



The Messenger

Trinity Re-Entry Plan Continues, still with an Abundance of Caution

Additional parish programming is occurring onsite as September of 2020 arrives in our life together at Trinity Lutheran Church. As an update to the congregation, please take note of our re-entry progress:

Office Hours/Staff onsite

The church office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We took note at a recent Staff Meeting that seven of the church staff members were onsite simultaneously that day, a once common reality not witnessed by Office Coordinator Kris Baker since mid-March.

Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Meditation

The church sanctuary continues to be open Monday through Friday for individual prayer and meditation. Check-in protocols are established and those who wish to come onsite are required to wear a mask and enter by the west side office entrance.

Outdoor Holy Communion Services continue

We have enjoyed monthly outdoor worship services with Holy Communion (wafer only) on the church lawn during the summer of 2020 and we have agreed to continue those services this fall. We will be gathering again on the west lawn on two upcoming Sundays, September 20 and October 4 at 11 a.m. (The October 4 outdoor service will include the second annual Blessing of the Animals!) Live streaming of worship at 9:15 a.m. continues weekly, but the plan for a once-a-month or an even more frequent outdoor communion service continues. Plan to bring a lawn chair or blanket, and masks for all . . .

Faith Formation for the Fall

Confirmation classes will begin for middle schoolers in

September, Virtual Sunday School will ramp up again for our youngest children and Pastor Bob will be creating a Zoom version of his Wednesday forums beginning September 16. Much of our faith formation ministry, including small group Bible studies and book clubs, will not be "in person" in the fall of 2020, but we are finding a way forward. And everyone is welcome to "Entering the Narrow Gate" Spiritual Formation hosted by Dominican Sister Nancy Brousseau onsite at Trinity beginning September 10. This yearlong immersion is a very special opportunity – see pages 10 & 11 for more information.

Groups meeting onsite

The TLC Quilters and the Lutheran World Relief Quilters were among the first groups onsite when Phase 4 began in June. This fall, committees and small groups are returning to meetings at Trinity, Art Classes for children return on Monday and Thursday afternoons, Tai Chi exercise is occurring three times weekly in the east parking lot, Stephen Ministry is meeting, and the September 14 Blood Drive is scheduled onsite.

In addition, groups like "Life Begins at 60" and "Solo Together" have arranged distanced driveway gatherings in the summer of 2020 – watch for more events in the weeks ahead.

Planning for "In Person" Worship

As we await Phase 5 protocols in west Michigan, Trinity's pastors and musicians have met to envision our return to "in person" worship at Trinity. For now, we wait, but we are laying the groundwork for the gathering of the people of Trinity in worship in the sanctuary and in Centennial Hall. In faith we go forward, a people with hope and a future . . .



What's Happening at Trinity in September?

Sunday, August 30

Kindergarten/Backpack Blessing
Virtual Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Virtual Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Outdoor Worship, 11 a.m. (Rain Date 9/6)

August 31

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.

September 1

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.
TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
SOLO Together, 11:30 a.m.

September 2

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Property Committee, 6 p.m.

September 4

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.

September 6

Virtual Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Virtual Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Lutheran World Relief Quilting, noon
Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 12:30 p.m.
Confirmation, 3 p.m.

September 7

LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

September 8

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

September 9

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Youth & Family Committee, 7 p.m.

September 10

Entering the Narrow Gate, 9:30 a.m.
NARFE, 1:30 p.m.
Art Class, 4:45 p.m.
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

September 11

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Friday Morning Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

September 12

Life Begins at 60, 6 p.m.

September 13

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday Preschooler Blessing
Virtual Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Virtual Sunday School
Virtual Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Support, noon
Confirmation, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

September 14

Messenger Submissions Due
Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.
Art Class, 4:45 p.m.
Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.

September 15

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.
TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
Health Ministry Action Committee, 6:30 p.m.

September 16

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Bible Study Forum with Pastor Bob, 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study Forum with Pastor Bob, 6:30 p.m.

September 17

Art Class, 4:45 p.m.
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Children's Ministry Committee, 8 p.m.

September 18

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Friday Morning Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

September 20

6th Annual Prayer Tree Kick Off
Virtual Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Virtual Sunday School
Virtual Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Outdoor Worship, 11 a.m. (Rain Date 9/27)
Confirmation, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

September 21

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Art Class, 4:45 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

September 22

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Book Club, 7 p.m.

September 23

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Bible Study Forum with Pastor Bob, 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study Forum with Pastor Bob, 6:30 p.m.

September 24

Art Class, 4:45 p.m.
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

September 25

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Friday Morning Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

September 27

Blessing of the LWR Quilts
Flu Shot Clinic, 9 a.m.
Virtual worship, 9:15 a.m.
Virtual Sunday School
Virtual Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Middle School Service, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

September 28

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Art Class, 4:45 p.m.
Outreach Committee, 6 p.m.

September 29

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.
TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.

September 30

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Bible Study Forum with Pastor Bob, 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study Forum with Pastor Bob, 6:30 p.m.

visit www.tlgr.org for event details

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



A Spiritual Formation Journey in 2020-2021

*"What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action . . .
the price of inaction is far greater than the cost of making a mistake."*

Meister Eckhart

As September arrives in our life together at Trinity, a very special opportunity has been organized for the people of Trinity and the Grand Rapids community. We will have the privilege of hosting Dominican Sister Nancy Brousseau, a well-loved spiritual mentor who has served our synod for many years, as we engage in "Entering the Narrow Gate," a spiritual formation series of daylong immersions once a month beginning September 10. The series will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. one Thursday monthly from September through June onsite at Trinity. Registration is underway and will continue as the series begins this month.

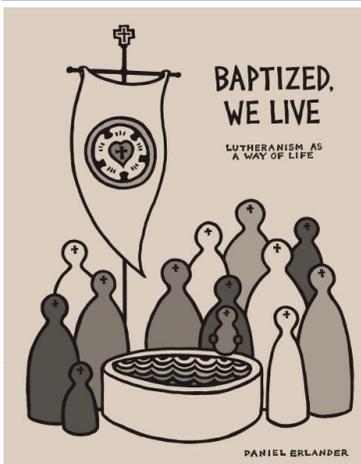
"Entering the Narrow Gate" invites participants to encounter the John the evangelist, the Desert Mothers and Fathers, Saints Benedict, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis, Clare, John of the Cross and Oscar Romero, the mystic Meister Eckart, Evelyn Underhill, Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton and others. Some of the great spiritual voices from throughout the history of Christianity will be encountered by all who engage in the series. All will be invited into a four-day silent directed retreat and participants will be encouraged to have a spiritual director during the year of sessions.

Are you seeking a way to redeem this time of separation and COVID-19 quarantine with a new beginning? Consider "Entering the Narrow Gate" in the months ahead. One of the first faith formation opportunities to be hosted onsite at Trinity since our mid-March closure, this series with Sister Nancy promises to be a wonderful opportunity.

