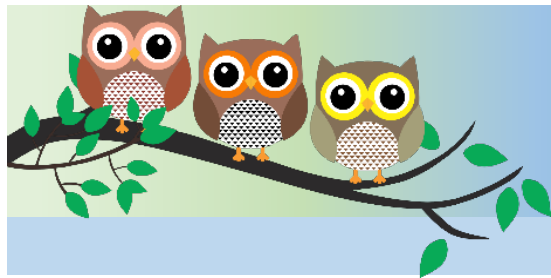


Trinity Episcopal Church

400 W Ash St, El Dorado, KS 67042

316.321.6606 • office@trinityeldorado.org

the Voice



news & views for and about
the people & friends of Trinity

December 2021



Generosity

Elizabeth said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people. (Luke 1: 24)"

Life can seem like a series broken promises and disappointments. The "perfect" life envisioned does not always work out as planned and there is no reasonable explanation-nothing or no one to blame. It can leave you lonely and isolated, barren and confused, lacking joy, hope, peace and love-lacking meaning, purpose, and a sense of renewed life.

Elizabeth and Zachariah felt the loneliness of broken promises and disappointments. They had done everything right-lived honorably, followed all the rules, and yet, unable to conceive the desired child, and lacking a child, disgraced, viewed as lacking God's favor by their family and neighbors. In their old age, forgotten by God, "disgraced and childless" with the promise of a newborn, a family, foolish and beyond reason-no priestly heir or descended daughter of Aaron, no one to carry the family name or care for them in their old age. Even though they were "righteous before God" there seemed little hope or possibility for any change in their circumstance. Overlooked in the promise made to their ancestors Abraham and Sarai that in and through them "all families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12: 3b)".

While Elizabeth's story acknowledges the pain of people struggling with infertility, miscarriages, devastating loss and the denial of "joy and gladness." Sarai, Rebecca Rachel, and Hannah's stories all embody a similar struggle to find fulfillment and the opportunity to nurture new life amid the barrenness encountered in their lives. When we encounter barrenness or a perceived weakness of any form in others it is easy to blame their misfortunes they encounter as being the result of their sinfulness, lacking God's favor; and therefore, disgraced among people. It is easy to blame the victim. It makes us feel better, removes any obligation to sit with their discomfort and even blinds us to the unfairness and injustice often encountered in people lives. They brought it on themselves. But Elizabeth and Zachariah did not bring this on themselves.

It is by their experience we know not every barren wilderness, not every loss, illness, or disappointment have anything to do with being "sinful" and "flawed" receiving our just reward or "punishment" or having a moral defect. Elizabeth and Zechariah are "righteous before God". They, and we, are people of faith and courage who experience barrenness, wilderness wandering or the "dark night of the soul" It seems the depth of our spiritual lives are refined in such environments.

Scripture teaches that barrenness and vulnerability is pregnant with God's renewed life, and that our wilderness wanderings are the geography of testing and transformation and the "dark night" the horizon for the dawning morning where God's mercies are renewed daily, and our beings nourished. Barrenness, wilderness wanderings, and dark nights of our present age encourages us to remain vulnerable, courageous, faithful, and steadfast even when it does not seem to matter, to act with empathy, and compassion even when no one notices are even seems to care, to prayerfully watch and actively wait-because God does hear Zachariah and those gathered in prayer the temple. And God will hear us, remember his covenant and promise, pursue us, and find us in our barren wilderness and dark night - find us trusting that the flower of this present moment has its roots in God's promise of unmerited favor and renewed life. For "He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand (Psalm 95: 7)." even when we are disappointed, grief-stricken and find it difficult to be hopeful, God will find us. "For nothing will be impossible with God (Luke 1: 37)."

Blessings

Les +

For Courage

When the light around you lessens and your thoughts darken until your body feels fear turn
Cold as stone inside,
When you find yourself bereft of any belief in yourself
And all you unknowingly leaned on has fallen,

When one voice commands your whole heart, and it is raven dark,

Steady yourself and see, that it is your own thinking that darkens your world,
Search and you will find a diamond-thought of light,

Know that you are not alone. And that this darkness has purpose;
Gradually it will school your eyes to find the one gift your life requires
Hidden within this night-corner.

Invoke the learning of every suffering you have suffered

Close your eyes.

Gather all the kindling about your heart to create one spark.

That is all you need to nourish the flame

That will cleanse the dark of its weight of festering fear.

A new confidence will come alive to urge you toward higher ground

Where your imagination will learn to engage difficulty as its most rewarding threshold!

John O'Donohue

"To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings"



Every Sunday at 10:15am

Father Les will lead us in the Holy Eucharist the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month.

Deacon Diane Kruger, David Reynolds & Carol Turner will lead us on the 2nd and 4th.

Join us every Sunday following the service for coffee & fellowship.

