

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

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*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will not overcome it.*

John 1:5

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

In January the days begin to expand, lengthen, and stretch. There is more daylight, less darkness. The cold of winter seems less bleak when the sun is shining. We spend so much time trying to escape the darkness - the darkness of the night, the darkness of our lives, the darkness of our hearts. We are quick to turn on the lamp, the gas logs, the leftover Christmas lights, the overhead lights. We light candles, reach for a flashlight. We will go to great lengths to avoid the darkness. The darkness frightens us.

But, what if God is trying to use the darkness to teach us, to heal us, to bless us? What if, in the darkness, God is saying, "Please. Come. Closer"? What if the darkness is an invitation from God to sit, to be still, to settle and be attentive to our hearts, the world, and God's hopes and dreams for us?

The poet saint, Mary Oliver, writes, "Attentiveness is the root of all prayer." Perhaps the darkness is an opportunity to be attentive, to pay attention to the little things, the daily rituals of our lives. Perhaps the darkness is an invitation to savor that early morning cup of coffee, to gather by the fire with a book, to relish the moments of quiet and solitude. And just maybe those moments of peace and quiet become prayers - silent, reverent communication with God. How would our lives change if we stopped fearing the darkness, if we actually embraced the darkness, if we tried to learn from the darkness, to learn in the darkness?

These days of January are a time to be attentive. Thanks to the hope and promise of vaccines, we have every reason to be hopeful and expectant about the future. But before we leave the darkness of pandemic life, let us rest in the darkness, let us learn everything we can about ourselves and the world from this place of fear and darkness. Before we race headlong into the light, the life we are so eager to embrace, let us use these long hours of darkness to pray, to reflect, to meditate, to heal, to become the person God is calling us to be. In the darkness, may you come to see, to really see, and value the light of Christ shining on you and on the world.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At the December meeting of the Congregation Council, the council:

- welcomed newly elected members of Congregation Council including Campbell Balck, Wynne Boliek, Heather Fanning, Debbie Farstad, Melissa Kolb, and Richard Moose and expressed gratitude to Terry Batts, Susan Burton, Amanda Mast, Stephen Troutman, Philip Wessinger, and Mac Wannemacher whose terms expire at the end of December;
- noted that expenses for November were \$27,129 less than projected;
- learned that the work on the organ and the columbarium continues;
- received a report from Trinity's COVID19 Transition Team;
- specified a portion of Pastor Crowell's salary and Pastor Parham's salary to be designated as Housing Allowance in 2021;
- authorized the Executive Committee and staff to appoint committee members and lay assistants for 2021; and
- elected the following officers for 2021: Donna Potts, Vice-President; Richard Moose, Treasurer; and Heather Kleckley, Secretary.

JANUARY WORSHIP

Sunday morning services will be premiered at 10:00 am on January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.



DRIVE-THROUGH EVENT/COMMUNION BREAD DISTRIBUTION

A Drive-Through event will be held on Sunday, January 24 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the red canopy door entrance. Non-perishable food items will be collected for our neighbors at Towers East as well as for local food pantries. Communion bread will also be distributed. Please join us for this opportunity to connect with each other.

GUEST PREACHER AT TRINITY

On Sunday, January 24, Trinity will welcome Luke Delasin as our guest preacher. After completing his internship at Trinity, Luke is now completing his final year of seminary and will be interviewing for a call early in the new year.

GIVING TO TRINITY

Please help us to continue to shine the love and light of Christ into our community and world by supporting Trinity's ministry through your regular giving and special offerings. Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256 or by following the *Online Giving* link on the homepage of our website, www.trinitylutheran.ws. Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 N. Main St., Greenville, SC 29601. Please contact Kay Cook in the Church Office if interested in signing up for automatic bank draft.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a program offered by Trinity to help eighth and ninth graders explore their faith before they choose to affirm their baptism and become an adult member of the congregation. Students and their parents attend classes and workshops over the two years where they participate in study and discussion of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian.

Because of COVID, our format and schedule has changed significantly. Until it is safe to meet in person, classes will be held via ZOOM. Potential participants received print and email brochures about the program, and any additional questions should be directed to Deacon Amy Brown at the Church Office.

Sunday, January 24, 12:30 on ZOOM: Bible Event
Sunday, February 21, 12:30 on ZOOM: Catechism Event
Sunday, March 14, 12:30 on ZOOM: Worship Event
Over the summer: Family Service Event
Sunday, September 19, 12:30 on ZOOM: We Are Lutheran Event
Sunday, October 24, 12:30 on ZOOM: Ninth Grade Ready to Affirm Event
Reformation Sunday, October 31: Confirmation of Ninth Graders

FAITH FORMATION

TLC Kids is our Faith Formation venue for Trinity children in preschool and elementary school. It meets on Zoom on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 9:45 am. The gathering includes video, Bible stories and learning activities. The Zoom invite is emailed out each week, and the recorded event is posted in our private FB group weekly to be viewed at any time. For more information, contact Deacon Amy Brown at the Church Office.

