



The Messenger

10 Reasons to be at Vacation Bible School this Summer!

1. Kids love it. We make it fun! When kids are having fun, they are more apt to be paying attention, learning, and growing their relationship with Jesus.

2. It's a great outreach event. When something is fun, kids are likely to invite their friends. About 50% of Trinity's VBS participants are from outside Trinity.

3. Share the gospel of Christ. For some kids, VBS may be the only exposure they get to church or the gospel all year.

4. It gives kids a chance to be together. In addition to reaching out to the community, VBS let's our regular church kids spend some time together and build friendships.

5. See how much fun working with kids can be. Volunteering for VBS is a great way to connect with other adults serving our children's ministry.



**July 15 to 19, 9 a.m. to noon
Kids (age 3 through grade 5)
and volunteers register at
tlcgr.org**

6. Hear the gospel in a whole new way. Experience it like never before through skits, music, games, science, and more!

7. Get immersed in God's word. An action-packed week learning about God generates excitement that will last a lifetime.

8. Build relationships with kids. Feel like a kid again! Walk, run, or jump with kids on their faith journey.

9. Connect with adults in the church. Kids need a trusted circle of adults in their lives. VBS provides a fun and safe atmosphere to build intergenerational friendships.

10. It's just plain fun! No matter what else you say about VBS, it's just plain fun for both kids and adults. There is no other week during the year that's so exhausting and so fun all at the same time! Don't miss it!
Adapted from "10 Reasons To Still Do Vacation Bible School" by Wayne Stocks

Sign Up for Cottage Meeting Potlucks in July and August at Trinity

Pastor Linstrom is inviting the people of Trinity to gather for a simple potluck supper and some conversation on one of six Wednesday evenings in the summer of 2019. Scheduled for July 17, 24 and 31, and for August 14, 21 and 28, we will gather for a potluck supper at 6 p.m. (bring a dish to share; Culver's pot roast sliders will be provided), and then spend time in conversation regarding the strengths of the ministry we share, our growth areas and our dreams for Trinity's future. These conversations will be taken into consideration when the Congregation Council gathers in a strategic planning retreat in the fall of 2019. Sign up via the Friday eBlast link or call the church office. Nursery care will be provided upon request.

We hope that you will join us for food, fellowship and conversations that will shape the ministry that we share.

Join us in Warmly Welcoming Interfaith Hospitality Network Families to Trinity!

We will have the pleasure of hosting IHN families at Trinity from July 7 to 14. A division of Family Promise of Grand Rapids, IHN involves Grand Rapids area churches that house homeless families on a rotating basis in church buildings four times per year for a week at a time. A small army of welcoming volunteers are needed at each church during host weeks to act as evening hosts, prepare meals, stay overnight, provide activities for the children, help with set-up, tear-down or drive a truck!

Sign up to volunteer through the link provided in recent Trinity eBlasts. Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten would be happy to answer your questions about IHN. If you would like to "job shadow" a volunteer during our next host week, Sylvia would be pleased to arrange for that. Our crew of Trinity volunteers are blessed to be a blessing!

What's Happening at Trinity in July?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

Traditional Worship Service, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship Service, 9:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
Lectio Divina, noon, in The Library

Mondays

Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Al-Anon Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Daily Calendar

Monday, July 1

Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 2

Executive Committee Meeting,
7:15 a.m.

Friday, July 5

Al-Anon Speaker Meeting, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 6

Mission Trip

Sunday, July 7

Mission Trip
IHN Guests Arrive
Lutheran World Relief Quilting, noon

Monday, July 8

Mission Trip
Messenger Submissions Due
IHN Guests Onsite
Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.
Congregation Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m.
Oasis Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

visit www.tlcgr.org for event details

Tuesday, July 9

Mission Trip
IHN Guests Onsite
TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
SOLO Together Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Endowment Fund Committee, 6 p.m.
Know Mercy Softball Game, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

Mission Trip
IHN Guests Onsite
Youth & Family Committee Meeting,
7 p.m.

Thursday, July 11

Mission Trip
IHN Guests Onsite
NARFE, 1:30 p.m.
Vegan Potluck, 5:45 p.m.

Friday, July 12

Mission Trip
IHN Guests Onsite
Donna Randolph Memorial Service,
11 a.m.

Saturday, July 13

Mission Trip
IHN Guests Onsite

Sunday, July 14

IHN Guests depart Trinity/VBS Sets up
VBS Work Day, noon

Monday, July 15

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
Outreach Committee Meeting,
5:30 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 16

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
Health Ministry Committee Meeting,
4:30 p.m.
Hospitality Committee Meeting,
5:30 p.m.
Know Mercy Softball Game, 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 18

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
Ladies Bridge, 1 p.m.
Degage (Coates Team), 5:45 p.m.
Earthkeeping Meeting, 6 p.m.
Children's Ministry Committee
Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, July 19

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
Degage (Lundgren Team), 5:45 p.m.

Saturday, July 20

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Sunday, July 21

Campers Leave for Stony Lake

Monday, July 22

Stony Lake
Stephen Ministry Peer Support
Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23

Stony Lake
Spiritual Growth Committee Meeting,
5:45 p.m.
Know Mercy Softball Game, 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24

Stony Lake
Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 25

Stony Lake

Friday, July 26

Campers return from Stony Lake

Saturday, July 27

Oscar Hoff Memorial Service

Tuesday, July 30

"Life Begins at 60," 5:30 p.m.
Know Mercy Softball Game, 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31

Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



Perhaps there is something wrong with your prayers . . .