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Mornings

9:00-9:45am on Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting:](#)

Meeting ID: 936 4443 1825 Passcode: 797179
1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Wednesday Evening Prayer

6:30pm on Facebook

[facebook.com/stmattsnewton](https://www.facebook.com/stmattsnewton)

Thursday Mornings

10:30-12:00pm

A study through the Gospel of Mark



Honor someone special, remember an important event, or sponsor to cover Trinity's expenses for a particular day. It costs approximately \$55.00 to operate the Church on a regular day.

Sign up on the the "Church Care" calendar (Parish Hall) for the day(s) that you want to take care of Trinity and send a check to the office or place it in the collection plate. Be sure to write "Church Care" on the memo.

Altar Guild Servers

December: Cindy Badwey, Carol Turner, and Becky White

January: Lois Balance, Shirley Patton, Glenda Giro

Inquirer's & Confirmation

- Would you like to learn about the Baptismal Covenant, the Way of Love, and the Episcopal Church as preparation for Confirmation (youth or adult)?
- Are you interested in being Received into the Episcopal Church?
- Are you New? This is a great way to learn more about Trinity and the Episcopal Church.

If you are interested, please contact the church office or Father Les.



Tea-Time Literary Society

Meets Wednesdays at 11am
Trinity's Parish Hall

Bring your lunch and share about a book you have read or are reading... or just come for the fellowship! **All are welcome!**



Next Vestry Meeting

Sunday, December 19 at 11:45am

In-Person & via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97258761596?pwd=a3BTUIBFdjlG YzRManN4ZlVkcU2d209>

Meeting ID: 972 5876 1596

Passcode: 528733



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Following service

Potluck luncheon: bring a dish to share

Annual reports are due! Please send in your reports no later than January 3.

Prayer Chain

If you have a request for prayers, please contact the church office 316.321.6606.

Prayer Requests

Anita, Beth, Danny, Dave, Debbie, Delinda, Delores, Donna, Elaine, Jane, Jeff, Jerry, Jessica, Joan, Jonah, Judy, Julie, Karen, Kathleen, Kenneth, Kent, Kim, Lauren, Penny, Richard, Robert, Ron, Rose, Suzanne, Susan, Taylor and Logan and their newborn Oaklyn Mae.

Thanksgivings

Christmas is filled with thrilling wonders and exchange of lovely gifts. The joy of the season is awesome and we pray it remains with us through the New Year. Our heart swells with deepest gratitude for the spirit of sharing care, happiness and love.

Even when our community is filled with dark shadows of life, you may feel apart, your love and world; but the Christmas comes with renewed hope and courage to rediscover strength of love and reason to be thankful for life and love and family and for standing the test of time.

We need the best Christmas thank you wishes to uplift our spirits and send waves of Christmas warmth into the hearts of all. The challenge however, is finding the perfect Christmas thank you messages to express the festive wishes. This is why you are here: to get the best Christmas thank you wishes to express your deep-felt Christmas love.

- For all those who have remained and continue faithful with their time, talents, and resources during the pandemic. Thank you!
- For Cindy, Carol, David, and Ted who served as lectors and Kierra for her lovely solo, Deb and Cherilyn and their musical gifts shared for our "Advent Festival of Lessons & Hymns". Beautiful service.
- For Mary Anne, Maggie, David, Carol, and Deacons Barbara and Diane who faithfully led "Communion in the Absence of a Priest". Thank you!
- For Becky, Brenda, Carol Cindy, Christie, Darlene, Denise, Gail, Glenda, Lois, Ned, Virginia Amend, Virginia Sanders, David, Ted, I am sure I am leaving someone out, for your participation in St. Nicholas Cookie Fair. It was a wonderful morning with delicious cookies, fellowship, and fund raising for community outreach projects. Thanks for your labor of love.
- For Virginia Amend, Cindy, Gail and Glenda who provided cakes to the El Dorado community luncheon.
- For Trinity's Tea-Time Literary Society and their outreach to others who enjoy reading and fellowship.
- For Melissa and her care and preparation of the Altar at St. Matthew's during November.
- For Becky, Cindy and Carol care and preparation of the altar at Trinity during December.
- For Carol and her Priscilla's Pet Pantry volunteers and donors distributing pet food to those in need. Pets are God's gift of loyal and faithful companionship. Thanks for your ministry.
- For our musicians Chris, Sarah, Jena, Kelli, Deb, Dakota, and Cherilyn and the gift of music.
- For all those who offer hospitality in our parishes. Thanks be to God!
- And for each of you and your faithfulness and steadfast stewardship of our parishes. Thanks be to God!

THANK YOU! to everyone who supported our Adopt-a-family. We raised over \$700 that went towards gift cards for the family!



