

Parish Profile
for
Trinity Episcopal
Church

April 2015



Our mission is to
Love God, Love People, & Show It!



Introduction

Trinity Episcopal Church in Janesville, Wisconsin is searching for a new priest-in-charge to lead our congregation to an exciting future. Trinity has produced this Parish Profile, which outlines the proposed future, current status, and history of our congregation.

The vestry appointed a search committee to organize the search process, develop the Parish Profile, screen applications, interview candidates, and recommend a choice to the vestry. The Search Committee decided to hold listening sessions with our members to help us identify:

- Who are we?
- What are our core values?
- What is important to our members in worship, fellowship and in our life as a Christian community?
- Most importantly, what do we seek in a new priest-in-charge?

About (50) fifty percent of the congregation participated in the listening sessions and they provided valuable comments and insight. Special attention was given to assessing the present state of our parish and eliciting hopes for our future. We recognized that we cannot dwell on the “way it used to be” but instead look forward to continuing to grow in numbers and in faith.

This parish profile is just a summary of what can be learned about Trinity Episcopal Church by viewing our recently updated website. Several links in this document will lead you to greater explanations of “What's happening at Trinity”. You can also like us on Facebook at [this link](#)

Discernment Committee Members:

Debbie Albright - Jim Schultz - Adel Smith - Thelma Wilcox - Mark Karrels

Karen Whitford - Keith Steinbeck – Carol Tidwell



Who are we?

Trinity Episcopal Church is on the east side of downtown Janesville, Wisconsin. We are a vibrant church with members of many religious backgrounds and ages from the area.

Ask around, and you'll find that we've all made Trinity our church home for a variety of reasons. But some that will keep coming up are the glorious Episcopal worship service, the warmth of the community, the inspiring music, the passionate spirit of inclusion, and the open-mindedness that welcomes questions, debate, and discovery.

Our goals for the future are for a congregation that:

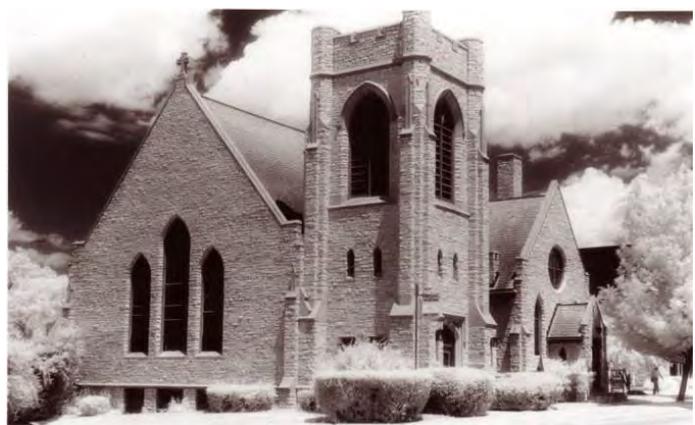
- Is growing in size and strength
- Continues to be more visible in the community
- Appeals to people of all ages
- Integrates and involves new people more quickly and more fully into the life of the church
- Focuses on spiritual development
- Strengthens our children and youth programs
- Supports our music program
- Increases fellowship and community building with programs relevant to people's lives
- Expands outreach activities



A Very Short History of Trinity

- Trinity Parish was organized September 18, 1844, at a time when the population of Janesville, Wisconsin was 200.
- The present Trinity Episcopal Church building was constructed in 1930, where Christ Church had stood, and was renovated in 1978-79. Ortmayer Hall was built in 1964.

Further history can be found here <http://www.trinityjanesville.org/history/>.





Our Congregation

Our congregation is a diverse family of vibrant, energetic and spiritually focused members. Many of our parishioners come from other religious traditions, and we celebrate each other's individual talents and gifts. We invite people to "come as you are" and strive to recognize and respect the dignity of all people.

