



TRINITY
CHURCH

Hello
January

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From the Pastor's Desk....

God shows up in unexpected ways. He enters the world born as a human infant to young, unmarried kids. He arrives in a borrowed stable and is placed in an animal's feed trough. God shows up at the temple when He is twelve in the person of Jesus and astounds those present with his wisdom and understanding. He shows up to the poor, the weak, the broken with help, hope and healing. He shows up and His throne is a cross and His crown is made of thorns. Jesus shows up with love when He forgives those who crucified Him and promises resurrection to all who believe in Him. God shows up in unexpected ways.

The ways of God are so unexpected we do not always recognize His work. The issue is our attitude, our perspective, our spirit. Do we expect Him? Are we looking, expecting, accepting where God shows up?

Recently, I had a conversation with a man where we talked about "Nebraska nice". The changes in our society and the stresses of life in the last years has made "Nebraska nice" little more than a thin veneer. How often have we all experienced those moments when the veneer is worn through? There's frustration with life, anger at the changes in our world, and questions about our own preferences which block us for seeing God who shows up in unexpected ways.

This week a member of our church shared a piece of their morning devotions with me, Here is what they shared.

When it's time to join together in worship, are you caught up in the presentation of the music - whether it's a hymnal or worship choruses on the screen, whether it's organ music or guitar, your favorite songs or someone else's - or are you caught up in the beauty and holiness of Jesus?

And when you leave church on Sunday, did you realize that worship never ended, only the corporate aspect of it did? Do you realize that your whole life is a worship service unto the Lord, lived out every day as you prove your love for God by making Him the highest priority in your words, attitudes, thoughts, actions, and time? Pastor Bob Botsford

Our next worship series, "Unexpected" begins January 2. We are going to see where and how God shows up in unexpected ways and in unexpected places. God is ALWAYS with us. He is there in our frustrations, our fears, our anger, and our disappointment. He is there with our family and when we are alone. God is there to heal us when we are broken, and to bless us with victories in life. Jesus promised to neither abandon nor forsake us. Come join us for worship in January to open your eyes to the God who is with and around you every moment of your life.

Your Pastor and Friend,





THE YOUNIQUE PRIMER

DISCOVER YOUR LIFE CALL

6 - WEEK COURSE

Starts Wednesday, January 12
7:00 - 8:15 AM

No one ever drifts into a life that matters. Although God created each person with unique potential and for a specific purpose, very few take the time to discover what their special calling is.

Stop speeding through life and missing the power of a vivid personal vision.

Register for this course today!

It will be a simple yet powerful, gospel-centered experience that brings joy, breakthrough and life change.

Space is limited to 20

See EVENTS at <http://www.nextsteps.guide>



EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY

Sundays, Feb 20 - April 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Slow down your life to develop your own personal relationship with Jesus.

MAJOR THEMES INCLUDE: The problem of shallow discipleship, know yourself, understand your past, recognize God's presence in life's difficulties, rest in God through life rhythms, love others, and plan for ongoing growth.

Set aside Sunday evenings and make plans to participate.

Register at <http://www.nextsteps.guide>

Greetings People of Trinity Church,



I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.” Ezekiel 11: 19-20

I pray this message finds you healthy and hopeful for 2022. The previous two years have been very challenging. Yet here we are, by the grace and faithfulness of God, ready to explore and meet the challenges of the new year with hope and grace for the future. The passage from Ezekiel speaks of God’s vision for God’s people – a vision of hope for their future and wellbeing. Ezekiel reminds us, God is ready and eager to bless us with a new heart and a new spirit in order to live forward with hope. This is because God is our God, God loves us and our identity is as God’s people, chosen and beloved forever.

How is God renewing your heart and spirit in the new year? As I talk with Matt about the ministry of Trinity, I see that God continues to provide opportunities both familiar and new to help renew hearts and spirits in your faith community. There are many activities in addition to worship designed to grow faith, build community and serve others in the name of Jesus. Matt will begin work on his internship project this month, a small group experience based on the resource “Younique” by Will Mancini. The goal is to help people recognize their gifts and to develop them by using them to serve God both in church and in everyday life. I hope you will consider being part of this program, not just for Matt’s benefit, but for your own. Understanding more clearly and deeply how God has gifted you will help renew your heart and give you a new spirit for the ways Jesus calls you to love and serve others.

Matt’s ongoing service to God at Trinity is a blessing! It is making a difference for Matt as he grows in his role as a pastoral leader. It is also making a difference in the community as you minister together and grow in faith. May God continue to inspire all of us to grow in faith through renewed hearts and spirits in the new year. May that renewal lead to more loving service, healing and hope in the world, to the glory of God.

Pastor Ellen Stelzle

Matt Pearson's Internship Supervisor



TRINITY KIDS

THE HEART OF TRINITY KIDS IS TO EQUIP PARENTS TO WALK ALONGSIDE YOUR KIDS AS THEY LEARN AND EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF JESUS.

A Gingerbread Christmas

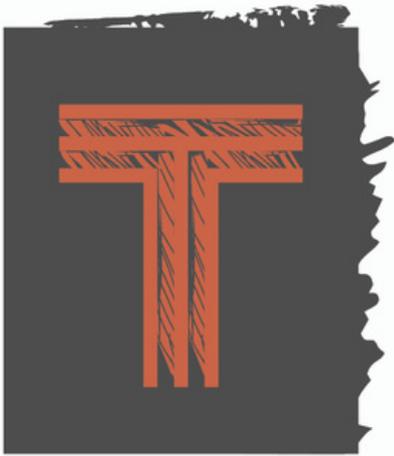


A ton of fun was on display as more than 25 families experienced a unique afternoon of learning about God's love for us while creating memories and their own gingerbread houses!

