



# There is Something for Everyone!

*Hopefully you will take some time to look through this booklet and learn of some of the ways you can volunteer through Trinity Lutheran Church.*

*Each volunteer description is very brief - you will also find a name and contact information with each description so that you can find out more.*

*Staff contact information is listed on the back cover of this booklet.*

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## Why Is Volunteering Important?

*People from all walks of life volunteer. But as Christians, our motivation to be of help to others is a little different.*

*We volunteer as a **HEARTFELT RESPONSE** to the love and grace shown to us by our God.*

*We do NOT volunteer in an effort to earn salvation. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ did that for us.*

*We are called to love our neighbor and to joyfully increase our response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.*

*We strive to do God's work with our hands.*

*And as the 39th President of the United States stated:*

*"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... My faith demands - this is not optional - my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."*

*— Jimmy Carter*

# Volunteer to Serve on a Trinity Committee

*Consider serving on a committee whose work is of interest to you. New committee members are always welcome! After the committee descriptions below, the name of the Congregation Council member who acts as a liaison to that committee is listed along with their contact information. Please get in touch with them if you are interested in finding out more about serving on a specific committee.*

**Children's Ministry:** a God-centered, love-based ministry where all children and families are welcome to learn about God and to participate in fun, community-focused and life-connected activities. Karen Unruh, kbunruh@gmail.com, 616.988.9294.

**Communications:** this group focuses on how to have a clear and consistent look and feel of our various church communications. Types of communication include the web site, the newsletter, weekly eBlasts, Weekly Connections, mailings, etc. Nicole Rodammer, 616.498.0904, nicole.rodammer@gmail.com.

**Congregational Life:** to engage and connect church members to live out Trinity's mission - 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. Eric Gohlke, ericgohlke@comcast.net, 616.883.6375.

**Endowment Fund:** meets quarterly to review the performance of the Mission Endowment Fund and the Building Endowment Fund. Committee members promote the existence and benefits of these two endowments and occasionally meet with congregants who may wish to provide a forever gift to one or both funds. Mike Mason, mikemason2005@comcast.net, 616.826.8501.

**Fellowship:** plans and provides a variety of opportunities for members to get to know each other in a fun, relaxed atmosphere while building a sense of Christian family and community. Kathy Bush, bushkj@yahoo.com, 616.485.0031.

**Finance:** members review financial reports and provide oversight to the stewardship of our financial resources. Chris Engle, chris@eyeonargus.com, 616-308-8859.

**Health Ministries:** share God's gifts of love and grace with our members to encourage healthy life-styles and to promote spiritual, physical and emotional well-being. Carol Butler, caroljb43@gmail.com, 616.551.3903.

**Hospitality:** plan and facilitate receptions and special events at Trinity as needed. Carrie Wygmans, cwys@comcast.net, 616.481.2489.

**Human Resources:** members work to support church staff, keep job descriptions current, participate in interviewing prospective staff and conduct exit interviews. Steve Heacock, 616.949.3907, srheacock@gmail.com

**Outreach:** provide opportunities for members to help address unmet basic needs both locally and globally by facilitating collections, special projects, and making decisions about Trinity's benevolence and financial support. John Fox, jklsafox@comcast.net, 616.949.2510.

# Volunteer to Serve on a Trinity Committee

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**Property:** members address the regular repair and operational needs of our facility. Jim Coates, [thecoates627@gmail.com](mailto:thecoates627@gmail.com), 616.254.9447, or Mike King, 574.286.6312, [michael.king@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:michael.king@spectrumhealth.org).

**Spiritual Growth:** focus on developing and supporting ways to enrich our spiritual lives by providing adults with a variety of opportunities to grow in our faith. Contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten.

**Stewardship:** provide structure for annual fall appeal to members in making their financial pledges as well as their time and talents to support the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church. Amelia Crist, [amelia.elisabeth.crist@gmail.com](mailto:amelia.elisabeth.crist@gmail.com), 616.340.5914.

