

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# TRINITY TIDINGS

JUNE 2024

## STAFF

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

Cindy McGinnis  
*Administrative Assistant*  
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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

# JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p><b>EVERY SUNDAY</b>  <b>10:30 AM WORSHIP</b>  <b>&amp; HOLY COMMUNION</b></p>						1	
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along            Bring food for Doorstep  <b>FOOD DONATION</b></p> <p>10:30 am Worship            12:00 Noon Congregational Life committee meeting</p>	2	3	9:30 am Quilters 4	5	<b>Central States Synod Assembly</b>		
<p>9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School            10:30 am Worship            2 pm PFLAG meeting            4 pm VBS @ 1st Lutheran</p>	9	10	9:30 am Quilters 11	12	13	14	15
<p>9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg            10:30 am Worship</p>	16	17	9:30 am Quilters 18	19	20	21	22
<p>9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School            10:30 am Worship</p>	23	24	9:30 am Quilters 25	26	27	28	29
<p>10:30 am Worship</p>	30	24	7 pm TLHA			Doorstep Golf Tournament	



## Pastor's Letter

*"Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind." Ecclesiastes 4:6*

*"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26*

*"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you." Isaiah 26:3*

June 2024

Hello Partners in Ministry,

Summer break is finally here! One doesn't have to be a teacher or a student to feel the collective sigh of relief as the calendar turns to June; the daylight lengthens, the songs of the birds and the bugs lull us and the beauty of God's creation beckons us. Time away with family and friends...laid back days...staying up late...catching up on things we've wanted to do all year...a much-needed break from the busy lives that so many lead.

But as much as we love the days of summer, fun vacations, and the times that rest and relaxation with those we love can bring, sometimes our focus gets off. We might somehow start to feel responsible for all the fun and making every minute count. And along the way, we may get weary, distracted or impatient. Kids get tired, parents get frustrated, vacations exhaust instead of renew us. The excitement of summer days can quickly fade.

I'm reminded of this at the start of the season...true rest is not found simply because it is summer, true rest is found in the Lord. And the secret to finding real peace is not found in time off from work and school, it is found in God.

It is in God's presence that we find refreshment for our souls, renewal of our spirits, peace in our hearts, rest from our worried thoughts.

In the midst of excitement and plans for all that summer can bring us, I encourage you to "listen for the quiet" – set aside time in every day to unplug and tune out the noise, news and clatter of our 21<sup>st</sup> century world and to "be still and know that God is God" (Psalm 46:10), focusing on "the peace that passes all understanding" (Phil 4:7) and resting in the fact that "...the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." (Rom. 8:6).

It's o.k. to do nothing. "Doing nothing" is something vital for us to model for our children and grandchildren. God indeed modeled that for all of us, "...and God rested..." (Gen. 2:2), so go ahead and fill in those calendar boxes, at least one out of every seven should say – "DO NOTHING".

Enjoy the summer! Rest in God's boundless mercy and grace. "I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him." (ELW #332 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say")

In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Barb



**JUNE READINGS**

*June 2 — 2nd Sunday of Pentecost*

- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Psalm 81:1-10
- 2nd Corinthians 4:5-12
- Mark 2:23—3:6

*June 9 — 3rd Sunday of Pentecost*

- Genesis 3:8-15
- Psalm 130
- 2nd Corinthians 4:13—5:1
- Mark 3:20-35

*June 16 — 4th Sunday of Pentecost*

- Ezekial 17:22-24
- Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
- 2nd Corinthians 5:6-17
- Mark 4:26-34

*June 23 — 5th Sunday of Pentecost*

- Job 38:1-11
- Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
- 2nd Corinthians 6:1-13
- Mark 4:35-41

*June 30 — 6th Sunday of Pentecost*

- Lamentations 3:22-33
- Psalm 30
- 2nd Corinthians 8:7-15
- Mark 5:21-43

Central States Synod 2024 Assembly is being held June 6 - 8 in Olathe at Embassy Suites. Curt and Jane Lewis are representing Trinity as our voting members. Diane Bottorff is attending as a non-voting member.

**JUNE CELEBRATIONS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Charlotte Blenden
- 7 Camdyn Ralph
- 7 Carsyn Ralph
- 12 John Carlson
- 19 Mary McGinnis
- 26 LaVell Winsor
- 27 Asher Klamm

**BAPTISMS**

- 4 Liz Utech
- 7 Donna Allen

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- 25 Howard & Loni Reece
- 26 Curt & Jane Lewis
- 30 Josh & Heather Klamm



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.



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

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



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.

**In May, we collected 240 food items (236.4 lbs!!!) for the Doorstep food pantry.**

Please keep Doorstep in mind as you do your grocery shopping and pick up a few items for the next collection on June 2nd.