Giving thanks for the opportunity to grow in the depth of our faith journeys, may you know grace and peace in the new season ahead.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Bob Linstrom

"Baptized We Live" Wednesday Forums begin September 16



Pastor Bob Linstrom will facilitate a ten-week series on Dan Erlander's "Baptized We Live; Lutheranism as a Way of Life" beginning on Wednesday, September 16 at 10:30 a.m. Initially this Wednesday forum will be accessible via Zoom, with the Zoom link posted weekly in Friday eBlasts. The Zoom session will also be recorded so that those unable to attend at 10:30 a.m. may view the recorded morning forum at their convenience.

"Baptized We Live" has been rereleased in 2020 with a new Leader Sourcebook and Congregational Guide, which Pastor Bob will utilize in leading the series. Copies of "Baptized We Live" will be available in the church office for those who would like to read along with a hard copy; the content will also be accessible electronically. Watch for more information in Friday eBlasts and Pastor Bob's weekly congregational emails in September. Mark your calendar now to join us on September 16 and on subsequent Wednesdays this fall at 10:30 a.m.!

Council Corner

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2020-2021

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.

If you are interested in contacting a Congregation Council member, please refer to information in the Trinity Directory or call the main office.

Executive Committee members and Committee liaisons are:

Congregation Council Executive Committee

President: Paul Crist

Vice President: Karen Unruh

Treasurer: Chris Engle

Secretary: Carol Butler

Congregation Council Members

Children's Ministry: Karen Unruh

Communications: Nicole Rodammer

Congregational Life: Eric Gohlke

Endowment Fund: Mike Mason

Fellowship: Amy Fox

Finance: Chris Engle

Health Ministries: Carol Butler

Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman

Human Resources: Steve Heacock

Outreach: John Fox

Property: Mike King

Property: Rick Radke

Spiritual Growth: Brad Kessel

Stewardship: Amelia Crist

Worship and Music: Kate Bredwell

Youth and Family: Tess Lundgren

Youth and Family: Ryleigh Fischer
(Youth Representative)



In the corporate world, the board's Human Resources Committee provides board-level review of the organization's personnel policies and benefit programs. It also sets compensation and incentives for board members and the CEO and provides for an annual evaluation of each. The CEO (not the committee) is responsible for setting the

salary of, and evaluating, other officers and employees. A corporate HR Committee also has the right to independently investigate any concern about employee impropriety, particularly of the CEO.

While similar in purpose, the role of Trinity's HR Committee is quite different from the role of a corporate HR Committee. The synod largely sets salaries and is significantly involved in the call process. Given the synod's involvement in hiring and salaries, the primary functions of the HR Committee are to review and help draft job descriptions, review annual goals and assist with job postings, interviews, and selection of new or replacement staff. When needed, the committee works with Pastor Bob to address performance issues. The HR Committee also gives voice within the congregation to staff concerns.

In addition to its functional roles, the Committee provides social support to Pastor Bob, and staff, in their role as the spiritual leaders of the congregation. Professional HR folks generally accept the tenet that the most significant factor for success, other than personal motivation, is social support. While not alone in providing social support to the Pastors and staff, the committee tries to assure that the Pastors and staff are getting sufficient social support.

Their work, particularly in current circumstances, is rife with deeply emotional and disturbing situations. The people they serve are facing illness, deep-seated fear, unemployment, and other serious challenges in their lives. At times, they are even questioning their faith in God. The Pastors and staff have days that are filled with difficulties that each of us face only now and again in our lives. For us they are intermittent, for them, they are their norm. They chose this life and are good at it but that does not negate their need for support - social, emotional and otherwise - not just from the committee but from the congregation at large.

The Committee is served very ably by Chair Stacey Curtiss, Carrie Boer, Jan Palm and Joni Korb.

Steve Heacock

Congregation Council Liaison to the Human Resources Committee

New Trinity Weapons Policy available for review

In February of 2019, a new Church Security Task Force was established by the Congregation Council to provide a careful evaluation of programs and procedures that provide for the general safety and welfare of Trinity's congregation and community guests. Everything from assessing locations of fire extinguishers and exit routes in case of emergency, to reviewing our child protection policy and background check procedures, to a proposal for security cameras was under consideration. Some new and revised procedures have resulted, along with some very helpful signage around the building.

A weapons policy was also established and is available for review via Trinity's website. This new policy was very carefully crafted, consulting Michigan law, synod

recommendations and the support of a Trinity member who is active in law enforcement. The Council adopted that policy last spring and it goes into effect August 1, 2020.

When the Trinity congregation is able to come together again for "in person" gathering, the Church Security Task Force is planning to hold a series of forums after worship to both explain the policy and to answer questions about that new protocol in our life together. For now, if you have questions or concerns, be welcome to be in touch with Pastor Linstrom and he will seek to address your questions or concerns or direct you to a member of the Task Force.

Look for a link to the Trinity Weapons Policy in recent Friday eBlasts.

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of July 2020

| | Budget | Actual | Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable) | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Total Income | 82,884 | 89,118 | 6,234 | 7.5% |
| Total Expenses | 88,876 | 81,601 | 7,275 | 8.2% |
| Net Income (Loss) | (5,992) | 7,517 | 13,509 | |



2021 Fiscal Year-to-Date February 2020 to July 2020

| | Budget | Actual | Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable) | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Total Income | 548,404 | 676,938 | 128,534 | 23.4% |
| Total Expenses | 561,144 | 494,494 | 66,650 | 11.9% |
| Net Income (Loss) | (12,740) | 182,444 | 195,184 | |

Online Giving Through "Tithe.ly"

We continue to use "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! To get started simply go to the Trinity website and click on the 'Donate' button at the top of the homepage. You can also go to <https://get.tithe.ly>.

Please contact Trinity's Finance Assistant Joanna Waite in the main office if you need assistance.



TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:25–34



How is your anxiety these days? What is your mind racing about? What worries are weighing on your mind?

I must admit that my anxiety has reached its peak. My wife and I wrestled with deciding on how our oldest son, Sam, would start kindergarten. We tried to weigh all the possibilities and models for learning and tried to wrap our minds around all the different risks. We made a decision, but it still sits uneasy.

We worry about this a lot. Maybe you do too.

I find myself more anxious around crowds than I have ever been. I worry about where all those people have been; have they been following good protocols to ensure that they are not spreading or carrying COVID? Is there danger in a place I once felt none at all? Worries threaten to consume us these days. Not unfounded worries, but real situations and circumstances that we should be mindful of.

These days I often return to Matthew 6:25–34. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us to not worry about the simple things of life, like what will you wear or what you will eat. Instead we are to focus on how God provides for us. Yes, we need to have food and clothing but instead of fixating on them and putting all of our energy and effort into them, Jesus calls us to instead put our energy and effort into remembering how God provides for us and has already provided for us.

I invite you to pause and make a list of all the ways God has provided for you. Do it on a piece of paper or a note in your phone. What has God given you? House, home, family, friends, work, abilities, nature ... think about those moments in your life where you made it through because God was there for you. Think about all those people who helped you get to where you are today, those people who have sat and cried, or screamed, or held you, or helped you in any way.

When you feel like things are spinning out of control and you find yourself slipping back in to the endless loop of worry, look at that list. Remind yourself in your own words how God has provided for you.

