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January 2020



Out On the Way

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

As we keep heading out on the Way, we will be turning the corner to examine and explore Jesus' adult years, his baptism and his ministry.

The word Epiphany – which is the season following Christmas' 12 days means "revelation". Jesus is a 'revelation', which shows us something about God and something about us and something about the world. But as with every good revelation, you can't just stay on the surface with it, you need to search for it, and struggle with it before it breaks open the real gifts it is meant to give.

During this season, we will discover Jesus at the Jordan, being baptized by John the Baptist. We will encounter Jesus by the Sea of Galilee as he calls his disciples. We will explore the beginnings of his ministry.

But most of all, we'll try to make the connections of what all this means for our lives. The gift of Christmas is the 'incarnation' of Jesus. God is embodied in human form. And calls us to become an incarnation ourselves. We are meant to embody God in our own humanity. The scriptures are clear that as we become a 'new creation' – brought to life in our own baptism, we are called to become 'imitators' of Christ, that is to bring his life into our life, to embody it so that others can see God's light shining in us.

We'll be following that same star that directed the Wise Ones so long ago – to find our own beginning, our own encounter with Jesus. We'll be discovering what it means to be a disciple and where that all might be leading us as we keep out on the Way.

In expectation and hope,

Pastor Susan



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4435 North Calhoun Road
Brookfield, WI, 53005
262-781-9378

Email: contact@trinitybrookfield.org

Web Site: www.trinitybrookfield.org

Office Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship

Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour: Follows service
Holy Communion: First Sunday of the Month (unless noted otherwise)

Sunday School

September through first week of June

Open to the Community

Worship, Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Game Nights, See Schedule on Website
Boy Scout Troop 21, Sunday 6:30 p.m.
Quilters, Mondays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
All Special Events

Staff & Lay Leaders

Interim Pastor: Rev. Susan Stull-Carr
Director of Music: Mike Hetzel
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Shine
Cleaning Custodian: Jodie Gerard
Maintenance Custodian: Eric Dahm
Ministers of the Church: All Members of Trinity United Church of Christ

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit articles and photos for the February publication by Monday, January 13th.

Worship Attendance

428 worshippers December 1-24.
Thanks for joining us!



Janice Fredrick & Peg Zahn

Keep Our Homebound Members in Prayer

Donna Brill
Beverly Littmann
Geraldine Masch
Glenn Siebert
Marion Wandsneider



Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Each year, on the second Sunday of January, the church hears the story of Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan. Last year, we held a service to remember our own baptisms and what that baptism means. Surely, it is a sign of God's grace, given to us freely, but it is also the beginning of the indwelling of God's spirit in our lives. As the Spirit grows in us, and we hear Christ's call to 'follow' me – we become disciples maturing into those who will hear the call to ministry. Baptism is the authority for each Christian's ministry.

We often use the word 'volunteer' in the church, but I prefer the word, ministry. Each of us are called to find the ministry or ministries that God has created in us. Each of us are given gifts of the Spirit for the building up of Christ's church.



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

So, when you are asked to volunteer, ask yourself, "Is this God's calling? Is this a way for me to help bring others to know what I've known about God's love and mercy? Is this a way to shine my light?"



Did You Know...

the history of **Trinity's name** since we were founded in 1869?

Trinity has had quite a few different official and unofficial names during the course of its history. On October 16, 1869 Trinity was founded as EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH OF BROOKFIELD or EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN DREIEINIGKEITS GEMEINDE IN BROOKFIELD (in German). In the 1870's and early 1880's, Trinity was also known as GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH and LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH OF BROOKFIELD, WISCONSIN. During Trinity's early years, it was also known as the "ROOSTER CHURCH" due to the large rooster that sat on the top of the cross at the pinnacle of the original church steeple.

In 1884, "Lutheran" was deleted from Trinity's charter name and the name was changed to EVANGELICAL TRINITY CHURCH or EVANGELICAL DREIEINIGKEIT KIRCHE (in German).

In the 1890's, Trinity was also known as GERMAN EVANGELICAL TRINITY CHURCH. A 1920 Trinity Church flyer was printed as EVANGELICAL DREIEINIGKEITS (TRINITY) CONGREGATION.

During the 1920's and 1930's, there were numerous different names used for Trinity Church including:

- EVANGELICAL TRINITY CHURCH OF BROOKFIELD
- TRINITY CONGREGATION OF BROOKFIELD
- TRINITY CONGREGATION
- BROOKFIELD TRINITY CONGREGATION
- BROOKFIELD EVANGELICAL TRINITY CHURCH
- TRINITY EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION
- BROOKFIELD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, and
- TRINITY EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Trinity joined the merged Evangelical & Reformed Church in 1934 but continued to use TRINITY EVANGELICAL CHURCH as its name.

