

August 27th, 2019



Dear friends and new family of Trinity Tulsa,

Peace to you from God and our Lord Jesus Christ!

A special thank you to the search committee: Jane, Clayton, Jeff, Jordan, Jack, Hilary, Lizze, Mark, Susan, and Deacon Bert for their kind and generous spirit. Thank you to the vestry: Shawna, Joe, Jessica, George, Mary, Patti, Caroline, Emily, Dale, Rob, Rusty, Harry, Joe, and Bill for welcoming Jeff and me. Thank you for the fantastic opportunity to pray, walk, and join with you on this journey. I am humbled by the Spirit that is so present in Trinity Episcopal Church. I feel so blessed to have been called to participate in active ministry with all of you. Jeff and I look forward to being with you very soon.

Trinity Episcopal Church is an amazingly spirit-filled place. It is not merely a place of God, but a home, a home where God dwells. A home that clearly states, "*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you.*" So many aspects of parish life can be commented upon, but I must say that the intentional way the people go about living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more than inspiring. I read and reread and still want to know more, see more, feel more about what it is to be a part of a parish where the Good News of Jesus Christ is professed and confessed, where the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement is proclaimed boldly!

It is most apparent that the community of Trinity is kept busy in all the wonderful service by proclaiming the Good News. All of this to simply say it would be an honor and profound, humble privilege to serve in a parish where so much is happening, and the Spirit is not only present but moving. That being said and having experienced a glimpse of what Trinity is all about, I would seek to be a part of the journey and allow myself to be vulnerable, open, willing to serve, and be present.

The table that we all are invited to is full of rich experiences, profound revelation, and the knowledge of a God that forgives us, redeems us, and loves us. We must be consciously aware that God is present in all things, that we have been given the promise of hope and that we are not alone. The Episcopal Church of today is one of openness, inclusion, and acceptance. All three are the benchmarks of Christ's ministry. We are the face, the hands, the feet, and hearts of the living Christ. We are to find the face of God in everyone we encounter. The Episcopal Church is the church where all are welcomed, all are accepted, and I believe that to my core, to seek to know each by name, seek understanding of each other and the will of God. This is our mission to create, maintain, and sustain a vision where a sense of relational community abounds.

My heart has been blessed, and my spirit rejoices with you. I am excited to be your next rector. I look forward to the challenges ahead of us. Let us walk boldly together into the future. Let us dream and imagine the possibilities of what God has called us to do but more so be. Thank you for being so open and transparent. Jeff and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you.

God's blessing on you and yours always,

Lee+