We can focus on the things we cannot control which does us no good. I think it actually harms us and increases the anxiety with which we live. Instead of trying to control the uncontrollable we can take comfort in the promises of God, something we can't control but can simply accept. God promises to care for us, to tend to us, to help us prosper, and to be with us in the hardest of times. Instead of putting our energy and effort into trying to bend the unbendable to our will, we can relax into the loving embrace of God. This posture can help us encounter the worries of the world with a different perspective. Yes, there are things we should be mindful of and concerned about, but the worry should not consume us. We can take comfort in the promises of God to be with us and remember how God has been with us in the past, is with us now, and will be with us in the future.

In the meantime, remember to listen, learn, and remember the stories my friends.

Join me in the Serenity Prayer – God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan Schewe

Trinity's Prayer Tree Ministry



Prayer is making a difference in the lives of Trinity's adults and children. Our sixth annual Prayer Tree Ministry kicks off on Sunday, September 20. A letter and/or email will be sent in mid-August to parents and guardians of Trinity children ages in-utero through age 18, requesting permission to include them in this ministry. An email will also be sent to adult members who have participated in previous years. New volunteers are welcome!

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 contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life.

Middle School News



Confirmation Class Kicks off on September 13 at 3 p.m. on Zoom

Parents of Confirmation students are invited to join us on Zoom for our first session of the year. At this session we will talk about our covenants, look at the upcoming year, and get to know each other better. Watch your email for the link for our gatherings.

September and October Confirmation Schedule

September 13: Class for parents and youth from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

September 20: Confirmation Class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

September 27: Service instead of class from 3 to 5 p.m.

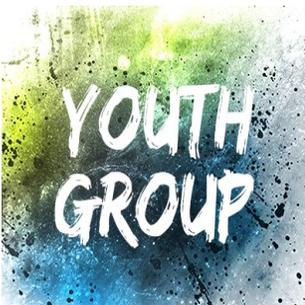
October 4 & 11: Youth Group from 2 to 3 p.m. and class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

October 18: Class from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and possible meal and fun from 5 to 7 p.m.

October 25: Service instead of class from 3 to 5 p.m.

Stay connected with our middle school ministries via Remind: text @66afab to the number 81010 and follow the prompts.

High School News



Youth Group Kick Off – September 13 at 6:30 p.m. on West Lawn

All High School youth, their families, and friends are invited to join us for a kick off celebration on Sunday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity. We will gather on the west lawn to reconnect with one another and talk about what is planned for this year and next summer. Join us in continuing to be community together.

High School Youth Group – Sundays at 6:30 p.m. by the trees

High schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for our weekly youth group on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. We are going to be learning how to listen to one another and those around us and serving in a variety of ways during our time together. Join us in finding God in community and service in these strange times.

Stay connected with our high school ministries via Remind:

For updates on youth group and programming text @6aef4g to 81010 and follow the prompts. For updates on next summer's mission trip text @7hfg6gf to 81010 and follow the prompts.

Children's Ministry



Virtual Sunday School



Sunday School will be offered virtually this fall. Even though we won't gather in person, we are finding creative ways to connect!

Registration is important to keep our Sunday School community connected, calculate the number of packets needed, and to keep your communication preferences updated. To register, follow the link in the Friday eBlasts or on the Trinity website.

The Sunday School team has prepared everything your children will need to continue their faith journeys. Weekly lessons links and videos will be sent via email and are also posted to the TLCGR Children's Ministry Facebook page. All pages are formatted for easy printing at home. Printed copies of the full fall packet and craft pack can also be picked up at church or delivered upon request. (kids@tlcgr.org)

Resources for Fall 2020 Virtual Sunday School

- Worship Bulletins can be used to engage kids during the worship service or anytime! Each puzzle or drawing exercise relates to one of the day's lectionary lesson readings. The "Pre-Reader" version is intended for preschoolers through grade 1. The "Reader" version is for grades 2 through 5.
- Bible Lesson Videos will be read by one of our Sunday School leaders. Children will hear the day's scripture read from the Spark Story Bible. In addition, children will be guided through a simple craft or activity that reinforces the week's lesson.
- Craft Supply Packs have what kids need for all the crafts this fall. They can be picked up at church or delivered upon request.
- Spark Story Bibles will be available to check-out at the church office or delivered upon request. They are also sold online at wearesparkhouse.org and amazon.com. Look for the [Spark Story Bible: Sunday School Edition](#)
- Coloring Pages: Coloring is meditative, creative and fun! These can be used during worship or anytime!
- Family Pages are guides for families who wants to go deeper into the Bible lesson at home. Included are discussion questions and suggestions on how to "live out" God's message.

Stay connected with Children's Ministry on Facebook!

Our Facebook page is called [TLCGR Children's Ministry](#). Our "closed group" is open to Trinity families with newborn to 5th grade children and TLC staff. Posts can only be viewed by members of the group. We will use Facebook to stay connected, post weekly Sunday school lessons and videos, updates on events, photos, and faith-related activities.

Preschooler Blessing on Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m.

All preschoolers will be specially blessed at the 9:15 a.m. Live Stream Service on September 13. This celebration marks the beginning of the journey into Sunday School and the forming of life-long friendships. Three-year-olds and children new to Trinity's Sunday School will be gifted a beautifully illustrated storybook Bible. Bibles are available for pick-up in the church office during business hours.

“Season of Creation” devotions for September

Four of the Lutheran and Episcopal/Anglican churches of North America have been growing in partnership in recent years. The four heads of those denominational bodies have written a shared set of devotions, “Season of Creation 2020,” an ecumenical series for September 1 to October 4 and an invitation to join in prayer, reflection and action. The season, which begins with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, is a time to join with the global Christian community in renewing, repairing and restoring commitments to God, to one another and to all of creation.

“Even as our relations as churches are not bound by national or ecclesiastical borders, neither is our witness to the One who came to redeem all of creation,” wrote Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Through Scripture, hymns, advocacy and action, the weekly devotions invite people to live out their vocation as stewards of creation.

A copy of “Season of Creation 2020” is included with the mailing of this issue of *The Messenger*.

SEASON OF CREATION 2020

*Renewing, repairing
and restoring*
our commitments to God,
to one another
and to all of creation.

Weekly devotions for
Sept. 1 through Oct. 4, 2020

NEW Trinity Fellowship Trivia Game!

Do you recognize this part of Trinity Lutheran Church? Trinity is starting a new Fellowship Trivia/Education game of sorts. Guess what the item is pictured to the right and then look for the answer on the back cover.

You can find more of these educational Fellowship Guessing Games on our Facebook Page. Just go to Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids on Facebook and like the page. We will be posting close up photos and answers two to three times a week.

So, put your thinking caps on and learn a little more about some of the beautiful pieces displayed around Trinity in the process!"



“Re-Zooming” Coffee Fellowship Time on Sundays at Trinity!

Be welcome to join us!

