hot button” or contemporary issues but seeks to ground life and decisions in viewpoints drawn from scripture.

**A reminder:** In addition to these three congregation-wide events, there will also be a mailer sent to every household. It will include two forms to be returned. This step helps us gather demographic information and gives congrega-

tion members an opportunity to rank what it is they hope to see in the next rostered leader.

**“Who Are We This Sunday?”** This survey helps you identify your members and the diversity represented in the congregation.

**“Gifts for Ministry.”** Every Rostered Leader brings a variety of gifts, and every congregation member has their own idea of what skills are most important. In this exercise we invite your input in two ways. In the **LEFT COLUMN** you will be asked mark a **Maximum of Five Skills** that you believe a leader **MUST** bring to your church. In the **RIGHT COLUMN** mark an additional **FIVE GIFTS** that you think would be very helpful for that person to have or to bring with them.

The Transition Team will then tabulate those findings to represent them on the MSP.

My next step will be helping the Transition Team get down to the business of writing after we have received those survey forms back from you all.

In the meantime, keep the conversation going! Given the kind of leadership you have had in the past, what is it that you are looking forward to in the future? What skill sets would be most needed in a leader? How would you answer the question, “What kind of leader does God need to send to this community right now?”

On a separate note, the “experiment” that we ran between Trinity and Our Savior’s during Lent was NOT intended to push the congregations toward anything. Instead, it was an experiment to see if cooperation could be done and what strengths that might bring to each congregation! We learned that schedules can be managed, more services can be offered to the community (two worship times!) and that sharing a common meal together is a good place to appreciate one another’s gifts. Our Savior’s benefited from more instrumentation for worship. Trinity got to show off some cooking skills. Both congregations got variety in preaching and leadership of worship. Overall, I’d call that a “positive experiment.”

*What kind of future cooperative ventures could be entertained?* That might prove to be a fruitful conversation to have with one another.

Pastor Merle Brockhoff.





The month of May brings many celebrations & remembrances — Mother’s Day, graduations, Memorial Day, etc. This year please consider donating to Doorstep in honor or in memory of someone special. We will send them a card letting them know about your gift, and you will help Doorstep continue to help neighbors in need through your generous donation.

The need for food assistance remains high in 2024. We have already spent half of our food budget for this year. We are seeking additional funding for assistance for 2024 to keep food on our shelves. Our member congregations are equally important in this program’s success. Please consider donating non-perishable food items to Doorstep and be a true part of “*neighbors helping neighbors*”.

**We can always use the following food items:**

- Can & Powdered Milk
- Soups (except chix noodle)
- Jelly
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Spaghetti & Sauce
- Tuna
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Vegetables
- Rice
- Canned Fruit (variety)
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal

**Bring donations to Doorstep (1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup>) Monday – Friday from 9am – 2pm:**

**Don’t forget to register for our Inaugural Golf Tournament ~ Putt Out Hunger**

Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Western Hills Golf Course.  
To sign up, visit [bit.ly/PuttOutHunger](https://bit.ly/PuttOutHunger)

***Save the Date!***

**Doorstep’s 7th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am**  
at Lake Shawnee.

Makes plans now to join us! Get a group of family and friends together and help us raise funds for our neighbors in need this Doorstep this October.



**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](https://bit.ly/PuttOutHunger)