



The Messenger

All Congregation Worship Service followed by a Pig Roast



Our sixth annual All Congregation Worship Service will take place in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 25 with a single worship service at 10 a.m. A special aspect of worship that day will be the annual "Blessing of the Backpacks and Kindergartners" as well as the "Blessing of Teachers." The shared service of Holy Communion will be followed by a Pig Roast on the west lawn 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.

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. Remaining cottage meeting dates include July 31, 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.

"Night Flight" Sculpture to be Dedicated August 25

John Parker's 11-foot steel "Night Flight" sculpture, now installed on the grounds of Trinity Lutheran Church, was a gift of the Michigan Kiwanis to the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) in 1981, in honor of former President Gerald R. Ford. Exhibited on the grounds of the GRAM before the move to their current location, the GRAM and the Kiwanis have gifted "Night Flight" to Trinity.

Last winter, the Trinity Arts Committee unanimously agreed that this sculpture is in keeping with the overall design integrity of the church and would be an asset for our congregation and community for years to come. In addition, it will be another fine art element for those visiting the church specifically to see the architecture and fine art elements imbedded in the structure and grounds. The Congregation Council voted in April of this year to accept the gift of the "Night Flight" sculpture to Trinity.

Join us following worship on Sunday, August 25, as we dedicate "Night Flight" in its new home on the Trinity campus.

What's Happening at Trinity in August?

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 Upper Room

Mondays

Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

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

Daily Calendar

Thursday, August 1

Children's Ministry Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, August 2

Al-Anon Speaker Meeting, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 4

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, noon

Monday, August 5

Oasis Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:15 a.m.
SOLO Together Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Worship and Music Committee, 7 p.m.
Know Mercy Softball Game, 7 p.m.
Al-Anon Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 8

NARFE, 1:30 p.m.
Vegan Potluck, 5:45 p.m.

Friday, August 9

Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, August 10

Marriage of Myrian Storck and John Preiser
Dégagé (Stouten Team), 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, August 11

Stephen Ministry Gathering and Pizza Party, 12 p.m.

Monday, August 12

No Council Meeting
Messenger Submissions Due

Wednesday, August 14

Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.
Youth & Family Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 15

Ladies Bridge, 1 p.m.
Earth Keepers' Meeting, 6 p.m.
Children's Ministry Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, August 16

Wedding Rehearsal
Dégagé (Talsma Team), 5:45 p.m.

Saturday, August 17

Marriage of Randi Rotzell and Joe Tett, 3 p.m.

Sunday, August 18

Senior High Year Kickoff, 6 p.m.

Monday, August 19

Outreach Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21

Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 22

Trinity Choir Party, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 23

Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, August 24

Marriage of Nicole Roberts and Corey Yoder, 3 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

Blessing of Teachers & Volunteers
Kindergarten Blessing of Backpacks
One Worship Service, 10 a.m.
All Church Potluck and Pig Roast, 11 a.m.

Monday, August 26

Stephen Ministry Peer Support Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 27

Hospitality Committee, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28

"Life Begins at 60," 1 p.m.
Cottage Meeting, 6 p.m.

visit www.tlcr.org for event details

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



Summertime vacation, recreation, refreshment and renewal . . .

Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you suddenly know everything there is to be known.

Winnie the Pooh

As I compose this reflection, I have just returned with Rebecca from a wonderful trip to the east coast, spending time with our son John and his fiancée Monique in New York City, including an evening with Monique's parents and siblings in Queens, and a weekend in the Boston metro to celebrate the completion of our youngest son Sam's MFA in the Visual Arts in Cambridge. For the first time since our sons moved to the East coast, our annual pilgrimage to visit with them was primarily spent being family together. We did not take in the museums and galleries, the walking tours or historic sites. Though amid the nation's great eastern metropolitan expanse, we were primarily engaged in simple family gathering. And we found ourselves enjoying the simplicity of rest and relaxation in the midst of those great urban centers.

Upon our return to Michigan, I spent a day in the office and then retreated to Ann Arbor with Rebecca for an evening out with a wonderful dinner at Sava's, a concert at the Michigan Theatre (the somewhat obscure but magnificent "Bela Fleck and the Flecktones") and a night's lodging, before returning to South Haven on the morning of the 4th of July. Much of the Independence Day weekend was spent reading, relaxing on our patio and enjoying each other's company.

And, for a few days, we enjoyed the break from all that occupies us at home and at work . . .

The wisdom writer in Ecclesiastes 3 shares this observation:

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with . . . I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live . . .

