

Trinity News

Volume MMXXV No. 2 ✦ FEBRUARY 2025

INTERIM PASTOR PERRY'S REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Thank you to the 60 TLC members who participated in the Sunday, January 26th Annual Congregational Meeting in the Nave! A new 2025 Budget was overwhelmingly approved and four (4) new Council members elected: Bev Dumas, Katherine Lehman, Mark Lin and Suzanne Whitmarsh. We also approved Nina Behm and David Horn as our Synod Assembly Representatives and Karen Carlson, Katherine Duffy, Roz Horn and Judy Willoughby as new members on the Nominating Committee. Please be sure to say "thank you" to all our outgoing Council members: Roz Horn, Brad Lehman, Rick Lagueux and Judy Willoughby. Congratulations on continuing to support our mission together in these and other ways! If you'd like a copy of the Annual Report, please stop by the Parish Office.

TRANSITION TIME UPDATE

THANK YOU to the 42 people who braved the snow to participate in the Saturday morning, January 11th, "History Sharing Event" in Jeppson Hall! We enjoyed delicious breakfast food (thank you to all who contributed to an abundant feast!), warm fellowship, and being reminded of where we come from, where we are now, and where we believe God is leading us. There were lots of very positive comments from attendees about the experience. If you'd like to read the notes from the event, please visit our website. If you weren't at the event, and have questions about the notes, don't hesitate to talk to a Transition Team member, including Pastor Mark. And please feel invited to share some of your own further thoughts about what we should continue, what we need to let go of, and what we should start. You can email Pastor Mark at mperry@trinityworc.org or call him at 508-753-2989, Ext. 128. (Thank you to Transition Team Jessica Sutherland for writing up those notes).

Our next project for the transition will be to gather Trinity members and friends in “Congregational Focus Group Conversations.” We are scheduling these initial times and places for the Conversations: Sunday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in Jeppson Hall; Sunday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Sunday, February 23 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in Jeppson Hall. These will be facilitated by our Transition Team members. Watch for that information soon and be sure to sign up for one of the groups or you can just “show up.” Other Focus Group Conversations are happening at “Dine with Nine” events, Trinity Book Club, Family Sunday School and Senior Luncheon. The questions that will be asked will be made available soon if you’re interested in seeing them in advance.

All the input derived from these events will be summarized, analyzed and used to help fill out the ELCA “Ministry Site Profile” (MSP), which will be used by the New England Synod to help match us with a good pastoral candidate during the Call Process. (For a brief overview of the Transition Timeline shared at the Annual Meeting, also see our website).

Thank you, also, to those who have already offered to serve on the Call Committee. Your Congregational Council will consider these and other nominees and appoint that important committee in the near future. Let us, Pastor Perry or the Council President know if you are also interested in serving.

Please keep this transition time and your Transition Team in your regular prayers for God’s guidance and wisdom! Let us know if you have questions or comments. Transition Team members: Jennifer D’Amico O’Connor, Mark Lin, Dale Mattice, Pastor Perry, Bess Sproul, Maureen Stake, and Jessica Sutherland.

“LUKE” STUDY CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY / The Sunday Adult Forum on the Gospel of Luke continues after the pause for the holidays and other special forums on Sunday, February 2, 2025, at both 9 and 11:30 am, and continuing through February in the Library. Pick up a book in the Library. Come and join us in this important exploration of this great book of the Good News! Weekday Adult Bible studies also continue on Tuesdays at 10:45 am, and Wednesdays at 9 am.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS MARCH 5 / Mark your calendars for the beginning of our important Lenten journey at Ash Wednesday worship services on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at Noon and 7 pm, in the Nave. We'll join in Confession and kneel at the altar rail to receive the Imposition of Ashes at this Service of the Word. Your Worship Team is also looking to start regular Wednesday evening Lenten soup supper and worship times using the beautiful "Holden Evening Prayer" liturgy, followed by special faith formation activities. Watch for more info to come and let us know if you'd like to help out, especially with the suppers!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBIT AT TRINITY/ In February 2024, the Worcester Black History Project displayed artwork by people of color at the Worcester Center for Crafts. Thanks to the efforts of Mary Fletcher and the Art Committee, this project is expanding in 2025 to include Trinity Lutheran Church.

During the month of February 2025, artwork will be displayed in the hallway between the Office and the Nave. Artwork prints will be suspended from wires hung with hooks from the ceiling rails or on fabric suspended from the rails with prints affixed to it. These will be installed by a professional under the direction of our Building Manager.

The theme of Black History Month this year is, "I've Known Rivers. African Americans and Labor". Pieces of art will be chosen that are appropriate for families and children, and mindful that the venue is a church. Artists from all over New England will be considered.

This exhibit will be primarily for the people who use the church for rehearsals and meetings who will see the artwork when they are in the hallway, or heading to the Nave for services. Trinity will not be open other than for our usual business. There will be no cost to Trinity for this exhibit.