(Rabbi Donniel) Hartman tells the story of a Hasidic master who was walking along a cobbled street in Eastern Europe and hears the cry of a baby. He sees it is coming from his student's house, so he rushes in and sees his student enraptured in prayer. The rabbi walks over to the baby, takes her into his arms, sits down and rocks her to sleep. When the student emerges from his prayers, he is shocked and embarrassed to find his master in his house, holding his baby.

"Master," he says, "what are you doing? Why are you here?" The Master responds, "I was walking in the street when I heard crying, so I followed it and found her alone." The student says, "I was so engrossed in my prayers that I did not hear her," to which the Master replies, "My dear student, if praying makes you deaf to the cries of a child, there is something wrong with your prayers."

- as told by Doug Kindschi in his June 4, 2019 column "Interfaith Insight"

Kindschi was reviewing Rabbi Hartman's new book [Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself](#) and offered Hartman's retelling of this old Hasidic parable in that context. In [Putting God Second](#), Hartman notes that religion can prevent us from doing what is ethical. He cites "God Intoxication" as one of the reasons that religion can prevent ethical behavior. This happens when in our desire to experience God fully we fail to see the needs of others and our ethical responsibilities to them, as per the Hasidic parable above. Hartman also cites "God Manipulation" in which religion is "manipulated in a way that quiets the voices of moral conscience, draping self-interest in a cloak of pious devotion and stripping those defined as 'other' of moral status." The good rabbi calls upon people of faith to reflect on these means of misappropriating the intent of God's mission for our lives. We are reminded that our spiritual journey is a journey which must be attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable in our midst. Always. Even when engrossed in prayer . . .

We have completed a yearlong building project chapter in our life together. It seems to me that it is time to get back to the 'business' of being the church as we sojourn through the summer of 2019. Our engaged discipleship is deeply needed in a world in which the most vulnerable cry out for our compassion and committed partnership. I am anxious to get back to the 'business' of being the church, of serving the most vulnerable in Christ's name.

In recent weeks we have been discussing mental health in our faith community. Many have resonated with the topic and shared stories of their loved ones who have struggled with debilitating mental illness. We have also gathered a group of interested earth keepers, folks who will help resource our efforts at being good stewards of God's creation in our individual lives, as a congregation, and as a larger human community. The good earth needs good care partners, those who respond to the call of our Creator God to redeem destructive practices. In July we will open our newly renovated house to new friends through our Interfaith Hospitality Network partnership. As we welcome the homeless, the "least of these," we surely welcome our Lord as he invited us in Matthew 25:31-46.

Back to business. We are reminded that our spiritual journey is a journey which must be attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable in our midst, including our planet and most certainly our neighbors. Always. Even when engrossed in prayer . . .

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Linstrom

Council Corner

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2019-2020

Standing committees of the Congregation Council coordinate the mission and ministry of Trinity and provide their leadership in developing new programming. Committees have a Council committee person who acts as the liaison between the Council and committee. Executive Committee members and Committee contacts are:

Congregation Council Executive Committee

President: Paul Crist, 616.813.6150,
pcrist5150@gmail.com
Vice President: Carrie Wygmans,
616.481.2489, cwygs@comcast.net
Treasurer: Chris Engle,
616.308.8859, chris@growtrust.com
Secretary: Carol Butler, 616.551.3903,
caroljb43@gmail.com

Congregation Council Members

Children's Ministry: Karen Unruh,
kbunruh@gmail.com, 616.988.9294
Communications: Nicole Rodammer,
616.498.0904,
nicole.rodammer@gmail.com
Congregational Life: Eric Gohlke,
ericgohlke@comcast.net, 616.883.6375
Endowment Fund: Mike Mason,
616.826.8501,
mikemason2005@comcast.net
Fellowship: Kathy Bush,
616.485.0031, bushkj@yahoo.com
Finance: Chris Engle, 616.308.8859,
chris@growtrust.com
Health Ministries: Carol Butler,
616.551.3903, caroljb43@gmail.com
Hospitality: Carrie Wygmans,
616.481.2489, cwygs@comcast.net
Human Resources: Steve Heacock,
616.949.3907, srheacock@gmail
Outreach: John Fox, 616.949.2510,
jklsafox@comcast.net
Property: Jim Coates, 616.254.9447,
thecoates627@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth:
Stewardship: Amelia Crist, 616.340.5914,
amelia.elisabeth.crist@gmail.com
Worship and Music: Rick Radke,
616.682.1198, radketrac@comcast.net
Worship and Music: Kate Bredwell,
616.889.3329,
kate.bredwell@sbcglobal.net
Youth and Family: Tess Lundgren,
616.889.9503, tesslundgren@gmail.com
Youth and Family: Elizabeth Mulligan,
Youth Representative, 616.949.2510,
office@tlcgr.org
Mike King: 574.286.6312,
michael.king@spectrumhealth.org



I have had the privilege to serve on Trinity's Congregation Council for the past five years. I have watched Trinity go through many changes, some a lot more difficult than others. I have watched Trinity grow in many ways which have made the past five years fly by. Being able to sit with this amazing group of Council members during the capital campaign, construction of our beautiful remodeled building, the changes in staff, the forming of new committees, and a lot of discussions on some very difficult topics have made me grow in so many ways.

My parents taught me to never complain about the direction things are going or decisions that have been made unless I was involved with the decision making. Because of this I feel I have been blessed to have been involved during these past years.

As a liaison for children's ministry for council, I have watched this program grow. Pastor Dan, his staff and a large number of volunteers have really made this ministry blossom. We have the largest numbers of children in our lower elementary classes than we have had in years.

The group of people that make up the children's ministry team is working all year long planning exciting ways to keep the "future" of our church excited about our Lord and Savior. Sunday school has just ended in the past month but there are so many areas they continue to work on.

