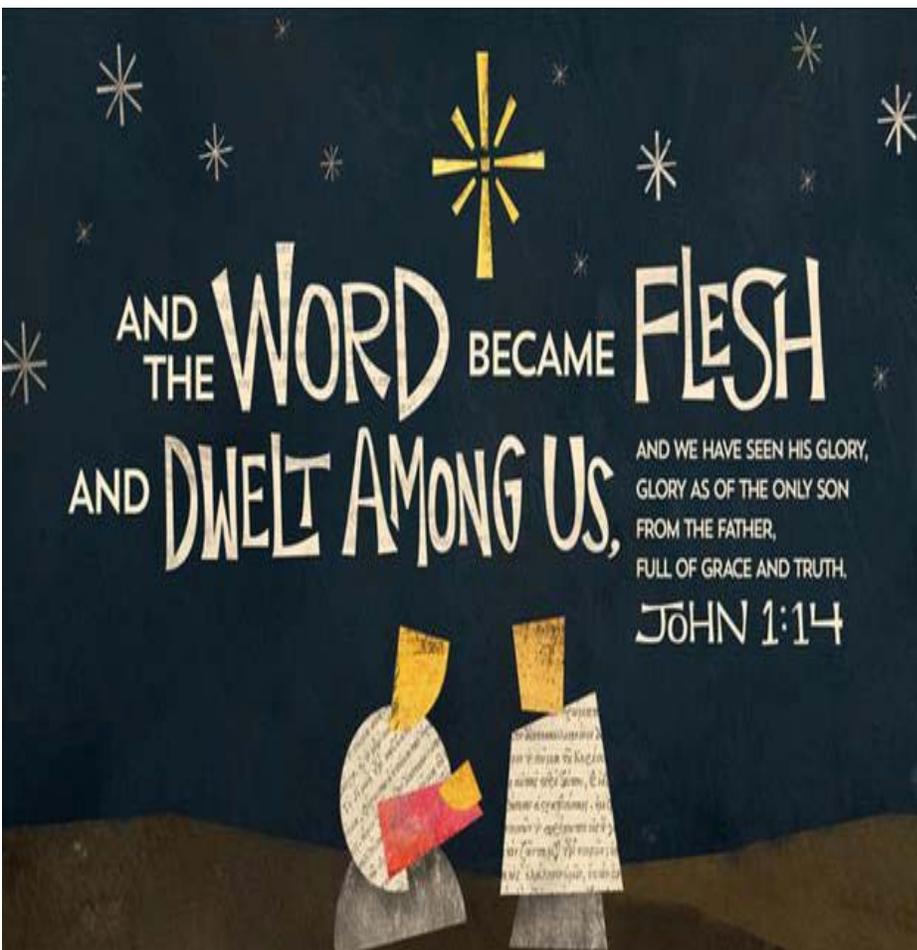


...AND IF YOU CAN KEEP IT FOR A DAY, WHY NOT ALWAYS?

KEEPING CHRISTMAS, HENRY VAN DYKE

## Trinity Lutheran Church



January

4

2026

2nd Sunday of  
Christmas

Together  
in Community

Living  
with Christ

Caring  
for Neighbors

The light  
shines in the  
darkness, and  
the darkness  
did not over-  
take it.

John 1:5

[www.trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://www.trinitylutherantopeka.org)

***We are glad you are here!***  
*It is always good to be together, hearing the Word.*  
*Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.*  
*Thank you, Parker Jackson, for leading worship today.*

**PRELUDE**

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3***

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**GATHERING**

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*All My Heart Again Rejoices*

**ELW 273**

- 1 All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.
- 2 Jesus' voice from lowly manger softly thus calls to us: "You are safe from danger; come and see; from all that grieves you you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

- 3 Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder; love him who with love is yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.
- 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ever cherish; though my breath fail in death, I will never perish: by your side in light eternal I shall be endlessly filled with joy supernal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Please be seated.*



**SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.

<sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

PARKER JACKSON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

ELW 510

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 1 Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending; touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending. Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
- 2 Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation, Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation, saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.
- 3 Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling, Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling, Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919. Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent.  
www.selahpub.com

APOSTLES CREED

P Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day, especially Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, and David McGinnis. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in our lives. Support Kendall Horton as she remembers her baptism. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another with God's peace.*

*Please be seated.*

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## THANKSGIVING

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### OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
- C Amen

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

A O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **C Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

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**SENDING**

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**BLESSING**

P May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant us patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**SENDING HYMN**

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

**ELW 287**

- 1 Let all together praise our God before the highest throne; today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.
- 2 From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small, and lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.
- 3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might; a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
- 4 Your mother feeds you tenderly sings you a lullaby, while angels, hailing\  
David's heir, your glory magnify, your glory magnify.
- 5 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.
- 6 Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL**

A Glory to God in the highest!

**C And peace to God's people on earth.**

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**POSTLUDE**

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Mike & Shelley Andrews would like to invite you to join them for their anniversary reception in honor 50 years of marriage. Please join them today during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. No gifts please, but please come willing to share your memories. Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY	
Today, Jan. 4	Doorstep Food Collection Day
	Hymn Sing Along 10:15 AM
	Worship 10:30 AM
	Mike & Shelley Andrews 50th Wedding Anniversary 11:30
	Congregational Life meeting Noon
Mon., Jan. 6	Quilters 9:00 AM
Wed., Jan. 7	Annual Report deadline
Thurs., Jan. 8	Church Council meeting 5:30 PM
Sun., Jan. 11	Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM
	Worship 10:30 AM
	PFLAG meeting 2:00 PM

Worship Assistants								
Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Worship Leader	Coffee Hosts
Jan. 4	Braxdon Penry	Marcy Carlson, Curt Lewis	Laurie Jackson	Steve Luoma	Janice Greenlee & Team 2	Ted Murphy	Parker Jackson	
Jan. 11	Brayden Winsor	Dean McGinnis, Duane Pomeroy		Shelley Andrews	Janice Greenlee & Team 2	Marcy Carlson	Curt Lewis	



**ANNUAL MEETING** Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2026, immediately after worship. If you are involved with any committees, please begin preparing your report to be included in the annual report. Thank you!

Congregation Council at its Dec. 9th meeting recommended approval of Constitution updates as approved at the 2024 Churchwide Assembly. This action will bring our constitution in line with changes made at Churchwide. These updates will be presented for a vote to approve at our Annual Meeting January 18, 2026.





## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Website: [trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://trinitylutherantopeka.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

**Together in Community**

**Living with Christ**

**Caring for Neighbors**

### **Caring for Our Neighbors**

Jesus commands us that when we care for the least of these; that we are in the presence of Christ (*Matthew 25:44-45*). As a congregation, we deeply care about serving those in need in our community. We hope to be a place of refuge and support for our neighborhood and to be a place to uplift those people that struggle around us. We also support ministries both local, national, and global as a church in the ELCA. As a congregation, we focus our efforts to partner with community organizations like Doorstep, while expanding opportunities to help our neighborhood through activities like our food ministry and community garden. We continue to be open to the ways that God calls us to be a presence in our community and to create a world where all are cared for in our society (*Philippians 2:4*).

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**President** Diane Bottorff

**Vice-President** Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

**Secretary** Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Shelley Andrews (Administration)

Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)

Parker Jackson (TBD)

Steve Luoma (Administration)

Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

**Treasurer** Bob Kobbeman