**Worship and Music:** members work with the pastors and musicians to provide meaningful worship services through which we can praise our God as a community. Kate Bredwell, [kate.bredwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kate.bredwell@sbcglobal.net), 616.889.3329, or Rick Radke, [radketrac@comcast.net](mailto:radketrac@comcast.net), 616.682.1198.

**Youth and Family:** equips middle and high school age children to be disciples of Jesus Christ - to connect them in community, to help them grow in faith, discover their gifts and serve others with their lives. Tess Lundgren, [tesslundgren@gmail.com](mailto:tesslundgren@gmail.com), 616.889.9503 or Elizabeth Mulligan, Youth Representative, [office@tlcgr.org](mailto:office@tlcgr.org), 616.949.2510.

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## Join Together in Worship

*The people of Trinity Lutheran Church have two very distinct styles of worship. Our Rejoice contemporary worship services take place downstairs in Centennial Hall and traditional worship services take place upstairs in the sanctuary.*

*There are several ways to volunteer during worship. Should you volunteer for any of the roles directly below, you would serve only during the worship service that you typically attend at Trinity. Volunteers are placed on a schedule to serve on specific Sundays. Contact Trinity's Office Coordinator. Your questions will be answered about assisting in worship and you will be placed on a schedule to serve.*

**Communion Assistants:** assist with the distribution of communion elements during worship.

**Greeters:** welcome all worshippers, warmly greet visitors and guests as they enter worship areas and provide assistance as needed.

**Lectors:** read the lessons and lead the congregation in prayers of intercession during the worship services; lectors are also invited to share the common cup during communion, if willing.

**Ushers:** men, women and youth who assist in seating worshippers, receive offerings and direct communicants to communion.

# Serve During Traditional Worship

*The volunteer roles on this page are specific to Trinity's traditional worship services. Unless stated otherwise, these volunteers serve at the 10:45 a.m. traditional service.*

**Acolytes/Crucifers:** Trinity youth light the altar candles, assist with communion distribution and offering collection. On festival days, the Bible and Crucifix are added during the Gospel reading and they process/recess in and out of worship. Volunteers would be very welcome at the 8 a.m. service. Contact Tess Lundgren, 616.889.9503, tesslundgren@gmail.com.

**Cantors:** people who chant/intone the Kyrie and the psalm of the day during worship. Volunteer cantors are very welcome at the 8 a.m. service. Contact the Director of the Trinity Choir Sid Hoeksema.

**Recording Teams:** people who operate the two-camera video system located in the balcony while recording the 10:45 a.m. worship service for delayed public broadcast (GRTV channel 25) and for distribution of DVDs to our homebound members. Families are encouraged to volunteer together. Contact Pastor Bob.

**Sacristans:** set up communion trays with wine and bread prior to traditional worship service and clean up the trays and supplies following worship. Separate sacristans are assigned for the 8 and 10:45 a.m. services. Contact Jo Murphy, jo@mmapinc.org, 616.295.6079.



**Trinity Choir:** a welcoming group of volunteer singers who enjoy music! Open to high school students and beyond, the Trinity Choir prepares weekly anthems for traditional worship and occasional concerts. Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. The Trinity Choir does not sing in the summer. Contact the Director of the Trinity Choir Sid Hoeksema.

**Resound Handbell Choir:** adults who have had musical experience are welcome to join this advanced handbell group. Teens with extensive instrumental experience are also welcome. No handbell experience is required. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Resound plays once per month (with two performances in December) from September through Pentecost Sunday. Contact Larry Biser, Director of Handbells.

**Instrumentalists:** periodically musicians in addition to our organist participate in the traditional worship services playing woodwinds, brass, percussion, keyboard or strings as soloists or ensembles. Volunteers with musical experience are encouraged to contact Sid Hoeksema, Trinity Choir Director.