It's summertime, and we are invited into vacation, recreation, refreshment and renewal. The wisdom of Pooh Bear reminds us that we need to occasionally break from our many occupations, our busyness, and our day-to-day responsibilities to be open to restful engagement, insight and a deeper understanding. I hope that you are finding good time with friends and family in the goodness of this season. I hope that you find time to enjoy the view of the river standing on the "bottom rail of a bridge" and find in that perspective that which is lifegiving. I pray that you are finding times to recreate and rest as summertime has finally arrived in west Michigan.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Linstrom

Wednesday Forums with Pastor Bob begin in September

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 25 start to Pastor Bob's Wednesday forums, in coordination with the first session of JOYful Days.

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, cwys@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, cwys@comcast.net

Human Resources: Steve Heacock,
616.949.3907, srheacock@gmail

Outreach: John Fox, 616.949.2510,
jksafox@comcast.net

Property: Jim Coates, 616.254.9447,
thecoates627@gmail.com

Property: Mike King: 574.286.6312,
michael.king@spectrumhealth.org

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



I would like to use this month's "Council Corner" to welcome four new talented members to the Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council and introduce them to the congregation. The Council plays an integral role in the life of Trinity and it is very important that its membership is a good cross section and representation of the congregation and the three services to ensure we are getting the complete voice of the congregation during our Council meetings.

I would first like to welcome and introduce **Mike King**. Mike and his wife, Molly, have been attending Trinity since arriving in Grand Rapids five years ago from Indianapolis. They have two boys that are nineteen months apart in age, Carter and Tate. Mike is the controller for Spectrum Health Pennock Hospital in Hastings and serves as the finance executive for the southeast regional market. He is actively pursuing a Master's in Business Administration from Western Michigan University. In addition to school and spending time with his family, Mike also serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for Sunny Crest Youth Ranch.

Next I would like to welcome and introduce **Elizabeth Mulligan**. Elizabeth has been an active youth member of Trinity since her family joined the church in 2006. Elizabeth was confirmed at TLC in 2015. She recently represented the church at the ELCA National Youth Gathering this past summer, and she has attended mission trips for the past three years. Elizabeth will be a senior this fall at Caledonia High School where she plays lacrosse and is part of the Science Olympiad and DECA.

I would also like to welcome and introduce **Steven Heacock**. Steve has a deep connection to Trinity. He visited Trinity as a child with his Aunt Florence Bunnall. His wife Brenda has served on Council and is a Stephen Ministry leader. Steve and Brenda's daughters Sarah and Erica are healthcare professionals and have blessed their parents with three grandchildren. Sarah was confirmed and married at Trinity. Erica was baptized, confirmed and married at Trinity and hopes that her daughter Lilly, who was recently baptized at Trinity, will do the same. The Heacock's daughter Kirsten spent her 10 years of life, very joyfully, at Trinity.

Steve brings a career of community service to Council. Steve recently left his role as Senior Vice President of community relations at Spectrum Health to become President and CEO of the nonprofit Grand Rapids Whitewater project. In his spare time, Steve also is a Board member of the Gerald R. Ford Airport Authority.

Last, but not least I would like to welcome and introduce **Nicole Rodammer**. Nicole joined Trinity in the fall of 2008 with her husband Nick. Since then, they have added son Ben (nine), daughter Britten (five), and son James (two) to their family. Nicole recently served as the Communications Chair for the Trinity Capital Campaign, volunteers on the GVSU Alumni Board and is the Vice Chair of the Stepping Stones Montessori School Board. Nicole is currently working at Disability Advocates of Kent County as the Director of Development and Communications.

Please join me in welcoming these four talented individuals to the Congregation Council, thanking them for their commitment to serve on Council and please give them your full support and prayers for God's discernment in the work they will do with the Council.

Regards,
Paul Crist

Trinity Congregation Council President

Online Giving Through "Tithe.ly"

We are transitioning to "Tithe.ly" at Trinity for our online giving. Online giving is so easy and convenient that you will 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 June 2019

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	90,541	70,408	(20,133)	- 22.2%
Total Expenses	90,044	85,327	4,717	5.2%
Net Income (Loss)	497	(14,919)	(15,416)	



Giving is below budget for the month by \$20,100 or about -22.2%.

In total spending is below budget for the month by \$4,700 or 5.2%. Significant items include: Utilities \$1,200 higher than expected due to construction/fixing system install inefficiencies and Property expenses \$2,600 higher than expected due to interior painting outside the scope of the construction project. This was offset by \$2,100 favorable Music & Fine Arts Camp, \$3,400 favorable interest expense, \$1,900 favorable hourly payroll and \$1,100 favorable timing across the rest of the areas.

2019 Fiscal Year-to-Date February 2019 to June 2019

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	472,070	464,579	(7,491)	- 1.6%
Total Expenses	467,463	445,148	22,315	4.8%
Net Income (Loss)	4,607	19,431	14,824	

Giving is below budget Year-To-Date by \$7,500 or about - 1.6%.