**2024 Doorstep Events**

**June 28** **Inaugural Golf Tournament @ Western Hills** — 4-person scramble  
Register by June 21<sup>st</sup> at [www.DoorstepTopeka.org](http://www.DoorstepTopeka.org)

**July** **Christmas in July** - collection of items for the 260 households we will adopt for Christmas.

**Summer Cash Bash** – requesting donations from our congregations, individuals, and the community to help us earn at least \$10,000 in matching funds from an anonymous donor.

**Re-Imagined Jewelry** – repurposed decorated tin turned into earrings can be purchased from Café Quetzal with the funds going to Doorstep.

**September 14** **Sertoma Duck Race @ Lake Shawnee**  
Doorstep is a participating charity again this year. You can purchase ducks & designate your donations to “Team Ducks for Doorstep”!

**October 12** **Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run**  
Join us on a Saturday morning for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual event at Lake Shawnee, Shelter Houses 1 & 2, 9am. Register in advance on our website: [www.DoorstepTopeka.org/Events](http://www.DoorstepTopeka.org/Events), paper forms in our office or the day of the event! \$30 per person, children 10 & under free with paid adult.

**Nov & Dec** **Collection of items** for Christmas Adoption Project. Specific list of items still needed for the families.

**December 10 – 12** **Christmas Adoption Project distribution days.**





Dear Friends,

On behalf of Doorstep Inc., I am writing to share a few surveys designed to help us with our five-year strategic planning process. We want to gather as much information from the community as possible to help guide us in planning for the future.

Everyone can respond to the Public survey; however, we ask that you also complete any other surveys that pertain to you to help us gather the data.

**Public & Client Survey:**

<https://forms.gle/Vm1GUccnNfuMGtq68>

(Everyone can take the public survey)

**Community Partners & Donors:**

<https://forms.gle/J1Z7oSpZg1G1fPbaA>

**Volunteers & Congregation Coordinators:**

<https://forms.gle/VbGkUrLM6fwPBH6j8>

The surveys are being administered by an outside consulting firm, and all responses will be kept anonymous.



There are two questions on each survey that ask you to share your thoughts about your experience with Doorstep as a member of the public, a volunteer, a community partner, donor, client, etc. and any improvements you think could be made at Doorstep.

In order to keep this survey anonymous, please do not include identifying information about yourself in these responses.

**Please complete this survey no**

**later than Sunday, June 30th** at 11:59pm to have your responses included in the findings report. Your input is very valuable, so please share your thoughts!

**\*Please share this email with others you think would help provide information for Doorstep in our strategic planning process.**

Blessings, Lisa Cain

Executive Director, Doorstep, Inc.

**Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School will meet on June 9, the third Sunday after Pentecost. We will study the second lesson that the lector will

be reading during worship that day, 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1. Plan to join us in Trinity Hall lounge at 9:30.

Children's Sunday school will be June 23rd, 9:45 am.



## Transition Consultant Report — *Surveys*

A critique that was voiced early on in the process is that doing processes in person was excluding a segment of the congregation who could not make it to in-person gatherings. We heard that loud and clear, and so crafted two surveys sent to congregation members to complete and return. I hope you all availed yourselves of the opportunity! We learned a few new things, and I hope gave everyone an opportunity to voice the qualities they are looking for in their next pastor.

**The first survey form was titled “Who Are We This Sunday?”** Originally designed to be done on a Sunday morning with those in attendance, we chose to send it out, and as such the survey serves as **a way of collecting and confirming demographic data.** Fifty-three surveys were mailed out after identifying active and potential active households. These included mailings to those as far away as Olathe who continued to self-identify as being connected to Trinity Lutheran. Twenty-three surveys were returned, or just a little shy of 50% participation rate. (An excellent return rate on a mailed survey is considered 40%, so tracking higher than usual return.) Of more concern is the number of households identified to survey. More about that later.

The first question was demographic in nature, as we asked people to identify members of their household and ages. A total of **34 individuals** were identified. Here is the breakdown of ages

and self-identified gender.

Age	Female	Male
0-4	0	0
5 to 9	1	1
10 to 34	0	1
35 to 44	1	1
45 to 54	1	0
55 to 64	3	2
65 to 74	4	5
75 to 84	7	2
85 +	4	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>

As you can see (and no surprises here), Trinity’s membership tracks older and females outnumber males.

Of particular concern is the concentration of membership in the 65+ category, for a variety of reasons, but chief among the concerns becomes sustainability and viability; as the congregation ages there are fewer younger folks to take up tasks, leadership and the workload.

On the positive side, people in this age group are the most committed to institutions and are likely to remain highly committed to support and participation.