Vacation Bible School comes to Trinity on July 15 to 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Offered for kids ages 3 years through grade 5, this weeklong event is packed with Bible stories, games, music, and more! Many volunteers are needed to make it an amazing week. Registration for participants and volunteers can be found at tlcgr.org.

In the fall, we look forward to offering a Sunday School class for each grade from preschool to grade 5. In the past few years, we have combined grades because of limited space. This resulted in some very crowded rooms! With the building renovation complete and a growing Sunday School program, we now have space to spread out! We are in need of three or four more adult volunteers willing to teach Sunday School one or two times a month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Please consider sharing your love of Jesus with Trinity's young kids!

This summer we have 12 elementary youth headed to Stony Lake Bible Camp. While there, they will have an amazing opportunity to experience God and community. Camp opportunities start for first graders and every camper qualifies for our camp scholarship, which lowers the cost of camp to \$100 per participant.

In Christ's name,
Kathy Bush
Congregation Council Liaison, Children's Ministry

Online Giving Through "Tithe.ly"

We are transitioning to "Tithe.ly" at Trinity for our online giving. Online giving is so easy and convenient and you never miss a week even when you are out of town! For those currently giving through Vanco, a letter was mailed with instructions on how to make the switch. To get started, simply click on the 'Donate' button at the top of the Trinity Website, go to <https://get.tithe.ly> or stop at the Welcome Center in The Courtyard to pick up an Authorization Form.



TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving

Completed forms, along with a voided check when applicable, can be dropped off or sent to the main office to have donations set up for you. Please contact Trinity's Finance Assistant Joanna Waite in the main office if you need further assistance.

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of May 2019

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	93,391	87,890	(5,501)	- 5.9%
Total Expenses	112,496	101,125	11,371	10.1%
Operating Income (Loss)	(19,105)	(13,235)	5,870	



Giving was below budget for the month by \$5,500 or about -5.9%.

In total, spending is below budget for the month by \$11,400 or 10.1%. Significant items include: Utilities \$3,200 higher than expected due to the colder than normal weather/construction. This was offset by \$3,900 favorable property expenses, \$2,400 favorable interest expense, \$1,600 favorable office and administration expenses, \$2,000 favorable youth and family expenses, and \$4,700 favorable hourly payroll.

2019 Fiscal Year-to-Date February 2019 to May 2019

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	381,546	394,171	12,625	3.3%
Total Expenses	376,927	359,961	16,966	4.5%
Operating Income (Loss)	4,619	34,211	29,592	

Giving is above budget Year-To-Date by \$12,600 or about 3.3%.

In total, spending is below budget Year-To-Date by \$16,900 or 4.5%. Utilities were \$10,300 higher than expected due to the colder than normal winter/construction, offset by \$500 favorable property expenses, \$800 favorable worship expenses, \$1,100 favorable hospitality expenses, \$7,800 favorable interest expense, \$2,800 favorable office and administration expenses, \$2,700 favorable youth and family expenses, \$10,800 favorable cleaning service/lower hourly payroll, and \$700 favorable timing across the rest of the areas.

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. – Jeremiah 29:11 – NRSV

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11 – NIV

I'm sure you are familiar with this beloved verse from Jeremiah. It is often found emblazoned on stickers, mugs, posters, inspirational posters, and all sorts of other things. We love this verse because it reminds us that God has a plan for us, and not any old plan but a plan for our good.

Yet how well do we know the context of this verse?

Jeremiah was a prophet to the people of Israel before and during the time of the exile, when Babylon conquered them and took a large portion of their population into captivity. This verse comes from the middle of a letter that he sent to the people in exile. The opening lines of this letter can seem quite surprising given their circumstance:

Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. - Jeremiah 29:4-7

They are living in captivity, not in their homes, and God tells them to put down roots and seek the welfare of where they are. They should have kids and make a home right where they are.

It is easy to focus on the past. We wish things were the way they once were way back when. We tend to view the past idyllically, and we try to make things now be like they once were. I'm sure many of the Israelites living in captivity thought like this.

It is also easy to focus on the future and to wish things would be different. We dream about how things can be and find ourselves constantly trying to lean in to them. It can also be exhausting to try to live up to the dream of the future that others have for us, to see their plan and to try to find ways to live into it. I'm sure many of the Israelites lived focused on the future promises God had for them.

Yet in this letter God, through Jeremiah, tells the people to put down roots and live in the present. They should remember the past and know the plans that are ahead of them, but are to focus on living as best as they can in the circumstances in which they find themselves.

I think this is an important message for us too. It is easy to live focused on the past, chasing what we remember or being guided by what happened to us. It is easy to live focused on the future, chasing plans we have and how we think things are going to be or should be. Yet when we do either of those things, we can miss the amazing things happening around us in the present. This summer, I hope and pray you take time to enjoy the "now" in which you are living.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan

Bless our Youth!

This summer we invite you to help bless our youth as they depart on different adventures. Thank you for supporting them in a myriad of ways! On these Sundays we will be blessing our youth in worship ahead of their trips:

Sunday, June 30 – Mission Trip to Mission, South Dakota

Sunday, July 21 – Campers to Stony Lake Bible Camp

Please continue to pray that our youth experience God in life changing ways on these amazing adventures!



A Message from Assisting Pastor Karen Niemeyer



One of the topics that we addressed at our weekly *GriefShare* gatherings this spring is how to handle the holidays, since they can be particularly daunting when one is mourning the death of a loved one. If you are currently dealing with grief and are dreading the upcoming July Fourth and Labor Day holidays, the following excerpt from the *GriefShare Survival Guide* might help you get through these usually joyous celebrations.