# Serve During Rejoice Contemporary Worship

*The three volunteer roles below are specific to the Rejoice contemporary service. These volunteers serve at the 9:15 a.m. worship service.*

**Musicians:** high school youth and adults are encouraged to audition as vocalists, electric and acoustic guitar players, keyboardists, drummers and bass players to be placed in a Trinity band. Other instruments are also welcome. Proficiency in basic musicianship is required and previous experience in other bands is helpful. Contact Pastor Linstrom if interested.

**Rejoice Presentation Ministry (RPM):** those who make minor changes to, and operate the computer that displays, the presentation during the Rejoice worship services. Contact Greg Lang, [tlcrpm@gmail.com](mailto:tlcrpm@gmail.com), 616.414.4492.

**Sacristans:** set up communion trays with wine and bread prior to the contemporary worship service and clean up the trays and supplies following worship. Contact Kristen Lamprich, [kristendml@yahoo.com](mailto:kristendml@yahoo.com), 616.821.9869.

## Our Young People Volunteer in Worship



### Alleluia Ringers

A bell choir composed of Trinity youth from 4th through 12th grades rehearse together on Sunday following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary from approximately noon to 1 p.m. When prepared, this group will play during one of our worship services.

If you have someone in that age range in your family who may be interested in joining this group, please contact Director of Handbell Choirs, Larry Biser. This may be a wonderful way for your Trinity young person to serve their church.

### Weekly Rehearsals on Sundays

Noon (after the completion of the postlude at the 10:45 a.m. worship service): Alleluia Ringers - 4th through 12th grades

# Teach Our Children



## Sunday School

*Sunday School is for children ages 3 through 5th grade. Classes meet most Sundays from the second Sunday in September through the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend in May. Children attend Sunday School from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. Contact Rachele Battreall, Trinity's Director of Family Ministry, for more information.*

**Lead teacher:** volunteers help prepare and lead the weekly lesson which includes a bible story, activities, games and possible craft (commitment two times per month)

**Assisting teachers:** volunteers help to maintain a safe environment, assisting the lead teacher with the lesson and craft (commitment two times per month)

**Hospitality:** volunteer help is appreciated periodically for serving Christmas cookies after the Christmas program, at the mid-winter hot chocolate bar, the end of the year ice-cream social and other special events throughout the year

**Music:** volunteers lead the Sunday School kids in music



## Intergenerational Service Project

**Kids Against Hunger:** Trinity raises money and packs thousands of simple, nutritious meals for starving children all over the world. We have filled The Courtyard with volunteers and work stations to accomplish the task each year. The whole family can participate in this huge meal packing event held right here at Trinity. Please contact James Morin, Family Activity Coordinator for more information.

# Help Our Children Grow

*Trinity's children have so many ways to learn and have fun! The two events listed below are wonderful ways for adults to join right in on the fun and be of help at the same time! For more information, contact Family Activity Coordinator James Morin.*

**Vacation Bible School:** children ages three through fifth grade gather for Bible stories, games, and crafts the third week in July. Many volunteers are needed to teach, decorate, and guide the children during this week long event.

**Trunk or Treat:** each October kids and families from Trinity and the community are invited to enjoy trick or treating, inflatables, carnival games, a haunted garage, dinner, and more! Volunteers are invited to decorate the trunk of their car and pass out candy.

# Volunteer with Our Youth

## Middle School Youth

*Confirmation classes are held on Sundays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. during the school year. This three-year program is led by our pastors and is for sixth through eighth graders. Contact Pastor Dan.*

**Confirmation Small Group Leaders:** adults are given a wonderful opportunity to get to know a group of four to eight of Trinity's middle school students during confirmation class by sitting with them and learning alongside of them. Volunteers facilitate small group time by encouraging all to participate but not all at the same time! If you can parent you can be a small group leader!