As a reminder, we have approximately \$44,300 of principal payments budgeted for the remainder of the year. These payments will need to come cash generated through positive Net Income.

In total spending is below budget Year-To-Date by \$22,300 or 4.8%. Utilities \$11,300 higher than expected due to the colder than normal winter/ construction/fixing system install inefficiencies and Property expenses \$1,100 higher due to interior painting outside the scope of the construction project, offset by \$2,100 favorable Music & Fine Arts Camp, \$900 favorable worship expenses, \$1,600 favorable hospitality expenses \$11,200 favorable interest expense, \$1,000 favorable Office & Administration, \$2,600 favorable Youth & Family expenses, \$11,700 favorable cleaning service/lower hourly payroll, and \$3,600 favorable timing across the rest of the areas.

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who build his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods cam, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell and great was its fall!"
– Matthew 7:24-27



These days you can't drive around Grand Rapids without encountering construction. Between the building projects and the road work, it is ever present. Things are being built all around us every day.

Those connected with construction will tell us that the foundation is the most important part of any building project. Everything is built upon it. If the foundation is not strong, or otherwise compromised, the rest of the building has no chance of holding up to the riggers of time and the environment. This is why so much time and effort is put into creating good foundations.

Jesus tells us that this is also the case with our faith. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount he tells us that those who hear and act on his words will be like a wise person who builds their house on a rock. The trials of life will buffet them but they will stand because of their foundation.

Note that Jesus refers to those who hear and act. Hearing Jesus's teachings is important and so are how those teachings change the way we live our lives.

The path Jesus has for us is transformational. As we hear His teachings and alter our lives according to them, we can lean more and more into the path Jesus has for us to live. This path is not always easy, but we will not fall because of the foundation Christ has given us.

Father Richard Rohr reminds us of this. He says, "Christianity is a lifestyle – a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving. However, we made it into an established 'religion' (and all that goes with that) and avoided the lifestyle change itself. One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish, and vain in most of Christian history, and still believe that Jesus is one's 'personal Lord and Savior.' The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on Earth is too great."

May we hear and act on the teachings of Jesus and, in doing so, lay the foundation He has for us so that we may be changed and built into the people God has called us to be. People that are able to weather the storms of life and not fall because of the foundation of Christ are called to share this same foundation with the world, so they can weather life's storms as well. May we love as we are loved to tend to the suffering of the world.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan

Middle School and High School Youth Group News

High school kick off on August 18 at 6 p.m.

High school youth and their families are invited to a kick off celebration on Sunday, August 18 at 6 p.m. at Trinity! Join us for a celebration of the summer and conversation about what is coming during this program year. Let Pastor Dan know if you plan on attending so we can have enough food for everyone.

Confirmation classes start September 8 at 3 p.m.

Families with youth in 6th through 8th grade, mark your calendars now! We begin Confirmation classes on Sunday, September 8 at 3 p.m. This first session is for both youth and their parents.

Trinity welcomes new Sunday School Co-Coordinators



After Brittany Fischer's tenure, which resulted in the successful redevelopment of our Sunday School program, Ingrid Brang accepted the role of interim Sunday School Coordinator for the 2018-2019 Sunday School year. Ingrid did a wonderful job continuing to lead a vibrant Sunday morning faith formation ministry with our congregation's children, but came to the end of the Sunday School year uncertain that she could continue in 2019-2020 with the busy schedule of her young family.

The good news from our Sunday School is that we will retain Ingrid as a Sunday School Co-Coordinator with experienced Sunday School volunteers Andrea Severns and Sheri Mason joining her as a Sunday School "Dream Team." The three Co-Coordinators have already met in the early summer of 2019 with Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall and are laying the groundwork for another fine year of learning, fellowship and service with Trinity's younger members.

Be sure to welcome the new Sunday School Co-Coordinators into their staff ministry in the weeks and months ahead!

Children's Ministry Events



On Sunday, August 25, there will be one worship service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. followed by a Pig Roast and Potluck at 11 a.m.

- **Blessing of Backpacks for Kindergarteners:** August 25, 10 a.m. Kindergarteners bring their backpacks to worship for a special blessing. They will receive a backpack charm.
- **Blessing of Teachers:** August 25, 10 a.m. Sunday school teachers, confirmation mentors, and educators will be blessed as they begin a new academic year.

On Sunday, September 8, the Sunday School year officially begins!

- **Preschooler Blessing:** September 8, 9:15 a.m. All preschoolers are welcomed to Sunday School with a special blessing at the 9:15 a.m. Rejoice service. Three-year-olds and children new to Trinity's Sunday School will be gifted a storybook Bible. First-time preschool parents are invited to experience class with their children at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday School - Rally Sunday!** September 8, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. On this exciting first Sunday, kids will get a special treat after class! Sunday School is offered for children ages 3 years through 5th grade. Children are taught in a small group setting using Spark, a Lutheran lectionary-based curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress.