Adult Faith Formation begins with Coffee and Conversation at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM on Sunday mornings, followed by a discussion oriented class. The class ends by 9:45, so participants can be ready for worship. In January, the class will continue their discussions of current events using the FaithLink curriculum. All adults are invited to join the ZOOM meeting. Contact Deacon Amy Brown at the Church Office to be included on the email list.

LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH

Youth in grades 6 through 8 will meet at 5:00 pm and youth in grades 9 through 12 will meet at 6:30 pm on Sundays January 10, 24 and 31 in the Multipurpose Room. Masks must be worn the entire time, so youth should eat before or after attending. The events are each limited to 8 youth & a weekly RSVP is required.



Lutheran Church Youth



CONGREGATION BOOK DISCUSSION

As we search for peace, contentment, and hope in our lives, our community, and our nation, all members and friends of Trinity are invited to read Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Discussion groups will be hosted by Pastor Crowell in Rooms 12 and 13 on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm and on Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 am. In order to keep everyone safe, participants will wear masks and each group is limited to eight participants. Please contact the Church Office to reserve your space.

THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE

Theology Roundtable is a group that meets several times a month to discuss theology and faith. In January the group will meet Sundays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 at 4:00 pm. Currently the group is discussing the book *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join this group, which is meeting by ZOOM, please contact Peggy Schotsch at schotsch@bellsouth.net.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday evening, January 7 at 6:30 pm by ZOOM. Participants will continue their study of the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. Contact Terry Morgan at 230-6252 or tfmorgan101@gmail.com for the ZOOM invite.

LAUNCH GROUP

LAUNCH is Trinity's Young Adults Group for people in their 20s to early 30s. The group will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm. Contact Mandi Whitley with questions.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>6:30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP VIA ZOOM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p> <p>12:15 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>6:30 CONGREGATION BOOK DISCUSSION IN PERSON 7:00 LAUNCH VIA ZOOM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>9:30 CONGREGATION BOOK DISCUSSION IN PERSON</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>6:30 WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION IN PERSON</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thanks to all who have contributed to the hymn recording projects for Christmas Eve and December 27, and to all our singers who have led the songs of our recording sessions.

Adult Choir rehearsals continue to be on hiatus during the pandemic. Members will continue to gather for social zoom meetings on a schedule worked out each week among the members.

Handbell Choir will continue to rehearse in their three pods with the schedule worked out each week with the ringers.

Youth and Children Choirs continue to be in hiatus during the pandemic.

JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION

During January Trinity is collecting non-perishable food items to help our neighbors at Towers East and to stock local food pantries. Items of special need include:

Peanut Butter

Canned Meat

Canned Fruit

Dried Beans

Rice

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Canned Vegetables

Individually packages snack items

Toilet Paper

Donations to support this effort will be collected at the red canopy door on Sunday afternoon, January 24 from 4:00 to 5:00. Items may also be brought to the breezeway, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION

Women of the congregation are invited to read Charles Mackery's book The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse and gather at Trinity on Thursday, January 21 at 6:30 pm in Rooms 12 and 13 for a discussion facilitated by Pastor Crowell. In order to keep everyone safe, participants will wear masks and the group is limited to eight participants. Please contact the Church Office to reserve your space.

BONHOEFFER: PASTOR, MARTYR, PROPHET, SPY

Adults are invited to join in a four week ZOOM study of Bonhoeffer beginning in January. The study is based on the book *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxis. The study will include the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today. This study will include video filmed on location in Germany. Deacon Amy Brown will lead the study, which will meet via ZOOM at 7 pm on Monday evenings January 11, 18, 25 and February 1. To sign up, contact the Church Office.

MORNING COFFEE GROUPS

On Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27, a member of Trinity's Pastoral and Program Staff will host a coffee hour at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. All participants must pre-register through the Church Office. Each gathering is limited to eight participants to insure safe distancing. Each participant should wear a mask and bring their coffee. The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, January 6 - Deacon Amy Brown
- Wednesday, January 13 - Deacon Mandi Whitley
- Wednesday, January 20 - Pastor Susan Crowell
- Wednesday, January 27 - Pastor Jim Parham

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group meets in the Gym on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. several times a month. They make quilts which are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Participants do not need to know how to sew in order to assemble quilts. Willing volunteers who can cut fabric, iron, thread a needle or tie knots are welcome. Work is usually finished around noon, and participants can work as little - or as long - as they would like. There are also at-home sewing opportunities for those who cannot make it to the gatherings.

The group will meet on Mondays, January 4, 11, 18, and 25. In order to comply with safety issues, the group is limited to 10 persons, and participants must wear masks at all times. To reserve a spot, contact Sarah Weeks at sweeks14@charter.net or 864-787-1160.