The purpose of this effort by the Art Committee is to do our part in making TLC a more open church, welcoming to all and respecting of every persuasion and ethnicity. We think Trinity will benefit from this project as it will give us an exposure and standing in the community.

It is a 'public' effort to declare that we are truly a church open to all in keeping with our mission, and is soundly endorsed by the Church Council. Being a participant in the Black History Art Project will help 'put us on the map' so to speak as being the welcoming place we are trying to be. It is an attempt to widen our circle. Be sure to mention to your friends that Trinity is part of the Black History Month project!

YOUTH MINISTRY – CHRISTY FYFE

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE RETURNING / Trinity is proud to host the Worcester Youth Basketball league. We work with the organization Worcester Common Ground Youth from local schools and organizations, come to Trinity on Saturday mornings and play basketball and have a light breakfast. How can I get in on the fun you ask? All you have to do is call Christy Fyfe, Youth and Families Lay Leader and say you'd like to volunteer. Volunteers help set up and distribute the breakfast snacks and set up the gym for the games.

The fun starts at around 8:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings from February 1 through March 29. You can join us for as many days as you would like. If volunteering isn't your thing, we are accepting any donations of breakfast snacks, granola bars, mini muffins, juice boxes and squeeze pouches of applesauce or yogurt are popular choices. Come and check out the fun!

STEWARDSHIP – KEVIN ERKKILA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Trinity's ministry programs, while supported financially by the congregation and led by staff, often rely on volunteers to fulfill their goals. This year during Lent we will be encouraging members to commit to volunteering for a program, either at Trinity or elsewhere, in which they have not previously participated. Volunteer opportunities at Trinity are always open to members and friends, and examples of their work appear in each committee or ministry team report in the congregation's Annual Report. However, we acknowledge that these ministries do not include all the needs that could be served and may not always align with what motivates someone to volunteer.

There are many organizations in our communities, state and country supporting causes and values consistent with ours that offer individuals with specific interests or skills additional opportunities to do God's work through service to others. Some examples of these are food banks, organizations that build or repair housing for the needy, disaster relief efforts, and animal rescue services.

Serving others through local charitable organizations builds awareness of our congregation's presence in the community and, in turn, generates interest in the ministries that Trinity sponsors directly. More information will be forthcoming on the formal commitment process we will be using. Meanwhile, let's think about and discuss new ways in which our hands can do God's work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE COMPLETE BACH PROJECT AND TRINITY CHURCH / In 11 years, during 12 concerts each year, ALL of the works of J. S. Bach will be presented live in various venues around Worcester, including Trinity Lutheran Church. Dr. Chris Shepard explains this project in a video recorded in the nave of Trinity Church to help spread the news about the project. We invite you to watch the film for more information about the project and to stay tuned for more details about each performance.
www.thecompletebach.org.

MEAL PACKING EVENT / Trinity is planning a meal-packing event on April 5, 2025. We plan to put together 20,000 meals for the local food pantries. The meals we will pack are either rice, pasta or oatmeal with a protein supplement and flavor packet. They taste good and provide 6-12 grams of protein, include real fruits and vegetables and are vitamin fortified. This is truly a community! We need your financial help and your physical help on April 5th. A sign-up sheet will be coming in March. Right now, we need you to think about how much this is helping God's children, our neighbors, and how much you can help. The cost for the products is \$7,400. We have solicited financial institutions, but we need your financial help. Please consider a monthly donation to this worthy project.

ONGOING EVENTS

COLLECTION FOR CARTY CUPBOARD / Items we will be collecting for the Carty Cupboard are: Instant cereal (hot or cold), jelly in plastic containers, hearty canned soup, baked beans, beef stew and Chef Boyardee. They also need reusable plastic bags. Thank you to all for your contributions over the past year!

CHILDREN'S TIME / At the time of the sermon, the children are invited to Christ Chapel for a time of singing led by Cantor Mark and age-appropriate activities led by Youth & Family Leader Christy Fyfe. Children are invited to return to the Nave at the Sign of Peace in time for the Lord's Supper.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL / The whole family is invited to attend Family Sunday School from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month. We will meet in CC LL 10 and CC LL 11 (downstairs classrooms).

LITTLE FREE PANTRY / Thanks to all who have continued to stock the LFP. Currently, we could use toothbrushes and small soaps. We can also use Ramen soups, nuts, water and tuna snacks. Feel free to put the items in the pantry at any time you are walking by.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER / *Good news!* ELCA World Hunger's December match of \$100,000 was met! Thank you to everyone for your generous support of this important support. In fact, in December, individuals and congregations around the New England Synod alone shared \$116,019.61 to ELCA World Hunger. We received a thank you letter from the Rev. Daniel Rift, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response, for Trinity's donation of \$5,982.64!

FAITH FORMATION

BIBLE STUDIES / Bible studies will continue Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. with Cantor Mark and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. with Dave Horn. Both are held in the Library. The appointed bible readings for the next Sunday are reviewed and discussed, preparing us to hear the Word read and preached the following week. We hope you will consider joining us!