Trinity Travelers planning trips to Holden Village, Israel

Holden Village in 2020 and Israel in 2021

After a good meeting of Trinity Travelers alumni in June, remembering wonderful trips to Luther's Germany in 2016 and Paul's Greece in 2018, a first domestic trip to Holden Village in Washington state is in the planning stages for the early summer of 2020. And aspirations to schedule a trip to Israel in the fall of 2021 or the winter of 2021-2022 will be under development in the months ahead.

Holden Village is a Lutheran retreat center in the central Cascade Mountains of Washington state. Formerly a copper mining village, over the course of 50 years Holden Village has been transformed into a vibrant place of education, programming and worship in a mile-deep alpine valley. It is accessed from the town of Chelan in central Washington via a 40-mile ferry ride up Lake Chelan and an 11-mile trip up the mountain switchbacks to an idyllic location adjoining the Glacier Peak Wilderness area. Holden's Hike Haus is prepared to outfit day hikers and backpackers as they sojourn to the many extraordinary vistas that look out onto the valleys and peaks of the Cascade Range. A visiting faculty provides mini-courses on multiple topics daily and evening Vespers provide a center to the daily rhythm of the Holden community. Weekday programming for children and teens is provided. Holden invites people of all ages to come and experience an alternative rhythm of life and equips travelers for a sustainable life of faith outside the Village.

A side note: Pastor Bob and Rebecca met as 20-somethings at Holden Village a few decades ago and have made the trip back to the village about 15 times first as young adults and then with their children, two of whom have worked on staff at Holden during their young adult years.

This remarkable trip to Holden Village will be in the planning stages in the summer and fall of 2019, with registrations beginning in January of 2020. *This trip will be more affordable than the European sojourns of recent years, with options to travel by plane, train or car to a family friendly destination.* Some transportation coordination will be arranged so that the Trinity delegation can arrive together for a week at Holden Village, but with the flexibility to schedule side trips to Seattle or to some of the amazing national parks in the Pacific Northwest.

If interested in learning more about the Holden Village trip or if you would like to sign up now, please let Pastor Bob Linstrom know of your interest.

A small group will begin planning the trip this fall and schedule a first informational meeting by early October. We hope to schedule our week at Holden Village in late June or early July of 2020.

For more information about Holden Village, go to www.holdenvillage.org.



Trinity's Prayer Tree Ministry

Prayer is making a difference in the lives of Trinity adults and children

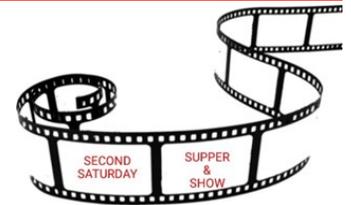
Our fifth annual Prayer Tree ministry kicks off on Sunday, September 15. A letter will be mailed in mid-August to parents and guardians of Trinity children ages in-utero through age 18, requesting permission to include them in this ministry. The children's names received will provide an intergenerational opportunity for Trinity's adult members to pray for our younger church family members.

If you have questions please connect with Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life.



Second Saturday Supper and Show (SSSS)

Coming this fall will be Second Saturday Supper and Show, a new initiative that James Morin, Family Activity Coordinator and Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life are bringing to Trinity. We have scheduled the following three second Saturdays for this trial year for our dinner and a movie. Mark your calendars for September 14, January 11 and May 9 and plan to join in the fun.



Dinner Groups - because life is better in community!

Dinner Groups are a favorite activity for many at Trinity. Groups of about six to eight people meet three times over the course of the year for a night of food, fun and fellowship at a fellow member's home. Individuals and couples—of all ages—are welcome to join in the fun.

Hosts choose one date over the weekend and welcome the rest of the group for dinner. The main course is prepared by the host. The remaining dinner guests simply bring a salad, side dish or dessert to fill out the menu.

Sign up for Dinner Groups by **Sunday, September 8**. Clipboards will be available beginning Sunday, August 4. You will enjoy three delicious meals throughout the year with other Trinity members. Dinner Groups are held one evening during the weekends of October 18 - 20, January 17 - 19 and April 17 - 19. However, if a group finds those dates won't work, they are welcome to adapt to the members' schedules.

Dinner Groups can be a formal affair or a casual affair. It can be a brunch, lunch or dinner. The format and style are chosen by the hosts and the members of the group.

If you have questions, please contact Joyce Schlanderer at bschlanderer@sbcglobal.net or 616.949.4173, or contact Toni Petersen at riverhouse.toni@gmail.com or 616.202.4622.



