

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Tidings

2025

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

February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
EVERY SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL DOWNSTAIRS IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP.						1				
 10:15 am Hymn Sing-Along  Bring food for Doorstep 10:30 am Worship Town Hall Meeting during coffee hour	2	3	9:00 am Quilters	4	5	6	7	8		
9:30-10:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Doorstep "Souper Bowl" Sunday	9	10	9:00 am Quilters	11	12	13	 Valentine's Day	14	15	8:30 am LFACT Fiber Arts Workshop
Bods Feeding Bods oral hygiene collection for Washburn Campus Ministry										
2 pm PFLAG meeting			5:30 pm Council							
9:30 am Community Relations committee mtg 10:30 am Worship	16	17	9:00 am Quilters	18	19	20	21	22		
Bods Feeding Bods oral hygiene collection for Washburn Campus Ministry										
	6 pm Stroke Support Group									
9:45-10:15 Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Pr. Barb's last day	23	24	9:00 am Quilters	25	26	27	28			
Bods Feeding Bods oral hygiene collection for Washburn Campus Ministry										
			7 pm TLHA							Coming up March 5th: Ash Wednesday



Pastor's Letter

The Helmet Message

My husband loves football AND our KC Chiefs are a huge drawing card for me, so wanting to spend time with Jon and cheer on our local team, I've been watching a lot of football lately. I know enough about the game to understand the general play, cheering for those "1st and 10s" and face-palming at the fumbles! But not one steeped in all the statistical history of the teams and individual players, I'll admit, my 'football focus' often wanders: – "How do they actually get those camera shots? Do they get new helmets, shoes, etc. for each game? Somebody has to do all the laundry!! Cleaning those stadiums is a HUGE task!! Who is he actually talking to in that headset mic?" Yes, I notice things other than the football plays. Lately I've noticed something that makes me smile . . . on the back of many of the helmets of many different teams, I see the words "CHOOSE LOVE". Wow! I have to believe I'm not the only one who has noticed this, and that gives me SO MUCH HOPE! That in the midst of this highly marketed, much loved, commercialized and over-paid sport, the call to "CHOOSE LOVE" is subtle, yet very loud and clear!

Many of you recall the same song that this "helmet message" brings to my mind – *"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"* – yes? *So many campfires, Sunday School openings, youth group meetings we sang this song, so simple, so profound and exactly what Jesus has called us to do – LOVE.*

"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that our unity will one day be restored. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Christians following Jesus LOVE as Jesus taught us to LOVE. . . "proclaiming good news to the poor, liberation for captives, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed" (Luke 4:14-18)

And how do we do this? Jesus invites hearers – then and now – to participate in the in-breaking of God's Kingdom of love and justice. Not only as we gather to worship and

give thanks to God, but also as we participate in God's healing, renewing, and liberating activity as a people called, equipped, and sent to be the body of Christ in the world. We go beyond the walls, stepping outside of the box, erasing the lines that divide us!

The author, educator, and pastor Howard Thurman drives this reality home in his book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Thurman, whose writings and sermons provided the spiritual and theological foundation for the modern Civil Rights Movement in the United States, insisted that *the Church must follow Jesus out into the world and not merely worship Christ*. To follow Jesus is to move beyond the comfort and security of the familiar, to move beyond our privilege and prejudices, as we follow where Jesus goes – among the poor, the broken in spirit, people hungering for healing, and our neighbors crying out for justice.

This biblical mandate is difficult. Many of us enjoy lives of privilege. We are wealthy, well-fed, and benefit from worldly power structures and systems. The gospels all reveal the ways that Jesus repeatedly challenges worldly powers and principalities that oppress, dehumanize, and exploit God's beloved children. And like it or not, it is a lived response that all the baptized are called, equipped, and sent out to follow (see "Responsibilities of Holy Baptism," ELW 228).

How then, do we overcome our resistance and reluctance to follow the Way of Jesus? The 'helmet message' – CHOOSE LOVE – the pure, steadfast, and abundant love that Jesus embodies and pours out on the cross for the world (John 3:16-17). And it is this love that Jesus invites us to tap into and experience as we reorient our ways of being, doing, and acting in the world.

"We will work with each other, we will work side by side. We will work with each other, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Follow the 'helmet message'!
In Christ's Love, Pastor Barb



FEBRUARY READINGS

February 2 — Presentation of Our Lord or Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10
- Hebrews 2:14-18
- Luke 2:22-40

Or

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Luke 4:21-30

February 9 — Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

- Isaiah 1:1-13
- Psalm 138
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Luke 5:1-11

February 16 — Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- Psalm 1
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
- Luke 6:17-26

February 23 — Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

- Genesis 45:3-11, 15
- Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
- Luke 6:27-38

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Collin Horton
- 6 Marcy Carlson
- 16 Jane Lewis
- 19 Howard Reece
- 23 Loretta Hoerman
- 24 Erin Lewis
- 26 Brayden Winsor

BAPTISMS

- 10 Martha Nemeth
- 18 Troy Pomeroy
- 20 Brett Henry

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Sam & Charlotte Blenden

If you ordered poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service and have not yet paid for them, please do so soon. Thanks!



Town Hall Meeting

Trinity's 3rd Town Hall Meeting will be February 2, 2025.

Please plan to attend this important meeting as we move forward in the decision-making process. Your questions, suggestions, and prayers are needed.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 14, 2025

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

- A third repair on the elevator resulted in a new invoice. Donations are needed to cover this payment. Elevator is now operational.
- A procedure for processing & securing offerings collected on Sunday mornings was approved.
- Town Hall meeting scheduled for Jan. 26, was postponed until Feb. 2 and will be held during coffee hour.

