



# Trinity Today

Vol. 24, No. 1

January 1, 2022

## The Houston Bronze Ensemble Plays Sunday, January 9

The Houston Bronze Ensemble will be musical worship leaders for our Sunday, January 9, traditional worship service at 9:00 a.m. We will be celebrating Epiphany that Sunday so you will have a chance to hear music from the Christmas and Epiphany seasons such as *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*, *Still, Still, Still*, *Gloria*, *On Christmas Day in the Morning*, *Winter Bells* and more.

The Houston Bronze Ensemble, directed by Bill Nave, is a professional, auditioned handbell ensemble made up of musicians from the greater Houston area. Their rehearsal home is here at Trinity and each year they share their musical gifts with us during Epiphany.

This year you will recognize one of their new players, Pastor and Veloyce Dorn's daughter, Rachel Dorn Kortze.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear this fine musical ensemble in our own worship space.



# Ladies of Trinity Downtown

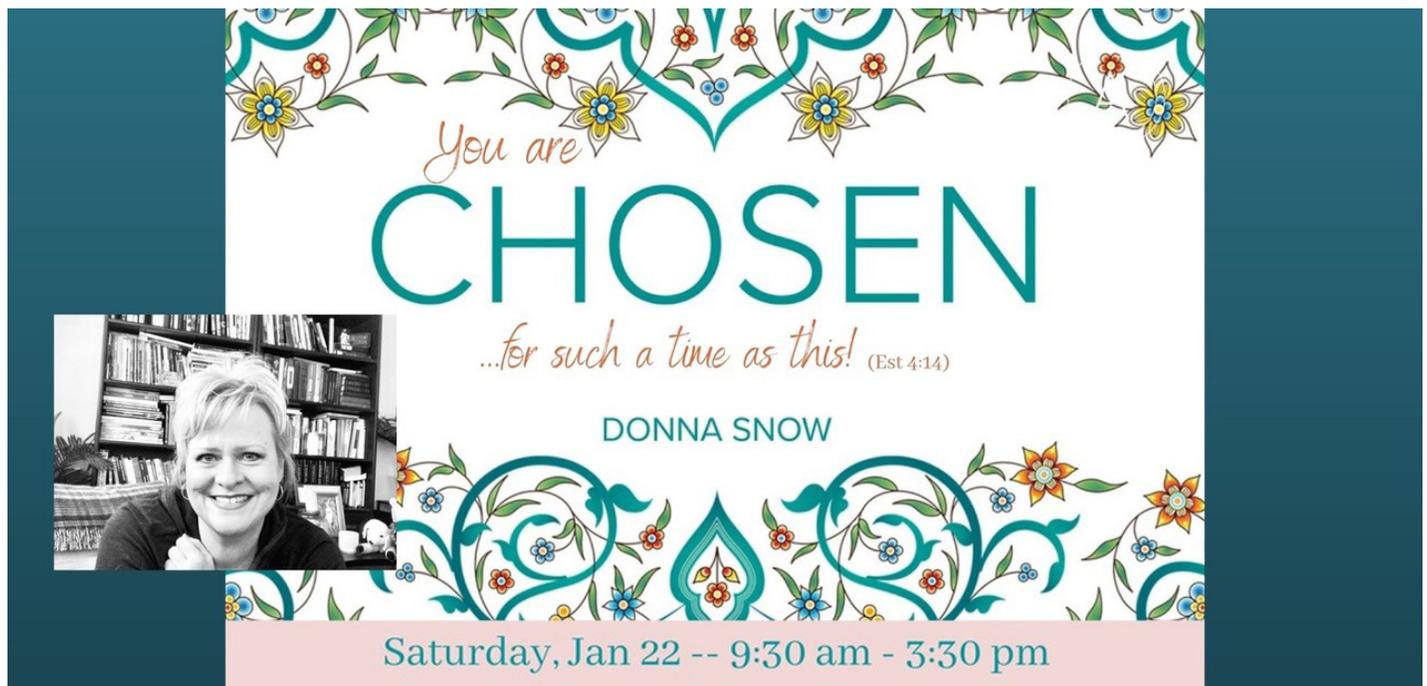
It is time to reconnect and refresh ourselves in His Word...together. Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to give up meeting together and to encourage one another all the more as [we] see the day approaching! Well – none of us know the hour of His return but I DO know that we've got work to do before He comes back! You are CHOSEN, my dear sister...to glorify Him no matter what season, age, challenge or crisis you might find yourself in!

