

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

January 2024

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*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the magi and the princes are back home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among people, and to make music in the heart.
Howard Thurman, "The Work of Christmas"*

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

As the Christmas Season comes to a close and we begin the season of light, the season of Epiphany, Howard Thurman reminds us that the work of Christmas begins now. Now is the time to love and care for our neighbor, to mend what is broken, to bring healing and wholeness to those who have suffered injury (especially those wounded by the church), to create safe spaces of nurture and affirmation for more people, to build bridges, and to destroy barriers that separate us from one another.

How shall you muster the strength and energy for this work? How will you unleash the good news of Christ's birth into the world in this Season of Epiphany? How will you inspire others to join us in God's call to extend the gifts of welcome, hospitality, and belonging to more and more people? What will be your intention for the year? Will you be guided and grounded in kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness, mercy, peace, or joy? Will you strive to be more trusting, more faithful, more hopeful? Will you practice stillness and silence? Will you try to understand others, to extend grace to yourself, to your family, to all those whose paths you cross? How will you lean into the work of Christmas? How will you share the good news of God's love in Christ with more and more people, with those who are a part of our community as well as with those who do not yet know that they are looking for us?

As we move into January, these days of winter, this time of epiphany and new beginnings, may the light and love of Christ shine brightly in and through you inspiring you to unleash Christ's love and light into the world.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At their December meeting, the Congregation Council..

- welcomed newly elected members Danny Fagala, Lindsay Hawkins, Deirdre Hixson, Donna Potts, Jeff Rehm, and Jenna Mast;
- learned that the listing of the 429 Property with Reedy Property Group is progressing;
- designated housing allowances for both Pastor Parham and Pastor Crowell;
- authorized the Executive Committee and staff to appoint 2024 committees and lay assistants;
- elected Lani Wise to serve as the Vice-President, elected Donna Potts to serve as the Secretary, and elected Mike Boliek to serve as the Treasurer;
- noted that the next council meeting will take place on Sunday, January 21 at 1:30 pm;
- agreed that the council members and officers will be installed on Sunday, January 21 at the 10:00 am worship service in the Sanctuary; and
- expressed gratitude to outgoing council members for their faithful service and leadership to include Wynne Boliek, Heather Fanning, Debbie Farstad, Melissa Kolb, Richard Moose, and Peyton Roth.

PASTORAL INTERNSHIP

Beginning in January, 2024 and extending for eighteen months, Patrick Preacher is serving as Pastoral Intern at Trinity. Patrick will continue serving in his role as Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator with the additional responsibilities of serving in other areas of pastoral ministry to include preaching on a regular basis, visitation, as well as other areas of ministry. While on internship, Patrick will also be enrolled in two classes per semester in the Collaborative Learning Program at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. These classes will be online. Patrick will spend a week in residence at Wartburg in both January and September to meet the requirements of the program.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

After twenty-eight years of ministry at Trinity, Deacon Amy Brown is stepping away from the daily demands and responsibilities of her position as Director of Educational Ministries during the months of January, June, and July for a three-month sabbatical. Deacon Amy is devoting her time to rest, renewal, and refreshment with the intent of returning to Trinity with renewed energy and passion for ministry. All arrangements for educational leadership will be made by Deacon Amy in advance of these times away. Please remember Deacon Amy Brown in your prayers as she begins this intentional time of rest and renewal that will be a benefit to both Amy and to Trinity.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir rehearses in the Choir Room on the second floor of the Pence Building on Wednesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm. In January the choir will rehearse on January 10, 17, 24 and 31. Each Sunday, the group gathers at 9:30 am in the Choir Room for a brief rehearsal and warm-up. For 10:00 am worship, the choir assembles in the balcony or around the piano in the Gym to support and strengthen congregational singing and to offer special choral music aimed at drawing minds, emotions, and imaginations more deeply into God's word.



Handbell Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, and 31, from 6:00 to 6:45 pm in the Handbell Rehearsal Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. If interested in ringing this season, please e-mail Pastor Parham at the e-mail address below.

The enrichment of instrumental music in worship is welcome. If interested in sharing instrumental skills in worship, please contact Pastor Parham at 864-242-5702 or jparham@trinitylutheran.ws.

GIVING TO TRINITY



Trinity is grateful for all the prayers, contributions, and displays of support from members, friends, and guests. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to trinitylutheran.ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 7

Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the back of the Gym.

January 14

Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn.

January 21

Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Installation of Council Members and Officers of the Congregation
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn.

January 28

Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Guest Colby Martin preaching
Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the back of the Gym.

CONGREGATIONAL BAPTISMAL CELEBRATION



Children, Youth, and Adults are invited to gather for a

Congregational Baptismal Celebration

Sunday, January 7, 2024

11:30 am

in the Multipurpose Room

A lunch of chicken alfredo, salad, and dessert will be provided
as well as activities to remember and celebrate
God's naming and claiming us as God's beloved, precious, baptized children.

Please reach out to the Church Office to register.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Trinity Children (Kindergarten through grade 5) will gather on Sunday, January 21 to kick off the new year together. The group will enjoy lunch and participate in a bible lesson, activities, and games focused on a new year and new beginnings. The group will meet in the Youth Room after worship and pick up is at 1:00 pm.