**Confirmation Community Service Helpers:** volunteer alongside our youth this year as they go out into the community to be of help. Help get them to and from their service locations and see God in their work on behalf of others.

**Confirmation Event Helpers:** get to know our youth while having fun at one of our many fun events by playing games, laughing, sharing stories, and helping them see God in all of it!

## High School Youth

*Our Trinity High School Youth stay busy learning, serving and having fun! Contact Pastor Dan Schewe for more information about how to support our young people on their journeys of faith.*

**Event Helpers:** much like the Confirmation Event Helpers above only with high schoolers!

**Trip Volunteers:** volunteer to chaperone our youth as they travel to mission trips or national gatherings. Share your life experiences and skills with them as participants encounter God and our neighbor in unfamiliar places.



# We All Like to Break Bread Together

*Our Trinity family loves to get together to eat and enjoy each others' company! The events listed below involve large groups of people and require the help of many volunteers. Unless specified otherwise, please contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events.*



**Start of Summer:** volunteers are integral to the success of this annual family summer event held the third Wednesday in June featuring games, food, music and more. Volunteers sign up in advance to help set up tables and chairs outside, grill hot dogs, prepare and set out food, take pictures, call Bingo and more!

**Advent Meals:** for the Advent season we begin our Wednesday evenings together with a baked potato bar followed by an Advent worship service. Trinity supplies the baked potatoes and some of the toppings. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite baked potato toppings to share. Volunteers are greatly appreciated for helping to set up and clean up after the meals.

**Scandinavian Smorgasbord:** this beloved event takes place annually on a Saturday evening in December. Volunteer cooks begin food preparation together at Trinity on the Friday before and continue also on the day of the event. In addition to volunteering to cook at Trinity, opportunities to be of help are: cooking/baking at home with recipes provided, help with setup and decorating as well as cleanup after the event is concluded. Contact Kris Shannon, 616.245.7173, shannongr@hotmail.com.

**All Church Potluck and Annual Meeting:** we gather as a church family on the third Sunday in January for a potluck luncheon and to discuss the business of our church. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass for the potluck. Trinity provides chicken fingers, lasagna and beverages. Volunteer help is appreciated to setup and cleanup after the meal and meeting are over.

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** volunteer to provide soup or bread for our annual Soup Suppers! For five consecutive Wednesdays, at least 12 soups are offered each week, including unique gourmet options as well as family favorites. Help is also appreciated to setup and to cleanup after supper. Contact Tess Lundgren at 616.889.9503 or at tesslundgren@gmail.com, for more information or to help on specific Wednesdays during Lent.

# Good Fellowship in Our Life Together

*Some of our Trinity events are for specific groups of people which you will see listed below. Without the help of volunteers, these enjoyable gatherings may not happen! Take a look and see how you might be of help!*

*Unless specified otherwise, please contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events.*

**Angels of Advent:** volunteers are appreciated to help make this afternoon event special for moms, daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters to come together for fellowship, chocolate fountains and Christmas crafts. This is for Trinity **adult women and girls** (aged 0 to 12.)

**Advent by Candlelight:** volunteers are appreciated to help plan and organize this meaningful event. **Women and teen girls** (13 years of age and older) enjoy a peaceful candle-lit evening to share some dessert, enjoy musical entertainment with time for reflection and conversation. This event helps prepare women mentally and spiritually for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Women volunteer to host a table of guests and provide table settings, table decorations and dessert for the women at their table.

**Dinner Groups:** volunteer to host a small group of Trinity **adults** for a meal at your home. The host provides the main course and the guests provide the remaining dishes to share. Dinner groups are a great way to get to know others in your church family. Contact Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis by August for more information and to be included in upcoming dinner group weekends.

**JOYful Days (Just Older Youth):** five consecutive Wednesdays are set apart in the fall and the spring as special days for the **senior adults** of the church and their friends and family. Volunteers help setup, serve and cleanup a catered luncheon that the participants enjoy each of those days. Contact Sylvia Stouten, Director of Discipleship.



