

# Trinity Connections

To Know Christ. To Share  
Christ.  
January 1, 2021



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Happy  
New Year

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING INFORMATION

The council is trying to find a way to legally have a congregational meeting online. We could do it on Zoom, but we realize that most members are not equipped for that. We have been in contact with the Synod with an idea that we think would work for everyone. We are waiting to hear back to see if our idea would be legal for a nonprofit organization. We will be providing more information in the Weekly Updates as soon as we get it!

## Here Comes the President!

I thought this month, I would do a report on what the council and the joint committee between churches has been doing in regards to an Interim Pastor. In normal circumstances, in both denominations, the church is assigned an interim pastor and is not given a choice. Because we have two denominations, we have two choices. The joint council appointed a committee of two people from each church to look at the candidates. Committee members for Trinity Lutheran are myself and Jan Gibson. Unlike the search for a regular pastor, we don't fill out a church profile (time consuming), and the process is much shorter. The congregations do not vote on the candidates.

We have looked at the rosters and have watched recorded sermons. We have come up with a description of the job (which has been approved by both denominations). We came up with interview questions, and are proceeding with interviews December 31<sup>st</sup> (the day after this article was written).

What we anticipate happening over the next two weeks is the committee choosing a candidate. We then need to negotiate a compensation package with said candidate. Next, we will recommend that person to the joint counsel which will vote on it. It will then go to the assistant dean of the Sierra Pacific Synod and to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbyterians for approval. That should happen by the end of the first full week of January. If everything goes smoothly and the various denominations agree, we should soon have an interim pastor.

Look for good news regarding our interim pastor in the weekly updates. In the meantime, Sunday the third we will be using a service provided by Sierra Pacific Synod that is meant to give worship leadership a break for the holidays. On Sunday the 10th we will have a supply pastor for our online service.

Julie McIntosh

## Bibles, Books and Beyond

The Trinity Bible Study will complete our Advent/Epiphany “Pilgrimage to Bethlehem” very soon. Then we will begin a new study on **Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** titled “**Christian Life in the Book of James.**” As you may know, Luther called James “a book of straw” and even suggested that it be removed from the Bible because he feared that it replaced faith with works. But others have found a more subtle argument about the relationship between faith and works in the book—as well as a rich discussion of Christian life that echoes the words of Jesus more than any book outside of the Gospels. So we will explore the book with open minds and open hearts to see what light it might shed on how our own lives—grounded solidly in faith—might be distinctively Christian in these challenging times.

If you would like to join the Bible Study send me an email at [amwagstaf@gmail.com](mailto:amwagstaf@gmail.com), or contact Lisa at the church if you need to have your bible study mailed to you. Also, if you would like to take a break from receiving the bible study emails, please let me know.

Ann Marie Wagstaff  
Education Ministry Chair



### New Prayer Concerns

Family & Friends of Danny Keene, Sr. (Jan Gibson) - for faith and hope in the Resurrection

### Continuing Prayer Concern

Debbie Rodriguez - for continued healing

Gloria Miller - for continued healing

Peggy Holt - for healing and comfort due to health problems

Julie Elston - for continued health concerns

Brian Nelson - for continuing health concerns

La Vida Nueva UMC - for God to prosper our partnership in the gospel

The Sierra-Pacific Synod - for wisdom and a spirit of true fellowship in our shared ministries

### Those unable to worship with us:

June Mowles - Sierra Hills

Avis Lindroos - North Dakota

Phyllis Rengstorf - Kaweah Manor, Visalia

## Stewardship Update

Porterville now has a Welcome Center/ Navigation Center to serve those who are homeless in our community. The Center is the beneficiary of a large grant received by Turning Point of California, Inc., a group founded in 1970 that has a long record of serving those in need throughout the Central Valley. Its mission is “to provide public benefit through helping people develop skills, motivation, and resources to become productive members of society; healthy in body, mind, and spirit.”

Turning Point is now working in collaboration with the City and community groups in Porterville to transition those who are homeless to safe housing as well as to make needed changes in their lives.

Richard Osborne (with whom Trinity has worked in the past to provide solar lanterns and blessing bags to the Porterville homeless) invited me to tour the Center earlier this month. I was quite impressed with the facility and the plans for its use in the future. At this time the Welcome Center is able to provide 20 beds (currently full) for the homeless as well as meals (currently serving an average of 90 people daily) and washers and dryers. In the future the Center will provide many additional resources and services. And they are very interested in collaborating with **Trinity** on our **Ministry of Books for the Homeless**.

### **Trinity's Caring and Sharing Fund At Work:**

At the time Richard and I visited, we learned that the Center has received many donations of clothing but were in dire need of men's underwear and women's bras, as well as sweats needed to create layers for warmth. After the Council learned of this need, the Council designated **\$1,000 from the Trinity Caring and Sharing Fund** to purchase these items. Our order has been placed, and the homeless should have them soon.

## **January Giving Opportunity:**

Another much needed item is outdoor dog kennels. For those who live without homes, a dog provides protection, warmth, and companionship. Many times, these men and women bond so deeply with their dogs that they are unwilling to accept shelter if their dogs cannot accompany them. Since dogs cannot be brought into the shelters, this creates a problem that can be solved with outdoor kennels. So if you happen to have such a shelter that you would be willing to donate, please contact me and I will put you in contact with a representative of the Welcome Center.

Thanks for all your support for Trinity's stewardship ministries in 2020.

Ann Marie Wagstaff

*Each month the Trinity newsletter will include information about a local non-profit group who could use our help in fulfilling its unique service. If you would like to recommend a non-profit to be featured, please contact Ann Marie Wagstaff or Lisa Duncan (church office).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Stewardship Opportunity at TLC**

There are various small cleaning projects that need to get done in the church for which the cleaning crew are not responsible. If you would like to take on one of these projects, please let Lisa know to make arrangements for a good time. Here is a quick list: stain on carpet in sanctuary; spill on concrete by east side glass doors; deep clean kitchen; ac/heater vents; windows on all areas outside and some inside. Most supplies are already at the church.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Jan McKinley	1/7
Linda Johnson	1/10
Judy Trimble	1/23

No anniversaries this month.

**Pastor Jim has given permission to publish his home address for those who wish to keep in touch:**

**Jim & Cindi Rogers  
2036 W. Nancy Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257**

**Office Hours:  
M-Th 9:00am-1:00pm  
Tues: 9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Office Phone:  
(559) 784-4202**