Please join us for this special one-day event on January 22. Published author and speaker Donna Snow will walk us through digging into God's Word in the context of Esther where you will hear how YOU were made for such a time as this. Don't miss it! Tell/bring your friends. We.ALL.need.to.hear.this!

Proceeds from this event will fund more women's outreach events in the Houston area. Continental breakfast and lunch is included with your ticket purchase.

For more information and to purchase your tickets go to the link below or call the church office.

<https://www.trinitydt.org/events/you-are-chosen-womens-ministry-event/>



*You are*  
**CHOSEN**  
*...for such a time as this! (Est 4:14)*  
DONNA SNOW  
Saturday, Jan 22 -- 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

## Ladies Circle Cancels Regular January 6 Meeting

Ladies Circle Ministries is sponsoring a one-day workshop on Saturday, January 22, see related article above. For that reason the ladies at the December meeting voted to cancel their usual meeting on the first Thursday, January 6, and encourage all ladies to attend the workshop instead.

If you have any questions, contact Trinity Garrett, president, at 281.300.5660 or [tgarrett@trinitydt.org](mailto:tgarrett@trinitydt.org).



# Blood Donor Sunday

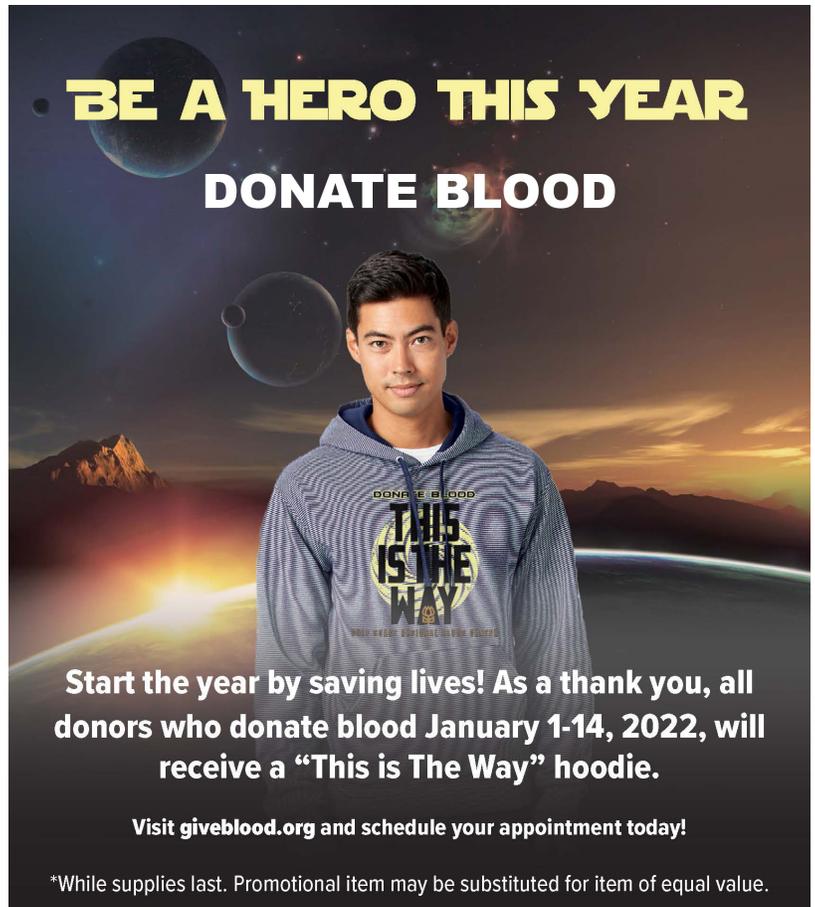
Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held January 9, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up online at [https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/338574](https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/338574). While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups. Donors receive a free hoodie.

We look forward to a very successful drive. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

Save time with the DIGITAL DONOR APP. The App makes it easy to find a blood drive, schedule your donation and answer the CFL Express Pass health history interview before you arrive.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.



**BE A HERO THIS YEAR  
DONATE BLOOD**

Start the year by saving lives! As a thank you, all donors who donate blood January 1-14, 2022, will receive a “This is The Way” hoodie.

Visit [giveblood.org](https://giveblood.org) and schedule your appointment today!

\*While supplies last. Promotional item may be substituted for item of equal value.

## Faith Discovery

Class for those interested in the community of Trinity Downtown and a review of important faith themes.