You are invited to our virtual Coffee Fellowship time after live streaming of Trinity’s worship services. Supply your own coffee and enjoy visiting with Trinity friends as you relax at home. Click on the link in the Friday eBlast to join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96547953581?pwd=MFVQREdwZEtBMDdNeFIFSnU2TjA4UT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4795 3581

Password: 420932



Entering the Narrow Gate 2020-2021

School of Spiritual Formation - Year-long Program “Entering the Narrow Gate” Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

This course is open to anyone who would like to 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 a deeper life in Spirit and more intentional living of the Christian life. The rich and inspiring teaching is centered on the saints, mystics and spiritual teachers of the Christian centuries, personal contemplative prayer practice, lively conversations, and living of a personal Rule of Life.

Required books (may be purchased on Amazon.com at reduced cost) Required editions:

The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault;

The Rule of Benedict. Ed., Timothy Fry Liturgical Press, 1982;

The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality by Ronald Rolheiser,

The Cloud of Unknowing translated by Carmen Acevedo Butcher, 2009;

The Spiritual Life by Evelyn Underhill;

Joan of Arc by Mark Twain – with trial proceedings included; Publisher: Ignatius Press; 1st edition (September 1, 1989)

Recommended books:

The Deeper Journey by M. Robert Mulholland, Jr

The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr

Course Requirements:

- Attendance at all sessions
- Preparation for each session, required readings (short background and/or readings from the original writings of each spiritual teacher) and journal questions emailed to participants prior to each session. Participation in class discussion is expected.
- Participation in a four-day silent directed retreat during the year is encouraged – Dates TBD
- Participants are encouraged to have a spiritual director during the year
- Those completing this first year may apply for an 18-month Formation Program & Practicum for becoming a Spiritual Director. Program begins September, 2021 at Christ United Church, DeWitt, MI.

Program Schedule for 2020-2021:

9/10/2020 Gospel according to John
Paschal Mystery and Spiritual Journey

10/8 Mothers & Fathers of the Desert
Contemplative Prayer & Approaches to God

11/12 St. Benedict and St. Scholastica
St. Hildegard of Bingen

12/10 St. Francis & St. Clare
Meister Eckhart

1/14/21 Beguine Women’s Movement
St. Catherine of Siena

2/11 Julian of Norwich
Cloud of Unknowing

3/11 St. Teresa of Avila
St. John of the Cross

4/15 St. Ignatius of Loyola
St. Oscar Romero

5/13 St. Joan of Arc
Evelyn Underhill

6/10 Dorothy Day
Thomas Merton

Entering the Narrow Gate 2020-2021

School of Spiritual Formation - Year-long Program "Entering the Narrow Gate" Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

We will follow the ELCA Synod Church guidelines for health safety in a time of Covid19 and adjust accordingly. We will proceed with registrations at this time. Participants will be notified in late August if postponement of the program to a later time is necessary.

Tuition: \$600 (50% due with registration and 50% due in February)

Make checks payable to: Dominican Sisters with Narrow Gate on memo line of check)

Mail completed registration form with payment to:

Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Fulton St. E Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Staff Contact: kris.baker@tlcgr.org 616.949.2510 x 110

Facilitator, Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP
Email: nbrousseau@aol.com Cell: 616.560.4580

Program Facilitator: Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP, D.Min. is a Dominican Sister of Grand Rapids, MI. Nancy served as the Director of the Dominican Center at Marywood in Grand Rapids for five years and was Director of Spirituality Programs there for six years. Prior to those years, she was Director of St. Joseph Educational Center in Des Moines, IA. Sr. Nancy has an MA in Religious Education, a M.Div. from St. John's (now Sacred Heart) Seminary in Detroit and a D.Min. in Spiritual Direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She offers retreats, spiritual direction, workshops and programs in prayer, spirituality and spiritual formation.

Ten Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; one Thursday per month from September to June
Dates in 2020: 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10 and Dates in 2021: 1/14, 2/11; 3/11, 4/15; 5/13, 6/10

Coffee available; please bring your lunch/beverage; snack to share if you wish



_____ **Please mail this bottom portion with your check** _____

Registration: Entering the Narrow Gate Trinity Lutheran 2020-2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Grief in a Time of Pandemic

Grief: a response to loss, particularly to loss of someone or something important.

Thomas Keating said, "Notice your feelings without emotional reaction or blame. Feel and watch your feelings. When you do that the force of your feelings will eventually diminish."

C.S Lewis wrote, "No one told me that grief feels so much like fear."

At times it feels surreal. Even six months ago I could not have imagined the world-wide crisis we are all experiencing. We have relentless coverage of the spread of Covid-19 every time we watch the news on TV. We are reminded of the number of infections and deaths in the world, in America, and in our state. The pandemic affects almost every aspect of our lives. Events we look forward to have all been cancelled. We feel a sense of profound loss. We are grieving.

Last week I asked my family and a few friends "What is the biggest loss for you since the pandemic began?"

Following is a sampling of their responses. I trust that you can relate.

- I long to be able to travel to see children and grandchildren. We have cancelled three trips since March.
- I miss family traditions (celebrations of birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, and holidays). Will I be able to be with family this Thanksgiving? Christmas?
- I mourn the loss of our ability to worship "in person," to take communion, to sing, to share the peace, and even to have coffee hour.
- I mourn for people all over the world who have lost loved ones or have lost their ability to support their families.
- I feel a sense of uncertainty about children going back to the classroom.
- I think that I have lost my illusion of control!
- I am anxious about the future.

Embrace your feelings of sadness, fear, and yes, even a bit of anger. Resist the urge to judge your feelings or to compare losses. Someday this unprecedented time will be just a memory. Hopefully, we will be able to say that we prayerfully considered what we could do to help relieve the suffering of others. We will have made an effort to reach out and be of service. Perhaps we will remember this time as a period of transformation of our own hearts and of our culture.

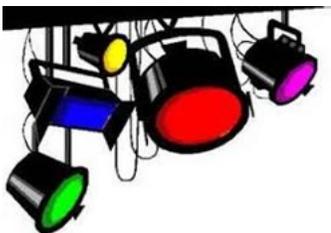
It is possible, I believe, to accept and hold the paradox of grief and gratitude. After all, we worship a God who gazes on all of us with tenderness, compassion, and limitless love.

May you be wrapped up in God's love, found deep in his everlasting wings, carried and kept, safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ breathe across your being now.

- A Celtic Blessing

Carol Butler
Congregation Council Liaison to the Health Ministries Committee





Movement and Wellness at Trinity: Kristina Kuhlmann

Kristina and her family found a church home at Trinity after she and Gary moved into the area in 2002. She was involved as a Shepherd in Sunday School during the youth of her three children; juggling a busy life as wife, mother, and movement instructor through a schedule of both group and personal training. She answered a calling to delve into offering movement classes at Trinity once her three children were raised.



Kristina has shared her zest for health, movement and wellness with her husband of 28 years, Gary, and their three children. Her two sons graduated from the University of Michigan. One son is pursuing a degree in medicine at Michigan State University. The other is self-employed with a busy construction business after a degree in biomolecular science from U of M. Her daughter is pursuing a nursing degree at the University of Wisconsin. Working through her own injuries, Kristina has deepened her sense to “honor her body as a temple, gifted to us from God.” She has devoted herself to control the few things that she can (diet, movement, wellness, centering). “Wow, I’d been taking my body for granted,” she realized when injury first occurred. “I so much appreciate when my body works pain free and I have a greater depth of understanding for those who struggle with movement.” That empathy has been combined with her knowledge of movement to guide and meet others where their body is and to encourage growth improvements. “We don’t know why that struggle is put in front of us, but we can get through it. We need to honor what we’ve been given.”

