



Trinity Steeple Notes

January 2024

A Blessing from the Bard House: Epiphanies

Epiphany: January 6 observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

epiphany - illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure



In 2024, Trinity will transfer the celebration of Epiphany to Sunday, January 7, when we will mark the holy day with a service of lessons and carols.

As you know, I will be retiring at the end of 2024. If you would have asked me last year at this time when I would be retiring, I would have shrugged my shoulders. Many people said, "You'll know when it's time." I would shake my head, roll my eyes, and laugh. Now I know that to be a true statement. After returning from a week-long hiking vacation on Grand Canaria, I had an epiphany. I realized that I want to explore more of our world while Ron and I are physically and cognitively able. With grown children in Wisconsin and California, I desire to see them more than once or twice a year, in small blocks of time. This epiphany led me to my decision to retire.

At Trinity we are standing on the doorstep of an exciting future. With the call of Pastor Hans, I believe our congregation is ripe for many revelations. It is time to honestly look at ourselves and evaluate what we have done in the past and what we are doing today.

What ministries/committees may have run their courses? What are we currently doing that could be reformed to a higher good?

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What can we imagine for our future if we take the girdles off our heads?

I pray that all of 2024 may be filled with epiphanies, leading us into a time of gratitude, self-reflection, and service offering the first fruits of our individual and communal gifts.

Karen S. Eddinger, Minister of Music

Christmas Gratitude

We are grateful for all who have offered enormous time and talent to enhance our Advent and Christmas Eve praise: the vocal and handbell choirs; David Himes and members of the Trinity Orchestra; our Christmas decorators; worship leaders; givers and planners; social ministry volunteers and caregivers; greeters and ushers; teachers and media members; property and office volunteers; and all who served worship and our ministry in various capacities. Thanks to the Trinity staff, who worked so faithfully to help us celebrate the birth of our Savior. You are a gift to Trinity and to the world.

Save the Date!

Pastor Hans E. Becklin to be installed on February 10th!

Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will install Pastor Hans as Trinity's Senior Pastor in a festival Holy Eucharist to be held on Saturday, February 10th at 1 PM. Pastor Marissa Becklin (Faith United, Denver, Pa.) will preach.

Clergy are invited to vest and process, wearing white vestments as we mark the Vigil of the Transfiguration. A reception for all present will follow the service.

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Chalking the Door: Epiphany House Blessing Kits

“Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.”

The tradition of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols is an intentional way to ask God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this blessing liturgy, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God’s presence and blessing into our homes. On Sunday, January 7 we will be celebrating the feast of the Epiphany. House blessing kits with prayers and chalk will be available to bring home.



Faith Formation Updates

2024 is a new year with new opportunities for growing in your faith and deepening your relationship with God and others. Sunday Forums will generally be held in the Hintz Room from 9:00 – 9:45 AM. TLC (Trinity Learning Circle) for kids will begin on Sunday, January 14th. Deaconess Deborah along with volunteers will be teaching. TLC is geared towards kids from PreK-6th grade. Youth in 7th grade and up are welcome and encouraged to be helpers during the classes.

ChAOS (Catechism And Other Stuff) for youth grades 7-10 will begin on Sunday, January 21 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. This 6-session unit will focus on worship: why we do what we do. Pastor Hans will be present for the first evening when youth will be trained as acolytes and learn about this important ministry.

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Sunday Forum Schedule



9:00 AM in the Hintz Room - Interesting. Informative. Inspiring.

January 7th: Light vs. Darkness

In this Epiphany season of light, what do we do about the darkness? Is it something to fear? To banish? To embrace? Drawing upon the wisdom of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Deaconess Deborah will lead the conversation about how this dichotomy affects our lives, our world, and even our worship.

January 14th and 21st: Ancient History and Modern Horrors in the Holy Land

How should we understand the complex relationship between Israel and Palestine in light of this land's ancient history as well as the recent horrors? Join us in Sunday Forum as Pastor Hans leads a guided discussion of what we've heard and seen—and how we can respond as Christians.