**The next questions identified racial and ethnic identity.** No surprise here either, the majority of respondents were Caucasian and English speakers as primary language. The average commute time for individuals to Trinity is

10 to 20 minutes. This question attempts to give you a snapshot of how connected a congregation is to the neighborhood or community. The greater the commute time for members, the more you have members who are no longer living in the immediate neighborhood and are therefore disconnected from nearby relationships.

The #1 reason why a person visits or connects with a church is still via personal invitation. There is a difference however, between and invitation of “I go to church over there, join me on Sunday!” and an invitation of “I go to church at 8<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan, here, let me draw you a map.”

Which invitation is more likely to get a favorable response? Which one will be followed up on?

**The next question allowed people to identify how long they had been connected to or a member of Trinity.** Again, no big surprises here. One member identified as being here less than a year. One for 1-3 years. The remainder of the respondents (41) indicated they had been here 10+ years.

The positive in that finding is a certain measure of stability. The negative is that stable memberships tend to be hard to break into by new attenders. Patterns are established and there are a lot of assumptions about everyone just knowing how things work (or are supposed to work!) which becomes frustrating for those new to an organiza-



tion.

**Attendance patterns** indicate that you have as many people here more than once a week (9) as you have here less than once a month (also 9), with 5 respondents saying 2-3 times a month. No grand conclusions can be made from those numbers, except to note that at Trinity (as it the case in most smaller congregations) a relatively small number of people end up carrying the weekly burden of care for the building and activities.

**Finally**, (and again, unsurprising for a small congregation) **you have a high rate of people who identify as being related to other members or who identify as close friends with other members.** This simply reinforces that Trinity's main attractor is not to be found in programmatic activities, but rather in relationship ties.

**The second survey form as entitled "Gifts for Ministry."** On this form we invited members of households to have conversations together and then from the provided list, identify the **top five gifts** that were a top priority for your new leader to have. We also then asked households to identify the **top five very helpful gifts** for the new leader to have.

I asked households to do this form in conversation with one another so that they could have the conversation of what they are looking for in a pastor. Quite often that is a more valuable conversation to have within households than as a congregation in general.

The **Top Five Gifts** identified were:

Effective Communicator – 18

Provide Pastoral Care – 14

Effective Teacher – 9

Bring Joy and Good Humor – 8

Be able to share leadership – 8

The **Top Five Helpful** identified were: (Three were "ties" so that is expressed here.)

Build a Sense of Community – 12

Be Able to Share Leadership – 12

Be effective working with youth -- 8

Deal effectively with conflict – 8

Help others develop their leadership – 7

Have a strong commitment to Lutheran Church – 7

These will be noted on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) as the characteristics the people of Trinity self-identified.

An observation from the point of view of the consultant is just a question for all of you to ponder. Under both the "Gifts" and "Helpful" categories, you identify the desire for someone who will share leadership. This is laudable, as it indicates your own desire to be equipped for ministry and to share in the tasks of ministry. However, there is another way that can be interpreted based on your demographics. It will be important for you to clearly identify the difference between shared leadership and matters of control.

Are you a "permission-granting" congregation, where people are free to experiment and try new things? In this scenario, shared leadership means people want to be part of decision making in order to join with it. "Let us know what is coming, so we can help!" Or, are you more of a

"permission-denying" congregation, where shared leadership means that things should not be attempted unless thoroughly vetted by the controlling stakeholders? "Let us know what you are planning on doing, and we'll tell you if we approve of that."

Just something to ponder as you begin to look for that one whom God is surely preparing for you!

**Next Steps:** The Transition Team will be meeting to begin incorporating your answers and their findings into the Ministry Site Profile in the next few weeks.

Once the Transition Team has completed their research work and entered the information into the system, the document will be passed to the Council who will provide their input in terms of goals, budgetary considerations, and a lead paragraph describing the ministry site and needs.

After the Council reviews and puts their work into the document, it will be available in the church office for members to look at and review.

Finally, the document will "go live" after review by Pastor Dave Whetter at the Synod Office, and that lead paragraph will be available nationwide for Rostered Leaders to see and consider. Then the Bishop's office will begin looking in earnest for options of how best to address Trinity's unique needs.

Pastor Merle, Interim Consultant.





**DOORSTEP**  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

This month we begin our 58th year of neighbors helping neighbors! Thank you to everyone who bought quilt tickets, took sporting equipment to Play It Again Sports, or attended our Annual Banquet. These three events brought in \$2,276 combined. Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year Award Winners: Jackie, Mitchell, Julia, Brenda, Sharon, and Shirley! We truly could not function without the assistance of all our volunteers!