- Inclement weather plan will be developed further.
- Pr. Barb shared a new Covenant for her services as our Bridge Pastor. She will conclude her time with us on Feb. 23.
- A task force (Bob Kobbeman, Bob Horton & Carol Marker) has been appointed to explore options moving forward such as future uses of our property.

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.



“DIVERSE IN CULTURE, NATION, RACE, WE COME TOGETHER BY YOUR GRACE”

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.
 God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.
 God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.
 Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for power that separates.
 When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
 Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.
 God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,
 where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947, 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.



Food Donation for Doorstep = Food for Our Neighbors

We are off to a great start with our Doorstep food collection, even though the snow made things a bit difficult. We had a few members donate money, taking us up on doing the shopping. We are loving that we are all doing what we can, in the ways that work best for each of us, to help our neighbors!

We delivered 327 items totaling 268.1 pounds of food.

Stay warm!

Bob and Janeen

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet Sunday, February 9, the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. We will study the second lesson for that day that the lector will read during worship, First Corinthians 15:1-11. Join us in Trinity Hall Lounge at 9:30.

Children’s Sunday school will meet on February 23.

WU CAMPUS MINISTRY

Once again this semester, Trinity is collecting oral hygiene items for the *Bods Feeding Bods* pantry. Be on the lookout for good buys and sales of toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, dental floss, floss picks, etc.

Beginning February 9th, please drop your donations in the WU box by the east entrance. Steve Luoma and Debbie Pomeroy will deliver to campus at the end of February. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



Elevator Repair

Thanks to all who have donated to the elevator fund. We have one more invoice for elevator repair, but not enough money in the elevator fund, which will force us to pay from the general fund.

The elevator is now operational.

Elevator fund envelopes are available from the usher. Also, you may mark your check “Elevator Fund” and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Thank you!

LUTHERAN FINE ARTS COUNCIL OF TOPEKA
2025 Fiber Arts Workshop

Memories
Creating & Preserving

Saturday, February 15, 8:30—Noon
Faith Lutheran Church

SW 17th & Gage, Topeka

**Nikaela Zimmerman, Collections Manager,
Kansas Museum of History, will be our speaker**

Small Group Sessions

Nikaela Zimmerman—preservation ideas you can use, plus Q & A
Courtney Ast—preserving pieces of the past through quilts and more
Linda Johnson—repairing damage in woolen garments
Susan Thowe—creating celebrations—what is a “birthday banner”
Kathy Pflaum—antique linens; cleaning and using them
Jan Eitel—making baskets for memorable events

**This workshop is FREE and open to everyone. More information about the
sessions can be found on our website,
Lutheranfineartstopeka.org**

**Please register by sending an email to srthowe@gmail.com and share what
small group sessions you are interested in attending.**

[LWR.ORG/FIRES](https://lwr.org/fires)

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in California are growing every hour as wildfires completely destroy homes and communities. Houses, schools, churches, grocery stores, businesses ... all reduced to ashes.

Our partners at Lutheran World Relief are already preparing a response, including sending LWR Quilts and Kits to affected families. The destruction and need are overwhelming.

Right now, the number one need is financial gifts so that the team at Lutheran World Relief can reach our neighbors as quickly as possible.

HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/fires, by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **FIRES** in the memo line.

Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Designate “**LWR FIRES**” when making your gift and we will rush a gift from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for sharing God’s love with our neighbors when and where they need it most.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

[LWR.ORG/FIRES](https://lwr.org/fires)

Doorstep's 2025
**“SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY” IS
FEBRUARY 9TH**



**BRING
SOUP
AND
CRACKERS**



**TO YOUR FAITH
COMMUNITY
FEBRUARY 7th – 9th
TO HELP STOCK
DOORSTEP'S FOOD
PANTRY!**

Our Goal this year is 5 ton = 10,000 pounds!
We can beat last year's total... Let's Do It!!!



DOORSTEP

FEBRUARY 2025

Happy New Year! First and foremost, thank you to everyone who assisted Doorstep in some way to provide Christmas for 260 households with 822 individuals this past December! We tried to provide each person with an item from their wish list, along with books, board games, health kits, blankets, food for several meals, school supplies, if appropriate, and gift cards.

The year 2024 felt a bit like a repeat of 2023 in many ways! The needs of our neighbors remained at an increased level. We provided over 2,700 food orders in 2024, exceeding the higher number we provided in 2023. Doorstep assisted with over 150,000 pounds of food to feed our neighbors and spent over \$75,000 on food purchases to keep the shelves stocked at Doorstep! Our food budget in two years went from \$6,900 to \$75,000; that is an increase of 1,100%! Doorstep applied for more grants to assist with food purchases and our supporting congregations and individuals stepped up to donate more food, and money so we could buy food in bulk. At this point, we do not expect a big decrease in the need in 2025 and our budget reflects the amount we anticipate having to spend to feed our neighbors in need.

One way to help in the first part of 2025 is by donating towards our annual SouperBowl Sunday's collection of soup and crackers! During the weekend of the Super Bowl (February 7th – 9th) we ask our member congregations to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves. A successful event will keep our soup shelves stocked for a few months, at least!

In 2024, we had a goal of 5,000 pounds, and we received over 8,400 pounds!!!!

“Let’s do it again this year with a new goal of 5 ton = 10,000 pounds of soup and crackers!!”

I cannot stress enough just how thankful and blessed we feel to have the partnership and support of our Mission Members (formerly congregations) as we all work to help our neighbors in need. Of course, our volunteers are an incredibly valuable resource, and Doorstep could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our whole community when Doorstep, and those we help, continues to be inspiring to the work we do!

Blessings,
Lisa Cain, Executive Director

Monique Wyatt died January 22, 2025. Monique and her husband Jack are former members of Trinity. Her obituary may be found at <https://www.cjonline.com/obituaries/phut1069470>.

She is survived by Jack and her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