Office Coordinator staff position to be posted

Jodi VanGorp moving to Arizona

After six and a half years as Trinity's Office Coordinator, Jodi VanGorp has announced her upcoming resignation in October of 2019 as she and her family plan their move to be closer to extended family in Arizona. A faithful partner with our ministry team during her years among us, Jodi is going to be deeply missed for her commitment, her positive attitude, her flexible presence (even during a massive building project), and her love for the people of Trinity.

By late July the Office Coordinator position will be posted and interviews will be underway in August. We hope that Jodi's successor will be able to shadow her for a few weeks this fall to 'learn the ropes' and make for a smooth transition. If you are aware of potential candidates for this full-time position with benefits, please forward names and contact information to Pastor Linstrom.

Be sure to extend a word of gratitude to our faithful Office Coordinator Jodi in the months ahead!



Volunteer Property Opportunities at Trinity

The completion of our "Big Building Project" is history! But we still have a number of facility challenges and the opportunity to plug in 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, please contact the church office.



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New Wi-Fi upgrade at Trinity (and a new password ...)

At the conclusion of our building project Trinity has completed a Wi-Fi upgrade, with good coverage throughout our facility.

To access the new Wi-Fi service, you will find the following SSID in your device settings:

Trinity Guest

The password to access the Wi-Fi service is:

TrinityGuest1 (with upper case "T" and "G" and the numeral "1")

It's nice to be connected!



Celebration of Music Concert Series 2019 - 2020

The Celebration of Music Concert Series is a wonderful opportunity to attend concerts in Trinity's beautiful sanctuary. Concerts in the series take place on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. Following each concert, you are invited to greet the artists in the reception area off of the Narthex.

October 6: Folias Duo

The *Folias Duo* is comprised of flutist, Carmen Maret, and guitarist, Andrew Bergeron. This husband and wife duo are Michigan-based composers, performers, and teachers. Their collaboration has taken this nomadic husband and wife duo to stages throughout the United States and around the globe. They will be releasing their latest CD at this concert.

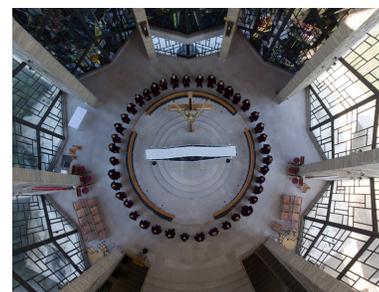


November 10: Embellish/Campana Handbell Choirs

Embellish was founded in the fall of 1995 and has become a professional level group that provides a high-quality musical experience for diverse audiences through performance and teaching the art of handbell ringing. Campana is its second ensemble. Directed by Stephanie Wiltse, they will perform solo and combined compositions for this concert.

February 23: Valparaiso University Chorale

The Valparaiso University Chorale continues to uphold the highest standard of choral art through performance of the greatest choral literature of all eras and preserving the University's rich choral tradition, which dates back to the early 20th century. On October 31, 2017, the Chorale served as the only international ensemble at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The 48-mixed voice ensemble performs an eclectic repertoire from traditional to significant contemporary works to selections that have multicultural perspectives, all in their original languages.



April 19: Renée Anne Louprette Concert Organist

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "splendid," and "one of New York's finest organists," Renée Anne Louprette performs widely as organ recitalist, accompanist, and teacher. Based near New York City, she has performed with many of the city's premiere ensembles. Her recording of J.S. Bach's "Great Eighteen Chorales" was named *Critics' Choice 2014* by *The New York Times*. Ms. Louprette is University Organist and Coordinator of the Organ Department at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

May 17: Dr. Gregory Crowell Harpsichordist

Gregory Crowell has appeared as organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, lecturer, and conductor in Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, Canada, and the United States. He has been a featured performer at the Weener (Germany) International Bach Series, the Grand Rapids Bach Festival, the Old West Organ Society (Boston) Bach Marathon, and the Valparaiso Bach Institute. In the spring of 2000, Dr. Crowell was invited to perform and lecture in the Bach Organ Festival held at St. Luke's in Tokyo. He serves as Organist -Choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, MI.



New Ministry forming for Parents of LGBTQ+ Children



Are you a parent of an LGBTQ+ child who would like to be in community with others who understand your journey? If so, please join us as we begin a new ministry we are calling "Ahava." It is for parents of LGBTQ+ children of any age and in any stage in their journey. For some this journey is easy and for others it is difficult, so we would like to develop a space that is safe and welcoming to all.

We are two moms who attend different churches in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod but have gotten to know each because of our mutual love and support for our LGBTQ+ children. Corina attends Trinity in Grand Rapids and Lois attends Zion in Comstock Park. Because some people may not be ready to be public about being an LGBTQ+ parent, we will work hard to respect people's privacy and confidentiality. If you have any specific questions about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us.

