

# Trinity Steeple Notes

## Epiphany 2021 News and Notes

---



### Dear Family of Trinity,

My heart broke yesterday as I followed the news accounts of violence and terrorism in our nation's capital. No matter our political leanings, such actions are an affront to democracy and to our Christian values. Truth matters. Words matter. Respect for those of differing views and experiences matters. Jesus is clear on all of this and there can be no justification for what happened in Washington or for those who encouraged and supported this travesty or who seek to continue such intimidation. Join me in prayers for our nation, that this scourge may be overcome by the higher values that draw us together as a nation and as human beings.

Epiphany is a season when the church celebrates and watches for the revelation of Christ. In our Sunday readings, we'll encounter healings of the sick, forgiveness of sins, and the commissioning of disciples. The season begins and ends with the voice of God declaring of Jesus, "This is my Son, the Beloved."

Of course, the revelation of Jesus' glory and love is not confined to his thirty years in Galilee. He still reveals himself to us as one who heals our hurts, binds up our brokenness, and calls us to follow him. In the midst of pandemic; in the threat of sedition; in the loss of our routines in worship, family, work, and school, Jesus reveals himself to us in love. He calls us beloved children of God and bids us to follow him as healers, as speakers of the truth, and as people who see God and who love one another even in the most difficult times.



*Continued on page 2...*

# Parish News

---

*(Pastor's letter continued from page 1)*

Our congregational president, Jen Mazur, has blessed the Vestry with a mantra or focus each year. In 2020, it was "Grace and Flexibility." In this year, she is reminding us to "Find the Good." That is not always easy, especially when our hearts are breaking, but by God's grace, the love and goodness of Christ will be revealed to us anew each day. Watch for it and do not despair, for the Lord is with us always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Alan



## Thank You from Dayspring Homes!

We received a thank-you message from Vicki Swain, Director of Development:

The residents of Hillside Home are so grateful for all the Christmas gifts they have received from Trinity. You can view their Christmas program on their website, <https://dayspringhomes.org/>. (Hillside residents sing at the 11:30 mark.)

Thank you for sharing God's Love with our community!



# Parish News

---

## Pandemic Update

Live worship and gatherings are still suspended at Trinity and will remain so until it is safe to gather again. Our protocols for reopening have been publicized and are available by emailing or calling the church office. Until we are together, remember to:



- Worship together online or through our weekly broadcasts.
- Pray for our church, its leaders and our staff.
- Utilize the weekly prayers and devotions that are sent to all members.
- Stay in touch with one another through phone calls, cards, and prayer.
- Join us for Zoom activities – coffee hours, study groups, etc.
- Support Trinity financially.
- Let Pastor Alan know if you'd like to participate as a worship leader by recording from home.
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
- Continue to serve others in Jesus' name as you are able.
- And remember that your church is praying for you and that we miss you!

## Epiphany Coffee Hour - Sunday, January 17 @ 10:00 a.m.

Come gather with Trinity friends to reconnect in the new year. If you would like to join us, please email Deaconess Deborah at [dgraf@trinityreading.org](mailto:dgraf@trinityreading.org) OR call the church office at (610) 374-4861. You will receive a Zoom link prior to Sunday morning. Those without computer access can also join in via telephone (long distance rates may apply.) Please let Deaconess Deborah know if you need help accessing the coffee hour. Our Sunday School children will be joining us, too. (If the group is too big, we will break up into smaller rooms.) BYOD (bring your own donuts.)

# Parish News

---

## Baptisms

We rejoice in the recent baptisms of  
Faye Magnolia Soper on November 29, 2020 and  
Evelyn Josephine Bierly on January 10, 2021.  
May God bless them to grow in faith, love, and service.



## In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of two members of our Trinity family, Anne Richards (d. December 7, 2020) and Ruth Norton (d. December 11, 2020). Hold their families in prayer, asking for God's comfort and the sure and certain hope of everlasting life.

## Bequest

Trinity has received an advance bequest of \$709,000 from the estate of Christine Kauffman. We praise God for Christine's faithfulness in her life and at her death and for her generosity in supporting Trinity's mission and ministry through this legacy.

## ChAOS Resumed on January 10!

Eight youth from Trinity, Christ, and Holy Spirit Lutheran Churches started their winter semester. We gather via Zoom on Sunday nights at 6:30 PM and will be learning about the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Sacraments. Please pray for Katie, Gabriela, Noah, Francesca, Sofia, Edwin, Alex, and Tristin as they study Luther's Small Catechism.

