

December 2024

Pastor Tim Burke

# Trinity-Kemper News



## Pastor's Page

It is likely that every family celebrates the holidays with some unique traditions. The very definition of tradition comes from a practice that is passed down from generation to generation. As such if we trace our particular traditions back a few generations we will likely find where it all started. Perhaps some traditions began out of necessity. It reminds me of the story of a daughter observing her mother prepare a Christmas ham and noticed that she cut both ends off before placing it in the pan. She asked why she did that and her mother said that's just the way her mother taught her. When the daughter inquired of her grandmother why she cut the ends off the ham she also responded that this is what her mother taught her. When the daughter now inquired of her great-grandmother as to what the benefits were of cutting the ends off of the Christmas ham she responded, "There's no benefit, I just never had a pan large enough."

Many traditions go beyond family influences and may have been observed for centuries. With these long held traditions it seems there is an ever-present voice that tells us we're doing it wrong. They inform us that these traditions reflect pagan influences and practices. Some of these I cannot refute. That is to say that many Christmas traditions do not have any apparent biblical origin. So then the question becomes, "Is it wrong to celebrate Christmas by observing these long held traditions?" We should not be put off by these challenges. It's good to reevaluate our means of celebration from time to time. But my assessment of most such challenges is that they are spoken with an attitude of spiritual elitism. I believe this is more of an offence than the tradition they are criticizing.

Though many traditions don't have their origin in scripture, how we handle them does. The apostle Paul found himself in just such a situation. His response was, "If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?" This statement follows a discussion of eating meat sacrificed to idols in 1 Corinthians 10. So here we have a clear situation where the meat had a pagan connection. Paul says if it's offered to you at a friend's home, don't feel like you have to ask where it came from for conscience's sake. Eat it with a thankful heart. Paul further tells us that, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains." Any meaning given to something that does not recognize God's authorship is man made and not the final word.

This text does include two points that help us honor the Lord in our celebration, especially of Christmas. First, Paul writes, "All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify." That is to say that just because we have the freedom to observe our traditions doesn't mean they will reflect the true meaning of Christmas or encourage our families to reflect on the gift of Christ. The second point Paul brings out is that we should not allow our freedom to intentionally offend others. This is again in reference to a public observance rather than what we do with our family in our own home. Regardless of what your traditions are, don't hold them with an attitude of superiority. Be humble, for by this God is truly glorified.

*Pastor Tim*

## Trinity Church Council

October 15, 2024

**Present:** Steve Johnson, Linda Johnson, Colleen Vandegrift, Larry Maatsch, Tyson Sines, Amy Sines, Annie Harding, Pastor Tim, Betty Jorgensen, Wanda Warwick

Steve called the meeting to order.

**Minutes:** The council read the minutes, and Collen made a motion to approve them. Amy seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Financials:** Betty closed the month with close to \$8000 in the account. Only normal bills are left to be paid. Colleen made a motion to accept the reports. Linda seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Trustees:** Larry Maatsch was in attendance to present information about the water shut offs in the church. He visited with Jesse Alexander, and learned that the trustees will need to work with Jesse to see if it is possible to put in new shut off valves. Larry and Steve will talk with Dale Cramer about the issue.

**Marquee:** The Trinity Men will hold the February dessert auction and use the funds toward the cost of a new Marquee. It is currently leaning very noticeably.

**White Bird:** The movie is still set for the weekend of 25 October to show in Arapahoe. We will work to get some advertisements out to the public in addition to the advertisement from Crystal Theater.

**Mission Funds:** The council voted to send Samaritan's Purse \$500 and the Kase Perdue family \$500 for our Mission giving in October. Samaritan's Purse is located just above Asheville, NC and has been involved in a lot of work there after the hurricane. Kase has cancer and the family has many expenses in the travel for his treatments. Annie made the motion to give the sums to both options with a second from Tyson. The motion carried.

**Membership:** A letter will be drafted and sent in the newsletter to all members of the church. Pastor Tim will work with persons wanting to join the church.

**Lay Leadership:** The committee will be working to fill any open slots for the coming year.

**Next Meeting:** November 19, 2024, A motion to adjourn by Amy with a second by Colleen and the meeting was closed.

Dear Members of Trinity Community Church,

Thank you very much for the donation that was used for the movie, "White Bird" and the theater renovations project. We appreciate your generosity. The support from area communities means so much to us. God's Blessings to each of you.

Crystal Theater Board Members

Trinity Community Church-

Thank you for your generosity and support this year to Prairie Plains CASA. You have helped us do so much this year with your donation.

Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season

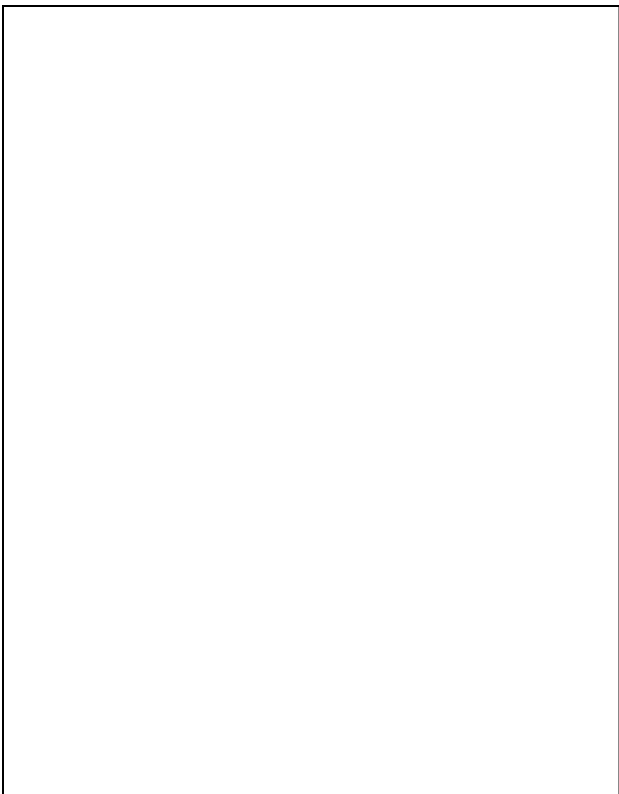
Caitlin & Michelle

Dear Tim and church members,

The Cambridge L2 for Kids Board thank you for your generous gift of \$500. Because of your gift, children in the Cambridge area will have the opportunity to buy their own new school clothes to wear to school. It's so important that kids feel good about themselves.

L2 for Kids was able to give 24 Cambridge area children the opportunity to buy their own new school clothes this August, 2024. Your investment in the lives of kids in the area is a wise choice for the kids, their families, the town and the general economy. Thank you again for your support.


Henry Potter



Thank you, Outreach Committee! It appears that the trick & treat kids really enjoyed visiting with you!

Trinity Church Council has voted to give the gift in Mission this month to the Lion's Club for November. It will help with the purchase of food for local families. Thank you for your giving that allows our church to be a gift for others!

Kemper Memorial has donated to the Christmas Wish Tree, SW National Honor Society, KEZL 89.7, Domestic Abuse and the local Village for the month. Gifts in Mission are appreciated by so many groups each year! Thank you!



***Lord, Thank You That you Are;***

***Strong*** when I am weak.  
***Present*** when I feel alone.  
***Wisdom*** when I don't know what to do.  
***My guide*** when I feel lost.  
***Hope*** when I lose confidence.  
***Faith*** when I have none.  
***Peace*** in the midst of the storm.  
***Manna*** when I am hungry.  
***Rest*** when I am restless.  
***My defender*** when I am accused.  
***My protector*** when I am attacked.  
***My strong tower*** when I am overwhelmed.  
***My provision*** when I am broke.  
***My healer*** when I am sick.  
***My friend*** when I have none.  
***My comforter*** when I am afraid.  
***There*** when I call.  
Thank you that you are ***my everything.***

**Elizabeth Circle** met in November and will celebrate December at the Senior Center on the 10 of the month for lunch. The Bartley ladies will join us there. Please call for your request to enjoy lunch by December 4.

This year the Circle has opted to donate to Miriam's Hope, Operation Christmas Child, Lions Club, Senior Center, Backpack Program and to the Prayer Blanket Project. Thank you, ladies, for your work during the year and your commitment to our Church!

Our children will prepare the service for Church on December 15. Please come and enjoy their work practicing and memorizing parts.