The Holidays are coming! Amazon has a charitable giving program where Trinity Episcopal Church can receive a percentage of an item's purchase price when you **order from Amazon Smile rather than Amazon.**

Ordering from Amazon Smile works the same as ordering from Amazon. It uses your same account number and password, so it has all your stored addresses and payment information. If you already have an Amazon account, go to [amazon.smile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and log in. In the header, will be three bars that are to the left of "amazonsmile". Click on the three bars. Scroll down to "Your AmazonSmile". It will be towards the bottom. Click on "Your AmazonSmile" (toward the bottom). Search "Rector, Wardens & Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church of El Dorado KS". Once you find our name, select it and that will become your designated charity.



Priscilla's Pet Pantry

Saturdays Mornings
December 18 | 8am-noon

We have been averaging about 90-100 pets per month. With these large numbers we need more donations, and we always need plastic bags.

Volunteers are always Welcome!

Either come set up before Saturday or help on the day of. You don't have to stay the entire time, just come help for an hour.

God's Blessings,
Carol Turner

Cookie Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to help with setup and baked cookies, bars and treats! We made \$1,863.25 in sales to go towards helping groups in our community.



Chocolate - Peanut Butter
Kiss Cookies

made by - Jennifer Duryea
daughter of Ron & Rosalee Myers

Celebrating the memory of my
mom, who taught me how to bake.
We had lots of happy times
baking cookies and this was
one of our favorites! ❤️ 🍪

DECEMBER



Birthdays & Anniversaries

If we missed a birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office 316.321.6606, so we can add it to the list.

Birthdays

- 5 Morgan Metcalf
- 6 Melody Haines
- 11 Lois Balance
- 25 Shirley Patton

Anniversaries

- 27 David & Sandra Adams
Preston & Christine Gilson
- 29 Ron & Cherilyn Chiaro

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Sundays

10:15am – Worship

Wednesdays

11am – Tea-time Literary Society

6:30pm – Evening Prayer

Facebook.com/stmattsnewton

Thursdays

10:30am – Bible Study
at Trinity

COMING THIS MONTH

Saturday, December 11

Advent Quiet Day

9 am – 2 pm

@ Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Sunday, December 12

2pm – Advent Festival of Music

St. John's Episcopal Church

402 N. Topeka, Wichita

Saturday, December 18

8-12pm Priscilla's Pet Pantry

Sunday, December 19

Vestry Meeting

Friday, December 24

5pm – Christmas Eve Service

Cake reception following

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

Morning Prayer & Rector

Greetings (Facebook)

Sunday, December 26

Communion in the Absence

of a Priest (spoken)

December 27 - January 1

Rector's Sabbath

Office Closed

Friday, December 31

New Years Eve

Christmas at Trinity



December 19

4th Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist & Baptism

Greening of the Church



Christmas Eve December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00pm Service

Cake reception following



Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

Morning Prayer

& Rectors' Greeting

Facebook.com/stmattsnewton



Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate towards Christmas Flowers, please contact the church office or Cindy Badwey.



Help Needed

We are in need of a couple of individuals to help our Altar Guild hang banners. If you are available to help please contact the church office or Gail Ellet. Thank you



2022 Directories

If you have updates or changes to your address, phone number or email, please contact the office.

Schedule for Sunday Servers

Thank you to all who are willing to serve on Sundays

If you would like to be a part of a team, please contact the church office. 316.321.6606

December 2021

	Counters	Ushers	Lectors	Hospitality	Minister of the Word	Minister of the Sacrament
5	Christie Reynolds Cindy Badwey	Cindy Badwey	David Reynolds	Cindy Badwey		
12	Ted White Cindy Badwey	Ted & Becky White	Carol Turner	Ted & Becky White	Carol Turner	David Reynolds
19	Annette Gurney Christie Reynolds	Glenda Giro	Annette Gurney	Glenda Giro		
26	Ted White Annette Gurney	Shirley Patton	Lorraine Huntoon	Christie Reynolds	Carol Turner	David Reynolds

January 2022

Sunday	Counters	Ushers	Lectors	Hospitality	Minister of the Word
2	Christie F. Reynolds Ted White	Cindy Badwey	Iris Schlabach	Ted & Becky White	
9	Christie Reynolds Cindy Badwey	Carol Turner	Carol Turner	Cindy Badwey	David Reynolds
16	Annette Gurney Ted White	Glenda Giro	Annette Gurney	Glenda Giro	
23	Ted White Christie Reynolds	Shirley Patton	Lorraine Huntoon	Christie Reynolds	David Reynolds
30	Annette Gurney Cindy Badwey	Annette Gurney	Iris Schlabach	Annette Gurney	

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facebook.com/Trinity-Episcopal-Church-El-Dorado-KS-463073137044715/



Staff & Leadership

The Rev. Les Jackson, *Rector*
Diane Kruger, *Deacon*

Ted White, *Vestry Senior Warden*
Cindy Badwey, *Junior Warden*
Shirley Patton, *Treasurer*

Heather Clerkin, *Office Admin*
Erick Dahl, *Sexton*
Edith Waugh, *Bookkeeper*
Deb Harstine, *Organist*
Cherilyn Chiaro, *Flautist*