January 28th and February 4th: Idols Old and New

In the Small Catechism, Luther instructs us to fear, love, and trust God above all things. St. Paul taught the church in Corinth how to deal with the ever-present idols of the Greco-Roman world. Join Pastor Hans for a bible study on First Corinthians 8 as we seek to answer the question: how can we truly place God first in our lives, when so many idols bid us to bow down?

Steeple Notes

Television purchase thanks

Thanks in part to a gift in memory of Pastor Rick Chaveas, who excelled at teaching and preaching and valued education, we were able to purchase a large television and cart that will function as a mobile unit! We are now able to share presentations and videos in a variety of rooms. From Sunday Forums to youth overnights, this gift will benefit many people at Trinity for years to come.



Women of TLC Bible Study – January 9 & 23

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 2:00 PM in the small parlor at the Highlands,
2000 Cambridge Ave, Wyomissing**

Join Deaconess Deborah as we open up the Bible and explore the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday worship service. No prior Bible study experience necessary. Copies of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) readings will be available; you are also welcome to bring your own Bible of any translation. Non-residents of the Highlands will be asked to sign in with a picture ID. Contact Dcs. Deborah with any questions or concerns.

*This group was formed at the request of a few women. If you are interested in creating a Bible study or book discussion group at a different time, please speak to Dcs. Deborah, who is willing and able to help make that happen!

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District Youth Events

Matthew 25 WBMD Youth Service Event

Saturday, January 13th from 12 PM - 3 PM

at Good Shepherd, 4201 Stoudts Ferry Rd.

Youth from all around Berks County gather for fun and fellowship and service as we assemble hygiene kits together. Registrations are due by Monday, January 8th. Use this link to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdo8RPUYnzpDP9mkTfV8BHI8SlDxX7sQDRs5tmoukveUut5wg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Act2Day 4Tomorrow Berks Youth Overnight

Saturday, February 17 (afternoon) – Sunday, February 18

In our own building, TLC in downtown Reading!

“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

Why are people still hungry when there is so much food available?

I’m just one person. What can I do to make a difference?

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING!

Youth from all over the county will join together to learn about local and global hunger issues and what the people in our church and community are doing about it. We will fast from eating during this retreat, remembering all those who hunger every day.

Registration information will be available mid-January.

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Change in Altar Flower Providers

Stein's Flowers is no longer providing altar flowers to congregations. After an extensive review of available options, the Worship & Music Committee has unanimously decided to contract with Cedar Hill Florists for the altar flowers. The price will remain \$40/vase. Should you have special requests for your Sunday (such as a special color, specific types of flowers, or simply a more deluxe arrangement), please contact Cedar Hill Florists at (610) 582-8791. You will always pay the standard fee (\$80 for two vases) to Trinity, but any additional charge will be collected by Cedar Hill by credit card when you place your special request over the phone.



In Case of Inclement Weather

If winter weather causes us to cancel worship or other Trinity events, we will share those changes with Channel 69 and post the notice on Trinity's website and Facebook page.

Thank You from Carolyn Holleran

It is with heartfelt gratitude that our family thanks the Trinity members for the much appreciated support that has been extended and shared with us during this difficult time. Jerry is responding very well to the rehabilitation therapies that he has received at two medical facilities. While he still has the need to continue treatment we are greatly encouraged by his progress. Experiencing the love of our Trinity family has enabled us to stay strong for him throughout this challenging time.

January 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

6:30 PM Music From Trinity

7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

5:00 PM Music From Trinity

5:30 PM World Views

Prepare for Worship

Jan. 7 - Lessons & Carols: John 1:1-14; John 1:18-25; Matthew 2:1-12; Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:41-51; Matthew 3:13-17; John 2:1-11

Jan. 14: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Jan. 21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



At Trinity, we welcome all LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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