

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# TRINITY TIDINGS

DECEMBER 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

# DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along</p> <p>Bring food for Doorstep</p> <p>FOOD DONATION</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>12:00 Noon Congregational Life meeting</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Intersection of 8th &amp; Buchanan will be closed for approx. 20 days.</p>	<p>9:00 am 3</p> <p>Quilters</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm Holden Evening Prayer service followed by potluck dinner &amp; tour of Christmas lights</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>9:30-10:15 8</p> <p>Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>2 pm PFLAG meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>9:00 am 10</p> <p>Quilters</p> <p>5:30 pm Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5pm Advent Midweek event hosted by Pr. Barb online</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>9:30 am 15</p> <p>Community Relations committee mtg</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 pm Stroke Support Group</p>	<p>9:00 am 17</p> <p>Quilters</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12 Noon Blue Christmas/ Longest Night worship in person &amp; online</p>	<p>19</p> <p>January 2025 Trinity Tidings deadline</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>9:45-10:15 22</p> <p>Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>9:00 am 24</p> <p>Quilters</p> <p>4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:30 am Worship with carols &amp; scripture.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>9:00 am 31</p> <p>Quilters</p>	<p><b>EVERY SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>10:30 AM WORSHIP &amp; HOLY COMMUNION</b></p> <p>PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL DOWNSTAIRS IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP.</p>			



## Pastor's Letter

***“O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new”***

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation for the revelation of God's all-powerful love. In addition to launching the start of a new liturgical year, Advent also marks the start of an intentional time of prayer and reflection. For many, the solemnity of Advent can get lost in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Perhaps that is why we light candles on the Advent wreath. As the rest of the world rushes to “deck the halls” we bask in the waiting. It is also why we frequently cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus.” Inviting the long-awaited Messiah to come into our lives and our world, trusting that God is about to do something new and exciting.

As we once again prepare for the Christ child's appearance, may we seriously consider how we might prepare ourselves for the unexpected ways that God comes to us. During Advent we open our hearts to God's presence in our lives. If you create space for prayer and worship this Advent, you just may discover that there are few times in which the lectionary readings are more beautiful, more moving, or more meaningful. For Advent witnesses to our trust that God indeed bears all of our afflictions and comes in Jesus to heal us. Whatever pain we have, whatever desolation we bear, God hears and responds. “Come, Lord Jesus.”

As you prepare for Christmas this year we encourage you to make space for Jesus. Consider spending time with the lectionary texts or experience anew the intentionality of Advent by attending church every weekend in December, in-person or online. Take a break from the “to do lists” and immerse yourself in

the beautiful musical liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer Service, joining us for one of our Mid-week Advent worship services that will take place, on-line or in person, on Wednesdays December 4<sup>th</sup> (5 pm, followed by a potluck meal and Christmas light viewing) and 11<sup>th</sup> (posted on-line at 5 pm for viewing as your schedule allows.)

Advent offers a refreshing alternative to the commercialization of the holiday season precisely because it creates space where we can give voice to our pain, loss, and grief even as we prepare for the joyous news of the Christ child's birth. We invite you, especially those who are challenged to find joy in the “happiest time of the year,” to be intentional this Advent season about your own spiritual self-care.

Trinity will also host a Blue Christmas/Longest Night worship service on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM - noon, (in-person and posted on-line for viewing when your schedule allows.) This ecumenical worship service intentionally creates space for those for whom the holidays are difficult due to the death of a beloved family member or friend, financial insecurity, illness, loneliness, or other reasons. Please consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or loved one who may struggle to find joy during the holidays.

The deliberate, hopeful pace of the Advent season concludes with our candlelight Christmas Eve worship services at 4 PM, December 24, 2024. We hope to see you there!

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Barb



## DECEMBER READINGS

*December 1 — First Sunday of Advent*

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
 Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
 Luke 21:25-36

*December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent*

Malachi 3:1-4  
 Luke 1:68-79  
 Philippians 1:3-11  
 Luke 3:1-6

*December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent*

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
 Isaiah 12:2-6  
 Philippians 4:4-7  
 Luke 3:7-18

*December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Micah 5:2-5a  
 Luke 1:46b-55  
 Hebrews 10:5-10  
 Luke 1:39-55

*December 24 — Christmas Eve*

Isaiah 9:2-7  
 Psalm 96  
 Titus 2:11-14  
 Luke 2:1-20

*December 25 — Christmas Day*

Isaiah 62:6-12  
 Psalm 97  
 Titus 3:4-7  
 Luke 2:1-20

*December 29 — First Sunday of Christmas*

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
 Psalm 148  
 Colossians 3:12-17  
 Luke 2:41-52