Class begins January 9  
Sundays at 10:15 a.m.  
Room 123

Contact Pastor Dorn  
for more information:  
[mdorn@trinitydt.org](mailto:mdorn@trinitydt.org)

### 2022 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)  
Thomas DeVries  
Pastor Michael Dorn  
Mike Gilmore  
Tim Grady (Elder)  
Ross Krueger  
Cassandra McGarvey  
Dan Krueger (Elder)  
Marie Munier  
Cynthia Roney  
Chris Sonneborn (Elder)

*Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.*

# Finance Corner - January 1, 2022

...we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35b ESV

Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

As 2022 dawns, it is good for us to reflect and count the blessings the Lord has granted to each of us during 2021. As we focus on His financial blessings, I am happy to report that through November 30<sup>th</sup> of 2021:

- **Our tithes and offerings were 1% higher than our budget, and we can anticipate closing out 2021 very close to our original budget. Praise the Lord!**
- **Our expenses through November 30<sup>th</sup> were slightly higher (0.5%) than our budgeted expenditures, mainly due to a spike in facility repair-related expenses.**
- Our weekly attendance in November averaged 414, with online attendees comprising 41% of our worship attendance. Participation in our in-person Sunday School continues to be robust with an average of 207 participants each week!
- 2022 Home Treasury Commitment Cards were mailed to members and supporters in October. Blank pledge cards are available in the church foyer and the Narthex, or online by clicking [here](#). If you've not had a chance to return your card, please be in prayer asking God to guide your thoughts on what He would have you give to Trinity in 2022. You may drop your 2022 pledge into the offering plate during any worship service, complete an online version of the pledge card by clicking [here](#), or mail your pledge card to the church office at:



Trinity Lutheran Church  
Attn: Contributions Manager  
800 Houston AVE  
Houston, TX 77007

God is clearly working in and through Trinity Downtown, and it is an honor to serve you and be able to watch the process "up close and personal."

Joyfully joining Jesus alongside you,  
Ron Lacy, CFO

**amazon**smile

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

**How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any additional money.**

Please remember that you can expand your stewardship by using a program that Trinity has qualified for at Amazon. Amazon will give Trinity a 0.5% rebate for all purchases made by our supporters when making their normal purchases at Amazon. It's very easy—whenever you are shopping on Amazon, go to this web address (instead of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)): <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1238451>

Using this service from Amazon won't change the cost of the products you buy, and all of your account settings and preferences will be retained. The only thing that will change is that Trinity will receive a rebate!

# Now That the Holiday Season is Over...

For many folks the holiday season is a busy and exciting time of the year filled with celebrating the birth of Jesus, social gatherings with family and friends, and the sharing of presents. It seems that "busyness" is a badge of honor in American society, and that's especially true during the holiday season. So, paradoxically, the season can also be a time filled with sadness, loneliness, and anxiety.

Typical sources of post-holiday stress can include:

- The stress and fatigue of multiple social activities (especially true for introverts)
- Last minute shopping for presents
- The recent loss of a family member or friend
- Unrealistic expectations about others' expectations
- Financial stress brought on by over-spending
- The inability to be with one's family and friends during the season



To sum it up, most of our stress during this period is associated with our own assumptions of what SHOULD happen. We have unrealistic expectations of what others expect of US, or we feel like we are not meeting OTHER'S expectations of what we should be, or do, or say.

Here are a few suggestions on how you might "recover" from the holiday rush:

- Intentionally take a "sabbath" from your phone/social media/email for an hour each day. Use the time to re-connect with God by meditating on a Bible verse (perhaps a Psalm) and praying.
- Go to bed 30 minutes earlier than normal for a week.
- Paradoxically, using energy can sometimes be a way to recharge. Get off the couch and go for a walk each day for a week and see if your energy level improves.
- Choose people over tasks. Telephone a friend that you haven't seen for a while.

**Trinity Downtown's Stephen Ministry would love to come alongside you during this stressful time that masquerades as the holiday season.** Perhaps you or a loved one are struggling with the after-effects of COVID, an ongoing illness or loneliness, and you want to ask for God's comfort and healing. Or maybe you're facing a difficult and potentially life-altering decision and you need God's direction. Or, you've received a real blessing from the Lord for which you want to offer sincere thanks.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of specialized training to equip them to provide Christ-focused, **highly confidential** care and prayer support to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge or simply going through a tough time.

Following their commissioning, Stephen Ministers also commit to a continuing education program aimed at sharpening their caregiving skills. Trinity Downtown's Stephen Ministers meet twice a month to study a variety of relevant topics.

If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors, or reach out to Ron Lacy at [rlacy@trinitydt.org](mailto:rlacy@trinitydt.org) or 713.229.2970.