Currently Trinity has approximately 161 active members with a baptized member roll of about 300. Clearly, one of the challenges facing the church is to grow and attract new members. We would like to achieve that goal and share our blessings and God's love with more people.

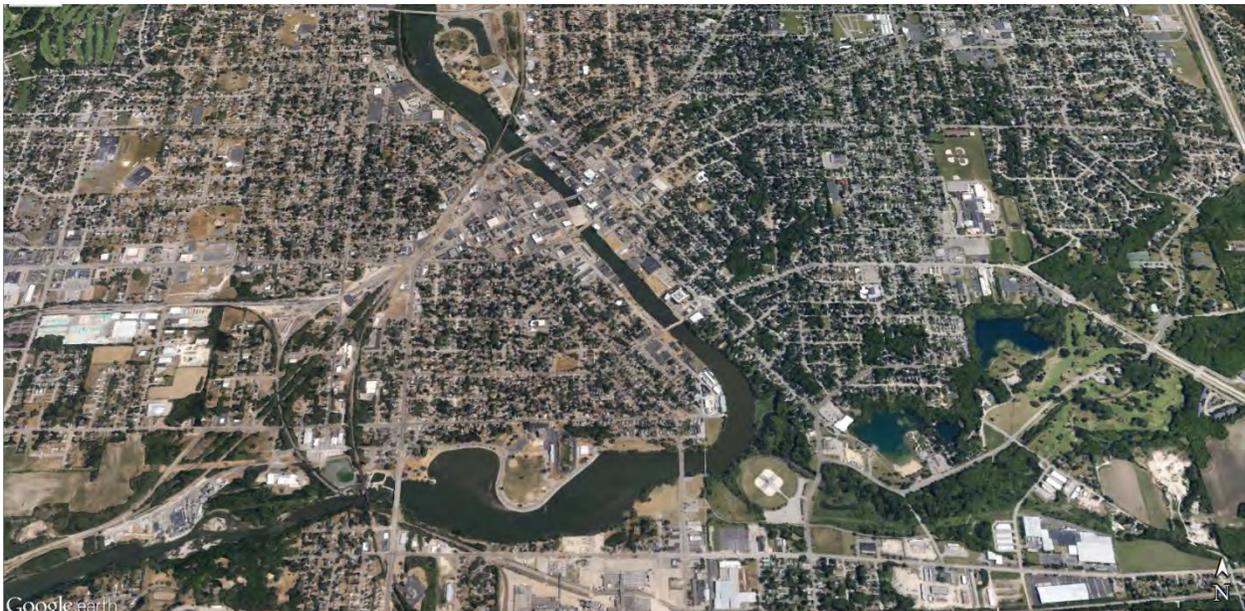
	Avg. Attendance	Baptisms	Received & Confirmations	Weddings	Burials
2011	91	0	14	2	4
2012	91	0	14	2	4
2013	75	4	35	1	11
2014	83	2	0	0	6

To view the 2014 Annual Report of Trinity Episcopal Church including active committee reports for the year, please [click this link](#).



Our Community

Trinity is located in south central Wisconsin twenty miles from the Illinois border. It has a population of about 65,000 people and is surrounded by small rural towns. It has two high schools, two hospitals and a growing number of small to mid size employers. It is known as “the city of parks” for it has a wide variety of recreation areas offering opportunities for golfing, water skiing, tennis and bicycling or walking along it's many trails and paths. The Rock River which flows though the downtown is a focus of a major redevelopment plan for the area. Janesville is the commercial shopping hub for Rock County and is a corridor for Interstate 90 which runs between Chicago, 100 miles southeast, and Madison which is 40 miles to the north.



What are our Core Values?



The discernment committee invited all of the 124 adult members of the parish to respond to six questions as an early activity in the committee's work to prepare for a new priest. The following are the questions posed and the answers which were received, which were documented in two ways:

1. In written responses received from individual members after the questions were mailed to all members and;
2. At two listening sessions held in Ortmyer Hall on a weekday evening and after services on a Sunday. Please note that the responses from 61 individuals were combined by the transcriber so that not every individual response is below. Here is the [link to that document](#) .