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Sunday, February 2 Presentation of Our Lord / Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Malachi 3:1-4 *My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

Hebrews 2:14-18 *Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings*

Luke 2:22-40 *The child is brought to the temple*

Psalmody: Psalm 84 *How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 417, *In His Temple Now Behold Him*, REGENT SQUARE

This coming Sunday we hear Luke's story of the ritual at which the infant Jesus was presented in the temple and his mother Mary was "purified" after childbirth. Receiving them in the temple are Simeon and Anna, two old people who speak about the redemption that will come through Jesus' death. All narratives about Jesus point to his death and resurrection. Come to worship, and at communion hold Christ in your own hands.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, February 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 61:1-13 *Send me*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *I am the least of the apostles*

Luke 5:1-11 *Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people*

Psalmody: Psalm 138 *I will bow down toward your holy temple*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 798, *Will You Come and Follow Me*, KELVINGROVE

This coming Sunday, the gospel is the story of the miraculous catch of fish. So what does this have to do with us? Come to worship, to hear about you and the fish, to pray, to sing, to eat and drink.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, February 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 *Those who trust the LORD are like trees*

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 *Christ has been raised*

Luke 6:17-26 *Blessings on the poor, woes to the rich*

Psalmody: Psalm 1 *They are like tress planted by streams of water*

Hymn of the Day: ACS Hymn 1042, *May This Church Be Like a Tree*, QUE ESTE IGLESIA SEA UN ARBOL

In the gospel this coming Sunday, Jesus says, "Woe to you who are laughing now." What can this mean for us? Come to worship, to hear, to pray, to sing, to eat and drink.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, February 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 *Joseph forgives his brothers*

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 *The mystery of the resurrection*

Luke 6:27-38 *Love your enemies*

Psalmody: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 *The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 605, *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*, DETROIT

The first reading from Genesis on this coming Sunday describes how Joseph forgave his brothers their cruel misdeeds, and the gospel urges us to love our enemies. Come to worship, and receive the Spirit's power to live in this countercultural way.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, March 2 Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35 *Moses' face shone*

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 *We will be transformed*

Luke 9:28-43a *Jesus is transfigured on the mountain*

Psalmody: Psalm 99 *Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill*

Hymn of the Day: ACS Hymn 917, *Dazzling Presence on the Mountain*, WAVERLY

Over the past Sundays, we have seen Jesus show himself to be Christ, the one anointed by God to be our Savior. *This Sunday, the Transfiguration, when Jesus appears on a mountain in divine glory, concludes the time after Epiphany. In three days, on Ash Wednesday, we begin the climb to the mountain of Jesus' crucifixion. The church holds side-by-side the brilliance of God and the cross of Jesus.*

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Susan Brown – February 1
Neil Nelson – February 5
Guifeng Yu – February 7
Paula Schur – February 7
Norma Flanders – February 8
Warner Fletcher – February 8
Paula Wyble – February 8
George Labonte – February 10
David Horn – February 12
Anna-Maja Blodgett – February 15
David Forsberg – February 18
Carlyn Lussier – February 20
Ethel Glidden – February 21
Kyra Langlois – February 21
Thomas Faber – February 23

ANNIVERSARIES

We recognize the anniversaries of couples celebrating 25+ years

Thomas & Lois Toepfner – February 16
Ronald & Gail Piuze – February 18

+ DEATHS +

Elizabeth DeWolfe – January 16

2025 ALTAR CANDLES, FLOWERS, TOWER LIGHTING, TRINITY NEWS, TV MINISTRY and TV EQUIPMENT

In this coming year, the Parish Office encourages donors for the Altar Candles, Flowers, Tower Lighting, Trinity News and TV Ministry to sign up early by using this form.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- **Altar Candles:** \$20 per month to sponsor the altar candles for the month of _____ 2025. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration circle one**) of: _____ by _____.

- **Altar Flowers:** As sponsor, you will order the flowers from the florist of your choice. You may have the florist pick up the floral inserts from the Parish Office if you are ordering the double bouquet for the stands or you may order an arrangement in a vase that the florist supplies. The cost is paid directly to the chosen florist and the donation is noted in the bulletin for the chosen Sunday. Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions about this process. I would like to give the flowers on Sunday, _____, 2025. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Tower Lighting:** \$20 per half month to sponsor the Tower Lighting for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2025. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Trinity News:** \$50 per month to sponsor *Trinity News* for the month of _____ 2025. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **TV Ministry:** \$100/month or \$50 for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2025 to sponsor live streaming of Sunday services. Dedication can be given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ *Form and check can be mailed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Office, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester MA 01609*

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2025-26 Officers to be announced after Council votes on February 10

2025-2026 Council Members

Karen Couturier
Nathan Cummings
Jim Drackley
Bev Dumas
Kevin Erkkila
Rich Grusell

Katherine E. Lehman
Mark Lin
Dale Mattice
Cantor Mark Mummert
Interim Pastor Mark Perry
Suzanne Whitmarsh

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