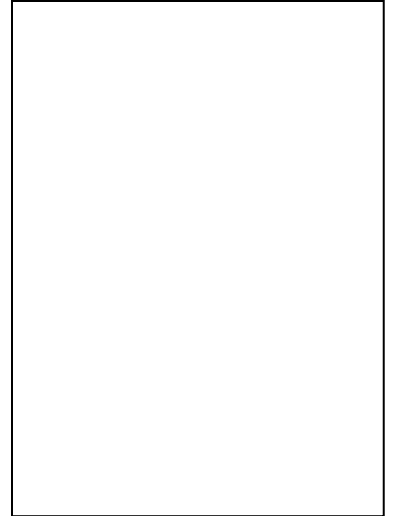
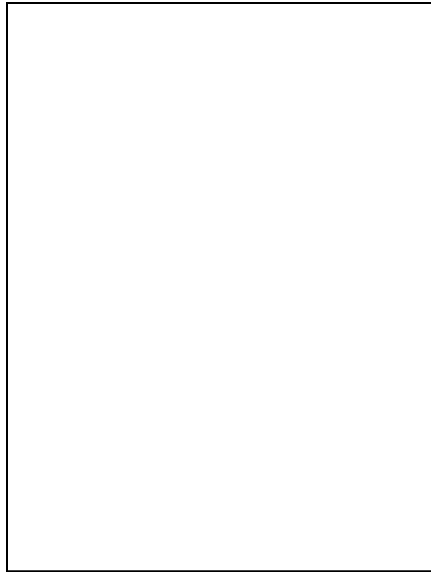
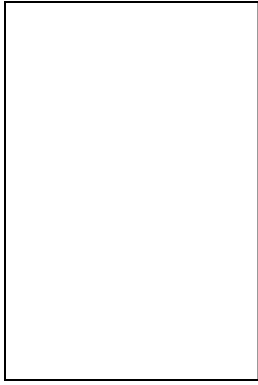
Thank you to the ladies working to put this program together and for working in keeping our Sunday School classes open each week!

December is our month to deliver Meals on Wheels. It is a great program, and we are happy to take our turn with the delivery. It is always nice to make new friends and see old friends as you are out on the road. If anyone wants to help with the delivery, please call the office to sign up or stop in the Narthex on Sunday.

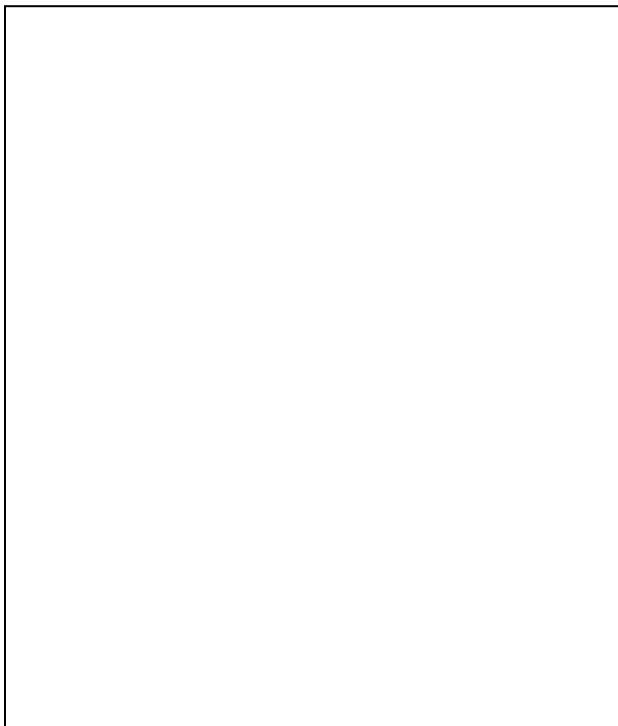
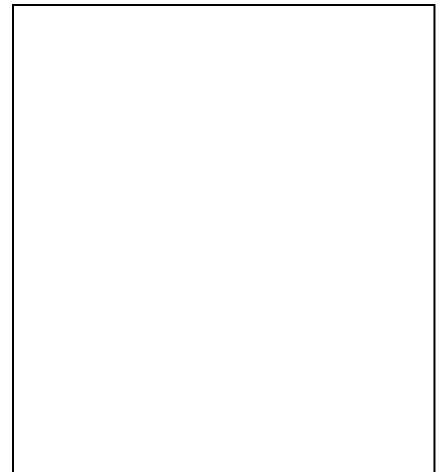
So many thanks to the people who helped decorate our church this year. We enjoyed our time together and the lunch we shared!