The article's suggestions might also be appropriate for those going through tough times due to difficult life circumstances other than grief over death of a loved one.

How to Handle Holiday Invitations**

Other people do not know what to expect from you during holidays. Should they invite you to their gathering? Should they insist you come? Should they leave you alone? Not only do others not know what's best for you, you're not sure yourself! You're probably torn between desiring to please your family and friends—and being uncertain if you can even make it through a social event without an emotional breakdown.

These practical suggestions will help lower the stress of facing invitations and events:

- **Decide in advance to attend some events, but to say no to others.** Communicate this to people up front. Give them time to process and accept that you're doing things differently this year.
- **Only plan to stay a portion of the time.** Tell your host of this possibility beforehand. Consider driving yourself so you can leave whenever you want to.
- **Learn to say no.** When someone insists it would be "good for you" to attend, explain that right now you're not capable of handling as many functions as before. Instead of trying to meet the expectations of others, it's best to say, "Thanks for offering that advice (or invitation), but here's what I've decided to do...."
- **Never feel guilty about not going at the last minute.** When accepting an invitation, let the host know that if you don't feel up to it on the day of the event, you might back out at the last minute. If you're having a tough time on the day of the event, let your host know you're not able to make it. Thank your host for the invitation, and encourage her or him to invite you again.
- **It may be at a party that you find yourself laughing at one moment and crying at the next because something triggered it.** Don't be embarrassed about laughing or crying, because even in the midst of our sorrow, there's joy. It's all mixed up together, and it doesn't come in sequence.

If you've found this article's suggestions helpful, please consider joining Trinity's Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley and myself when we lead a *Surviving the Holidays* event on the morning of Saturday, November 16, prior to our 2019 Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Karen

***How to Handle Holiday Invitations, GriefShare Surviving the Holidays*

Men's Breakfast July 20; Wednesday Forums begin in the fall



Gathering once every quarter for food, study and fellowship, the summer Men's Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, July 20, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. We will gather for a fresh, full breakfast, a brief Bible study led by Pastor Linstrom and a guest speaker. Men of Trinity, watch for your invitation to be in attendance on July 20 for our quarterly breakfast!

On Wednesdays in the fall and winter of 2019-2020 Pastor Linstrom will lead Wednesday morning and evening forums based on two books, Rabbi Donniel Hartman's [Putting God Second](#) and Richard Rohr's [The Universal Christ](#), in addition to offering a reprise of the fairly popular "Seven Deadly Sins," inspired by the lectures of Dr. Brad Binau and well attended on Wednesdays about four years ago. Watch for details in upcoming issues of this newsletter as we prepare a September start to Pastor Bob's Wednesday forums.

New Council Members begin terms; New Officers elected



On June 10 four new Congregation Council members began their terms at the monthly meeting of the Council. We welcomed Mike King, Nicole Rodammer, Steve Heacock and youth representative Elizabeth Mulligan as our newest elected congregational leaders.

At its June meeting, the Congregation Council also elected its officers for the new 2019-2020 term. Serving in the year ahead will be:

Paul Crist - President

Carol Butler - Secretary

Carrie Wygmans – Vice President

Chris Engle - Treasurer

The people of Trinity are asked to keep these elected leaders in their prayers and to seek to find ways to support our Congregation Council as it strives "to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church; to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world; to be faithful in specific areas of serving, that the Spirit who empowers God's people may be glorified; and to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation." (from the Order of Installation of the Congregation Council)

The Congregation Council meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., except in August and December, and all meetings of the Council are open meetings.

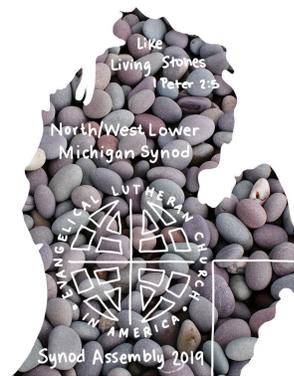
A Family's Reflections from Synod Assembly 2019

MICHAEL: In January 2019, the TLC congregation voted that Charmayne and I would be one of two lay member couples representing TLC and our daughter Elizabeth was voted as a youth representative. I was very excited about attending this year's synod meeting in Mt. Pleasant because it was going to be a family affair. Just before we departed they asked me what it was going to be like and about how the vote for synod bishop would go. Everything I told them ended up being wrong. Yeah, it brings a smile to my face, too! Most of the weekend was spent working through the vote for the bishop. Before the weekend I was told by several sources that the vote should not take more than three rounds. In reality, it took six rounds as the third round was nullified and had to be redone because of a candidate vote count error. It was amazing to watch the room and listen to all the candidates for bishop give their speeches. A common theme from all candidates was about how the Holy Spirit is moving through them. In the end, the synod re-elected Bishop Satterlee and I am looking forward to seeing how the synod moves forward over the next six years. Another thing that I loved from this year's synod was how Elizabeth made quick friends with other youth representatives and Charmayne made a friend with a member from Immanuel Lutheran in Mt. Pleasant. I would like to thank TLC for allowing my family to experience the 2019 synod meeting.

CHARMAYNE: This was my first visit to a synod assembly. As Michael mentions, I had asked him what to expect. I have been to a number of professional and academic conferences and expected it to be something like that. The first indication I was wrong was the 141-page synod annual report (available on the synod website). This was serious business! In between voting for the bishop, discussing sexual harassment, and reviewing compensation guidelines and budget items, we also had a chance to worship and celebrate the Eucharist together which was a powerful experience. Like Michael, it was inspiring to hear the visions of the synod bishop candidates and to hear the way the Holy Spirit moves each of those folks to serve the church and their congregations. Voting was also an amazing experience in that it felt odd to be given the same power of choice in the selection of the bishop and approval of the budget as a pastor of 30 years. Just a few weeks ago we sang "Here I am, Lord," one of my favorite hymns. Synod assembly embodies this hymn: all of us, pastor and lay person, synod staffer and volunteer, were all there to serve the Lord from our place helping to guide and celebrate the church.