The need for food assistance has remained high so far this year. In the first 4 months of 2024, we provided 51,370 pounds of food in 918 food orders feeding 2,303 individuals.

The Doorstep Executive Committee has begun work with Coneflower Consulting on a new Strategic Plan. Our current plan, which has been worked on and revised over the past several years, is nearly complete; and it is time to begin looking forward to

where we want Doorstep to be in the future. As part of this process, we will have surveys for people to complete online and provide feedback to show trends on what people think are our strengths / weaknesses in our services, as an agency, and more. We want as many people as possible to complete the surveys to provide us with feedback from our community, congregations, donors, volunteers, clients, etc. As we begin our strategic planning retreats to do the work required in crafting our new plan, we want and need to know what people think. The surveys will be live from the last part of May through mid-June. We will send survey links to our member congregations, place on our website, Facebook, etc. Please take time to fill out all the surveys which are appropriate for you.

**Register Now!**

**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)

**Register by June 21<sup>st</sup>!!**

**Save the Date!**

**Doorstep's 7th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run**

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am**  
at Lake Shawnee.



## June is Trinity Lutheran's Month at Doorstep!! How You Can Help...

**Volunteer in the Clothing Room** on any **Friday** during the month of June. You will assist clients with clothing needs, sort and organize donated clothing. (8:45am – 2:00pm)

**Volunteer** in the **Clothing Room** on **Monday, June 24th** between 8:45am and 2:00pm sorting donations.

**Donate food items for the pantry.** We are one of six congregations responsible for stocking the food pantry during the month of June. **Needed items are:**

Macaroni N Cheese	Pinto Beans	Powdered Milk
Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Fruit	Evaporated Milk
Egg Noodles/Pasta	Oatmeal	Dry Cereal
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Tuna	Rice Peas

**Make a monetary donation** to Doorstep and note your membership with Trinity Lutheran for credit.

**Your Doorstep Contacts are:**

Janeen Horton (785-640-5344) Coordinator

Bob Horton (785-640-5345) Board Member

Contact Janeen to volunteer or with any questions!

This is a busy month at Doorstep! We begin our 58th year of providing assistance to our neighbors in need! Kids are out of school, and families need more food. Please help where you can by donating food from the list above.

**Doorstep Inaugural Golf Tournament is Friday, June 28th!**

Register by 6/17/24 at [www.DoorstepTopeka.org](http://www.DoorstepTopeka.org)



Hello All,

As you hopefully have heard by now, 1st Lutheran will be hosting an alternative VBS this year. Instead of the 4-day midweek morning VBS, there will be one evening extravaganza on June 9th from 4-8pm for PreK - middle school.

Please believe, trust, and have hope that God is going to do something incredible with this new version.

The evening will look like this:

4-6pm — Outdoor games, inflatables, etc.

6pm — Dinner

6:45-8pm — Worship, Music, Crafts, Bible time

You may have a kiddo in that age group and if so, please sign them up online here: [vbspro.events/p/52d68c](https://vbspro.events/p/52d68c)

Volunteers are needed to help with all parts of this. With it being in the evening, there is hope that more folks will be able to participate and volunteer. FYI: There will be a VBS Volunteer training/info session on Sunday, June 2nd at 11:30 in the Parish Hall.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** You can volunteer for more than one thing, or respond with all of the things or places in which you would be willing to serve.

**PLEASE LET PR. JENNY YOUR PREFERENCES**

3:30-4:30pm — Registration Table (Approx 4 volunteers)

4pm-6pm — Preschool Playground attendants--Making sure the kiddos are safe, helping, blowing bubbles:) (Approx 5 volunteers)

4pm — 6pm: Elementary-Middle School Outside Fence Yard Attendants--Inflatable managing, checking with folks, make sure kids are safe, etc. (Approx 8 volunteers)

6pm-6:45pm — Cafeteria help: Sit at tables to eat with and assist with kiddos as needed (Approx 5 volunteers)

6:45pm-8pm — Preschool shepherds, guiding little ones around bible time, crafts, worship (Approx 6 volunteers)

6:45pm-8pm — Elementary shepherds, guiding kiddos around bible time, crafts, worship (Approx 4 volunteers)

6:45-8pm — Middle School shepherds, guiding these kids around the sessions. (Approx 3 volunteers)

7-8pm: — Craft Time Leaders (Approx 3 volunteers)

7-8pm — Bible Time Leaders (Approx 2 volunteers)

7:45-8pm — Closing Worship helpers (Approx 2 volunteers)

8pm — clean up team (Approx 6 volunteers)

Think about it.

Pray about it.

And let Pr. Jenny know :)

**Pastor Jenny Jackson**

**Cell: 785-633-3985**

**Work: 785-272-5302**



# 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)