***Kemper  
Memorial***

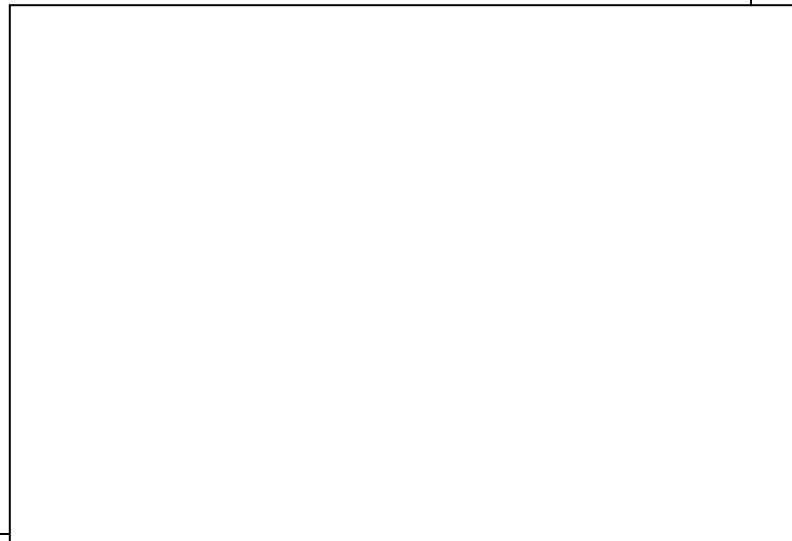
A big shout out to everyone who helped decorate our churches this year. From the food to the work and everything in between, it was a successful day and now we look forward to the season of Advent!



***T  
R  
I  
N  
I  
T  
Y***



**Watch the bulletins for news about Christmas eve!**



### Checking in with God

Dear Heavenly Father, as we enter this sacred season of Advent, we seek Your presence and guidance. Help us reflect on the true meaning of this time, preparing our hearts for the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we find moments of stillness to contemplate Your love, grace, and the hope You bring. Open our eyes to the blessings of this season and the opportunities to share Your light with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

To order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Blooms at 697-3800

### We made a difference!!!!

Again this year our Churches filled Operation Christmas shoeboxes with some help from lots of elves! Thank you everyone who filled a box or gave a donation. Samaritan's Purse has sent over 220 million children across 170 countries a gift filled box since 1993. It is the hands and feet of God working to bring the Word of God to the young children of the world!

### The Mitten Tree

Lois Circle started the Mitten Tree project several years ago, and we are continuing the project again this year. Each year we fill the tree with hats, mittens, scarves and sometimes socks. All the items that are donated this Christmas will be delivered to the Domestic Abuse Center in McCook. Each year the

Center states "you must be from the church in Cambridge. You always bring enough for us to last for the whole year. Thank you so much!"

Please bring mittens, hats, underwear or scarves to put on the tree, so we can keep some little ones warm again this winter! Your gifts are the warmth for a little one's heart in this season of giving and loving.

The Domestic Abuse Center will take any donations of new items from our Church. The box in the airlock is there for the drop off items if the church isn't open.

Thank you!

Processing Center in Denver working to get the Christmas Boxes ready to go!!



## December 2024

<b>1</b> Services at 9:45 and 11 am Fellowship at 9:45  Sunday School		<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Services at 9:45 and 11 am Fellowship at 9:45  Sunday School  <b>NO POTLUCK</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Elizabeth Circle and Bartley Women meet at Senior Center 12 pm	<b>11</b> Bible Study 5 pm Youth Group 7 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Services at 9:45 and 11 am Fellowship at 9:45  Sunday School Program at 11 am	<b>16</b> Outreach at 9:30 am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Bible Study 5 pm Youth Group 7 pm Lois Circle at 7 pm	<b>19</b> Bingo at ALF at 2:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Services at 9:45 and 11 am Fellowship at 9:45  Sunday School Music at 10 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Candle Light services at 7 pm		<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Youth Group at 7 pm			



Our Outreach Committee at work!





# Merry Christmas

Invite a friend to join us  
**Worship Services**

## Trinity Community Church

620 Penn Street  
 PO Box 310  
 Cambridge, NE 69022  
 (308) 697-4352

[trinityoffice@swnebr.net](mailto:trinityoffice@swnebr.net)

Pastor Tim's e-mail:

[Trinitypastor@swnebr.net](mailto:Trinitypastor@swnebr.net)

9:45am Fellowship  
 11:00am Worship

## Kemper Memorial Church

9:45 am Worship  
 Followed by Fellowship



## & Birthdays Anniversaries

### December

- |    |                 |    |                |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Samuel Arnold   | 20 | Kyle Borland   |
| 6  | Jordan Arnold   |    | Chance Westadt |
| 7  | Renee Holtze    | 23 | Addison Jones  |
| 9  | Marilyn Wolzen  | 30 | Eunice Miller  |
|    | Shelly Cope     |    | Tony Groshong  |
| 12 | Nancy Knutson   |    |                |
| 15 | Kathleen Hansen |    |                |
|    | Daren Mowry     |    |                |
| 16 | Jackson Ebbers  |    |                |
|    | Lisa Dutt       |    |                |
|    | Riley Warwick   |    |                |

### Happy Anniversary

December 30  
 Steve & Eileen Johnson



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or the date is incorrect, please let us know.