Over the years, Pastor Bob had gently encouraged Kristina to share her leadership gifts in movement at Trinity. Soon after the celebration of our new addition, she stated, “I’m ready” to Pastor Bob. Through collaboration with Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse, she generously offered her time and talent in creating and facilitating an onsite, 4 day/week program including offerings such as Functional Movement, TRX, Somatic Yoga, and Tai Chi. The program was going strong when Covid-19 arrived. Kristina and Kristin readily changed gears offering Tai Chi outside, which has been meeting for over 6 weeks. Tai Chi offers a meditative quality to movement, enhances memory, circulatory blood flow, breath work, balance and centering while offering a sense of community and laughter. This time of pandemic has taken a toll on our mental and physical well-being. Practicing Tai Chi together adds socialization and movement to our week which are both critical as we navigate through this challenging time. Tai Chi is largely inclusive regardless of our movement capabilities. Kristina can offer adaptations as she reminds us that “every day is different, show up and do it anyway, and work with what you have, honoring your body for the movement it offers that day.” You can find the group in movement and laughter, even amid a soft rain. Please consider joining this gentle, guided movement outdoors at Trinity.

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own: you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Note: The purpose of *Behind the Scenes at Trinity* is to praise God and to encourage others to use their special abilities to serve Him. Although people featured here have been reluctant to be highlighted, they’ve agreed to be published to encourage others to experience the joys of serving.

If you’d like to suggest people to feature in future articles, please contact Pastor Karen or Cathy Olson at cawolson@gmail.com.

Tai Chi Schedule

Classes meet in the parking lot east of the church building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. weather permitting.

The suggested donation is \$3/class or \$20/month.

All are welcome.

Donations support the Health Ministries at Trinity.

If you have questions, please contact Kristina Kuhlmann at 616.719.6961.

Health Ministries - Walk & Talk



Walk & Talk is a Bible study and walking program that incorporates healthy habits into our lives of faith through physical movement and spiritual enrichment. Designed for use within a whole congregation, individuals can walk by themselves, with a friend, or in a small group, while collectively reviewing the same weekly devotional study.

Each month has a different theme and each week's devotion includes a scripture passage, a short reflection, several discussion questions and a closing prayer. You can walk on your own time, wherever you choose, for however long you want. No tracking of steps or miles! This program is appropriate for EVERYONE!

By all reflecting on the same themes each week, we will be together in spirit during this time of physical distancing. Monthly group zoom meetings to check in with each other will be scheduled as well. September's theme is 'Back in the Swing of Things.'

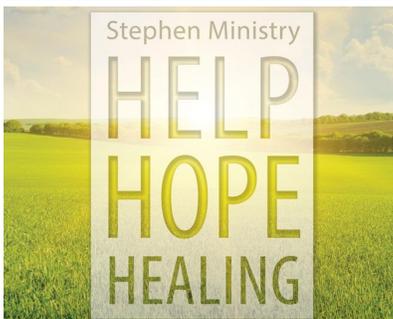
Sign up on the SignUp Genius and you'll get the weekly devotions emailed to you, along with more information as we continue to grow this program together.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A44A4A92AA5FB6-walk>

Let's **step away** (literally) from the stress and demands of daily life to walk, reflect and pray!

Connect with Trinity member Rebecca Ulrich at rjulrich@comcast.net with any questions, comments or concerns.

Stephen Ministry



Coming to Terms with Loss

Have you ever considered that our journey through life includes our own story of not coming to terms with loss? Loss is all around us. It affects us and our loved ones. Loss may be up close, in-our-face, or it may be distanced, seemingly going unrecognized by us in the moments it occurs. It may be big and obvious, knocking us down and taking our breath away. Or loss may not reach our level of self-awareness. Loss accumulates, touching us in unexpected ways. Loss can build in layers of seemingly small infractions affecting our well-being. It can even be present in the missed expectations of our life, particularly in these pandemic times. We all can get worn down by an accumulation of loss. Over a span of time there can be changes in not only how we feel but also in our thoughts and actions, limiting our ability to cope.

Stephen Ministry is here to walk with you, to hold you up when the moment arrives for you to reconcile with whatever loss you carry. The Stephen Ministry program equips and empowers lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are in need. In the book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you.
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

In His Name,
Norm Palm, Stephen Minister

If you would like to know more about how Stephen Ministry can help you, contact our Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley.

September Blood Drive at Trinity

Blood Drive on Monday, September 14 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

This year has brought many changes in our world and the way we live in it. One thing, however, hasn't changed, and that is the constant need for blood products in our community.

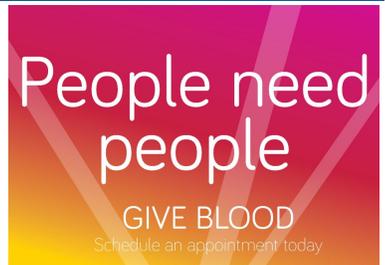
Versiti will be at Trinity on Monday, September 14 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Courtyard to accept your precious blood donation. You must have an appointment, come alone and wear a face covering. Social distancing guidelines and additional disinfecting practices will be observed to ensure a safe donating experience for you.

You can sign up online at:

https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/121613

You may also contact Sue Babin at 267.218.5967 or smbabin@yahoo.com to make your appointment.

Remember, each blood donation can save up to three lives and the need is constant; and while there are things we're restricted from doing right now, we can still GIVE!



Flu Shot Clinic at Trinity on September 27

Get Your Flu Shot!

Trinity will be hosting an Influenza Immunization Clinic on Sunday, September 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Courtyard. Spectrum Health is providing this clinic for our members/guests ages 5 and above. Children under 18 MUST have a parent present. Both regular and high dose vaccines will be available.

To provide the highest level of safety, members are asked to make an appointment, answer health screening questions as they arrive, follow 6 foot distancing guidelines, and wear a mask. Vaccines cannot be given to anyone without a mask.

Sign up on the SignUp Genius by going to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A44A4A92AA5FB6-flushot> or contact Kristin Bradley for available times.

Don't forget to bring your insurance card! Aetna, ASR, Cofinity, Blue Care Network, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Priority Health, and Medicare will be accepted. All others will be expected to pay a fee of \$58 for the regular dose vaccine and \$86 for the high dose meant for those 65 and older.



Keep New Seminarian Bridget Whately in Your Prayers!

The Trinity Congregation Council acted at its July meeting to extend \$5000 in seminarian support to Portage neighbor Bridget Whately for her first year at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina in 2020-2021. The people of Trinity are invited to keep Bridget in prayer as she begins her seminary career this fall.

Greetings! My name is Bridget Whately. I am a lifelong Lutheran and have been a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI for the past seventeen years. At Prince of Peace, I have enjoyed being one of the Confirmation leaders and the church council secretary. I have served as a reader or worship assistant in worship many times. My favorite services being either the Easter Vigil or the late service on Christmas Eve, which for Prince of Peace, is 10:30 p.m.

