

Trinity Tidings

HELLO
JANUARY

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From the Pastor's Pen

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Trinity Presbyterian Church
 9303 E. 111th St. S.
 Bixby, OK 74008
 918-369-3690
trinitychurchbixby.org

SERVING YOU

Rev. Lucus Keppel, Co-Pastor
 (cell) 248-845-8287
trinitypastor@olp.net

Rev. Elana Levy, Co-Pastor
 (cell) 757-876-7025
trinitypastor@olp.net

Erik Collins, Director of Music
 (cell) 918-809-3418

Donna Bridenstine, Childcare
 (cell) 918-982-5868

Kim Harvey, Admin. Assistant (office)
 918-369-3690
trinity@olp.net



The Jordan River, near the traditional site of Jesus' baptism, Jan 2011.
 Photo by Pastor Lucus

Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

~ Mark 1:9-11

This month marks the return to Ordinary time with the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. But right now, everything still feels anything but ordinary. While the vaccination process for the coronavirus is finally in process, and we see a glimmer of light at the end of all of this, we are still processing a holiday season that was markedly different. Restricted travel, virtual meetings, all the things that have made this pandemic a challenge have made holidays even more so.

Pastor's Pen, cont.

Perhaps that's why the story of Jesus' baptism feels so powerful to me right now. In just three verses, Mark tells the story with his characteristic terseness, and yet we see, in such a brief time, the glory and grace of God. Jesus is baptized by his cousin John, in the Jordan River – a particular time and place, and connected with a particular person. It is the combination of ordinary and extraordinary that stands out to me – that Jesus knows John, that they have probably encountered each other several times over the years, and Jesus certainly knows of John's practice of baptism. But in this singular moment, everything changes – God's voice calls out, "You are my dearly beloved Son; in you I find happiness."

The Jordan River is not a particularly clean river – it flows with brown water, rich with the nutrients that the surrounding soil needs. It is not a particularly large river – in most places, it can be forded easily. But the Jordan has long functioned as a dividing line, separating the land of Israel from its neighbors, marking out a boundary of the holy land. Its water has quenched the thirst of many wilderness wanderers. But it also has the spiritual meaning for so many, as the site of Naaman's healing, and John's baptism practice, and Jesus' baptism. This ordinary river has become so much more because of the memorable moments spent in it and around it.

As we return to ordinary time, we recall that the particular memories we make during this time will continue to influence us. Our ordinary lives, disrupted as they are by the pandemic, are still under God's loving care. Just as God calls out to Jesus, "You are my dearly beloved" – so, too, does God call out to each of us as we remember our baptisms. For, no matter what else changes or is unlike what we would hope or wish for, God's love for us is constant – and in that love, our lives can be extraordinary indeed!

~Pastor Lucas



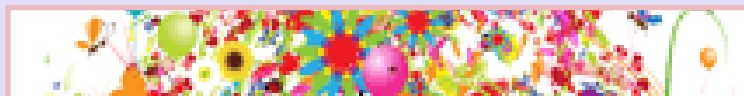
Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

Trinity will hold a congregational meeting on Jan 24, both in person and over Zoom. To help make sure that all voices in the congregation are heard during this pandemic, we will be mailing out the annual report and ballots a week ahead of time. Church members will need to either mail, email, or drop off their ballots back to the church by Sunday, Jan 31.

Midweek Book Study

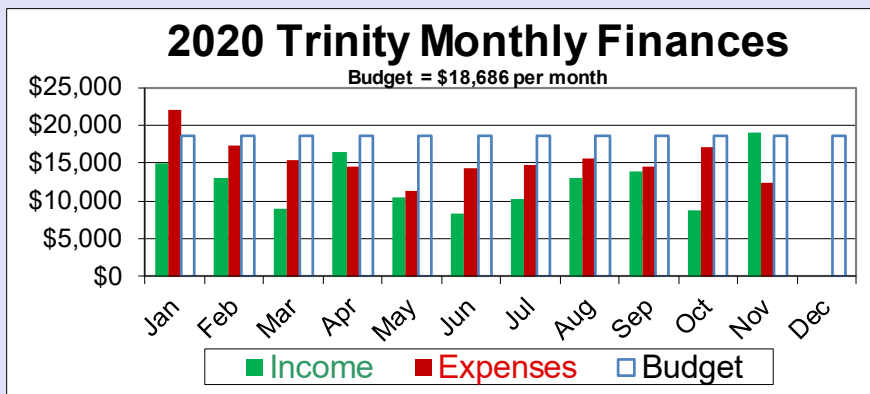
Our Midweek book study group meets every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom! We are in the process of choosing our next selection, so stay tuned for the new title to be announced soon!

[Click Here to Join!](#)



Finance/Stewardship

Grant Kessler



2020	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 137,838	\$ 169,312	\$ 224,226

Some pictures from our Living Christmas performance on Christmas Eve!



Fellowship

John Clawson

Trinity Young Adult

This month we are featuring Katy Orrell as our former Trinity Youth, who is now a young adult. Katy is 28 years old and Ann Reed's only child.

Education/Career

Katy graduated from Broken Arrow High school in 2010 and she graduated from Tulsa Tech in 2011 as an Aircraft mechanic with a prestigious A&P license (authorizing her to work on Aircraft and Powerplants).

Katy is working at Christiansen Aviation which is located at Jones Airport in Jenks. She is an aircraft mechanic that completes inspections and repairs on Cessna 150s & 172s and other small aircraft.