# Care for Each Other

*The volunteer opportunities below are ways you can use your time to be of help to another Trinity member. Whether we visit or provide a meal for someone going through difficult times or brighten a person's day with flowers or include them in our prayers, we share the love of God as we connect to one another within our church family. Unless specified otherwise, please contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life if you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities.*

**Prayer Chain:** volunteer to include others in your prayer life. The prayer chain is made up of those who create a circle of strength by offering prayers for others in need. Prayer concerns are shared with members of the prayer chain via email. If you would like to be added to this group of prayer partners, please contact Steve Cairns at sljgcairns@gmail.com.

**Prayer Tree:** beginning in the fall, adult members choose children of Trinity (ages in-utero to age 18) to pray for them for the year. On the first Sunday in June there is a large intergenerational celebration bringing together the pray-ers and pray-ees.

**TRINITY in TOUCH:** Trinity members visit an assigned homebound member once a month. Visits may include conversation, listening, praying, reading Trinity publications and, in some circumstances, giving communion. Contact Pastor Karen.

**Deliver Altar Flowers:** volunteers deliver the altar flowers that are beautifully displayed during worship on Sundays to Trinity members who are hospitalized, homebound and shut-in. Be part of a team that typically makes deliveries on Mondays.

**Poinsettia Delivery:** volunteers deliver poinsettias to homebound members to brighten their holidays, usually during the three weeks prior to Christmas.

**Stephen Ministry:** volunteers care for others in a confidential, Christ-centered way who are experiencing life's challenges. Training is provided. If you'd like to learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Trinity's Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley or one of our Trinity pastors.

**Homebound Communion:** deliver communion to homebound Trinity members, as scheduled by the Trinity pastors and parish nurse. Training is provided. Contact one of our Trinity pastors.

**Helping Hands:** assist other members at times of illness, grief and special circumstances with occasional meals, child care, transportation and other support.

**Transportation to Church:** sometimes members are unable to worship at Trinity because they no longer drive a car. You can help by providing transportation occasionally or on a regular basis.

# Care for Our Church

*The volunteer opportunities listed below are rather loosely grouped together. Some listings refer to ways we care for our church building and taking care of the “business” of the church so that all runs smoothly.*

*But the people are really the church, right? So some of the ways to volunteer listed below pertain to caring for our church family in a more general way.*

*See what you think...*



**Counters:** volunteers work in teams of two or three people on a rotating basis to count Trinity offerings on Monday mornings. Each team typically serves once per month. Contact Carol Hendricks at [hendricksc@msn.com](mailto:hendricksc@msn.com) or at 616.874.8351.

**Messenger Assembly:** volunteers help stuff and label envelopes and prepare Trinity’s *Messenger* newsletter to be mailed. *The Messenger* is mailed monthly. Contact Office Coordinator, Jodi VanGorp.

**General Mailings:** volunteers assist with occasional mailings to the congregation by stuffing, labeling, and adding postage to envelopes. Contact Office Coordinator, Jodi VanGorp.

**Gardening:** the grounds at Trinity have been divided into specific, manageable areas. Volunteer to work with others to help make and keep our church grounds beautiful! Contact Jim Coates for more information at 616.254.9447 or at [thecoates627@gmail.com](mailto:thecoates627@gmail.com).

**Bread Bakers:** make bread at home to be used for Holy Communion at all worship services for a month at a time. The bread recipe is provided. Contact Pastor Bob Linstrom.

**Purificator Launderers:** launder the linens used to wipe the edges of the common cups during Holy Communion. Contact Nancy Anderson, [nlanderson1202@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nlanderson1202@sbcglobal.net), 616.541.7005.