# Hello, Trinity Families!

I am so blessed to serve here! The outpouring of love this season has warmed my heart beyond measure! I am so grateful for all the leaders around me and want to express my thanks! All of you are awakeners of Faith and my success here is completely because of you! Thank you for serving with me, loving me, and helping me grow!

Speaking of growth, our confirmands had an ornament exchange to celebrate the season! During the games that followed we unexpectedly created a new game, badly explained Christmas carols. As you would expect, this caused quite a lot of laughing and some great memories. We had our final class for the year on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> and we did Jeopardy review with a bit of a twist! For every correct answer they were able to paint the tables that are in the confirmation room, and their creativity was amazing! Here are some pictures, as you can tell they got A LOT of correct answers!!



That afternoon our youth, 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, met for their annual Christmas party. Each year we do a white elephant gift exchange, and this year did not disappoint. We had everything from foam swords to squishy burgers to light rings and socks! It was a great gift exchange! Then we played games and had some free time in the gym! I can truly say it was one of my favorite events this year! I also learned I am not nearly as bad at Foosball as I thought! Here are some pictures of the day!







January looks forward to an event for Youth and Children's ministry! My MATs have been hard at work helping me plan dates and themes for the events next year and I am so excited for 2022! One of our most exciting events is the National Youth Gathering in July! It will be held here in Houston the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July! Your generosity has been incredible, and we are very grateful for your investment in us! We are about halfway to our goal of \$25,000 so we will continue to sell stocks! Please prayerfully consider joining our "investors" in 2022; believe me these kids are priceless!

Thank you for all your support!

Blessings!  
Haley

### BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus.....	<a href="mailto:jimbaccus@comcast.net">jimbaccus@comcast.net</a> .....	713.956.1899
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Dan Krueger.....	<a href="mailto:dwkrueger5@yahoo.com">dwkrueger5@yahoo.com</a> .....	901.258.4029
Chris Sonneborn .....	<a href="mailto:csonneb@gmail.com">csonneb@gmail.com</a> .....	713.854.8692

# Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website [www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org). Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

## **SUNDAYS - CHILDREN** (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

**Nursery** (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

**Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds** - Room 233

**Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds** - Room 232

**Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade** - Kingdom Hall (basement)

**Casa 'de Oracion Spanish** (all grades) - Room 209

## **SUNDAYS - YOUTH** (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

**Foundations 56** (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades) - Room 207

**Confirmation** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) - Room 208 - Hybrid

**High School** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) - Underground (basement)

## **SUNDAYS - ADULT**

### **Beauty in the Eye of God**

Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

Consider the philosophical, religious and social implications of choosing the line where absolute truth ends and subjectivity begins. Perhaps there is more of God that is true in our world than millennia of Western thought would have us believe.

### **Exodus**

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

The book of Exodus will lead us through the pivotal event in the history of God's dealings with His people. The deliverance from Egypt and the covenant God made with Israel is the event which the prophets held in the memory of the people as they called them to repentance and faith in God, their Savior. The Old Testament exodus points us to the New Testament exodus, the deliverance, which God won for us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89192043843>

### **Faith Discovery** (Class begins January 9)

Led by Pastor Michael Dorn - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person

Class for those interested in the community of Trinity Downtown and a review of important faith themes.

### **Joining Jesus on His Mission**

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa 'de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person

Participants are encouraged to join this study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him.

This is a Spanish-speaking Bible study opportunity.

### **Questions Jesus Asks**

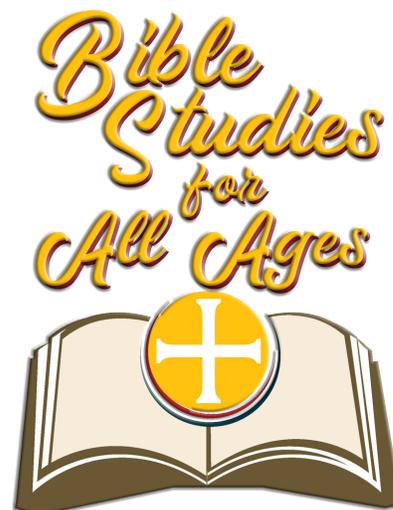
Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

This study follows Jesus' teaching method of asking questions rather than always answering them directly. Doing this helps the person He is speaking to understand Him and His ministry better.

### **The Bible Alive ... God In Action**

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost or feel behind



during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will “Come Alive,” and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.

