

THE BRIDGE

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Independence, MO 64052
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Rev. Elizabeth M. Strobel
January, 2019
www.trinityofindependence.org



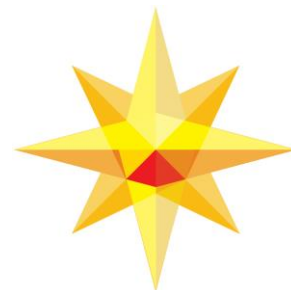
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trinitypresby@att.net

"Diverse in Backgrounds, United in Faith"

Dear Friends,

On January 6th, we're marking two events in the life of our church – renovations on our sanctuary, and the Epiphany of the Lord.

“Epiphany” means manifestation or revelation. Epiphany falls twelve days after Christmas Day, which is where we get the tradition of the “Twelve Days of Christmas.” On the Epiphany of the Lord, we celebrate the end of the Christmas season as the magi finally find the infant (or, more likely, toddler) Jesus and realize his divinity. They have an “epiphany” – a lightbulb moment where they discover that the Messiah has come to earth and is the Savior of all people. Imagery of light is important on this day, both because the magi followed a star and because their hearts and minds were illumined by the Epiphany they experienced.



We celebrate this day not simply to mark the season, but because the parallels to our own lives are clear. We often encounter Jesus and have our own epiphanies. In the life of faith, we often have moments where a mental or spiritual lightbulb goes off and we experience a revelation of who God is and who we are to be in response. In the celebration of Epiphany, we remind ourselves that these moments of light and clarity are something we can continually seek on our journeys.

Epiphany Sunday is also the first Sunday we will move our worship services upstairs to Founders Hall while our sanctuary is being renovated. Our sanctuary will get a facelift – new carpet, lighting, paint, etc. – while we worship in a different space through the season of Epiphany and likely into Lent. While it is entirely a coincidence that this move is on Epiphany Sunday, I think it's a happy coincidence. Sometimes a change of scenery shakes the cobwebs out of our minds and helps us to see more clearly. I've also always loved the light in Founders Hall that streams in through the windows – an Epiphany symbol of illumination and revelation.

My prayer for all of us as we enter the season of Epiphany is that we'd continue to seek Christ, just as the magi followed the star in search of a new King. Whether we're inspired by a change of scenery, continuing our current spiritual practices, or unexpected events, I believe that we will continue to see God in the midst of our everyday lives.

Blessings,
Elizabeth



SEW 'N SO'S

Thank you Trinity, for saving the Best Choice Bar Codes for us. We have received 1,642 bar codes far this year. Please keep saving!



- | | | |
|-------------|----|------------------------------------|
| Jan. | 2 | Norma Bodston
Noel Tyler |
| | 4 | Dr. Orville Walker
Dan Washburn |
| | 9 | Mary Sloan |
| | 16 | Molly Sherer |
| | 20 | Jessiah Sherer |
| | 22 | Julie Lyons
Matt Seward |
| | 23 | Kevin Berry |
| | 27 | Michael Norman |
| | 31 | Pamela Thieme |



- | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------------|
| Jan. | 24 | Jim & Beth McPike |
|-------------|----|-------------------|



WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

This list of members at Trinity has been organized for the purpose of being lifted up in prayer during the week. We look forward to God's richest blessings as we pray for one another. During the month please pray for these:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| Jan. | 6: | Rev. Tim Doty
Mike, Kerry, Elijah,
Emmalyn, & Eland Ellis
Rev. Ron & Sandy
Galvin |
| Jan. | 13:: | Amber Garnett, Ally
Garnett-Washbburn,
Hailey Garnett-
Washburn, & Aiden
Shelton
Joi Gibbins
Betty Goetz |
| Jan. | 20: | Tom Griffin & Yoly Snell
Klaus & Cludia
Grunewald
Jon & Cathy Hall |
| Jan. | 27: | Bill & Lynda Hansen
Madelyn Hansen
Reid Hansen |



On the first Day of the Week

"The people came together..."

Dec. 2	.....	78
Dec. 9	.....	78
Dec. 16	.....	97
Dec. 23	.....	Unavailable
Dec. 30	.....	Unavailable

"and the people gave . . . "

Dec. 2	.....	\$3,295.30
Dec. 9	.....	3,851.00
Dec. 16	.....	2,192.00
Dec. 23	.....	Unavailable
Dec. 30	.....	Unavailable
Total	.....	\$9,338.30

A heartfelt thank you to those who have so lovingly and generously contributed to Trinity's memorial funds:

*Mary Zoe Shelley
Elizabeth Strobel
Betty Miller*



2018 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT

Trinity will again be paying our assigned per capita assessment in 2019 by asking members of the congregation to donate their own \$49.07 per active member. This will help to ease our budget.

NEW MEMBER



Trinity welcomes new member Rachel Matthews, who joined the church on December 9, 2018. She is pictured here with her husband Brian and their children Brian II, Lincoln, and Celestine.