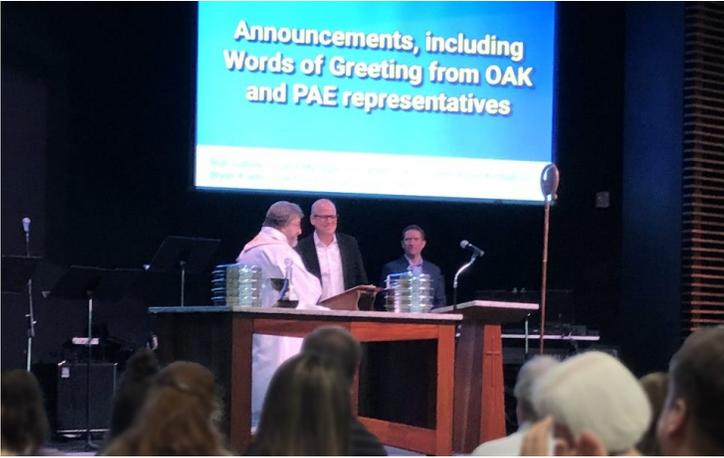
ELIZABETH: My experience at synod assembly was incredible. I had never been able to participate in a real vote that meant something, and that was so important to me; I really felt like I was making a difference. The experience impacted me in such a way that I want to go back and see how it is without the voting for the bishop. It was exciting to see all the people in our synod come together to create the guidance for the church. I really wanted to go again next year, but I do not know how that will work with it being my senior year and graduating.

- Michael, Charmayne and Elizabeth Mulligan



*Like Living Stones
1 Peter 2:5*

Building Dedication Sunday - a Celebration on May 19



Building Dedication Sunday - a Celebration on May 19



Volunteer Property Opportunities at Trinity



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The completion of our "Big Building Project" is history! But we still have a number of facility challenges and the opportunity to plug into as volunteers. Not all areas of church were touched by the Building Project and we could use help to complete work tasks by small teams of volunteers. Carpentry, painting and yard work are some of the needs.

If you have an interest in volunteering, look for upcoming Friday eBlasts with a link to SignUp Genius for a description of the work to be done, the specific skills needed as well as contact information.

Summer Blood Drive at Trinity



There will be a blood drive on Monday, July 8 in The Courtyard from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Summer blood supplies are always stressed because of vacations, so please consider participating in this life-saving ministry.

Appointments are preferred. Please email Sue Babin at smbabin@yahoo.com or use this link to schedule yourself:

https://donate.miblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/108308.

The need is constant, so please give if you can. You never know when the need may strike you or those you love.

Mission Interpreters



God has been so good to us so we can share that goodness with others. Our church provides excellent opportunities to do so. Our world is filled with needs and concerns.

We are now faced with the task of determining how to respond to what may be a new normal of severe weather, as has been witnessed in recent years.

"These weather events present a degree of complexity and scale that is unprecedented," said Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA bishop. "The professionalism, experience and compassion (of Lutheran Disaster Response staff) is remarkable. But even more impressive is all of us coming together. We truly are 'church together.'"

Let us keep the ELCA emergency staff and dedicated volunteers in our prayers.

God of air, water, earth and fire, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepard. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that they may do what must be done under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage to continue to save lives, ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order. Thank you for your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the **After People**.

Stephen Ministers are there:

...**after** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

...**after** the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

...**after** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

...**after** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

...**after** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

...**after** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

...**after** the gavel does down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

...**after** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

...**after** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

...**after** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." We are men and women, ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, co-workers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long **after** as needed.



Year-long Spiritual Formation Program 2019-2020

"Entering the Narrow Gate"

Hosted by: St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Explore the classic elements of monastic, spiritual and contemplative life to discover how this ancient wisdom, learning and spiritual practice might be understood and lived in new settings and life today. The program offers a reflective personal and transformative process for all who desire deeper life in Spirit and more intentional living of the Christian life in Christ. The rich and inspiring teaching is centered on the saints, mystics and spiritual teachers of the Christian centuries, personal contemplative prayer practice, spiritual companion conversations and guidance for living a more integrated spiritually mature life in Christ.

Led by Sister Nancy Brousseau, sessions take place on ten Fridays, once per month over the course of September 2019 to June 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuition is \$600.

If you have questions or would like a schedule and registration form, please contact Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis who was a participant during the "Entering the Narrow Gate" year-long spiritual formation program in 2017-2018.



Family Promise hosts Family Frolic at the Zoo - June 30

Family Promise of Grand Rapids is hosting their 2nd annual family community event. Family Frolic at the Zoo will take place Sunday, June 30 at John Ball Park Zoo from 6:30 to 9 p.m. This event will benefit homeless families and children who are ready to move home.

It's going to be a fun-filled night with raffles, prizes, giveaways, free froyo and, of course, ANIMALS! The one and only Emily Linnert from Wood TV8 will be our host for the evening.

Tickets are \$15 per person and children under the age of 18 get in free thanks to the generous support from Eastbrook Homes. All ages are welcome. Light snacks, refreshments and a cash bar will be available. RSVP at bit.ly/FamilyFrolic2019

Will you help to end homelessness...one family at a time?