We will be meeting informally for the first time on August 17 at John Ball Zoo at 1 p.m. (meet by the pavilion/park) to meet each other, talk, and make some plans for what this ministry will look like. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy for yourself. Then in September we will do an official kickoff!

Please RSVP to Corina at corinard@comcast.net or 616.446.9335 or to Lois at 616.840.6618 or mldoughty29@gmail.com.

Year-long Spiritual Formation Program 2019-2020



"Entering the Narrow Gate"

Hosted by: St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids

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, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., once per month over the course of September 2019 to June 2020. 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

Stephen Ministry Reunion and Pizza Party



Sunday, August 11 from noon to 3 p.m.

We are planning a summer celebration for the many members of Trinity who have been trained as Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders over the past 20 years. Cyril Catering will be at Trinity, preparing wood fired pizzas, Caesar salad and craft brewed sodas.

If you are a Stephen Minister, past or present, you are invited to bring a guest and join us for a time of delicious food and fellowship! Just call or mail Brenda Heacock with your reservation by August 4 at 616.915.0717 or at b.heacock1@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you!

Trinity's Stephen Leaders,

Kristin Bradley, Sue Coates, Brenda Heacock, Kris Racek and Beth Vanderwall



Fitness classes beginning at Trinity this Fall!

In conjunction with Health Ministries, Trinity member Xristina Kuhlman is offering multiple fitness classes on varying days and times throughout the week starting after Labor Day. Xristina has been a fitness instructor/coach since 2006 and a long time health and wellness advocate. She has significant training in functional movement and yoga. She will meet you where you are and guide and empower you to develop your best physical health.

All levels and abilities welcome. You are capable! Yoga, Tai Chi, strength and balance, agility, range of motion, body awareness and healthy living will all be explored.

There is a suggested donation of \$3 per class or \$20/month. No one will be turned away for inability to pay. Finalized class schedules will be published in the September *Messenger*. If you have input, questions or ideas, please connect with Xristina at 616.719.6961 or reach out to Kristin Bradley.



Best. Blood. Drive. Ever!

A big shout out to the 36 donors who came out and generously gifted 34 units of blood at Trinity on July 8. Fueled by Linda Grinstead's amazing cookies, we wildly surpassed our goal of 24 pints and Versiti (formerly Michigan Blood) was thrilled.

Congratulations to Milestone Achievers David Mester (1 gallon), Frank Rothfuss (4 gallons) and Vince Schumacher (16 gallons!). And welcome to first-time donor Lynn Getzin!

Let's keep the momentum going and grow this crucially important ministry by marking your calendar for our next drive on Monday, November 11. You can go online already or contact Sue Babin at smbabin@yahoo.com to reserve your appointment slot! Remember, the need is constant; and you never know when it may impact you or your loved ones.



Trinity Volunteers help with Habitat Build



Annual Trinity Habitat Build 2019

On Saturday, June 29, an enthusiast group of Trinity members and friends worked together on a Habitat Build on the southwest side of Grand Rapids.

Gloria Von der Heide, our congregation's Volunteer Coordinator, was joined by Brad Blair, Chris Engle, John Hall, Steve Johnson, Ann Madden, Lisa Mead, Dave Mester, Kelly Smith and David Stephenson.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping with the work of this amazing organization!

You're Invited to join Trinity's Earth Keepers



The members of Trinity's new Earth Keepers group are passionate about sharing their knowledge about environmental issues and are enthusiastic about having a positive impact together on God's creation. The group is initially focusing 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.

We recently had an opportunity to tour the Kent County Waste to Energy facility to learn about the efficient way trash is dealt with in the greater Grand Rapids area. We plan to have a group of Trinity members participate in the Mayor's Grand River Cleanup on Saturday, September 14. Also in September, look for two showings at Trinity of the movie "Paris to Pittsburgh" that addresses climate change and illustrates some effective solutions.

We would love to add to the number of our Trinity Earth Keepers—all are welcome! Please be in touch with Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten if you have questions or would like more information.

Volunteer as a Tutor - Help a Child Learn to Read!



Could you possibly carve out a small amount of time in your schedule each week? Good, because there is a young student at Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy in Grand Rapids that needs you to help them eventually graduate from high school. Your being there for them, your presence in their lives, could literally make or break their future. Research shows that students who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma.

For 27 years, First United Methodist Church has sponsored the tutoring program at MLK Jr. Leadership Academy. This Grand Rapids Public School is located at 645 Logan SE. 100% of the neighborhood student population is considered at or below poverty level. The tutoring program provides reading tutors for all kindergarten, first and second grade students. Each tutor typically sees two students weekly for a half hour each, back to back, totaling an hour from October through April (understanding that some may miss a few weeks for illness, vacation, etc.). It is also possible to be a substitute tutor to fill in when regular tutors are absent.