"Tell Mom I'll stay home today and do Sunday school online."

From a church newsletter:

thanks to our new suggestion box ...

... you can remain anonymous ...

... while commenting about the church

Now the church mouse's identity can remain secret.



Trinity Table

Trinity Table is a monthly effort to provide a hot meal to anyone who needs or wants it. The next Trinity Table is scheduled for Saturday, January 12th. If you would like to donate monetary support or your time as a volunteer, please see Kyle Palmer.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

DESCENDING DOVE – A dove is a prominent symbol of the Holy Spirit. When the dove is shown flying downward, it reminds us of Jesus’ baptism, when, the gospel writers tell us, the Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. Doves also symbolize baptism in general, because many Christian denominations teach that the Holy Spirit and its gifts are bestowed at baptism. Sometimes a dove is depicted with a three-ray nimbus around its head, indicating that it is a member of the Trinity. Doves are also commonly used as a sign of peace.



Inclement
Weather
Policy



When the weather is bad do you wonder if Trinity is opened? Now you can turn to your local television stations to find out. We will be listed on WDAF Channel 4, KMBC Channel 9 and KSHB Channel 41. We will NOT be listed on KCTV Channel 5.

WINTER WARMTH

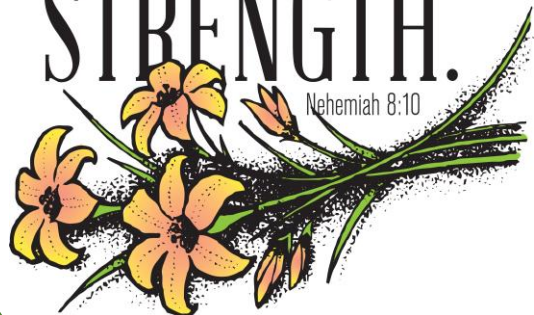
O God, you give the winter’s cold,
as well as summer’s joyous rays.
You warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life’s wintry days.



—Samuel Longfellow

The joy of the LORD is your
STRENGTH.

Nehemiah 8:10

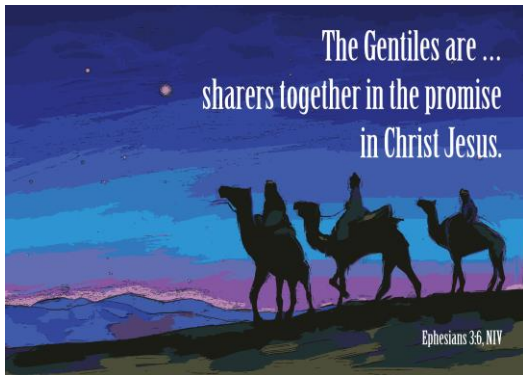




Join us on Saturday, December 29, at 9:00 a.m. as we take down and store the Christmas decorations. Breakfast snacks, lunch, and plenty of coffee will be provided!



Sunday, January 20
10:30am during Worship



Epiphany Sunday
January 6, 2019
10:30am



Sunday
January 13, 2019
10:30am
Guest Preacher Rev. Paula Isgrig



Cook Off
Sunday, January 20 following worship

Start working now on your best pot of chili for the Chili Cook Off. Steak Soup will also be available for those who can't eat chili.

If you don't want to try for the trophy, you may bring a dessert to share. See you on the 20th! Any questions, please call Jan Privett, 419-9405.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
December 8, 2018



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 16, 2018



A PRAYER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

In his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* (Fortress Press), Walter Brueggemann writes in an Epiphany poem:

... this is a time to be born.
So we turn to you, God of our life
 God of all our years,
 God of our beginning....
We dare pray that you will do for us
and among us and through us
 what is needful for our newness.
Give us the power to be receptive,
 to take the newness you give
There is a time to be born, and it is now.
 We sense the pangs and groans of
your newness.
 Come here now in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

How fitting that the Epiphany season and the new year coincide! Epiphany reveals a new King, the beginning of his ministry, his new disciples, his first healings, his “new teaching — with authority” (Mark 1:27). We, too, experience newness, now and year-round. But newness can be tough. So we trust that God, who “[makes] all things new” while banishing “mourning and crying and pain” (Revelation 21:4-5), walks with us in this new year — and always.



A heartfelt thank you to each one who remembered me with a gift at Christmastime.

Barbara Ploeger



YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

As a reminder, year-end contributions must be received by the church or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018. If your contribution is received with a January 2019 postmark, it must be reflected on your 2019 Contribution Statement.



Weekly Collections

In the narthex, Trinity has collection spots open every week for:

- canned and dry goods
- elementary school supplies
- gently used eyeglasses
- aluminum can tabs
- keys

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The deadline for items submitted for the February Bridge is Friday, January 25th.

Information for the weekly News Sheet is due each week on Wednesday by 1:00 p.m.