I am the oldest of three at the age of 32. I graduated from Wartburg College in 2010 with a degree in biology with plans of being a marine biologist, but instead got a job as an assistant teacher at a childcare center, which was probably more fun. In my free time, I enjoy reading and crafting, specifically sewing and cross-stitch. I am also a 4th degree black belt in Taekwondo and help out at my dad's school.

My call to ministry has been a long one. I grew up helping in church as an acolyte then as a reader. In high school, I was very involved in our youth group and leading on Youth Sunday. My call became more insistent while I was in college. I was always at the chapel in college and I was able to take advantage of an opportunity to plan and lead one of the weekday chapels my senior year and found great joy in doing that. After graduating college, I became involved again with ministry at Prince of Peace and was able to further explore what it is to be a pastor. Honestly, I can't imagine doing anything else.

I will be attending Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) in Columbia, SC to work on my Masters of Divinity to become a pastor.

I look forward to getting to know you all better in the future. I hope to be able to visit when I come home at Christmas.



Trinity to celebrate congregation's 125th anniversary in 2021

Committee forming to organize our celebration

On May 25, 1896, a small gathering of Lutheran flavored Christians met in worship for the first time as they dreamed of forming a new faith community in downtown Grand Rapids. By December 9 of that year the new congregation organized as a member of the General Synod and the rest, as they say, is history.

The heritage of this 125-year-old congregation will be celebrated in 2021 as we give thanks for all of those who have gone before us and as we embrace the mission God has in store for the people of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pastor Linstrom is organizing a 125th Anniversary Committee to help us plan that celebration. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Pastor Linstrom directly or leave a message at the church office. A first meeting of that committee will be scheduled in November of 2020.



Trinity Is Live Streaming Our Rejoice Service - How Do I Find It?



We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. Sunday "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" and you will be connected to the stream.

OR

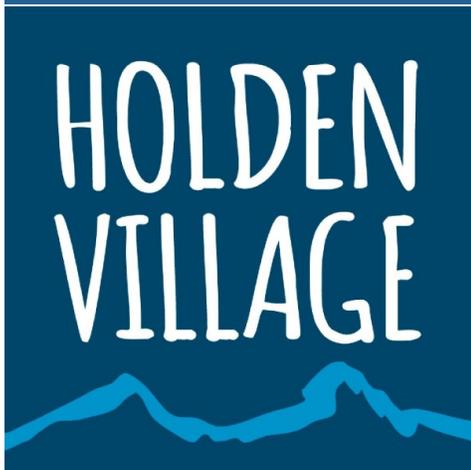
- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
- Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower (that is our channel).
- When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
- Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
- We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. (On Sundays it may take a couple of hours from the time worship ends until the time that YouTube makes the video available.)

If you have a YouTube account, please subscribe to the Trinity channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.

Please Note: We are on GRTV!

Our Sunday services are being broadcast on GRTV channel 25! Our services air on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon. The broadcast is a week behind, so this Sunday's service will air next week. Find us wherever you find GRTV!

Trinity Travelers making plans for sojourn to Holden Village

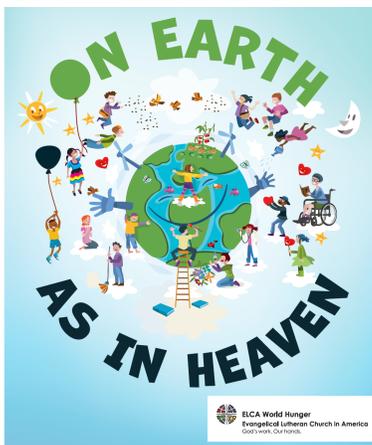


Plans taking shape for journey to Holden Village in 2021

When Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains of Washington closed to guests for the summer of 2020, Trinity had a delegation of 52 hoping to make the journey together in late July who were disappointed but understanding of the challenges of such travel in a time of pandemic. As we began to adjust to the cancellation of our plans, quite a few of those 'Trinity Travelers' proposed that we consider rescheduling for the summer of 2021. An information meeting was held in July and a Zoom meeting in August to begin that exploration.

We are currently seeking to set dates for our prospective travel in 2021 in anticipation of registration possibly opening for the summer of 2021 on October 1. If you would like to learn more about the prospective 2021 Holden Village trip, contact Pastor Linstrom and he will include you in planning and communications this fall.

Hunger in the Time of COVID-19



Life for Today and Hope for Tomorrow - September 24

Rick Steves is a well known guidebook author and PBS travel host but did you know that he is also a Lutheran? Rick has spent much of his adult life traveling all over the world. He is very vocal about why he chooses to support ELCA World Hunger.

Rick, along with the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA and the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod, invite us all to join an online benefit for ELCA World Hunger on Thursday, September 24 at 8 p.m. via Zoom. The goal is to raise \$250,000 to confront hunger in the time of COVID-19.

We are in a historic moment, facing a once-in-a-century pandemic and a global change in hunger unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. Domestically and internationally, hunger is increasing at alarming rates. At this event, you will learn about the unique ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. The hosts will also discuss the ongoing root causes of hunger and poverty addressed in Rick Steves' recent special *Hunger and Hope: Lessons From Ethiopia and Guatemala*. And we will hear from ELCA World Hunger partners on the front lines of the current hunger crisis, who will tell us firsthand how our gifts make a difference.

We are called by God to share hope in this time of challenge. Join with others to face this global hunger crisis head-on and to continue moving toward a just world where all are fed.

Register for this event no later than September 21 by going to:
<https://community.elca.org/online-registration/sept-24-rick-steves-virtual-hunger-event?erid=9c5c1454-567c-488f-bebf-b7e125da3c51&trid=9c5c1454-567c-488f-bebf-b7e125da3c51> You will receive an email with details on how to access this online event.

To view a brief YouTube video of Rick Steves on the topic, go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b7kVWQNAW4>

“Blessing of the Animals” and Holy Communion on October 4



St. Francis of Assisi is remembered as the patron saint of Italy and the founder of various men's and women's Franciscan orders. Over time, Francis became associated with the patronage of animals and the natural environment, and it became customary to have celebrations blessing animals on or close to his feast day of October 4.

On Sunday, October 4, 2020 Trinity will offer a second annual Blessing of the Animals at 11 a.m. on the west lawn and join that blessing with a simple order of Holy Communion (wafer only) in that outdoor context. Humans and other animals are welcome.

Plan now to bring your pet dog, cat, goldfish, cockatoo, iguana or your favorite farm animal to church. The blessing will be held outside the new west entrance, under the Cross Tower, on the church's west lawn.

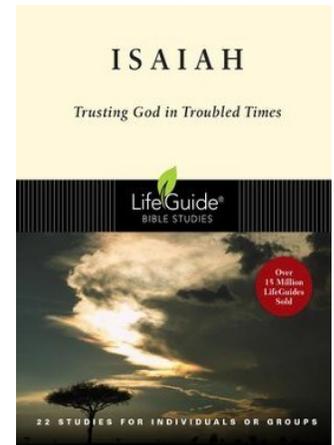
Adult Study Opportunities

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study begins September 18

This group of women meets together on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. with the exception of the second Fridays of the month. Their typical meeting location is Trinity but it may be necessary to start the fall season via Zoom.

Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times by Howard Peskett is the source for their study this fall. The following is a description: "Sometimes we look at our lives or our world and wonder what good could possibly come out of it. That's exactly what we find in the book of Isaiah. Here you'll see how the prophet raises a cry for revival in the midst of a rotting society. And you'll find comfort for your own troubled times."

All adult women are welcome to study with this group. Contact the small group leader, Kris Fox, for details at jklsafox@comcast.net or 616.682.0671.

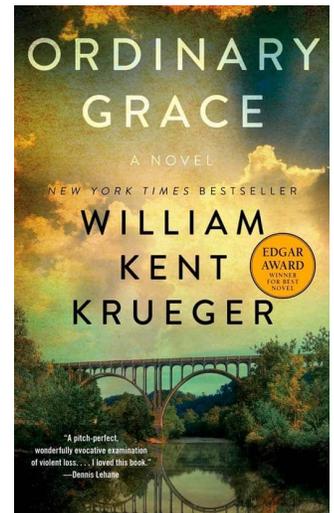


Friday Morning Women's Book Club begins September 11

The women of this group meet on the second Fridays of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. from September through June. The group reads a variety of fiction, memoir and non-fiction and, while not necessarily religious in nature, they apply their faith to interpreting the characters, situations and ideas that they read.

At their first fall meeting, the group will discuss a novel by William Kent Krueger entitled Ordinary Grace. It is described as "a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God."

The meeting will take place in The Courtyard at Trinity. You must RSVP to Sue Babin at 267.218.5967 or at smbabin@yahoo.com. If more than ten readers respond, the group will meet via Zoom.



Tuesday Evening Book Club begins September 22

As we begin the new program year, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join the Tuesday evening book club. This group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month and is open to any Trinity adult. We welcome new folks and friends and visitors are always welcome. In the past we have met in people's homes or at church but due to the pandemic, we are going to have to be flexible with how and where we meet. If the weather allows, in September, we will meet at a member's backyard or by Zoom if weather does not permit. Please email Corina Dulecki (cduleck@gmail.com) for details for address or Zoom link. This year's books are listed below.

September

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

October

Daughters of the Dragon: A Comfort Woman's Story by William Andrews

November

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

(December - off for Christmas)

January

A Cup of Water Under My Bed: A Memoir by Daisy Hernández

February

The Stationery Shop by Marjan Kamali

March

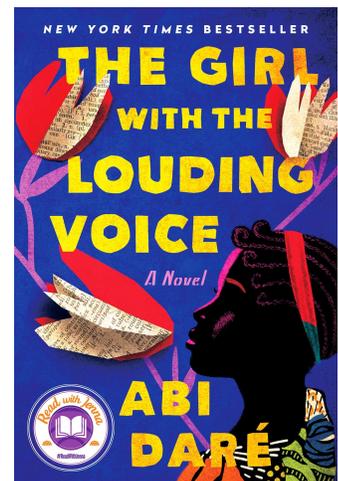
Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster by Rebecca Solnit

April

Dreamland Burning by Jennifer Latham

May

Before I Let You Go by Kelly Rimmerence



Life Begins at 60

Driveway Dining has been a safe and socially distanced way for some of our *Life Begins at 60* group to gather over the summer for some delicious food, fun and fellowship.

We'll gather again on Saturday, September 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. on Joe and Marybeth Iaria's spacious driveway which is located at 4852 Summer Ridge Court in Ada. *Reservations are on a first-come basis* – contact Pastor Karen to reserve your spot at karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org!

And watch the October *Messenger* for how we hope to gather for some DIGITAL DINING when the winter winds begin to blow.



Amazing Stargazing



What's so Amazing that Keeps Us Stargazing?

For nearly sixty years, the marvels of God's universe have been a source of joy and wonder for Pastor Bruce Booher. You are invited to join him for a three session Zoom event to explore some of these marvels and consider how they can inspire faith and awe. Sessions will include resources to help you continue to explore the marvels of God's creation and the opportunity for you to share your thoughts and questions.

August 26: Wonders of the Universe

September 2: Touring our Solar System

September 9: Introductory Stargazing

Each 30 minute session begins at 8 p.m. and is intended for ages 12 and up. These events are free, but you must register in advance. Sign up for any or all of these sessions by going to <https://bit.ly/33e7R5t>

This event is sponsored by the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology.

Samaritas Fundraising Event—Monday, September 21



Rock Stars, Movie Stars and Classic Cars!

Cruise back in time to the drive-in movies! Join chairs John and Sandy Lowery, Bing and Jean Goei and co-chairs, Dave Shaffer and Renée Williams, on Monday, September 21.

Be the Rock Under the Stars will take place in the North Parking Lot at the West Michigan landmark, **Fifth Third Ballpark**, 4500 West River Drive NE, Comstock Park, MI.

This is the not-to-be-missed fundraising event of the summer. Rock and Roll to LIVE entertainment, enjoy an evening filled with inspiration on the big screen, all while you dine on summer classics barbecue, root beer floats, and popcorn all from the comfort of inside your own ride.

Join us for this unforgettable bash to raise **critical funds** during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have questions, contact Mary Cline, Special Events and Corporate Relations Manager at 616.284.5704 or mclin@samaritas.org.

To purchase tickets, please go to: <https://www.samaritas.org/BeTheRock#order>

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday Appeal to support Habitat



Typically we celebrate this denomination-wide event together with the members of other ELCA congregations across North America on the second Sunday in September by volunteering in service to others. Current social distancing requirements make it difficult for Trinity members to safely volunteer together for a service project.

So instead, we are appealing to our members to make financial donations for our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. We will celebrate our monetary gifts for Habitat on Sunday, September 13, the day designated by the ELCA for this year’s “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday.

Trinity typically spends at least one Saturday per year volunteering on a local Habitat Build. Last year, on June 29, we worked on a single family home located in the SW Grand Rapids area in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood. This home is part of “Plaza Roosevelt,” a collaborative plan to expand affordable housing, education, and economic opportunities. To see an update of this ambitious project, please view a video tour by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhO-ARsaXyl>

Since Trinity volunteers were unable to participate in our traditional Habitat for Humanity Build this summer, it seemed like a great idea to raise additional funds for their work in the community. Because of the pandemic, much of the work for the completion of homes had to stop completely. The ability for Habitat to now safely utilize the help of volunteers is seriously reduced because of social distancing and other safety requirements. Habitat for Humanity, in order to help home owners get into their “almost ready” homes, has paid some contractors to help finish up these homes.

Your donations for our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate are encouraged to provide financial support during this time when affordable housing is so critical. Please consider donating as you are able by mailing your check to Trinity (made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church) or making your donation online through the “donate” tab on Trinity’s website.

We have been collecting donations since August 1 and will continue to do so through September 13.

Mayor’s Grand River Cleanup - September 12 to 19



The Annual Mayor’s Grand River Cleanup will look a little different in 2020 compared to previous years. To respect social distancing measures brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) has decided to ‘deconstruct’ the 17th Annual Mayor’s Grand River Cleanup into a weeklong campaign with volunteers setting their own routes and cleaning up streets, storm drains, streams and/or the Grand River.