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

3 Junior Utech  
 22 Troy Pomeroy  
 27 Cindy McGinnis  
 30 Brett Henry  
 30 Adeline Klamm

### BAPTISMS

6 Julie Reeves  
 9 Junior Utech  
 15 Ivan Carlson  
 21 Tresa Johnson  
 26 Debbie Pomeroy  
 29 Janice Greenlee

### Second Town Hall Nov. 17

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman said TLC needs \$125,000 – 130,000 to continue current operations. He projected that by 12/31/24 our operating income may be \$21,000 – 25,000 below this amount. Our biggest expense is maintenance. Bob Horton spoke on behalf of the Transition Team. They continue to work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Completion of the MSP is on hold until Trinity’s future direction is defined. To get a sense of what that future direction could be, several questions were posed. Questions included: Why do you come to Trinity?, What is our mission and how do we carry it out? Will maintain-

ing our building prevent us from serving our neighbors? We appreciate all who participated in this meeting, and we thank Pr. Dave Whetter, Bishop’s Associate for providing input on future options. Plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 19 and the next Town Hall January 26. Prior to those meetings, exploration of options include sharing space and expenses with another entity and selling the building and renting space from the new owner to continue worshipping here. Include Trinity in your daily prayers as we discern what our future direction is. What is God calling us to do and how do we do it?



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### 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

- We need \$125,000 to \$135,000 annually to operate the church. We have met \$125,000 in collections in just two of six recent years. Bob K projected we will end short in 2024. We need to emphasize the need to cover operating expenses, and not just special projects. Pastor Barb offered that we need to consider options. Bob added we need to formalize our approach to explore options.
- The Congregational Life report was omitted from the minutes of 10/8/24, but the report was in the agenda. The welcome center is on hold until the elevator is operational.
- Maintenance reported a redbud tree may need to be removed near the parking lot. Locks have been placed on outside water and electrical outlets. Marcy, Ben, & John Carlson have been doing many maintenance projects; thanks and appreciation is expressed.

## NOVEMBER 12, 2024

- The listening session minutes of the October 13, 2024 meeting were shared. Many church members and two visitors were in attendance, sharing ideas, questions, and comments.
- Memorial funds under \$1,000.00 are being assigned to designated use as responses from contact persons come in.
- Procedures were discussed for petty cash and the Sunday offering collection.
- Duane P and Diane B offered to continue helping distribute communion to those who are unable to come to church on Sundays.
- The Peggy Buchholz funeral and lunch after will be Saturday, Nov. 23 at 10 am. In service to God, Shelley Andrews, Council Secretary

*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.*



Please like and follow Trinity at **Trinity Lutheran Topeka.org**. 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 your contacts.



Please be aware — starting December 2nd, the intersection of 8th & Buchanan will be closed to traffic from all directions. The intersection will be closed for approximately 20 days.



## 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.

Our November donation included 298 items totaling 283.1 pounds!

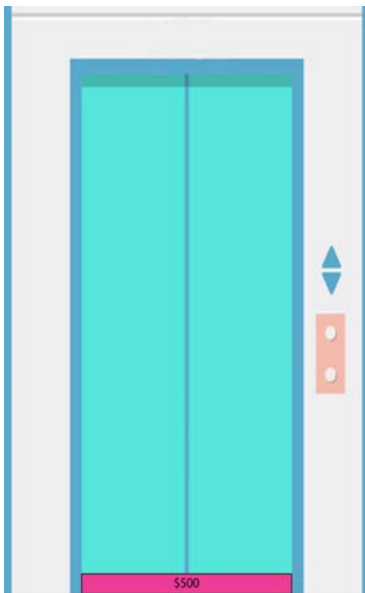
Please keep Doorstep in mind as you do your grocery shopping and pick up items for the next collection on December 1st.



### Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet Sunday, December 8, the second Sunday in Advent. We will study the second lesson for that day that the lector will read during worship, Philippians 1:3-11. Join us at 9:30 in Trinity Hall lounge.

Children's Sunday school will meet on December 22.



## Fundraiser for Elevator Repair

We did it! We reached our \$12,500 goal for the elevator repair. The repairs that this bid covered have been done, but that, unfortunately, did not get the elevator into working condition. We now have another estimate which has been approved and now we are waiting on parts to arrive.

We need your continued support of the elevator fund for this new bid expense and for upkeep and maintenance in the future.

Mark your gift "Elevator Fund" and place it in the offering or mail to the office. Special envelopes are still available; just ask the usher for one.

### WU CAMPUS MINISTRY — Bods Feeding Bods

A total of 118 oral hygiene items were collected in October, delivered to the pantry on campus in November. Your generous donations of dental floss, mouthwash, toothbrush, and toothpaste are appreciated. And the students are most grateful. We look forward to coordinating another effort at TLC next spring to assist the young adults at Washburn.





## Upcoming Events



+Advent begins on December 1st. After worship that Sunday, we will decorate the Christmas trees. All are welcome to stay and help.

And don't forget — the first Sunday of the month is the day of our monthly hymn sing along before worship and is also the designated day to bring food for Doorstep.



+We will celebrate the beginning of Advent with a midweek event on December 4th, 5pm. We will begin with the Holden Evening Prayer service in the sanctuary (and also online) followed by a potluck meal in Fellowship Hall and some other activities. If you'd like to share, you may bring a nativity scene to serve as a table centerpiece or a favorite recipe to share.



