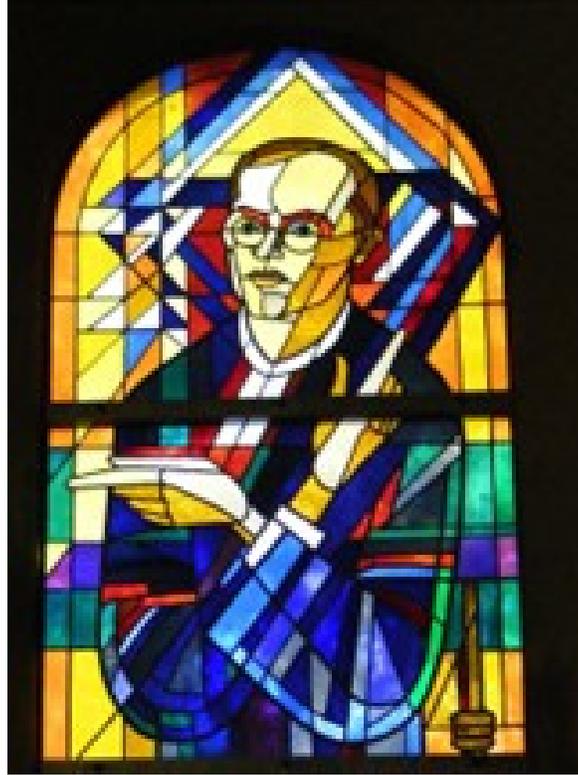


TRINITY TIDINGS

Becoming in 2024



(Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a stained glass window at Johannes Basilikum in Berlin)

From the Pastor's Pen

Pastor Elana

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor, professor, writer, one who resisted the Nazis, teacher at an underground seminary, spy, and part of an attempt on Hitler's life. In 1944, he was imprisoned in Dachau. The Nazis planned to stage a dramatic trial after the war against Bonhoeffer. When it became clear that the Nazis would lose, they executed him.

While he was imprisoned, though, he made a great impact on other prisoners and on the guards. He spent his time praying, recalling scripture, singing hymns, and continuing to minister as well as he was able. It was during this time that he wrote this poem:

“Who am I?”

By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cell's confinement
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
Like a Squire from his country house.

Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
Freely and friendly and clearly,
As though it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
Equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
Struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing my throat,
Yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
Thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,
Tossing in expectations of great events,
Powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
Weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
Faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.

Who am I? This or the Other?
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine![1]

For many, myself included, Bonhoeffer is a hero of faith and an inspiration. Yet, with this poem, we hear directly from Bonhoeffer that he had fears and doubts. He wasn't a saint beyond the average Christian. He was someone who did the best he could every day to be faithful. He examined his life and his thoughts. He confessed his sin. He struggled to understand what was happening and why.

As we begin a New Year, a lot of us take time to think about our lives - to make resolutions about how we can do better. Each of us, even the ones thought to be the best of us, are in a process of becoming. This is something we share, whether we're at our best or our worst. We are connected to one another and forever held close by the God who created us and loves us. As we strive to grow and to become, it is important to remember that God is with us. Isaiah 43:1-3a lets us hear a word from God:

1 But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

We belong to God. In Christ we are always becoming. May we trust in the mercy and grace of our Savior each day! Amen.

[1] <http://www.dbonhoeffer.org/who-was-db2.htm>

Evangelism

Cindy Strasheim

Evangelism team updated a new directory which will be handed out in church during January. If you won't be in church in January, contact the office to have one mailed to you.

Please wear your name tag each Sunday. It is more inclusive to visibly share your name with each other during Passing of the Peace or in conversation. Some long time attendees can't remember names and visitors feel more welcome.

Christian Education

Kate Hanson

The Christian Education team is excited to bring back youth Sunday School! Our first meeting will be in February at 9:15am.

Children from 6-10 are invited to join a teacher in the classroom located next to the CE Office! We will be using the Follow Me Curriculum from the PC(USA). We hope to see you there!

In order to make Sunday School successful, we will need some volunteer teachers!