What is Important to our Members?

We strive to live our vision statement “Love God, Love People, Show It!”

Love God

Our worship is focused on the Eucharist. We hold two services every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The 8:00 a.m. service is Holy Eucharist Rite I without music. The 9:30 a.m. service is Holy Eucharist Rite II with music. We use other rites during special seasons of the Church calendar. On the first Sunday of the month we have a Praise Team providing music for the 9:30 service and on the third Sunday of each month during the regular service, we have prayers for healing by members of The Order of St. Luke, and we have a Wednesday noon service also followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the hall. On Christmas Eve we have an early children's service with a live animal pageant and Eucharist. We celebrate by candle light at 9:45 pm on Christmas Eve. We also celebrate the Eucharist on Christmas morning. During Holy Week we have services for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday followed by the stripping of the altar, Good Friday Stations of the Cross and an Easter vigil on Saturday night as well as a service on Easter Sunday.

Services include significant lay participation. The Altar Guild sets up and cleans after each service. We use lay readers, some of whom are also chalice bearers. Acolytes and ushers participate at every service. Prayers of the People are read by a member of the congregation, and the gifts are presented by members of the congregation. Lay Eucharistic Ministers take the Eucharist to home-bound members on Sundays. Various choir members will cantor the Psalms.

Music at Trinity Episcopal Church

From its beginning in 1844, music has been an integral and important factor in the life of Trinity Church. Even before Wisconsin became a state in 1848, Trinity boasted the first vested (robed) choir in the Western Territories.



Today its sixteen member choir sings three Sundays a month from September through May as well as for many special services. An enthusiastic and talented Praise Team provides music for the first Sunday of the month throughout the year. During the summer months soloists and small groups are encouraged to lend their talents whenever possible.



Trinity's musical outreach to the larger community is not restricted to worship services alone. Over the years the church has presented full-scale Broadway musicals (with orchestra) in a dinner theatre setting and has sponsored many concerts, the most recent being a series of pipe organ performances. The Choir's annual presentation of "Lessons and Carols" is well-known throughout southern Wisconsin and always draws a large audience. For more information here is [the link](#).

Love People

- Trinity members have established a chapter of Order of St. Luke the Physician which is a healing ministry. We pray for those experiencing physical and mental disease. We care and pray for members at Sunday services and have hosted Fr. Nigel Mumford from By His Wounds Ministry, who was the speaker at a regional healing conference held in March, 2015.
- Trinity provides shelter to homeless men at various times of the year. We are a founding church for G.I.F.T.S. (God is faithful temporary shelter) and have three members on the board of directors. We provide space in Ortmayer Hall for the G.I.F.T.S. Headquarters.
- Trinity was also a founding church for E.C.H.O. (Everyone Cooperating to Help Others) which is a community faith based organization providing food, clothing, transportation and shelter to those in need.

- We participate in the Haiti Project for the Diocese of Milwaukee and we share our Ortmayer Hall to outside group meetings such as AA and Overeaters Anonymous.
- Trinity and the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee sponsor the Lazarus House, located next to Ortmayer Hall, which is a transitional living facility for those recovering from substance abuse.
- A Trinity member founded HealthNet Dental Clinic, a free clinic serving Rock County residents and Trinity members provide financial support and volunteers to give dental care to those in need.
- Trinity initiated a partnership with Madison Elementary School in Janesville to meet student needs by donating mittens, clothing, money and time mentoring students.
- A former member of Trinity endowed the Lucile Wells Scholarship Trust to provide very generous scholarships to members of the parish for post-secondary education.

Show It!

‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:37,39

It is safe to say that Trinity has a larger presence in the Janesville community than would be expected from a church our size. All of the above and more are important aspects in our Christian life. We are working to share our blessings.

April 2015

**Trinity Episcopal Church
411 East Court Street
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545**