

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community

The Second Sunday, Winter Ordinary time-January 18, 2026

Blessed Trinity Capital Campaign:

A Vision of Hope + A Promise of Life + A Spirit of Service

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

HOMILY + REFLECTION: Deacon Jim Karney + Judy Fredenberg

“What do you want of me Lord, where do you want me to serve you?” Three years ago Lanor and I were asking ourselves those questions. And we prayed for answers. Those questions and prayers brought us to Blessed Trinity and Spirit of Christ, to these faith communities, to these buildings, to you. We are not unique, many of you have travelled on similar paths of discernment which brought you here. And like my wife and myself, and more recently, members of our family, you have been warmly welcomed and invited and encouraged to give your gifts, your talents and your time to help make these parish families even more vibrant and loving communities. It is humbling to see how many of you regularly perform ministries. It is even more gratifying to witness how all of us share ourselves with other members of Blessed Trinity and Spirit of Christ – truly full, active and conscious participation in every aspect of our lives.

This week begins Ordinary Time. We are reminded as we return to green vestments that we are continuing our journey with our Lord as he brings nourishing life into our spiritual journeys and personal growth. It is a time of transition from the stories of our Lord’s birth to the beginning of his ministry on earth.

In our first reading Isaiah shares that in the eyes of our Lord the people of Israel are servants to him, to bring light to nations so that God’s salvation will reach the ends of the earth. We too are called to bring light, to not submit to following darkness which surely leads to greater darkness.

Our gospel from John tells us, “Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. Only in this gospel do we have those words. John the Baptist is excited, expectant. He has been ceaselessly baptizing in the Jordan river, yet praying that the Holy Spirit will enlighten him

with the knowledge of who is Christ. Before that happens, John repeats his frustration saying ‘I did not know him!’ I did not see him.

How often have we said “I do not know him” to ourselves and to others. Those times in our lives when we do not feel connected, times of great difficulties, of great conflict, times when we may feel we are just not good enough, times of great loss, times of morbid darkness. Times when we may have lost our way. Yes, times when we did not know him.

What do you want of me Lord, where do you want me to serve you? Monday is Martin Luther King Day. We as a nation celebrate a lifelong journey bringing light into the darkness of racial segregation and discrimination at this time when moral darkness is deepening despite this seasonal promise of more light and warmth. When in jail 62 years ago, King wrote ‘Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hatred cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.’ Let us be emissaries bringing light and love to our world which cries for both.

It is through our inward reflection and prayer that our eyes are open to the indwelling of the holy Spirit, where we are given the strength in the face of darkness to also cry out joyfully “Behold, this is the lamb of God, the Christ who takes away the sins of the world”. This is the Lord who called to sinners and prostitutes and tax collectors.... This is the Christ who hung on the cross so that all may be saved. This is the Christ who calls us to be the light to and for others. This is the Christ who whispers to us, inviting us to follow him, to be servants answering that call.

This week our journey through Ordinary Time begins, and like the journey of John the Baptist, it is a twisting and confusing journey, a journey when we may be faced with times when we cry

out “I did not see him” and hopefully many others when we feel the light of Christ shining on us. We take comfort knowing, as we heard in our gospel that it is Christ who comes toward us, no matter how we may have distanced ourselves from him. It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who gives us that gift of sight. It is our Lord who calls on us to be a beacon of light in times of darkness, an evergreen in barren land, a light to shine on others as well as a reflection of Christ to ourselves.

In our nation this is definitely not an ordinary time. Let us be open to hearing our lord when we pray “What do you want of us lord, where do you want us to serve you. We are your servants, let it be done to us.”

We are in the midst of a very necessary project to make Blessed Trinity even more welcoming and inspiring for all of us, a parish family which has grown greatly in the past few years and promises to continue to do so. The work on the new Blessed Sacrament chapel is progressing; it is the next of an intertwined series of beautiful, planned improvements and updating, like the improvements and even replacement of the piano and sound system in this building.

We ask you to support this effort in all ways which you can, continuing to generously give of your time and talents, and yes of your treasure. Our efforts to raise the necessary funds to complete this project formally begin next Sunday, and again the questions are before us: what do you want of us Lord, where do you want us to serve you. Let it be done to us.

Father Ed occasionally prays one of my few speaking parts at Mass. Therefore, in a spirit of fairness I repeat from his homily of last weekin this house of wonder where everything that is seen, heard, touched, smelled and tasted must be special, genuine, true, cared for and beautiful, we cannot be satisfied with anything less. Here we must always strive for the best we can bring together rather than what is compromised or less noble.”



I'm Judy Fredenberg, married to Kevin. A couple years ago, like many of you, we found ourselves searching for a new faith community. You know, it's interesting how little thought you give to something until there are choices to be made. As we visited different churches, we started thinking about the things that mattered to us, talking about what we liked, and didn't like, about the different things we noticed and experienced. We didn't discuss things in great deal, we are married after all, because but quickly found we were aligned in broad areas that I've labelled as:

- Environment
- Joy
- Message

Environment: During this discernment process, it's no surprise that the physical environment of a spiritual space was our first impression, and first impressions matter – not only in the people we meet, but the places we chose to gather. I found myself recognizing that I sought a place of prayer that was physically attractive, welcoming, unobtrusive, soothing, and conducive to prayer. When we attended different churches, I knew right away how the environment affected me. **Environment, Joy:** I sought a place of joy and, for me, that is often readily experienced in two ways. The first is music, where it isn't just a filler, but where attention is given to the ministry, where songs are selected with thought and sung by many voices, where music actively supports and enhances the liturgy, where music IS prayer.

The second experience where joy is manifest for me is connectedness, where all are welcome, where a faith community enthusiastically connects with one another, where – as we'll soon sing in The Servant Song – “we are here to help each other.” It brings me joy to witness acts of caring and compassion as people greet each other before Mass. This sense of connection encourages my active engagement in the community and fuels my own desire to belong and bring light. **Environment, Joy, Message:** I wanted a faith home where I was nurtured and challenged by the homilies, where the presiders were articulate and sincere, addressed real issues, and strived to make sense of the readings in a way that meant

something to me in today's experience, where social justice was more than just a catch phrase.

And so, here we are.

Now, I share these thoughts as Blessed Trinity prepares to reignite its capital campaign next week, so I'll loop back to the importance of environment. This space contains and represents what we hold dear: the people, the compassion, the Word But it's tired and needs updating. Think about it in the context of a home, and some of us have owned more than one; if you're preparing to sell, you might add a fresh coat of paint and spring for inexpensive flooring. If you have no plans to move in the near term, you give concerted thought and effort to maintenance and updates with an eye to the future. An example specific to Blessed Trinity: Ladies, have you ever used a shorter toilet? They were originally

purchased in the 50s for an elementary school in Butte. They are older than I am.

So I close with a question: Is Blessed Trinity your home? If so, I encourage you to prayerfully consider what that means, what that REALLY means, and how you can help nurture and maintain this space so it, and the community within, can continue to be a welcoming harbor of spiritual inspiration well into the future.

[And we have all the money we need for this project – it's just in your pockets!]

Life is not measured by time, but by moments and sometimes you don't realize the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.

Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