Personal

Katy married James Orrell in 2016. James is also an A&P mechanic at Christiansen Aviation. Katy & James are living in Tulsa and have a dog named Laika (Laika was named after the first dog in space). Laika is a German Shepherd/Husky mix.

Katy is also training to be a helicopter pilot (see the super cool picture of her!).

Favorite Trinity Youth Memory

Katy enjoyed our summer trips when she was in Youth group and she also liked having Youth leaders that were like her "fun parents."

Katy & I discussed our favorite shared story from her time at Youth group, which happened during a "Lock-in" at Trinity.

The story goes something like this:

Lock-ins at the church consisted of dinner together, singing songs in the sanctuary with the sound system, playing games, watching movies and late night snacks. Eventually, everyone went to sleep in different locations within the church. At around 3:30 a.m., I heard blood curdling screams coming from the Youth room. Rushing in, (and super concerned that someone was hurt) I turned on the light to see Katy and two other young ladies standing on the furniture in the Youth room and screaming at the top of their lungs. I asked, "what happened?". And their answer was, "squirrel!!!!" (almost like the squirrel scene from the movie Christmas Vacation). The squirrel had dropped down from the ceiling and was running around the floor (probably more frightened than anyone). After the squirrel escaped and we realized everyone was okay; we laughed so hard we were crying.



Submitted by
John Clawson

Check out these fun facts about the month of January below.

- ◆ The name for January comes from the Roman god, Janus, who is always depicted with two heads. He uses one head to look back on the year before, and the other head to look forward into the New Year!
- ◆ In Pasadena, [California](#), there has been a Rose Parade held every year since 1890. It has since been broadcasted worldwide and is typically viewed in over 100 countries around the globe.
- ◆ If you were born in January, your birthstone is a garnet!
- ◆ In leap years, January always starts on the same day as [April](#) and [July](#).
- ◆ London is famous for their extensive subway system, nicknamed “The Tube.” This makes sense, because they’re also responsible for opening the first operational underground railway on January 10th, 1863.
- ◆ Some historical names for January include “Wulfmonath,” which came from the Anglo-Saxons because it was the month hungry [wolves](#) would come scavenging. King Charlemagne would call it “Wintermanoth” meaning “winter/cold month.”
- ◆ Originally, the Roman calendar had only 10 months, and it excluded January and February.
- ◆ January was a monumental year for Alaska! As of January 3rd, 1959, [Alaska](#) officially became the 49th state of the United States.
- ◆ The equivalent month of January in terms of temperature in the Southern Hemisphere is July!
- ◆ January has two zodiac signs – Capricorn, which is until January 19, and Aquarius, which is for the rest of the month.
- ◆ The dianthus caryophyllus is the birth flower of January – more commonly known as the carnation!
- ◆ One of the most influential events in U.S. happened in January – on January 1st, 1892, Ellis Island opened, allowing for the immigration of over 20 million people!

Monthly Liturgy

Jan 3—Epiphany

Jer. 31:7-14;
Psalm 147: 12-20;
Ephesians 1:3-14;
John 1:(1-9) 10-18.

Jan. 10—Baptism of the Lord

Gen. 1:1-5;
Psalm 29;
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11.

Jan. 17—2nd Sunday after Epiphany

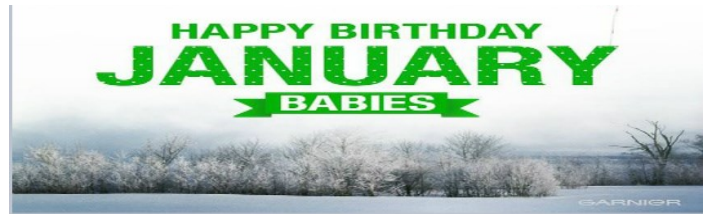
1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20);
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Cor. 6:12-20;
John 1:43-51.

Jan. 24—3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Cor. 7:29-31;
Mark 1:14-20.

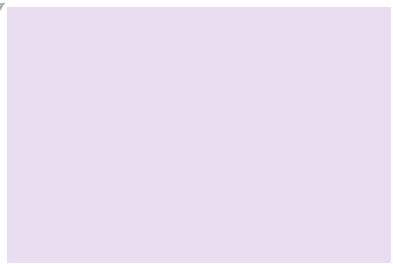
Jan 31—4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deut. 18:15-20, 10
Psalm 111;
1 Cor. 8:1-13;
Mark 1:21-28.



John Rayment	1/4
Abby Rainwater	1/5
Pastor Lucus	1/13
Samantha Rainwater	1/14
Doug Rainwater	1/19
Barbara Swayze	1/19
David Frazier	1/25





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 COMMUNION EPIPHANY	4	5 12:00 pm Christmas Clean-Up	6 11:00 Midweek Bk. Sdy. Via Zoom 5:30 pm Bells Practice	7	8	9
10 BAPTISM OF THE LORD	11	12	13 Pres. Women 9:45 via Zoom 11:00 Midweek Bk. Sdy. Via Zoom 5:30 pm Bells Practice	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday—church office closed. 6:30 SESSION Via Zoom	19	20 11:00 Midweek Bk. Sdy. Via Zoom 5:30 pm Bells Practice	21	22	23
24 11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting, in person & via Zoom	25	16	27 11:00 Midweek Bk. Sdy. Via Zoom 5:30 pm Bells Practice	28	29	30
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