+The December 11 service will be posted online at 5pm.

+Trinity will also host a Blue Christmas/Longest Night worship service on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12pm noon, (in-person and posted on-line for viewing when your schedule allows.) This ecumenical worship service intentionally creates space for those for whom the holidays are difficult due to the death of a beloved family member or friend, financial insecurity, illness, loneliness, or other reasons. Please consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or loved one who may struggle to find joy during the holidays.

+Christmas Eve worship will be at 4pm on December 24th. There will not be a service on Christmas Day.



+Pr. Barb will be gone on December 29th so we will have a service of carols and scripture for worship that day.



## DOORSTEP



**DOORSTEP**  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For many the month of December is about the holidays, gathering with friends and family, decorating, baking, and getting gifts ready to share with our

loved ones. At Doorstep, we have been thinking about and planning for our Christmas Adoption Project for months, and now it is time to make the holiday brighter for the 800+ individuals we have adopted from the Christmas Bureau this year! Each household we adopt will receive a food order, health kit, blanket/quilt, a household item, gifts, games and toys (children), school supplies if appropriate, and a \$20 gift card per person in the household. We have some volunteer opportunities available this year! (See Below)

### Current Needs for Christmas:

Gifts needed by December 9<sup>th</sup> are:

**Toys & Teens:** Nerf Guns, Legos Toys, Puzzles, learning toys like Vtech, Basketball, Footballs, Headphones, Earbuds, Family Board Games, Paints, Brushes & Canvases,

**Gift sets for Men:** (Axe, Old Spice & Adidas), Tool Sets, Wallets

**Gift sets for Women:** (body wash, lotion & spray), nail sets, candles, bath bombs

**Household Items:** Queen & King size sheet sets – darker colors, Kitchen Utensil Sets, Saucepans, Gridles, Food Storage Sets, Cleaning Supplies

These items should be **NEW** for Christmas.

Doorstep has set up a gift registry at Walmart.com and a Wish List with Amazon.com with items we need for our adopted families. You can search on either site and pick gifts to have sent directly to Doorstep, or yourself to bring to us by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## DECEMBER 2024

We also need monetary donations for the gift cards, food, etc. which will total \$40,000 or more. You can mail a check or go to our website ([www.doorsteptopeka.org](http://www.doorsteptopeka.org)) to donate by credit card.

Please note your member congregation with your donation, and don't forget your year-end, tax-deductible donations!

### Please note the following dates in December:

**NO DONATIONS** of used clothing or household items will be accepted **Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Doorstep will be **CLOSED FOR ALL SERVICES AND DONATIONS** December 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Doorstep Holiday Hours:

**Closed** from Noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Open for **donations only** December 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-2pm.

Closed for **ALL services** December 27<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> for year-end wrap-up.

Resume normal operation on Friday, January 3, 2025.

***Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Staff at Doorstep!***





# Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2024



Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We need your help to make Christmas bright for these families and individuals.

**We still need the following NEW items:** (Needed by 12/10/24)

## **Household Items:**

- ◆ Sauce Pans, Dutch Ovens & Griddles
- ◆ Kitchen Utensil Sets
- ◆ Kitchen Food Storage Sets
- ◆ Laundry Baskets & Cleaning Supplies (glass, all-purpose, toilet, micro-towels, dish soap)
- ◆ Queen & King Sheet Sets (darker colors)



## **Toys, Teens & Gifts:**

- ◆ Learning Toys ex: Vtech
- ◆ Basketballs & Footballs
- ◆ Teen Books ~ Fantasies
- ◆ Family Board Games
- ◆ Dominoes & Card Games
- ◆ Canvases (Value Packs)
- ◆ Paints & Brushes
- ◆ Ear Buds & Headphones

## **Women's Gifts:**

- ◆ Candles
- ◆ Nail Sets
- ◆ Body Care Sets (Body Wash, Lotion, Spray)

## **Men's Gifts:**

- ◆ Wallets
- ◆ Tool Sets
- ◆ Body Care Sets (Axe, Adidas, Old Spice)

## **Money for Gift Cards & Food**

### **Visit Doorstep's Walmart Christmas Registry:**

<https://bit.ly/doorstepchristmas2024>

Purchase gifts directly from our registry!

### **Visit Doorstep's Amazon Wish List:**

<https://a.co/ff4EokG>

Purchase gifts directly from our list!

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Opportunities from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am – 1:30pm, 1:30pm – 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Opportunities available from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

## **Call Doorstep (785) 357-5341 to sign up & help during distribution week!**



Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan).  
Christmas Donation hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm thru Dec. 13th.

You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website:  
[DoorstepTopeka.org](http://DoorstepTopeka.org) under the Donate Tab.



# Drive Through Living Nativity

First Lutheran Church  
Huntoon & Fairlawn

December 8, 2024  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December)  
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