If you would like more information about becoming a reading tutor, please contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten.

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 August



"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 for lunch at a variety of area restaurants once each month to simply have fun!

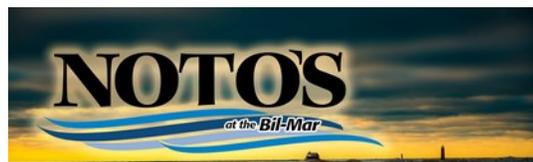
On Tuesday, August 6 the group will have lunch at Flat River Grill which is located at 201 East Main Street in Lowell.

Reservations are made for the group in advance so it is important to RSVP. Please contact Trinity member Marjorie Paul by Sunday, August 4 to let her know you would like to attend on the August date or if you have questions. Marjorie can be reached at 616.209.5263.

"Life Begins at 60"



Let's Lunch at the Lake!



If you are 60 or over, please join us on Wednesday, August 28, as we close out the summer with a day trip to Grand Haven, including a 1 p.m. lunch at the new Noto's at the Bil-Mar, 1223 S. Harbor Drive. Whether you arrive early to do some downtown shopping or stay later to walk the channel, we'll all plan to meet together for lunch at the newly renovated historic restaurant.

Due to restaurant accommodations, reservations will be limited to the first 22 people. To make your reservation, contact Jan Jacobson (957.1962 or janice1546@att.net) or Pastor Karen (karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org).

"Know Mercy" Trinity Softball Team Game Schedule



The participants of Trinity's coed softball team, "Know Mercy" led by Trinity member Chris Engle, are winding up an exciting season! Let's show our support for the team by attending their final 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 Road SE. You can catch a game on July 30 at 6:15 p.m. and/or August 6 at 7 p.m. Both games will take place at Field 1.

Start of Summer Celebration Fun at Trinity



Thank you to Nick Claus for taking these great photographs of a very fun evening!

Save the Date

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 – *The 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. 14 – Mayor’s Grand River Cleanup, 9 a.m.
Sept. 14 – Second Saturday Supper and Show
Sept. 15 – Fifth Annual Prayer Tree Kick Off
Sept. 18 – “Paris to Pittsburgh” film, 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 22 – “Paris to Pittsburgh” film, 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 23-28 – Pictorial Directory Photography Sessions
Sept. 25 – JOYful Days, 10 a.m.
Sept. 25 – Pastor Bob’s Weekly Forums begin, 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 25 – Pastor Bob’s Weekly Forums begin, 6:30 p.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 – Operation Christmas Child Information (traditional services)
Oct. 6 – Celebration of Music Concert Series - Folias Duo
Oct. 12 – Silent and Live Auction, 5 p.m.
Oct. 12 – Dégagé (Stouten Team), 5:45 p.m.
Oct. 13 – Operation Christmas Child Information (Rejoice service)
Oct. 13 – Flu Clinic, 8:30 a.m.

Oct. 14 – *The Messenger Submissions Due*
Oct. 18-20 – Dinner Group Weekend
Oct. 18 – Dégagé (Talsma Team), 5:45 p.m.
Oct. 19 & 26 – Medicare/Medicaid Counseling with Jo Murphy, 10 a.m.
Oct. 25-26 – Middle School Lock-In, 6 p.m.
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.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2, 9, 16, & 23 – Medicare/Medicaid Counseling with Jo Murphy, 10 a.m.
Nov. 3 – New Member Curiosity Class, 6 p.m.
Nov. 5 – Solo Together Lunch, 11:30 a.m.
Nov. 8-10 – Mitten Synod Youth Summit
Nov. 10 – Dedication of the Operation Christmas Child Boxes
Nov. 10 – Celebration of Music Series - Embellish/Campana Handbell Choirs, 3 p.m.
Nov. 10 – Immigration Supper and Forum, 5 p.m.
Nov. 11 – *The Messenger Submissions Due*
Nov. 11 – Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.
Nov. 11 – New Member V.I.P. Night, 6 p.m.
Nov. 11 – Congregation Council, 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 15 – Dégagé (Lundgren Team), 5:45 p.m.
Nov. 16 – Surviving the Holidays, 10 a.m.
Nov. 17 – New Member Sunday
Nov. 17 – Consecration/Stewardship Sunday
Nov. 21 – Dégagé (Coates Team), 5:45 p.m.
Nov. 23 – The Young and Sleepless Potluck and Movie Night, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 24 – Deck the Halls, Noon
Nov. 25 – 20th Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving
Nov. 28-29 – Thanksgiving Office Closed

August Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations!