# Parish News

---

## **Richards Family Note of Thanks**

AS IT WAS when we first met at Trinity and Anne was in her twenties with two toddlers

AS IT IS when we experience the pain and grief of loss and separation

AS IT WILL BE by our Easter faith and God's Grace

The Trinity congregation has always been there for the Richards family with your faith active in love. Thank you for your support and consolation in our time of loss!

--Elton, Russell, and David Richards

## **A Note of Appreciation**

As we say good-bye to a most unusual year, 2020, we want to express our appreciation to all members of our Trinity community for keeping us connected to each other.



Through our Trinity media ministry, emails, Steeple Notes, outside services at members' homes and the Trinity courtyard, ZOOM seminars and committee meetings, phone conversations, and prayer, we have reached out to care for one another and to keep our faith alive.

Of course, we look forward with much eagerness to the day when we will be able to worship together, to shake hands and to hug one another. Until that great day arrives, let us continue to reach out to one another, remembering that the Lord God will always take care of us, lift our spirits and help us to feel His love in our lives.

With caring,  
Jerry and Carolyn Holleran

# Parish News

---



## Steeple Notes Publication Schedule

**Lent Steeple Notes** will be published the week of February 7 and will cover the season of Lent through March 21.

**Holy Week & Easter Steeple Notes** will be published the week of March 14 and will cover the remainder of March and the month of April.

**Time sensitive information between publication dates** will continue to be provided by email and US Mail.

## January Vestry Notes

*This is a summary of the Vestry meeting and does not constitute official minutes.*

Trinity's Vestry met January 11 via Zoom. Following an opening meditation by Jen Mazur, protocols were reviewed and affirmed for staff members who may be exposed to or infected by Covid-19. Worship, meetings and other events will continue to be offered remotely for the safety of our members and community; there is a great longing to return to one another in-person. An online Audit Workshop will be offered by the WBMD on January 16. Steve Welz, Erica Hofmann, Franki Aitken and Pastor Alan will attend for Trinity. A proposal to accept placement of a seminary diaconal student for 7-10 hours of weekly field work, pending Synod approval, was approved. Dcs. Deborah would supervise and there would be no cost associated. The Thanksgiving and Christmas services were discussed with much appreciation for all involved. It was decided to forego a second round of Paycheck Protection loans. A new treasurer is needed this Spring to assume office in June. The Treasurer's Report was received for November and we are on track to meet budget in the year-end report.

# Parish News

---

## Yarn Available for Our Knitters and Crocheters

Trinity's Prayer Shawl group has once again been able to buy a significant amount of yarn through a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. With this yarn we hope to make prayer shawls, lap robes, hats, scarves, mittens, etc. to share with members of Trinity or the various community groups that could use them. Conditions of the grant ask that projects be begun between January and April 2021.



During these days of Covid-19 isolation, Prayer Shawl members and interested members of Trinity are invited to take some yarn and some time to knit any of these items. Yarn can be picked up at the Shillington home of Mae Sunderland. Call her at 610-796-0235 to arrange a socially distanced “porch” pick up. If you are interested but need instructions, that can also be arranged by calling Mae. A few years ago members and friends did an awesome job of making scarves. What you make is your choice (see list above) and items will be directed where needed when complete.

—Pr. Ginny Biniek

## Thrivent Action Grants

If you are a client of Thrivent, you may be eligible for a \$250.00 Community Action Grant. These can be used for a number of Trinity Mission Projects. Please contact Deaconess Deborah if you are a Thrivent Member and would like to apply for a grant.

# Broadcast Schedule

## January 17-February 14, 2021

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190 (in the Reading Hospital, Channel 80) or online at any time at [www.trinityreading.org](http://www.trinityreading.org) or on our YouTube channel at

[www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch](http://www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch). Worship videos are available online as of 7:00 AM on Sundays.



### Sundays

6:00 PM - First Friday—  
Non-Verbal Clues in Interpersonal  
Communication  
6:30 PM - Music from Trinity—  
Jacqueline Wilson, piano & organ  
7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

### Wednesdays

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship  
5:00 PM: Music from Trinity—  
Jacqueline Wilson, piano & organ  
5:30 PM: First Friday—Non-Verbal Clues  
in Interpersonal Communication



*Affirmation of Welcome: Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ persons into all facets of congregational life.*

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**527 WASHINGTON STREET, READING, PA 19601**

**(610) 374-4861 [WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG)**