Trinity Youth will gather on January 21 to kick off a monthly event to prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. All youth are invited to attend. These monthly events will center around the youth gathering theme, *Created to Be*, and will provide the opportunity for all youth to build relationships and grow in their faith. The theme is centered on Psalm 139:14 - "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." The group will meet from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm in the Youth Room for dinner, lessons, and activities. The dates for this monthly event are January 21, February 11, March 10, April 21, May 19, and June 9.



NURSERY FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP



A nursery is available during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday morning, whether the congregation is worshipping in the Sanctuary or the Gym. Practices and protocols follow all DHEC recommendations for daycare centers. All staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated and are trained and approved in Trinity's Child Protection Policy. A copy of the updated guidelines can be obtained through the Church Office.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation for Children

Children are invited to leave worship after the children's sermon to hear the scripture readings in ways more appropriate to them. Using the lectionary stories heard in worship each Sunday, the children sing and listen to the scripture or a related book and enjoy an activity related to the theme of the day. The children return to worship in time to share the peace and participate in communion.

Faith Formation for Youth

Youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to stay after worship once a month for Lunch and Learn, a time for fellowship building and faith formation lessons and activities. In January, the group will meet on Sunday, January 28.

Faith Formation for Adults

An adult faith formation class meets at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. During the month of January, Trinity member Pastor David Hill will lead the class. Using the writings of Martin Luther, this 4 session class on prayer will help participants focus on their gentle relationship to God. The class ends in time for worship at 10:00 am. Those interested in participating in the class via Zoom should contact Kay Cook for sign-in information.

NEW MEMBER CLASS AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Crowell will be teaching a new member class via Zoom for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of joining Trinity. These classes will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 pm on Mondays, February 26 and March 4 via Zoom.

Please reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws to register to attend these classes or to let her know that you would like to join the Trinity family. New members will be received on Sunday, March 10 at the 10:00 am worship service.



HISTORY READING GROUP

Please join the Trinity Lutheran Church History Reading Group to discuss selected topics based on historical nonfiction books. The group will meet on Sunday, January 14 at 3:00 pm in Rooms 12 and 13. The group will discuss *The Fall of the house of Dixie: The Civil War and the social revolution that transformed the South* by Bruce Levine. Contact David Hill at jdhillnc50@gmail.com or (704) 307-0520 or Don Todd at dktodd47@gmail.com or (803) 517-8129 for more information.

GREENVILLE ORGANIZED FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

All GOAL network members and anyone passionate about justice work in the community should make plans to attend a gathering at Trinity on Monday, February 12 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. This event will help prepare Trinity members and friends for the Nehemiah Action event on Monday, April 15 at 6:30 pm at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 4 Harrison Bridge Road, Simpsonville.

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 7 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 11:30 BAPTISMAL CELEBRATION	8 9:30 QUILTING GROUP	9 10:30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 14 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 9:30 SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 3:00 HISTORY READING GROUP	15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	16
THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 21 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 11:30 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 1:30 CONGREGATION COUNCIL 5:30 YOUTH MINISTRY	22 9:30 QUILTING GROUP	23
FOURTH SUNAY OF EPIPHANY 28 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 11:30 YOUTH FAITH FORMATION	29 9:30 QUILTING GROUP	30

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

3

4

5

6

6:30 QUEER-LED WORSHIP IN THE GYM

10

11

12

13

6:30 AM MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP

6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR

7:00 ADULT CHOIR

17

18

19

20

6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR

7:00 ADULT CHOIR

6:30 LOVE WINS

24

25

26

27

11:30 WELCOME TABLE

6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR

7:00 ADULT CHOIR

4:00 QUEER YOUTH EVENT

31

6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR

7:00 ADULT CHOIR

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all who continue to contribute to the Food Pantry. In addition to regular items, the pantry is in special need of canned meats, toilet paper, and canned vegetables. All are encouraged to bring donations to worship. A volunteer will be stationed at the Red Canopy Door from 9:30 to 10:00 am on the second Sunday of each month to assist in unloading donations. Upcoming date is January 14. The following items are most needed: dried beans (16 oz), peanut butter (16 oz), cereal, canned fruit, rice (2 lb bag), pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, individually packaged snack items, and toilet paper. Your support and love is greatly appreciated. If interested in volunteering to collect items during the Sunday Food Drives, please contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws



BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets in the Parlor on the third Thursday every other month at 7:00 pm to discuss books of all genres. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15. The group will discuss the book *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. The group will also select additional books for 2024.



QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group typically meets in the Activities Building on Mondays at 9:30 am to make quilts which are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. In January the group will meet on January 8, 22, and 28. No sewing experience is needed. For questions about this group contact Sarah Weeks at sweeks14@charter.net or 864-787-1160.