**TLC Quilters:** this group of volunteer women meets at 10 a.m. bimonthly at Trinity. Most design and all sewing is done by individual members at home on their personal machines. Fabrics and batting are provided. Quilts are gifted to Trinity members facing health issues or grieving the loss of loved ones, to individuals who are baptized at Trinity and to residents of Samaritas Senior Living retirement community. Contact Carol Hendricks, 616.874.8351, hendricks@msn.com.



**Writers:** volunteer writers are appreciated to submit brief devotions for our Advent devotional booklet. Each year a booklet of devotions written by and for the members of Trinity is compiled and distributed. Writers are also welcome to submit educational articles about environmental concerns to be published in *The Messenger*, our monthly newsletter. Contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten for information.

**Teachers:** volunteers are appreciated to facilitate small group classes to encourage our members to grow in their faith, to make improvements in their lifestyle, such as a specific type of exercise, cooking instructions using Trinity's kitchen or to learn about topics of interest. Contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten to discuss your ideas.

**Funeral Reception Helpers:** people who setup and prepare for the luncheon/dessert, serve and cleanup at funeral receptions held at church. Contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life for more information.

**Host People in Your Home:** periodically Trinity has out-of-town guests for whom lodging is appreciated. Often this will involve musicians who will be performing at Trinity or visitors to the area who are participating in worship or programming at Trinity. If you are willing and able to have guests in their home overnight and provide a few meals, it would be nice to know that for when the need presents itself. Please be in touch with Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life.

# Serve in Our Community

*Unless specified otherwise, please contact Sylvia Stouten, Director of Discipleship if you are interested in serving through any of the volunteer opportunities listed on the next four pages.*

**Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN):** volunteer to help house the homeless at Trinity. This non-profit engages the faith community in ending homelessness in Grand Rapids. Trinity is one of many area congregations that provides shelter and meals for homeless families on site at Trinity on a quarterly basis for a week at a time, combining safe and comfortable surroundings with the hospitality of volunteer hosts.



There are many ways to be of help like making meals, playing with children, staying overnight, helping with setup and teardown, driving a truck and more! Contact Kathy Bush for more information at bushkj@yahoo.com, 616.485.0031.

**Family Promise/Pathway Home:** volunteers supervise a play area called Kids Korner at a family shelter located in the Mel Trotter Ministries building in downtown Grand Rapids. Casework services for 22 families looking for affordable housing is provided by Family Promise. Volunteer to take a shift to supervise play-time for homeless children!

**Dégagé Ministries:** Four separate teams of volunteer Meal Servers from Trinity regularly help serve evening meals at this non-profit in the Heartside neighborhood of downtown Grand Rapids. Each team serves every other month. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older to work in the kitchen. Join an existing team or, with enough interest, an additional team of Trinity volunteers can be organized!

**Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat builds safe, decent, affordable houses for qualified families using largely volunteer labor and donated materials. Trinity members periodically work as a group on Habitat Builds in Grand Rapids. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Gloria Von der Heide, g\_vonderheide@yahoo.com, 616.454.7454.



# Serve in Our Community

**In the Image:** this non-profit links gently-used clothing, house wares, furniture and appliances with families in need. Volunteers are especially helpful in sorting donations. Individuals, groups, and families are all welcome. Children may volunteer with parents.

**Christmas Stores at Dégagé Ministries and Family Promise:** Donate to or volunteer to help staff these stores created especially for the holidays. Clients and their families are invited to shop at these stores where items can be purchased at very low prices, allowing clients the joy of gift-giving while maintaining dignity in purchasing these gifts on their own. Items can be purchased on-line and will be delivered directly to Dégagé Ministries.

**Congress Elementary:** Support this neighboring Grand Rapids Public School by volunteering for an hour a week in the classroom, coaching one of Congress' seasonal athletic activities including Girls on the Run and soccer, periodically supervising in the lunch room or doing recess duty or helping out during one or more Congress designated gardening/yard work days.