Sundays in January, starting the 9th, we explore a new series about self control!



Find us on Facebook at [fb.com/trinitykidspapio](https://www.facebook.com/trinitykidspapio)



GRADES 6-12

TRINITY STUDENTS

Wednesdays 6-8:15 p.m.

Use the Northeast entrance

Pizza, student store, pop and snack machine (cash only),
open gym, games, worship, message, small groups



Coming up: Distinct

If someone asked who you are, what would you say? Maybe you'd say your name. Or maybe you'd say, "I'm a musician. A basketball player.

A friend. A daughter or son. I'm a human!" Those things might be true, but have you ever felt like you're still figuring out who you are, what you're good at, or why you're here? In this 4-week series, the stories of Jesus and John the Baptist, and the words of Paul, will help us see why discovering who Jesus is helps us discover who we're meant to be. Not only is Jesus distinct from anyone who has ever lived, but God made us distinct, too, with gifts that we can use to serve Him and others. These unique distinctions are worth celebrating.

New Year's Party
January 6

2022!!

Details on Instagram
[@trinity.student.ministries](https://www.instagram.com/trinity.student.ministries)





NEXT STEPS

ALWAYS BE IN THE KNOW WITH NEXT STEPS

Your one-stop source for information, events and registrations.

When you are at Trinity Church in person, stop in the Commons before or after worship to chat with a Next Steps Guide. They are ready to help.

When you have left the building and need some info,
<http://www.nextsteps.guide> is your best choice.

(If you use the church center app, you're already in the right place.)



church center

the app to make church life simple

DOWNLOAD FROM YOUR FAVORITE APP STORE TODAY!

 directory

 groups

 giving

 calendar

 check-in

 registrations

web-based option available <https://trinitylifepapio.churchcenter.com>

Did you worship? Please check in each week.

Step 1
Open the Church Center app on your phone



Step 2
Click Check-In at the bottom of your screen

Step 3
Select the people in your household worshipping with you

Step 4
Click 'Next'



That's it! You are a check-in expert!!

Whether online or in person, checking into worship helps us care for one another.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 01/05 - Nancy Miller
- 01/05 - Paul Schroeder
- 01/06 - Bernice Wisniewski
- 01/12 - Jack Butler
- 01/15 - Mary Jane Nelson
- 01/26 - Hugh Cappen

Baptized into Our Faith Family

- 12/12 - Andrew James Tuthill (adult)
- 12/22 - Graham Smith Wilkinson, son of Cory and Shannon (O'Connor) Wilkinson. Sponsors are Alex and Ivis Wilkinson.

Health and Healing

- Ann England
- Betty Tollander

Sympathies

- Tom and Sharon Bernady on the loss of Sharon's mother, Jean Sorensen

TRINITY'S VISION

**A place to belong and become
who God is calling us to be**

TRINITY'S MISSION

Connecting People to Christ

TRINITY'S STRATEGY

**Love God | Grow Community
Serve Others**

Baptism Basics

Sunday, January 23

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Learn more about
baptism at Trinity
Church.**

www.nextsteps.guide

[Click EVENTS](#)

TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings
Connect People to Christ!

GIVING IN NOVEMBER

Offering Entries = 504

of: Donors = 233 | New Donors = 5 | Recurring = 90

Source: Electronic Giving = 299 | Cash & Checks = 205

Total Received = \$114,930.29

General Fund: \$78,574.78

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$31,296.62

All other giving*: \$5,058.89

*includes memorials, Thanksgiving, IT, Shalom, The Raining Season, Little Miracles, Food Pantry, Stephen Center, Trinity Kids TRS sponsored child

NOVEMBER ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ - 46,659

Building Fund: \$ 214,217

Endowment: \$ 403,405

GO Fund 05/2021-04/2024

138 pledges received

\$1.2 million pledged

Received as of 12/23 - \$395,675.96

General Fund 2022

122 pledges received

\$514,441 pledged

2022 Budget \$878,584

We have good work
to do as we follow
God's lead into 2022.



SCAN ME

←
to support the
General Fund in 2022

Join God in what He's doing in and through Trinity Church
www.nextsteps.guide and click **GIVE**

Unexpected in connection groups

I recently met with several of the connection group leaders to hear how God is at work in their groups. I enjoyed sitting down with church leaders and listening to the stories of how their groups are connecting participants more deeply to each other and to Christ.

Here are some of the UNEXPECTED experiences you might find in a connection group

Care in challenging situations
New friendships
Insights about life during Bible study
Opportunities to serve
Deep dive into the “real-life stuff” of the Bible
Things in common with others
Growth in leading others
Encouragement in connecting others to Christ
Support in ongoing life transformation

To find out more about Trinity’s Connection Groups go to [nextsteps.guide](https://www.nextsteps.guide) or have a conversation with me.

~Pastor Dave @ prdave@trinitylife.org

Save the date

Annual Meeting and Celebration

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Electing leadership, reviewing the past year, and celebrating the good things God has done in 2021



Calling all men!

Axe Throwing & Archery
Sunday, February 6
1-4 p.m.

Details and registration
www.nextsteps.guide
and click **EVENTS**