Eight years later (1942), Trinity started using TRINITY EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH as its name.

In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church merged to form the United Church of Christ. Trinity joined the United Church of Christ that year but continued to use TRINITY EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH as its name.

In 1959, Trinity was officially incorporated as TRINITY EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH OF BROOKFIELD, INC. Finally in 1961, Trinity changed its name to TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST and that name has now been in effect for 58 years – the longest period in Trinity's history that its name hasn't changed.

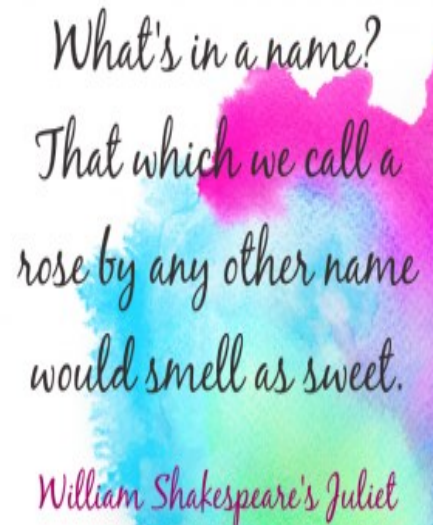
Bob Rohrig

Source: Trinity historical records

Note: This article will be my last written for TRINITY BELLS. If you have historical questions about Trinity, check out the following sources available on the top of the scenic diorama in the Dining Hall: (1) The Trinity Congregation of Brookfield history book written in 2009; (2) An indexed 3-ring binder book of all the TRINITY BELLS "Did You Know" history articles written in the last 20 years; (3) A 3-ring binder book of all of Trinity's Confirmation Classes since 1870. If you don't find the information you're looking for in these resources, let me know, and I will try to help.

Thank You Bob

for all your time and dedicated research to enrich our understanding of our church history!



What's in a name?
That which we call a
rose by any other name
would smell as sweet.
William Shakespeare's Juliet

Save the Date

Epiphany Celebration & Communion Sunday

January 5, 10:00 AM

Budget Explanation Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2020
Following Worship

Trinity Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 2020
Following Worship

Baptism

Sunday, February 16, 2020
Madison Marie Ransom

Jazz Worship & Mardi Gras Luncheon

Sunday, February 23, 2020



Mitten Tree

Missions Committee will be collecting mittens, scarves, and caps through February, 2020. Thank you for all your donations to date!

Budget Meeting

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

At the end of January, we will examine our budget for the year 2020. I've been through budget meetings now, since 1984. Every year I watch behind the scenes as your leadership faithfully struggles to put together a budget to present to you, the congregation. Hours of work go into this process – especially on the part of Terri Allen and Chris Faulk, but also your committee leadership. Trying to weigh out the reality of the financial support and yet dream about where we really want and need to go as a congregation means some challenging discussions. And your leadership has willingly engaged those challenges! I hope you'll take time to thank them all for the work they do on our behalf.

I've never had the financial acumen to be a stockbroker or accountant, but I take the financial life of the church seriously. Sometimes we must pull ourselves in, sometimes we stretch ourselves to reach out to accomplish a dream of making this church an instrument to draw others to Christ. I've never felt that church budgets are the same as a for-profit budget.

We are here not to make a profit, but to be in mission – and our mission is this: to raise up new disciples; to be the hands and feet of Christ in service to those without resource or voice; to be the church in worship; to extend hospitality; to grow spiritually; to deepen faith; to work towards justice. Budgeting in the church – and maybe in any organization is more than simply about business savvy. Charles Hambrick-Stowe, in an article from Alban says, "A budget is simply an instrument, after all. It exposes our priorities, making a theological statement that could shock or dismay us." He goes on to write, "think of the budget not as a static document, but an expression of the organization as a living organism."

Each year, the church has an opportunity to examine if the gifts it is given are reflecting the priorities that are necessary for the church to remain vital and inviting. The budget process ought to be a "work in progress" with input throughout the years, as to the hopes and dreams of where God is calling us to go.

At the congregational meeting, you, the members will affirm that the budget does indeed represent the direction that the church will travel in the coming year. The document becomes an official promise of support for staff, a covenant with mission partners, and a commitment to develop the full resources of the church in order to give glory to God. We are all partners in this mission – to grow God's church, and to grow our own spiritual lives: deeper, more faithful, more loving.

Kindred Heart Families Thanks You!

Members presented donated stuffed animals to be blessed on December 8.

Thank you to everyone who contributed these cuddly, friendly gifts for The Trinity Christmas Zoo. The children who received them were delighted!





