



# trinity tidings

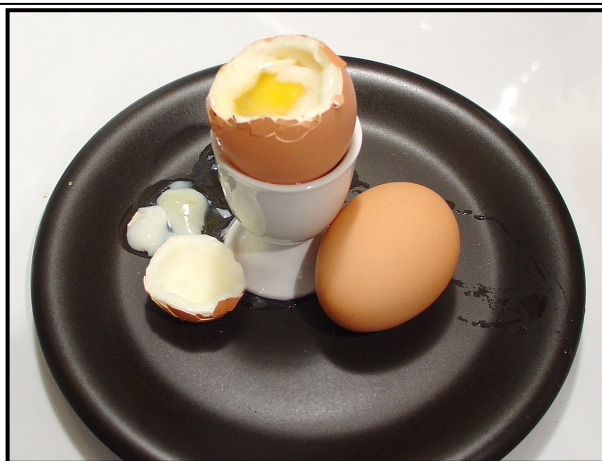
**JANUARY 2018**



*From the Pastor's Pen*

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Have you ever cracked an egg open, and instead of immediately throwing away the shell, looked at the pattern of its break? When I started to cook for myself, I often tried to break the egg so cleanly that I could put it back together again just by lining up the shell again.

Not surprisingly, this is usually a futile effort. Once you've broken into the egg, it'll never be the same again.

When God broke into the world, it's much like the egg – the world is never the same again. Unlike the egg, though, God's revelation to the world brings good news and healing grace. God is putting the world back together exactly the way we can't. And we celebrate this wonder at Epiphany.

Twelve days after Christmas Day is the celebration of Epiphany, which means the revelation of God to the world. In the church year generally, the day of Epiphany is followed by the Baptism of the Lord Sunday – and often gets overlooked. After all, since the Christmas displays are going up earlier and earlier, we can feel like Christmastide should just be over already: "Let's move on to the next thing; don't we know about the wise ones visiting the Baby? Didn't the pageant cover all of this?"

*Cont'd. p.2*

*Pastor's Pen cont.*

The problem is, of course, that nothing can ever contain how amazing it is that God broke into the world, becoming one of us, living as a human, and revealing Godself to us. The wise ones are stand-ins for all the nations of the world, recognizing God's presence, and worshipping God together. Their gifts recognize the brokenness of the world, and our desire to join with God in its repair.

Frankincense – Faithfulness. Used in worship to help direct the mind and heart to God.

Myrrh – Continuity. Used in burials to honor the dead, remembering God even after death.

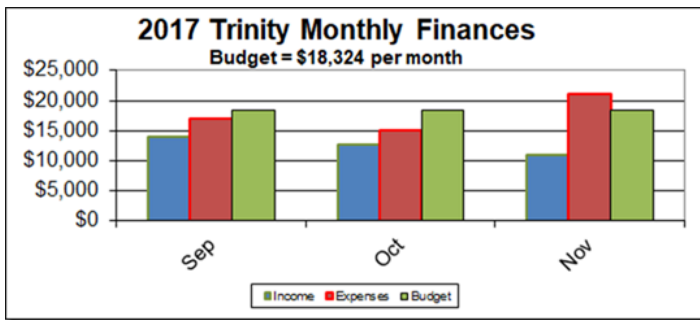
Gold – Purity. Used to show royalty and to reward labor

You see, our world is broken by sin, and can't be put back together by our hands, the ones that broke it. But God works in the world to repair the damage: to our relationship with God; to our relationship with each other; and to our relationship with creation. And though the world cannot be repaired to be exactly the same as it was, it can be repaired to be exactly as God desires.

And when God reveals Godself to us in Bethlehem – and in Nazareth – and in Jerusalem – and even in Tulsa – God's love and care for our broken world is worth celebrating.

~Pastor Lucus

*Finance/Stewardship* randy smith



2017	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 185,566	\$ 197,933	\$ 201,564



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

**Trinity Presbyterian  
Women  
meet the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each  
month at 9:45 am in the  
Trinity Café.**

**Please join us!**

## *Christian Education* sue chancellor

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9

### **"Love Has Come"**

With one voice the Angels sing;  
songs that make creation ring  
Prophets hear and call us  
to live in spirit and in truth

Father Yahweh, Elohim;  
voice of thunder, spirit wind  
Breathe on me your very life;  
Grace will make the darkness bright

Word of God enthroned,  
dwell in us forevermore;  
Love has come to show the way  
Hallelujah, peace be with us  
Love has come to show the way

God of covenant divine,  
lead us to the end of time  
Beyond sorrow, beyond fear;  
beyond pride and earthen tears

Keeper of the sacrifice,  
manifest in Jesus Christ  
Now salvation has come  
in the New Jerusalem

Dancers dance and singers roar;  
proclaiming Jesus Christ is Lord  
Love has come to show the way  
Hallelujah, peace be with us  
Love has come to show the way

*~Matt Maher*

Love is truly revealed through Jesus' birth, life, and resurrection! In this New Year, 2018, we can each look to Jesus to show us the way to genuinely love others as compassionate children of our gracious God.

# SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES

## (SUNDAY SCHOOL IS 9:15-10:15)

Childcare for infants through preschool is always available every Sunday morning from 9:00 through the close of worship; Donna Bridenstine offers a nurturing engaging atmosphere for our very youngest. Pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners can join Donna and an adult volunteer (when needed) after their Sunday School class and through worship.

.....and remember: Donna can be ready at 8:15 a.m. for childcare for those parents/guardians practicing with the choir. She is also available for team meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Just let Sue know in advance.



**Multiage Children's Sunday School:** All preschool through fifth grade are warmly invited by a wonderful teaching team to the Sunday School wing to participate in exciting bible-learning adventures this 2018! The team is ready with a variety of child-centered experiences focused on different bible verses each week. Be ready for joyful activities that stir up lots of understanding on how much Jesus loves each one of us!

Jan 7	Sue Chancellor	"Awesome"
Jan 14	Katy Orrell	"Voice in the Night"
Jan 21	Valerie Wagner	"Another Call"
Jan 28	Millie Spencer	"Praise God"
Feb 4	Melinda Carver	"Caring Acts"
Feb 11	Katy Orrell	"A Little Quiet Time"

A Sunday School teen class is always available every Sunday for those not involved in the confirmation class and all confirmands are encouraged to attend these classes when confirmation class is NOT scheduled. The terrific teen-teaching team is ready with stimulating questions focusing on timely topics using important scripture to spark meaningful discussions. All 6th graders through 12 graders, please join the fun group upstairs whenever you can!

Jan 7	Royce Chancellor	"I Don't Have to Prove It"
Jan 14	Sue Chancellor	"The Difference I Can Make"
Jan 21	Liz Powell	"How Jesus Handled Gossip"
Jan 28	John Clawson	"Self Image: A Higher Standard"
Feb 4	Royce Chancellor	"Decisions: Tug o War"
Feb 11	Sue Chancellor	"Called to be Peacemakers"

## **Adult Sunday School:**

The new year is here and an excellent time for adults of all ages to make their way to the classroom off Churchill Hall at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday morning to join Richard Spencer and his class as they engage in stimulating conversation. The class is continuing the DVD study, "Living the Questions 2" and ready to resume after a short break; so this is a grand time for new folks to step right in and enjoy the lively discussion. Individuals are encouraged to look introspectively into their own faith journey as a diverse group of theologians share their own insights and understandings of Christianity today. Each class is focused on specific ideas and questions for that day; so it's easy to quickly feel a part of the group whenever you're able to attend!

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# TEEN/KID/FAMILY NEWS

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One last BIG HURRAH for the pageant, its leaders, volunteers, and participants...Many, Many Thanks for a High-energy, inspiring, and joyful pageant!!! Thank you so much Lynette, for all your time, talent, and expertise; the songs were beautiful and the children enjoyed singing them! Thanks tons to Pastor Elana for writing the fun energetic script and thanks a lot to Liz Powell for her hard work with the costumes and nativity set. And a sincere THANK YOU to all the adult volunteers and parents for their wonderful help and support throughout all the rehearsals and during the presentation! And kids/teens, you were awesome!



## 2018 is here and we have lots of cool stuff going on this winter!

Our first planning day for Youth Sunday 2018 will be this **Sunday, January 7** following worship in the Trinity Cafe. Come hungry and ready to share your creative ideas. We'll begin with a "Build your Own Taco" lunch and fun fellowship. Pastor Elana has been working on a marvelous script which she'll reveal as we set an actual date for this year's Youth Sunday. All are invited to share their thoughts and ideas focused on Youth Sunday, 2018.



Youth Sunday Planning Time will continue on Sundays in January following worship with different families volunteering to bring lunch. The Chancellors are bringing lunch to the Jan 7 meeting.