ITEMS NEEDED for the quilt ministry include cotton or mostly cotton fabric, and sheets. Colored sheets are used for the backing on the quilts. Sheets can be new or very gently used. The preferred size is twin flat, in all colors except white or cream. Larger sheets are acceptable and can be cut down to size. Donations for this ministry can be brought to the Church Office.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 3</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p>	<p>9:30 QUILTERS - IN PERSON 4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 10</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM 5:00 LCY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PERSON 6:00 LCY HIGH SCHOOL IN PERSON</p>	<p>9:30 QUILTERS - IN PERSON 11</p> <p>7:00 BONHOEFFER STUDY VIA ZOOM</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 17</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>7:00 BONHOEFFER STUDY VIA ZOOM</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 24</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>12:30 CONFIRMATION BIBLE EVENT VIA ZOOM 1:30 OUTREACH COMMITTEE VIA ZOOM</p> <p>4:00 DRIVE-THROUGH EVENT AND COMMUNION BREAD DISTRIBUTION 4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM</p> <p>5:00 LCY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PERSON 6:00 LCY HIGH SCHOOL IN PERSON</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:15 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>7:00 BONHOEFFER STUDY VIA ZOOM 7</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 31</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM 5:00 LCY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PERSON 6:00 LCY HIGH SCHOOL IN PERSON</p>		

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Greg Alley - January 12
Craig Anderson - January 8
Danny Baker - January 19
Chuck Ballew - January 11
Kris Ballew - January 12
John Beckford - January 21
Maggie Boliek - January 10
Rowan Brown - January 2
Hillari Cantrell - January 13
James Crawford - January 11
Pastor Susan Crowell - January 19
Ben Davis - January 31
Richard Delap - January 10
Paul Dillon - January 16
Diane Drummond - January 19
Brad Fanning - January 1
Jennifer Fenske - January 11
McKenzie Fletcher - January 4
Fiona Forde - January 18
Liam Forde - January 12
Rachel Gifford - January 1
Rachel Haltiwanger - January 22
Anne Harmon - January 27
Amy Hegarty - January 21

Stephen Henderson - January 5
Ray Huber - January 8
Steve Kirk - January 13
Leila James Kolb January 23
Bob Kressler - January 26
Lewis Larson - January 20
Lani Ludian - January 27
Ann Malphrus - January 16
Kylee Mast - January 17
Adaline McCormack - January 7
Ben McCormack - January 7
Samantha Mosher - January 31
Hannah Raynes - January 10
Anna Haven Rice - January 20
Jeff Roth - January 25
Peyton Roth - January 24
Kerry Sease - January 28
David Troutman - January 4
Delany Wannemacher - January 17
Stan Wingard - January 11
Chloe Wood - January 29
Leigh Wood - January 10



BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets regularly to discuss books of all genres. The next meeting will be on February 18 to discuss *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Other upcoming selections include *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel on April 15, *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger on June 17, and *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis on August 19. Email Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws to receive a ZOOM invite to the meetings.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY

Lay Assistants

January 3

Philip Wessinger
Lisa Rehm

January 10

John Otten
Ryann Roth

January 17

Mark Allen
Jennifer Morrefield

January 14

Steve Boguski
Ann DiAntonio

January 31

David Crigler
Melissa Kolb

Assisting Ministers

January 3

Richard Moose

January 10

Deacon Mandi Whitley

January 31

Deacon Amy Brown

NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

A few weeks following the holidays are being taken to regroup and revision this important and meaningful ministry with our neighbors at Towers East. Trinity will host an event on Wednesday, January 13. Plans for the first half of the year will be announced soon.

PRAYER GROUP

Even though the prayer group is not meeting in person, they are praying at home. Any prayer requests may be emailed to Merry Mulcahy at marmulcahy@icloud.com or Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com.

COLUMBARIUM CONSTRUCTION

During the construction of the columbarium, the breezeway doors on the red canopy side of the building will not be in use. Visitors to the Church Office should access the building via the lot adjacent to the playground and accessible via Townes Street.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Kelly Crowe - Discharged
Marilyn Koerber - Discharged
Eddie Woodward - Discharged

DEATHS

the father of Greg Hamluk

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

	<u>12/6</u>	<u>12/13</u>	<u>12/20</u>	<u>12/24</u>	<u>12/27</u>
Onsite	5	5	5	9	5
Online devices	<u>421</u>	<u>490</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>943</u>	<u>556</u>
TOTAL	426	495	565	952	561
Midweek	<u>12/2</u>	<u>12/9</u>	<u>12/16</u>	<u>12/23</u>	
Onsite	4	4	4	4	
Online devices	<u>187</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>315</u>	
TOTAL	191	200	318	319	

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

(DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 26)

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$96,186	\$1,154,232
Given to Budget	<u>\$120,300</u>	<u>\$1,022,673</u>
Difference	\$24,114	\$(131,559)
PPP Loan Proceeds		\$ 122,837
Given to World Hunger	\$1,603	\$26,673

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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