Please reach out to Katie Hanson if you are interested. All lesson plans and supplies will be provided. You can sign up for one week or choose to be on a monthly rotation. Let Katie know if you have any questions!

Fellowship

Annemarie Kessler

It's a new year and a great time to meet new friends at the Trinity Café. Please join us before worship each Sunday morning for coffee and treats. All are welcome!

Future fellowship opportunities are being planned by the Fellowship Team. We welcome any suggestions or ideas to aid us in our planning for the new year.

Presbyterian Women

Cindy Strasheim & Annemarie Kessler

A beautiful email from Ally Fjeldsted of the CC Refugee Resettlement Program. She acknowledged and thanked Trinity for our contributions.

Annemarie

Hi Annemarie,

I hope you are well! I wanted to give you an exciting update about refugee resettlement in Tulsa.

Yesterday, the refugee resettlement team at Catholic Charities was invited to celebrate Tulsa becoming Oklahoma's first Certified Welcoming City!

A Certified Welcoming City is a national designation given to communities that go above and beyond to welcome and integrate every person, including migrants.

There are only 21 cities in the U.S.A. that are official Welcoming Cities, and Tulsa has officially been added to that list.

This designation was only made possible through a joint effort of community partners in Tulsa. I want to thank Trinity Presbyterian for their compassion for the refugee community and commend you all for contributing to this award. Thank you all for showing Christ's merciful love to those in need. I look forward to serving together more in 2024!

Sincerely,
 Ally Fjeldsted
 R&P Community Engagement
 Coordinator
 2450 N. Harvard Ave. | Tulsa, OK 74115 |
 918.766.4906

Presbyterian Women will meet at John Knox January 10 at 9:30 am. A Zoom link will be available. Contact Cindy or Annemarie.

PW will be gathering items for Presbyterian Disaster kits until January 21. You do not have to complete an entire kit. You could

choose soap or toothbrush or washcloths.

Items needed are as follows:

- 1 Hand towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 Wide tooth comb
- 1 Nail clipper
- 1 Bar of soap
- 1 Toothbrush
- 10 Band-aids

We will gather any items donated and take them to Southminister church on Jan 27 where they will be assembled and transported by Ferncliff to the storage location.

PW will have an EOP planning meeting at Southminister on Sat January 27.

Worship

Liz Powell

Many thanks to all those who helped make a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season. Special thanks to those who helped decorate the church and provided poinsettias for the sanctuary. These works and gifts made a special seasons even more beautiful. The Trees for Trinity offering was a big success, almost \$5,000 was raised and the planting will be done in early Spring.

As we move forward into 2024 there are some dates to keep in mind:

February 4th - Communion will be celebrated - if you would like Communion elements brought to your home please phone the church office.
February 14th - Ash Wednesday - there will be an evening service to begin the Lenten Season.



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

2024



Gaylen Williams

01/03

John Rayment

01/04

Rev. Lucus Keppel

01/13

David Frazier

01/25

Welcome New Members!!!

Nathan Kosanke

Expectant Grandparents

Rick & Lorna Reynolds

Jack & Kim Campbell

John & Dana Clawson

Barry & Debbie Straabe

January 2024

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Indevco®

| | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | 1 1/365 | 2 2/364 Read the Bible | 3 3/363 Book Study | 4 4/362 | 5 5/361 | 6 6/360 | TO • DO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 7/359 | 8 8/358 New Year's Day | 9 9/357 | 10 10/356 Book Study | 11 11/355 | 12 12/354 | 13 13/353 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Epiphany | | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 14/352 | 15 15/351 | 16 16/350 | 17 17/349 Book Study | 18 18/348 | 19 19/347 | 20 20/346 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Baptism of our Lord | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21 21/345 | 22 22/344 | 23 23/343 | 24 24/342 Book Study | 25 25/341 | 26 26/340 | 27 27/339 | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28 28/338 | 29 29/337 | 30 30/336 Read the Bible | 31 31/335 Book Study | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NOTES

DECEMBER 2023
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1 2
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10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
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31

FEBRUARY 2024
S M T W T F S
1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29

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