Music Department Scholarships Awarded

Trinity's Music Department is pleased to announce that this summer we will have two youth from Trinity Lutheran who will be attending camps specifically for music with scholarships from the Pauline Tweddale Music Scholarship Fund.

Tori Shannon will attend a cello camp at St. Cecelia Music Society and Isaac McKinney will again be attending the Clarinet Camp at Blue Lake Music Camp this summer. We are pleased to be able to grant these music scholarships. We are hopeful that they will share what they have learned by playing for one or more of our worship services.

Larry G. Biser
Director of Music, Trinity Lutheran Church



Grand Rapids Cohort of Interfaith Photovoice Initiative

Photo Exhibit at Trinity June 25 to July 14

During the fall of 2018, three members of Trinity, Dan Butler, Kelly Wittry and Angela Davis, participated in a joint project with The Kaufman Interfaith Institute, The Standing Together initiative and Calvin College. Over the course of five weeks, Christians and Muslims came together to share a meal and their photos based on the question posed by the project director, Dr. Roman R. Williams, Assistant Professor, Director of the McGregor Undergraduate Research Program for the Humanities and Social Sciences at Calvin College. The project unfolded over several weeks with a group of people who work together to identify, photograph, and discuss shared experiences, needs, and concerns within their community.

Trinity will be hosting the Photovoice exhibit from Tuesday, June 25 until Sunday, July 14. Please mark your calendar and plan to visit the exhibit during church office hours and on Sundays.



New Earth Keeping Group Holds First Meeting



Are you concerned about environmental issues?

You should consider joining Trinity's new Earth Keeping group! We had our very first meeting on June 6. There was great representation from the congregation with a wide age range of participants. The group members are passionate about sharing their knowledge about environmental issues and are enthusiastic about having a positive impact together on God's creation. The group will initially focus on three different areas: educating our church family about environmental topics, becoming vocal about concerns through advocacy and participating in service projects as a church family and/or with other groups.

The next meeting of Trinity's environmental group is scheduled to take place on Thursday evening, July 18 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend. We would love to add to the number of our Trinity Earth Keepers!

Please be in touch with Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten if you have questions.

Buy a Book of Bus Tickets!

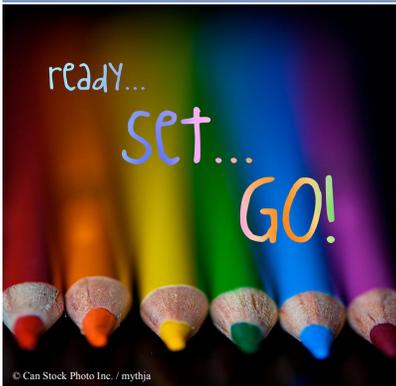


You are invited to support our community's most vulnerable members by purchasing bus tickets to be distributed to community organizations including Dégagé Ministries, Family Promise (IHN) and Samaritas. Many area residents do not have cars and rely upon public transportation to get to job interviews, work, grocery stores and appointments. Bus tickets can provide stability for individuals and families who are struggling.

Please consider supporting this ministry by purchasing one or more packs of bus tickets. A pack of 10 tickets is \$13.50.

Please place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off in the Church Office. Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with "bus tickets" on the memo line. We will collect for this special program through the end of July.

Supplies being accepted for Congress Elementary School



As a church family, we hope to once again supply much needed items for use by the students and teachers of Congress Elementary School. The shopping list below indicates the number of the specific items needed to begin the school year.

Please consider picking up some of these supplies and bringing them to Trinity. Your donations can be placed in the large plastic labeled barrels located in The Courtyard by the Welcome Center and in the narthex. The collection of supplies will go through August.

- tissues (200 boxes)
- hand sanitizer (50 large pump bottles)
- glue sticks (200 each)
- crayons (200 boxes)
- pencils (400 each)
- sanitizing wipes (50 containers)
- healthy dry boxed snacks (crackers, pretzels, granola bars, etc.) for lower grade classes - they do not need to be individually wrapped

SOLO Together in July



"SOLO Together" just might be a great way for you to get out more often and enjoy the company of other women!

Trinity women who are at least fifty years of age and are widowed, divorced or are single without a significant other have been having a great time together. They meet monthly for lunch at a variety of area restaurants to simply have fun!

On **Tuesday, July 9** the group will have lunch at Noto's at the Bilmar which is located on the shore of Lake Michigan in Grand Haven at 1223 S. Harbor Drive. Participants can meet at Trinity and carpool to the home of Marjorie Paul. The group will go together to the restaurant from her home.

PLEASE NOTE: Typically the SOLO Together group has lunch on the first Tuesday of the month. This is an exception due to accommodations at the restaurant during the busy Fourth of July holiday.

Reservations are made for the group in advance so it is important to RSVP. Please contact Trinity member Marjorie Paul by Sunday, July 7 to let her know you would like to attend on the July date or if you have questions. Please let her know if you would like to carpool from Trinity's parking lot. Marjorie can be reached at 616.209.5263.

"Know Mercy" Trinity Softball Team Game Schedule



Trinity's coed softball team, "Know Mercy," is led by Trinity member Chris Engle and they are ready for action! Let's show our support for the team by attending their games!

All games are played on Tuesday evenings at Manhattan Park located in East Grand Rapids just west of the East Beltline at 3180 Cascade Rd SE. You can also enter the park from the side street at 430 Manhattan SE.

Mark your calendars NOW! Here is the upcoming game schedule:

July 9 - 7:15 p.m. at Field 2

July 30 - 6:15 p.m. at Field 1

July 23 - 6:15 p.m. at Field 2

August 6 - 7 p.m. at Field 1

New Trinity Social Group forming for "Empty Nesters!"



