



Trinity Steeple Notes

November 2023

Trinity Calls New Senior Pastor Hans Becklin

Trinity Lutheran Church of Reading is pleased to announce and welcome Pastor Hans Becklin as the church's new Senior Pastor. Pastor Becklin is very passionate about building community, evangelism, teaching the faith, and liturgical worship. All are invited and encouraged to join us for service on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM to give a warm welcome to Pastor Becklin as he begins his call with our Trinity Congregation.



Pastor Becklin comes to Trinity after faithfully serving at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church at Kissel Hill beginning in 2019. From 2013 to 2019, Pastor Becklin served on the ELCA Church Council, the denomination's highest decision-making body between Churchwide Assemblies. For the duration of his term, he served on the ELCA's Budget and Finance Committee. From 2015 to 2019 he served as the ELCA's representative to the Moravian Church in North America.

In 2018 Pastor Becklin graduated with an M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where he was a Presidential Scholar. He received a B.A. in History, summa cum laude, from Luther College in 2014, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 2016 he won the A.R. Wentz Prize in American Lutheran History from the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. Pastor Becklin served his vicarage at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Menomonee Falls, Wis. He has also served as a part-time intern at Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill.

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A Note from the Vestry President

Vestry held its monthly meeting on October 9, 2023. The meeting began with a moment of meditation led by Pastor Drew wherein we reflected upon Psalm 46 and remembering those affected by war and conflict throughout the world. The September 19 meeting minutes were approved along with the minutes from the joint Call Committee/ Vestry meeting that occurred on October 1, 2023.

Vestry liaisons were appointed to the following oversight committees: Media Ministry, Jennifer Smith; Property, Eric Rosenbaum; Worship & Music, Donna Osborne; Outreach and Service, Thomas Hofmann; Administrative, Steven Welz; Congregational Life, Martha Good and

Amy Litvinov. It should be noted that these are liaison positions and do not change or disrupt the current roster of any committee or sub-committee within the oversight group. If a congregational member has concern, praise or question that they wish to share between a committee and vestry, the named liaison for each given oversight committee may be contacted. Additionally, if any committee has business that should be brought to the attention of Vestry the oversight committee's liaison is a point of first contact with Vestry.

Vestry requested that Pastor Drew remain with Trinity during our anticipated pastoral transitional time in November. Pastor Drew confirmed that he would continue with Trinity and that his last Sunday at the pulpit will be November 26, 2023. We invite and ask all members of the congregation to mark your calendar for November 26 worship service to give our thanks and gratitude to Pastor Drew for his care and direction over the last year. Vestry also wants to make it known that personal cards of thankfulness, individual gifts and words of

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gratitude are always encouraged of our members during these times of change and transition.

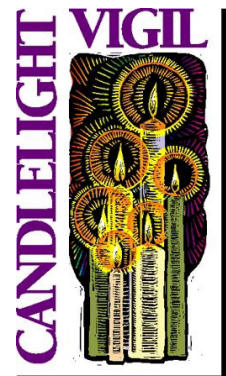
Vestry received the Treasurer's Report which showed a present budgetary net loss of \$53,000 for the year to date. This is primarily due to member giving falling below anticipated level to date. Trinity remains in a strong financial position overall; however, it is crucial to our continued vision and mission to be good stewards of the legacy of Trinity. Stewardship letter and commitment forms have been approved by Vestry at the October meeting and should be received timely by Trinity Households this year. Vestry is encouraged by the current energy within our walls and beyond and asks our members to continue to partner with us to strengthen our service, worship and mission.

In service,

--Amy Litvinov, Vestry President

***Kristallnacht* Remembrance November 8**
Christ Episcopal Church - 435 Court Street, Reading
Circle of Light 6:30 PM - Interfaith Service 7:00 PM

Join us at Christ Episcopal Church for their annual interfaith commemoration service of *Kristallnacht*, The Night of Broken Glass, which marked the beginning of the Holocaust. The evening will begin in front of the church at 6:30 PM with the "Circle of Light." We will then gather inside the church for the Interfaith Service which begins at 7:00 PM.



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Sunday Forum Schedule



9:00 AM in the auditorium - Interesting. Informative. Inspiring.

November 5: LWF Perspective - We will Zoom with Kristen Opalinski, who will discuss the inspiration and conception of her graphic artwork for the Lutheran World Federation Assembly, along with the LWF's mission and assembly decisions.

November 12: What's happening with Berks Youth Chorus?

We welcome Sam Barge, Executive and Artistic Director, who believes choral music is an unrivaled medium to forge lifelong bonds, deepen our capacity for self-expression, and transform communities.

November 19: LightHouse Beacons - Kate Alley, the executive director for LightHouse Center for Women and Children, will join us and share how their ministry supports unhoused women and their families. Trinity is a proud room sponsor with our commitment to giving \$25,000 over three years; LightHouse will be the recipient of our Advent and Lenten offerings.