**Feeding America:** sort, pack, and stack food at the local branch of this national domestic hunger-relief organization. Trinity is looking for someone to lead a regular team of volunteers at Feeding America. Opportunities could be as little as once a year to as often as once a week.

**Kids' Food Basket:** pack sack suppers for hungry children, helping them to both learn and live better. With the help of volunteers, nearly 8,000 Sack Suppers per day are packed and delivered to schools throughout Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. There are opportunities during the day, after school, in the evenings, and on Sunday afternoons. Children as young as five years old may volunteer with their parents. Contact Kris Fox, [jklsafox@comcast.net](mailto:jklsafox@comcast.net), 616.682.0671.

# Serve in Our Community



**Literacy Center of West Michigan:** volunteer tutors work one-on-one with adult learners. One in eight West Michigan adults struggles with low-literacy. No special skills are required to be a tutor - just the ability to read and write English, and a passion to help others do the same. Training is provided.

**Tutoring Children:** Students in kindergarten, first and second grades at Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy in Grand Rapids need you to help them learn to read. Your being there for them, your presence in their lives, could literally make or break their futures. Students are paired with a tutor who works individually with them once a week. Each tutor typically sees two students for a half hour each, back to back, totaling an hour. Training is provided to orient volunteers to school policies, reading strategies and tutoring center supplies.

**Blood Drive:** volunteer to donate blood or make cookies when Trinity holds Michigan Blood drives three times per year, usually on a Monday from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Contact Sue Babin, [smbabin@yahoo.com](mailto:smbabin@yahoo.com), 267.218.5967.

**Mentors:** if you have just a small amount of time on a fairly regular basis to spend with an individual, it would be greatly appreciated. We quite often are asked by area non-profits to provide adult mentors who can “walk alongside” a child, teen or another adult who would benefit from someone taking an interest in them and providing companionship, encouragement and, at times, some guidance. Gifting someone with your time and individualized attention as a mentor can be an extremely meaningful experience for the person being mentored as well as the volunteer mentor.

**Cards for Prisoners:** volunteer to be a friend to a prisoner in Michigan state prisons through a new and creative prison ministry effort. “Cards for Prisoners” arranges third-party delivery of the cards and letters through a post-office box. Your caring expression of interest by letter and prayer may mean as much to a prisoner as any gift or personal visit. Correspondents must be at least 18 years old. For more information, contact Vince Schumacher, [keyvince@netscape.net](mailto:keyvince@netscape.net), 616.204.7681 or Mike Franz, [mikefranz1850@gmail.com](mailto:mikefranz1850@gmail.com), 616.956.0521.



# Serve in Our Community

**VOLUNTEER TO SHOP AND HELP AREA RESIDENTS WHO ARE STRUGGLING:**

**Food Contributions are Always Welcome as Donations at Trinity:** this is probably one of the less time-consuming, most effective tasks we can volunteer to do. While grocery shopping, simply pick up some extra items and bring them to Trinity. Non-perishable food items for our local pantries can be placed in the grocery carts located outside the kitchen and also in the narthex. Food is collected year-round at Trinity. Please be mindful of expiration dates on food donations.



**Trinity's Annual Collections of In-Kind Items:** you will see information about various collections taking place at Trinity. Simply shop for extras and bring them to church. Most of our collections are for new items only. When it comes time for donating coats and blankets, though, please bring in your clean, gently-used items as well.

**Clean Start in the New Year:** January and February – cleaning products

**Personal Care Items:** March and April – personal care and hygiene products

**Diapers and Underwear:** May and June – from Mother's Day through Father's Day

**School Supplies:** July and August – for neighboring Grand Rapids Public School, Congress Elementary

**Blankets and Coats:** September and October – clean, gently used or new items. Warm hats, mittens, gloves and scarves are also welcome.

**Sort and Deliver Donations-in-Kind:** Trinity members donate tangible items when specific requests are made. Volunteers are appreciated to sort and deliver these items to designated non-profit organizations in the greater Grand Rapids area. The schedule of collections above is an indication of when deliveries may be needed. Contact Sylvia Stouten, Director of Discipleship for details.