A new group at Trinity is up and running! We have been going with the name "Empty Nest Group" but that doesn't really describe who we are. We are people that are too old for "Young and Sleepless" and too young for the "Life begins at 60" group.

If you are an empty nester, we want you. If you still have kids at home, we want you. If you have never had kids, we want you. If you are single or married, we want you! What we have in common is some time on our hands to get together with others that want a community within Trinity.

If you are interested in learning more about this group, please contact Corina Dulecki at corinard@comcast.net or look for our Facebook group named "Trinity Lutheran Church-GR Empty (or almost empty) Nesters."

“Life Begins at 60”

Meijer Gardens Tuesday Evening Music Club



Join us on Tuesday, July 30, when we'll gather at 5:30 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.) at Meijer Gardens Amphitheater to enjoy *Franklin Park* performing spot-on renditions of the Beatles, the Birds, and the Rascals and *6 Pack*, the all-girl band performing the grooviest hits from the 1967 era. *Since seats cannot be reserved, we'll try to gather together on the upper left side of the amphitheater (with our backs to the sun).*

Although the program begins at 7 p.m., please try to arrive by 5:30 p.m. so we can all sit together (we can't save seats and the amphitheater fills quickly!). You may pack a picnic basket or purchase supper at the amphitheater concession stand (see *Meijer Food & Drink Guidelines* below). Be sure to bring your own chairs. *Chairs of all heights are welcomed.* Admission to the event is free for Meijer Gardens members. There is a general admission fee for non-members.

Contact Carol or Dan Butler (616.540.1660 or caroljb43@gmail.com) to make your reservation.

MEIJER GARDENS FOOD & DRINK GUIDELINES

Food: Anything from cheese and crackers to fast food is allowed. However, glass containers are prohibited inside the amphitheater (example: salsa in a glass container or Pyrex Tupperware).

Alcoholic Drinks: If desired, you may purchase alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, specialty alcoholic drinks) but *bringing your own alcohol is not allowed.* All guests consuming alcohol will have IDs checked at entry and will be required to wear a wrist band for service. Picnic baskets, bags and purses may be subject to security searches.

Non-alcoholic Drinks: Guests may also bring in factory-sealed, non-glass non-alcoholic beverages (examples include soda cans, unopened water bottles and other unopened beverage containers). Empty reusable water bottles may be brought in and filled at the inside water fountain.

Summertime All Congregation Worship Service, with Pig Roast

A Great Day to Gather: Sunday, August 25, at 10 a.m. for shared worship in the sanctuary, with a Pig Roast and Potluck to follow on the church lawn at 11 a.m.

Our sixth annual All Congregation Worship Service will be followed by a Pig Roast and Potluck on Trinity's west lawn, under the shadow of the Cross Tower and hillside Memorial Garden. We will gather in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 25, for a single worship service at 10 a.m. A special aspect of our worship service will be the annual "Blessing of the Backpacks and the Kindergartners that will carry them . . ." The shared service of Holy Communion will be followed by a Pig Roast again in 2019. The congregation is invited to add to the "porkfest" with a good old-fashioned church potluck.

Come for food, family time, fun and fellowship. Bring a friend and meet members of the church who attend a different worship service! Pig and beverages will be provided, but vegetarians and vegans are also welcome! Make sure to bring a chair or blanket to sit on for the potluck and a side dish to share.



Save the Date

AUGUST

Aug. 6 – SOLO Together Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Aug. 6 – “Know Mercy” softball game, 7 p.m.
Aug. 12 – *Messenger Submissions Due*
Aug. 14 – Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.
Aug. 21 – Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.
Aug. 25 – Kindergarten Blessing of Backpacks
Aug. 25 – One Worship Service, 10 a.m., followed by a
Pig Roast/Congregational Potluck
Aug. 28 – Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 – *Labor Day - Office Closed*
Sept. 3 – SOLO Together Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 8 – Preschool Blessing
Sept. 8 – Sunday School Rally Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 9 – *Messenger Submissions Due*
Sept. 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, & 30 – Fitness Class,
9 a.m.
Sept. 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, & 26 – Fitness Class, 11 a.m.
Sept. 12, 19, & 26 – Fitness Class, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 15 – Fifth Annual Prayer Tree Kick Off
Sept. 23-28 – Pictorial Directory Photography Sessions
Sept. 25 - JOYful Days, 10 a.m.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, & 31 – Fitness Class,
11 a.m.
Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 – JOYful Days, 10 a.m.
Oct. 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, & 30 – Fitness
Class, 9 a.m.
Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 – Fitness Class, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 6 – Blessing of the Animals
Oct. 6 – Celebration of Music Concert Series - Foliage Duo
Oct. 12 – Dinner and Auction
Oct. 26 – Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m.
Oct. 27-Nov. 3 – IHN Guests on site
Oct. 27 – Trunk or Treat, 4 p.m.
Oct. 27 – New Member Curiosity Class, 6 p.m.

Let Us Know ...



Are you expecting or adopting?

The Trinity staff would like to celebrate and share in your happy news of being pregnant or welcoming a new child through adoption. We like to know about it, so we can pray for and support your family. Our ministry to your baby/child begins before they are even arrive!

Contact Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis with details.



Are you interested in having your child(ren) or yourself baptized?

Contact Pastor Bob with the potential date(s) and service that will work for you and your family.

July Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations!