November 26: Reflections from Pastor Drew - Pastor Drew Neidig has led and accompanied our congregation for the past 11 months. He will share his impressions and insights. It will also be an opportunity for us to thank him for his ministry. A special coffee and conversation will be held after worship.

December 3: Prepare! An Advent Event for all ages - Meet together for a time of simple crafts, music, food, and Advent Bingo! This will be our first Sunday with Pastor Hans Becklin; plan to take some time to be in community as we enter the Advent season of preparation for the coming of our Lord.

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Pr. Drew's Last Sunday

The Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us; "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." On October 22nd you voted to call The Rev. Hans Becklin as your new pastor. Many thanks to members of the Call committee who did a most thorough job to ensure that Pastor Hans is the right person to be your next pastoral leader. Congratulations to all of you on selecting an excellent pastor, one who will lead you to a bright future. A future built both on honoring traditions, as well as new and creative ways of being the church in the city of Reading.



With this exciting new chapter in the life of this congregation about to be written, this current chapter, one that I had the honor of participating in, draws to a close. My last Sunday with you will be November 26th.

It's not easy to put into words my gratitude for the privilege it has been to be among you. From our first days here, you welcomed both Sara and me, and made us feel that we were part of your community. We will never forget the warmth we felt being among you. I hope you feel that our time with you was worthwhile and productive.

As we prepare to say goodbye, I want each of you to know that you will always be in my thoughts and prayers. You are a congregation that is gifted in many ways. I will be cheering you on as you embark on what I know will be an exciting future. Thank you for your love and support. May God bless you now and always!

--Pastor Drew & Sara

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Advent Pocket Devotionals: Come Emmanuel

In *Come, Emmanuel* we join Christians around the world, past and present, in the Advent tradition of reflecting on brief prayers known as the “O Antiphons.” Christians have used the O Antiphons since the eighth century or perhaps even longer. Their name comes from the way each one begins (“O Wisdom,” “O Adonai/Lord,” and so on). The O Antiphons were sung during evening prayer or mass, especially in the last seven days of the Advent season. Around the twelfth century, the O Antiphons became the basis for the hymn we know as “O come, O come, Emmanuel.” *Come, Emmanuel* includes daily devotions for the first Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2023) through Epiphany (January 6, ‘24).

Devotion books will be available in the Narthex or in the Bard House on Sunday, November 26.

No Thanksgiving Worship at Trinity this Year

For many years, Trinity has held a community Thanksgiving Day service at 10:00 AM. This non-communion service of the word was also broadcast live on Comcast. For two years during the time of Covid, we did not have in-person worship. In 2021 we joined with our Common Ground Recovery Community and offered a take-out meal. In 2022 we chose to worship at 11:00 and offer a Thanksgiving Day meal. Due to declining numbers as well as staff and member travel plans, we will not hold a Thanksgiving Day worship service. Common Ground will have a thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 26 with delicious turkeys raised at the Eddinger’s! We are invited to worship with Common Ground on Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 PM in Lundin Hall at Atonement

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Swinging into Christmas

On Friday, December 1 at 7:00 PM Trinity is thrilled to host the Let's Dance big band as they present "Swinging into Christmas!" Trinity member Charlie Randazzo is the musical director of the band and David Himes plays saxophone with the group. Umbrellaed under the Rändel Wolfe Concert Series, the concert will partner with the Salvation Army and the free-will offering being given to them to continue their excellent work in our community.



The Let's Dance big band, which was formed in 2002, is dedicated to keeping the art form of the jazz big band alive in the Berks County music scene. Consisting of 20 members with the basic 5-4-4-4 instrumentation, male and female vocalists, and a sound /equipment manager, the band has played for a variety of venues including Berks County's Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's World War II weekend, county summer concert series, Berks County Jazz Fest, weddings, dances, civic events, and private affairs. This talented band consists of local musicians that are diverse in age and occupation, and enjoy playing big band music as an avocation.

Charlie shares: "I've had the idea of performing a Christmas Concert / Performance for many years. I've grown up listening to and admiring big band music and jazz, and always loved playing Christmas music since first learning the trumpet. Big band Christmas performances were and still are scarce. I just want to share my love of the big band art form in another way through Christmas music and at the same time raising some money for charity."

Please join us, and invite friends to join us, for what will be a wonderful way to swing into the holiday mood and support an important organization in Berks County.

November Broadcast Schedule

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, on Facebook, or on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch. Worship is available both on demand and streamed live at 10:00 AM on Sundays.



Sundays

6:00 PM World Views:

Racial Justice and the
Episcopal Church

6:30 PM Music From Trinity:

Hannah Koby, organ

7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

5:00 PM Music From Trinity:

Hannah Koby, organ

5:30 PM World Views:

Racial Justice and the
Episcopal Church

Prepare for Worship

Nov. 5: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Nov. 12: Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 19: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Nov. 26: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46



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

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www.trinityreading.org