QUILTING GROUP

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
John Beckford - January 21
Maggie Boliek - January 10
Roger Brown - January 17
Rowan Brown - January 2
Joe Campbell - January 9
Hillari Cantrell - January 13
Mary Cantrell - January 5
Pastor Susan Crowell - January 19
Richard Delap - January 10
Brad Fanning - January 1
Della Finnern - January 29

Rachel Gifford - January 1
Anne Harmon - January 27
Jackie Jowers - January 23
Leila James Kolb - January 23
Lani Ludian - January 27
Kylee Mast - January 17
Adaline McCormack - January 7
Ben McCormack - January 7
Ava McNeice - January 9
Norris Morgan - January 13
Melissa Roberts - January 5
Jeff Roth - January 25
Peyton Roth - January 24



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Women's Bible Study



and Fellowship Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. The group usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month. All women are invited to attend on January 9 (the second Tuesday) at 10:30 am in Rooms 12 and 13. The group is discussing the book *Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. Contact Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com for additional information.

MEN'S REFLECTION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Men's Fellowship

A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 am to 7:30 am in the Church Parlor. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Upcoming meeting dates include January 10 and February 14.

PRAYING FOR POSSIBILITIES

Praying for Possibilities is a program at Trinity dedicated to praying for the ministries of the congregation. Members and friends of the congregation are invited to sign up for a specific week during the year when they are encouraged to pray through the written prayers one time during the course of the assigned week. This ministry requires a small commitment of time with the possibility of tremendous blessing. To ask questions about the ministry or to sign up to participate, please reach out to Beth Bennett-Hill at bethbhnc@yahoo.com or 704-307-0521 or to Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com or 864-230-6252.

January Prayer Volunteers

January 7 -13
Heather Fanning

January 14 - 20
Jeff Rehm

January 21 - 27
David Potts

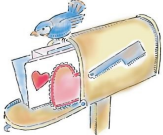
January 28 - February 2
Karen Nichols

THE WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table is so grateful to be partnering with Feed & Seed Company of Greenville to continue serving and connecting with our neighbors. January's meal will take place on Wednesday, January 24 at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. An RSVP is not required to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to come for lunch! If you would specifically like to volunteer, please reach out to Patrick Preacher via text at 864-483-2590.



TLC4TLC



TLC4TLC is for anyone who would like to write notes and cards for members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend worship, as well as for those who are celebrating joys. Interested participants may contact Debbie Farstad at debvars@att.net.

Please join the Trinity Family for a Baby Shower in honor of

Angie and Emily Hager

as they anticipate the birth of their son

Sunday, February 4

11:30 am

following worship in the Gym

The Hagers' registry can be found at

www.babylist.com

Emily and Angie's Baby Registry



QUEER AND JUSTICE MINISTRY



Queer-led Worship: Taize Around the Cross

On Thursday, January 4 worship will begin at 6:30 pm in the Gym. New queer leaders are always welcome. Please email Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws if interested. This service will be live-streamed.

LOVE WINS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Love Wins meets the third Thursday of each month to discuss a book or podcast, have a snack and enjoy fellowship together. The group will meet on Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 pm to discuss the book, *Out at the Plate, the Dot Wilkinson Story*, by Lynn Ames. The group will meet in the Parlor and participants are asked to bring a snack to share. All are invited to attend. Contact Angie McCormack at ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-630-4026 for more information.



QUEER YOUTH EVENT

On Saturday, January 27, in the Activities Building, Trinity will host Queerly Beloved Youth Day. The Queer Ministry and Youth Ministry programs of Trinity are partnering with 864 Pride and Amaryllis Counseling in Greenville to host an all-day event filled with love, affirmation, community-building, and faith formation for LGBTQIA+ and affirming youth ages 12-18. Trinity is especially excited to welcome author of the widely read book *Unclobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*, by Colby Martin. Colby will speak and teach on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 pm, then join Trinity as Guest Preacher for worship on Sunday, January 28. While the event is specifically for youth, absolutely everyone is welcome to attend to hear Colby Martin speak and celebrate God's love for LGBTQIA+ youth. A simple meal will follow at 6:00 pm. Volunteers for the entire day are needed! Please contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws to register as a volunteer. Please register for the event via the Trinity website.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

Death

the mother of Danny Fagala

BAPTISM

Del Harewood and Jess Thomas-Harewood and their children,
Alexia Jaeda, Dan Marley, Nikkai Cesar, and Niko Xander Thomas-Harewood on December 3

HOSPITAL Patients

Mark Allen - Discharged
Ida Blalock - Discharged
Chad Brightwell - Discharged
Patrick Preacher - Discharged
Connie Stieghan - Discharged

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

Sundays	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24
Online devices	246	291	207	204
In Person	<u>159</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>0</u>
	405	428	397	204

Queer-Led Worship on 12/7 - 32 in person, 161online devices

Christmas Eve 3:00 pm - 124 in person, 242 online devices
5:30 pm - 210 in person, 343 online devices

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING FROM DECEMBER 31

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 95,378	\$ 1,144,533
Given to Budget	<u>\$ 109,441</u>	<u>\$ 1,144,426</u>
Difference	\$ 14,063	\$ (107)
Given to World Hunger	\$ 1,410	\$ 18,725

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 North Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601-2090

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT #378
GREENVILLE, SC

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