July 1

Andrew Murray
Jennifer Palm Dwyer
Joy Prusak
Elizabeth and John Derbin
Joan and David Hansen

July 2

Ellie Brandstadt
Tristan Derbin
Haley Fisk
Linda Grinstead
Nick Harrison
Joe Rosloniec
Calvin Steketee
Micah Steketee
Daniel Zielinski

July 3

Nanci Guigue
Isaac Johnson
Janet Konen
Yvonne Lynn
John Moglia
Ned Quinn

July 4

Greg Battreall
Oscar Heaford
Donna Linsey
Jeff Ulrich
Shayne Wilson
Linda and John Holm

July 5

Bonnie Brandstadt
Caden Budzyn
William Cannon
Victoria Elliott
Oliver Ruble
Susan and Dave Gutierrez

July 6

Deborah Bambini
Kim Brock
Delia DeBoer
Kristi Flatt
Rachel Gosch
Kristin and John Bradley
Lisa and Dave Reiersen

July 7

Elena Griewahn
Adrienne Hall
Melissa and John Ziech

July 8

Kaitlyn Childers
Margot Frecka
Abigail Lamprich
Matthew Mead
Hudson Proux
Rachel Vigna

July 9

Corene Beckett
Angie Brace
Hayes Dudley
Annie Hudson
Lisa Mead
David Morrison
Chloe Tesch
Sue and Dave Wait

July 10

Gordon Engstrom
Kevin Henkel
Chris Kutschinski
Karin Moglia
Micki Smokovich
Jonathan Sommers

July 11

Tom Helzer
James Oliver
Fred Ulreich

July 12

Abigail Battreall
Julianna Hahn
Marybeth Iaria
Connor Krupp
Judy Otten
Mae Preston
Colin Sawhill
Andrea and Timothy Dudley
Lisa Wilson and Keith Gohlke

July 13

Brad Burkle, Jr.
Sofia Crist
Donna Erickson
Madison Montgomery
Andrea Salasky

July 14

Sarah Huckstep
Clara Yu
Diane and Larry Biser
Carrie and Sid Hoeksema
Ashley and Erik Perkins

July 15

Laura Fisher
John Idema
Kathryn Langenburg
Mary Wollen
Laura and Steve Cairns
Elaine and Kevin Furmaga
Deb and John Potter

July 16

Brooklyn Breon
Bill Fisk
Katie Grzelak
Kaitlyn Landon
Mae Olson
Karen Smith

(July 16 continued)

Ingrid and Patrick Brang
Jane and Nicholas Claus
Kerry and Jim McKee

July 17

Benjamin Cannon
Samantha McMillan
Tadas Norris
Tom Shannon Jr.
Tom VanderWoude
Peyton Wollen
Beth and Bob O'Connor

July 18

Sue Bakkila
Kendal Thorsen
Kate and Bryan Bredwell
Wendy and Joesy Johnson
Yvonne and Dan Lynn

July 19

Fran Bolthuis
Mikaela Bradley
Nancy Krupp
Laura Swain
Connie and Larry Frazier
Kelly and Jason Montgomery

July 20

Jennifer Ackerman-Haywood
Dave Reiersen
Michelle and Tom Albaitis

July 21

Rachel Ahrens
Ken Beld
Benson Beuker
Katelyn Tooley
Kara and Chris Posthumus

July 22

Keegan Coles
Jordan Donahue
Paul Kuhlman
Betsy and John McIntyre
Rachel and Brian Vigna

July 23

Fred Wilcox
Jodi Wood
Bonnie and Todd Brandstadt
Liz and Art Schmebling

July 24

Laura Elliott
Cyndi Harrison
Taylor Montgomery
Ginny Stoll-Tyrrell
Megan Unruh
Maggie VanderWoude
Paul VanderWoude

July 25

Susan Candela
Kyle and John Teichow
Kathy and Dave Young

July 26

Tom Fredrickson
Pam Gunderson
Carrie Hoeksema
Christopher Humphreys
John Kendall
Molly King
Susan Youngren
Ann and Michael Morin

July 27

Peter Bowman
Elizabeth Lee
Leo LePow
Emilia LePow
Ivy LePow
Barbara Meyers
Jay Rosloniec
Dale Volkerding
Christine and Richard
Duyser
Michelle and Ned Quinn

July 28

Alain Carron
Bruce Hungerford
Beth Olson
Steven Salasky
Jamie and Jason
Stevenson

July 29

Peter Larson
Ronald McNally
Elaine Rongey
Jennifer Salasky
Kay Zeaman
Kori and Jeff Grooters

July 30

Zach Budzyn
Grant Greiner
Gene Gunderson
Bryant Hicks
Nancy Lindquist
Kathleen Longstreth
Emily and Roy Black
Sharon and Bill Brandner

July 31

Lyn Allen
Jillian Beld
Brooke Croly
Mary Rasmussen
Kirsten and Omar Zarou

If you have a special milestone birthday or anniversary, please contact the main office at Trinity to let us know!

Use our New West Entry during the week



Seeking to greet our weekday visitors and care for the security of our facilities, we have begun to use the new west entry, under the Cross Tower, during office hours and for weekday meetings and events.

The main office of the church is just inside that entry and most of our gathering spaces are adjacent to the new entry hall.

Although other exterior doors will be locked during the week, we will continue to have multiple exterior doors open on Sundays and for funerals and weddings.

Please Remember Your Offering When You are Away

As you travel this summer to vacation destinations, remember that the ministry of your congregation continues all summer long. Mail your offering or make your gifts electronically but don't forget your church!

If you are interested in learning about "Tithe.ly," Trinity's new online giving program, please refer to page five of this newsletter.



2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.949.2510 tlcgr.org

Office Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM (M-F)



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Mission: *Trinity Lutheran Church is a dynamic family called by God to nurture each other in our daily journeys of faith and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.*

Staff

Direct Dial:
616.949.2510

(then dial extension #)



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Church, gr

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