August 1

Spencer Olson
Rob Peters
Paul Smith
Angie & Terry Brace
Mary & Bob Hamilton
Marcia & Chas Schaner

August 2

Kara Bacon
Kieran Blair
Drew Bradbury
Ally DeStefano
Alissa Pupel
Kim & Chris Engle
Mari & Mike Franz

August 3

Carrie Boer
Bill Bush
Ben Keller
Marilyn & Tom Fredrickson

August 4

Mandi Ezell
Dale Sommers
Julie VanVliet
Lisa & John Corrigan
Amy & David Fox
Phyllis & Chuck Schadler
Courtney & Andy Steketee

August 5

Bret Kendall
Joey Preston
Brenda & Kevin Conway
Bethany & Michael Dunning
Sheree & Paul Smith

August 6

Jacob Beld
Kathy Fuger
Larry Petrick
Carrie Wygmans
Kim & Mike Danielski
Charmayne & Michael Mulligan

August 7

Lynn Begin
Kyan Hantle
Dan Pollert
Joanna & Chris Waite

August 8

Aidan Cole
Kathie Fetting
Anne Meeuwesen
Nick Salasky
Gail & David Mester
Erica & Michael Spalding

August 9

Owen Budzyn
Joshua Kendall
Alex Mochel
Kristen & Roy Lamprich

August 10

Drew Flemming
Ann Gooch
Carol Hendricks
Julieanne Lee
Shelley & Ron Mishler
Kim & Lance Owens

August 11

Carson Brang
Melody Ditchcreek
Brittany Fischer
Andrew Luders
Patricia Stevens
Sylvia Stouten
Amy & Andrew Beuker
Mary & Paul Kuhlman
Marilyn & John Leese

August 12

Lynn Grzelak
Joshua Peterman
Jane & Don Smith
Joan & John Walls
Sandra & Bill Westveld

August 13

Karen Betz-Griewahn
Mike Fessenden

August 14

Bill Dewitt
Ander Perkins
Isabell Swain
Liz & Bob Dever
Susan & Kenneth Vanden Bout

August 15

Lance Childers
Michael Coles
Lisa Gavranovic
Brendan Moglia
Nancy Morrison
Suz Schalon
Matt Seyffert
Darrell Yeager
Lynn & John Hagenbush

August 16

Carly Anderson
Luke Ezell
Michelle Hall
Sheri & Mike Mason
Maya & Jay Rosloniec

August 17

Jane Ashby
Courtney Batten
Holly Grzelak
Natalie Swain
Natalie Yeager
Gayle & Mark Rohde
Jennifer & Steven Salasky
Lynda & John Schuen

August 18

Shirley & Steven Kleiman
Lois & Mike McCardell
Jacqueline & Jason Riegling

August 19

Shelby Fritts
Debbie Lown
Debbie Potter
Kelli Woolworth

August 20

Michael Sytsma
Spencer Waite
Marci & Josh Anderson
Cindy & Bob Burchfield
Beth & Gordon Engstrom
Kris & John Fox

August 21

Larry Biser
Ruth Ann Evans
Callan Hughes
Kathryn Stoll
Tami & Chad Saum

August 22

Mark Baker
Cade Lewkowski
McKenna Malvitz
Ausma Pupel
Robin Walker

August 23

Bob Burchfield
Elwyn Griewahn
Joe Iaria
Ryan Kulas
Carol Welz-Gustafson & Eric Gustafson
Katie & Doug Moga
Karen & Mike Unruh

August 24

Donna Alkema
Kathryn Christenson
Doug Moga

August 25

Izzie Anderson
John Corrigan
Kay Hahn
Gayle Rohde
Mike Vander Baan
Nancy & David Morrison

August 26

Andrew Beuker
Patrick Huff
Carter King
Andy Pupel
Robert Swain
Lynn & Paul Getzin

August 27

Lulu Gavranovic
Gail Mazurek
Elena Pell
Nancy Scott
Sandra & Donald Kishman

August 28

Peter Crist
Scott Hall
Anne Larson
Cathy Olson
Julia & George Bauer
Mandi & Dave Ezell
Annette & Frank Remsburg
Bridget & Brian Rieth

August 29

Joel Cairns
Barbara & Robert Crossman
Laura & Jim Krug
Lindsey & Jim Mooney

August 30

Connie Frazier
Ailee Van Hagen
Sarah & Andrew Pfeiffle
Sammye & Tom Zollman

August 31

Beth Hall
Kate Krug
Mark Lothschutz
Benjamin Mielock
Joseph Robach
Cheryl & Don Bushman
Elisabeth Degener & Paul Crist
Donna & John Linsey
Heather & Scott Nickelson

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 Tithely, 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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