# Have a Global Impact

**Mission Interpreters:** tell the stories of God's good work done through His people in the ELCA – work done at Trinity, in our Synod, and throughout the country and the world. Help keep our members informed via the written or the spoken word. Contact Annette Remsburg, remram222@gmail.com, 616.805.3225.

**Trinity Earth Keepers:** join other people concerned about issues affecting the environment who are taking an active approach to caring for God's creation through education, advocacy and service projects. All ages, interests and abilities are welcome! Contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten.

**Lutheran World Relief Quilting:** volunteers from Trinity meet once or twice a month to put quilts together for LWR. Volunteers do not need to know how to quilt in order to participate. If you can tie a knot, there is plenty of work for you! Enjoy the company of others while creating beautiful quilts to be used in a variety of ways around the world. Contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten.

**Honduras – Lutheran Church of Honduras and Health for Life:** Trinity and other churches in our NW Lower Michigan Synod have a companion relationship with the Lutheran Church of Honduras. Regular mission trips are taken to Honduras through a program called Salud Para La Vida (Health for Life). Join the synod team for a monthly meeting to learn more - consider participating in a future mission trip. Contact Wendy Johnson, davidbj7796@sbcglobal.net, 616.940.3130.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Trinity members are given the opportunity every fall to fill shoeboxes with small toys and gifts for children for distribution around the world to help them experience the joy of Christmas and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Filled boxes should be returned to Trinity no later than the second Sunday in November. Contact Suz Schalon, suz.msu73@gmail.com, 616.949.2510.

**Refugee Resettlement:** Trinity partners with Samaritas to accompany refugees in the resettlement process through the collection of items to set up housekeeping, financial assistance, rides to appointments, assistance in learning English, coordination of services and fellowship. Trinity has assisted families from Bosnia, Burma, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Contact Linda Grinstead, grinstel@hotmail.com, 616.942.0386.



# Congratulations!

You are to be commended if you have read through this entire booklet - thank you!  
You now know so much more about the volunteer opportunities you have through your church.

Perhaps you are interested in volunteering in a general way but really don't know where to start. So, here are a few ideas.

- 1) Call or email one or more of the contacts listed with the volunteer opportunities.  
You don't have to make a commitment to volunteer when you call or email.  
You have the option of simply getting additional information and receive answers to some of your questions.
- 2) Do some research on your own. Particularly if you are considering volunteering at a local non-profit, google the name of the non-profit to find out more about their services. For example, we have teams of Trinity volunteers that serve evening meals at Dégagé Ministries. By perusing their website, you will learn of many more ways that you could choose to volunteer there. You could fill out a form online to indicate your interest or contact the Volunteer Coordinator for Dégagé Ministries directly.
- 3) Invite a friend to join you. Sometimes people are hesitant to try something new because of the unknown. It is much more comforting knowing that you are trying a new volunteer role with a friend by your side!  
Who knows? Maybe you will both join the group.

4) Set up a meeting with a Trinity staff member or one of our pastors.  
All of us enjoy talking about the work that we do and would very much like to share details with you about volunteer opportunities you are considering.

5) Contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life, and/or Sylvia Stouten, Director of Discipleship, to discuss your options for volunteering. Angela's focus is to help Trinity members serve as volunteers to help other members or in ways that serve our church. Sylvia is very knowledgeable about ways to serve others outside of Trinity in the greater Grand Rapids area and through global organizations.

For example, if you are interested in volunteering with your children, contact them for ideas so that can happen! Or perhaps you have some physical limitations - talk to them to see what volunteer opportunities would realistically work for you to do!

**If you would like to volunteer,  
there is a place for you!**

# Trinity Staff

*Direct Dial: Call 616.949.2510 and then enter the staff member's extension number*

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## **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.*