### **The Word Became Flesh: John**

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

Join us as we look through the Beloved's gospel, describing what an intimate relationship with Jesus looks like. This will be a fast-paced, discussion-oriented class, with lots of opportunities for questions. The class is geared to all, from new believer to seasoned disciple.

## **TUESDAYS - ADULTS**

### **Your Strong Suit: Women's Bible Study on God's Armor (Women's Study)** (Class resumes January 11)

Led by Karen Maynard - 10:00-11:30 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

This verse-by-verse study of the armor of God details the incredible protection that God has provided to His children. Even though we may not like discussing spiritual warfare, it is necessary because it is real. Spiritual warfare has the potential to rob us of peace and security only to leave behind doubt and unrest. But God offers protection to us – HIS protection. Journey through this study as we learn about the battle, our enemy, our armor and our place in God's army. But most importantly, we come to know the rock solid truth that God has provided everything we need to proclaim ultimate victory.

### **Joining Jesus on His Mission - Virtual Bible Study for Young Adults**

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on every other Tuesday - Virtual

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Books are available in the church office and can be obtained by emailing Matt Meier at [mmeier@trinitydt.org](mailto:mmeier@trinitydt.org).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3lzdVNQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09> Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

## **WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS**

### **The Mighty & The Mysterious: A Study of Colossians (Women's Study)**

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-8:00 PM - Hybrid

New Christians in 1st-century Colossae were not all that different from Christians today. They, too, struggled to understand who Jesus is, how Jesus alone reconciles us to God, and why things aren't perfect in the Church.

In St. Paul's letter to these Christians he had never met, he doesn't say they should stop asking hard questions. He doesn't tell them to stop searching God's Word, to stop seeking spiritual wisdom, or to stop striving for unity within the Church. Instead, Paul focuses on their questions and struggles on the Gospel of the mighty and mysterious God: the same God who created the universe revealed Himself among us and reclaimed us as His own through His Son, Jesus.

Walk with author Heidi Goehmann through God's Word to the Colossians. Though many things will remain a mystery until we see our Savior, this six-session Bible study will help readers discover that God fills them right now in every way, through the mighty and mysterious Body of Christ, the Church.

### **Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in**

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

## **THURSDAYS - ADULTS**

### **Sonrise Bible Study**

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

The virtual study discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Pastor Black at 713.229.2917 or [dblack@trinitydt.org](mailto:dblack@trinitydt.org).

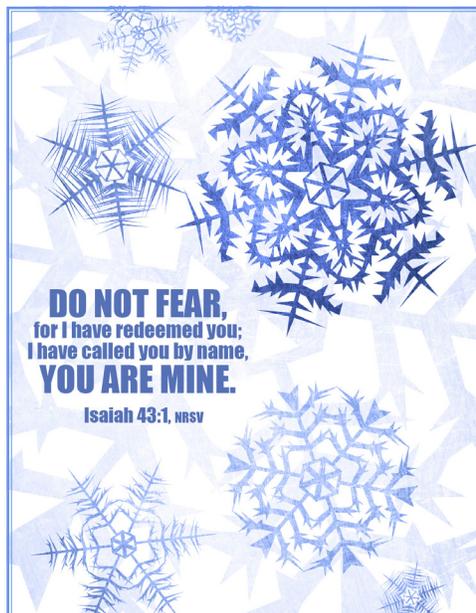


**Drive-up Holy Communion is available by request. Contact Pastor Black at 713.229.2917 to arrange a date and time.**

## Life Thoughts for the Church Year - January 9 – Epiphany I/ Baptism of Our Lord

The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth (Psalm 29:9). And does not His Word likewise will the conception of every child (Genesis 30:22)? He creates, redeems, and calls each one (Isaiah 43:1) even more precious than the other creatures. His incarnate Son displays His desire to claim every human life as His beloved son or daughter (Luke 3:22). That includes you, me, and all other neighbors!

(From Lutherans For Life - [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org))



### STAFF DIRECTORY

713.224.0684

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Michael P. Dorn . . . .713.229.2940

Visitation Pastor  
Donald G. Black . . .713.229.2917

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Ron Lacy . . . . .713.229.2970

Dir. of Administration  
and Human Resources  
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Angela Avant . . . .713.229.2963

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Stefanie Bowman . .713.229.2950

Hostess (Fridays)  
Sarahai Flores . . . .713.229.2950



*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving Love With All People Now!*

Trinity Downtown

[www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org)

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713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **January 13** for articles to be published February 1, 2022.

Submit articles to [pschroeder@trinitydt.org](mailto:pschroeder@trinitydt.org).

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.