And back by popular demand..."**Family Game Day: The Sequel**" will be on either Saturday 1/21 or 1/28 at 2:00 P.M. Exact date will be forthcoming. Come ready to have a blast and play a joyful variety of board, card, games!! Games for the very young are also planned and ready!! You're also invited to bring a tasty snack favorite to share as well. This is the best way to beat the frigid temps and January blues so come one, come all!!



The "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" will be on **Sunday February 4** and our very own youth will have an opportunity to host the "Giving Table" in the narthex the last 2 Sundays in January and on February 4. The entire church family is encouraged to consider donating non-perishable food items and/or a monetary gift to benefit struggling families in Bixby and to further support our "Backpacks for Bixby" program.



**2018 Wednesday Morning Book Study** blasts off this Wednesday morning, **January 3** with an invigorating "Sharing Time" at 11:00 a.m. in the Trinity Cafe! Our very warm inviting group would be thrilled to have more folks join us this year whenever you possibly can! "Sharing Time" would be a perfect time to join in. Everyone is welcome to bring a story, scripture, poem, article, book excerpt, quote, gift, pet, snack, etc. to share with the group if you wish. Folks can just come and just absorb the great fellowship time too, without bringing anything but their sweet unique selves!

We'll be packing the first backpacks of 2018 in Churchill Hall this Wednesday, January 3, at 10:30 a.m. Please come and bring any double grocery sacks you may have at home as well. We're back on schedule to pack on the **1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday** of every month!

Our new book is Carol Howard Merritt's book, "**Tribal Church-Ministering to the Missing Generation,**" and we'll be discussing the introduction on **Jan 10 at 11:00 a.m.** This promises to be an excellent read with great enlightening discussion possibilities!

*"There are few places left in society that allow for real intergenerational connections to be made, yet these connections are vital for any church that seeks to reflect the fullness of the body of Christ. Carol Howard Merritt, a pastor in her mid-thirties, suggests a different way for churches to be able to approach young adults on their own terms. There are few places left in society that allow for real intergenerational connections to be made, yet these connections are vital for any church that seeks to reflect the fullness of the body of Christ. Using the metaphor of a tribe to describe the close bonds that form when people of all ages decide to walk together on their spiritual journeys, Merritt casts a vision of the church that embraces the gifts of all members while reaching out to those who might otherwise feel unwelcome or unneeded."* Come to the warm cozy cafe to chat about this **great book!**

**You can order your own copy on Amazon or call the church office if you'd like a book ordered for you.**

*Evangelism* brenda cunningham

### **A clean fresh slate to start the new year! Exciting and scary too!**

- ◆ For 2018, we signed up with the Bixby Chamber of Commerce to be included in their newsletter to new residents. Our ad will be about business card size and it will go out to new residents with in a 5-mile radius of Bixby.
- ◆ If you would like to join our team, there will be a signing bonus available! (Well not much, but a dollar is still a dollar!).
- ◆ We would love to have your help with changing the Trinity sign or Greeting. Plenty of on the job training available (and that signing bonus will still apply).
- ◆ We would love to have more bios in the newsletter this year, serve coffee and donuts at the November 2018 voting here at the church, attend the Bixby Fall Festival again, and more! Please join us.

Respectfully, *Brenda Cunningham*

# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DEC. 17, 2017







# TRINITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA—2017



## January Lectionary Readings

### Epiphany—January 7

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### Second Sunday after the Epiphany—January 14

1 Sam. 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany—January 21

Jonah 3:1-5  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany—January 28

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



## January

Rev. Lucus Keppel	1/13
Barbara Swayze	1/19
David Frazier	1/25



## Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity Congregation,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas card and gifts that you all provided to each member of the Staff at Trinity. We all sincerely appreciate each and every one of you, and enjoy every minute of making Trinity a great place to grow, serve and worship together!

Thanks again, your Trinity Staff





# January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Office closed in observation of New Year's Day	2	3 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Book Study	4	5	6
7 <i>Epiphany</i> Communion  Confirmation Class  Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday following worship.	8 10:00 am Yoga Class	9	10 9:45 am Presbyterian Wm. 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group 6:30 pm <b>TEAM MTGS.</b>	11	12	13
14 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i>  Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday following worship.	15 10:00 am Yoga Class	16  6:30 pm <b>Session Mtg.</b>	17 10:30 am Pack Backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	18	19	20
21 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i>  Confirmation Class Planning Session w/ lunch for Youth Sunday following worship.	22 10:00 am Yoga Class	23	24 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group	25	26	27  2:00 pm Game Day
28  Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship	29 10:00 am Yoga Class  7:00 pm Turning Point	30	31 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Sdy. 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fell. 1:00 pm Sewing Group			



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