Quilters Club at Trinity



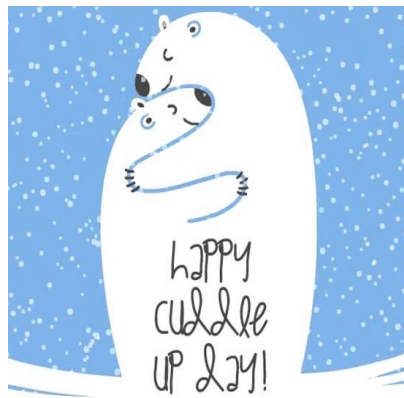
Celebrate Your Creativity

by Pastor Susan Stull-Carr

Somewhere I read that January is "Celebrate Your Creativity" month! Here are a few ideas to spark your creativity to have a marvelous January – even in the midst of the darkness and cold! Spread some laughter!

It seems as if January is also:

- **National Hot Tea month** – thanks Roland for the marvelous Christmas Tea – I'll be drinking more in January!
- **National Blood Donor month** – here's a way to make a difference!
- **Festival of Sleep Day** – January 3, which is also Fruitcake Toss Day
- **Cuddle Up Day** – January 6 which is also Epiphany! Host an Epiphany party!
- There's even a Play God day on January 9 – I didn't pursue that any further.
- **Peculiar People Day** is the 10th, which may fit well for those who wish to play God.
- **Learn your name in Morse Code** is January 11 and the 12th is the **Feast of Fabulous Wild Men Day**.
- January 17th is **Ditch New Year's Resolution Day** and of course, don't forget **Penguin Awareness Day** on January 20th. The penguins are cute, and a winter trip to the zoo may be a perfect remedy for the winter blues!



Of course, there's also **Beer Can Appreciation Day**; **Global Belly Laugh Day**, and **Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day**, and **National Squirrel Appreciation Day**. Who can wait?



January 20

This month we remember Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. If you haven't read any of King's writings, this is a good month to do so.

"Letters from a Birmingham Jail" or his "I Have A Dream" speech are good beginnings. Share them with your children and grandchildren. Talk with each other about how issues of race still affect us all so deeply and creatively imagine ways to build bridges and not walls!



Quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

"Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

"The time is always right to do what is right."

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude."

Blessed Voices

We extend our sincere thanks to our wonderful **Celebration Singers** for sharing their talents, hard work and dedication throughout 2019. They performed beautifully to provide a joyous Christmas Concert for us!

Many thanks to **Mikey, Josh, Elizabeth** and **Catherine Hetzel** for their beautiful music contributions on December 22.



Another Volunteer!

We extend our sincere thanks to **Kathy Leslie** who served Trinity UCC in 2019 as a Greeter and First Responder.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTS OF KINDNESS

- **Kahney Rohrig** recently took home the children's Busy Bags that children can use during worship service to keep busy. On a regular basis she takes them home to replenish and refresh them the supplies. Thank you Kahney!
- **Ralph Zahn** presented his idea to streamline volunteers for our worship services during several committee meetings and to the Council (which the Council has approved).
- Many people came to church during December to decorate our church for the Christmas season. To **EVERYONE** who strung lights, hung garland or ornaments, and set up the beautiful nativity outdoors, thank you!
- Special thank you to our teams of "Advent Wreath Readers" in December: **Chris Faulk** and **Dave Mielke, Kathy Haass** and **Joe Halvorson, Scott** and **Carol Capes, Matt** and **Lisa Corley**, and **Bill** and **Diane Siebold**.



Lovely Poinsettias: Thank you for purchasing flowers to decorate the altar for Christmas!

Terri Allen, In Memory of Kent Allen

Kathy Dahm, In Memory of Bill & Helen Mueller

Dawn Faulk, In Memory of Dad & Grandpa

Robert Fredrick,
In Memory of Fredrick & Mueller Family

Jean Gichert,
In Memory of Walters Family & Gichert Family

Will & Jan Glasenapp,
In Memory of Glasenapp Family Loved Ones

Anna Godiali,
In Honor and Memory of Our Loved Ones

Kathy Haass & Joe Halvorson,
In Memory of Our Parents and Brothers

Marlene Helinski, In Memory of Jerry Helinski

Lori Krueger,
In Memory of My Parents and Grandparents

Dave & Lynne Mielke,
In Memory of Marilyn and Carol Mae Mielke

Jean & Janet Schuster,
In Memory of Parents and Sisters

Joann Shue, In Memory of Don Shue

Diane Siebold,
*In Memory of Marie and George Wood
& Brother Duane Wood*

Roberta Stanley, In Memory of Judy Cochran

Mindy Wirth, In Memory of Parents & Grandparents