From Saturday, September 12, through Saturday, September 19, WMEAC will provide supplies to volunteers throughout the communities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Grandville, Walker, and Kentwood to remove trash from the tributaries and storm drains that feed into the Grand River as well as from the Grand River itself.

For more information and to register yourself, your family, friends, neighbors, and/or co-workers, please go to <https://wmeac.org/mayors-grand-river-cleanup/> Registration is required to receive cleanup supplies. Online registration for the Mayor’s Grand River Cleanup will close on Wednesday, September 16.

Become the stewards of our streams and rivers by protecting water quality. As the world becomes increasingly virtual, this is an opportunity for all of us to make a very real, concrete difference.

Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network Update

You will see below an excerpt of a letter sent recently by the CEO of Family Promise, Cheryl Schuch. We had been scheduled to host IHN families at Trinity during the week beginning September 27 however this will not happen due to safety issues related to COVID-19. We look forward to providing shelter again when it is safe for everyone to do so.

Dear IHN Pastors, Coordinators and Volunteers,

I hope this finds you and your congregations healthy and safe. I would like to begin by thanking you for your prayers, donations, and unwavering support as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Although families have not been sleeping in your congregations, you have shown God's love for families in shelter at this most difficult time. This year has highlighted how important community is, and although we have found creative ways to support each other from afar, the truth is that we miss you and we look forward to a time when we can safely be in communion with each other again!

I wanted to make you aware of several things in the works at Family Promise GR. First and most importantly, we are pausing the IHN rotations for the remainder of 2020. With the recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and HUD, and after talking with many of you, we have decided to continue to provide family emergency shelter and basic needs in a hotel setting to ensure families, volunteers and staff remain safe and healthy!

But, we still need you! You ARE Family Promise! Please know you have filled our families (and staff) with hope and encouragement during this difficult period and we are forever grateful. Our families and staff appreciate your continued prayers and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

Peace,

Cheryl Schuch
CEO
Family Promise of Grand Rapids



Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits lost in Beirut Explosion

The city of Beirut, Lebanon, is in crisis after an explosion on August 4 took many lives and destroyed entire portions of the city. Thousands were injured and hundreds of thousands lost their homes.

Unfortunately, **the blast destroyed three of LWR's 40-foot shipping containers**, which were stored in the port and held more than 22,000 LWR Mission Quilts, 100 cartons of School Kits, 300 cartons of Personal Care Kits and 125 cartons of Baby Care Kits that were being prepared for distribution to an estimated 24,550 men, women and children who were already in great need. These precious gifts would have helped many poor Lebanese families and large populations of Syrian and Palestinian refugees to overcome the challenges of the country's ongoing economic crisis.

Our own Trinity Lutheran World Relief Quilters are just heart-broken about the loss of these valuable, simple gifts. They know how much love and care go into making each quilt and assembling each kit as they imagine the eventual recipients.

Help us to replace what was lost by donating supplies like clean, gently used bed sheets and cotton fabric to the Trinity LWR Quilters. They meet at noon at Trinity (with masks) on the first Sundays of the month and at 10 a.m. every Tuesday in The Commons. If you can tie a knot, your help would be greatly appreciated in helping to create these simple, beautiful quilts.



Supplies being accepted for Congress Elementary School



We are once again making an effort to supply much needed items for use by the students and teachers of Congress Elementary School. Grand Rapids Public Schools will begin the school year with virtual learning. The plan is to have students back in their school building at the end of October for the start of the second marking period. Students will still need to have school supplies. And NEW this fall, teachers and staff need CLEANING SUPPLIES! The shopping list below indicates the specific items needed to begin the school year.

To see a special "Thank You Video" from the principal of Congress Elementary, Jennifer Williams, please go to Trinity's website and click on the "Outreach" tab. She and the staff are very appreciative of your donations.

Please consider picking up some of these supplies and bringing them to Trinity. Your donations can be placed in the large plastic labeled barrel located in the entryway in the main entrance on the west side of the church building. The collection of supplies will go through September.

- tissues
- glue sticks
- crayons (24 count are best)
- pencils
- individually packaged snacks (no nuts, please)
- Lysol spray
- Lysol concentrated solution
- spray bottles
- gloves
- disposable wash clothes (dollar store)
- sanitizing wipes
- hand sanitizer (large pump bottles)
- children's masks

Box Tops for Education - Congress Elementary School



No More Clipping. Scan Your Receipt!

For over 20 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn cash for their school, with products they already buy. The total school earnings with Box Tops since 1996 is \$934,906,604...and counting!

Now you can simply scan your store receipt with the Box Tops mobile app to identify participating products and instantly add cash to your designated school's earnings online.

Please consider downloading the app on your phone and designating Congress Elementary School as your recipient school. For additional information and for how to download and use the new app, please go to: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/How%20To%20Earn>

Physical Box Top clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout stores. You may drop off your clips at Trinity and they will be delivered to Congress Elementary.

Try the app - it is SO easy!

A Note From Christophe Muganza - U.S. Citizen!

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church members,

Thank you for being there for me and for being as family. You have been a wonderful blessing to me during my 7 years in this country that just is becoming mine. Your prayers, your love, your advice and so many other forms of support made who I am and where I am today.

I pray for peace in your lives, may God visit each of you by sharing his grace and mercy. Receive many thanks from my wife, Benita and our children from Uganda (Glory, Kenny and Mary).

Christophe Muganza



Thank you from Family Promise

Dear Trinity Lutheran Community,

Wow! The backpacks you put together for kids in shelter were simply amazing! We were able to give them all out to kids currently sheltering in hotels the very same day we picked up. What an incredible blessing and wonderful way to show these families that the community cares.

Thank you for your love and support!

Peace,
Chelsea Jandernoa
Volunteer Coordinator
Family Promise of Grand Rapids



Dinner Groups Signups Postponed

Based on feedback from past participants and discussions among Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis, and our Dinner Group Co-coordinators, Joyce Schlanderer and Toni Petersen, Dinner Groups have been postponed. The topic will be revisited in January of 2021.

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



Procedures for Checking In at Trinity

As we get more comfortable being out and about in social situations again, we look forward to seeing more of our Trinity members and friends in the building. We know that there are many of us who will not be ready to be in enclosed public spaces for some time yet. There is a lot to consider and we need to be realistic about our individual circumstances and respect the decisions of others that may differ from our own. The safety protocols below are for those members who feel that they are ready to be in the Trinity church building in the near future.

With an abundance of caution, we are asking you to abide by the expectations below in order to do the best we can to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. After you come through the outer doors on the west side office entrance, you are asked to use the hand sanitizer placed in the entryway for your convenience. As you come through the second set of doors you will see a table to your right with the signage below.



You are asked to sign in so that we know who has been in the building during a specific time. But first, you should do a self-screening by answering two questions about your own health.

The poster pictured to the right is leaning against the wall on the table. Please read the questions carefully. It is very important to consider how you have been feeling and also the degree to which you may have had exposure to COVID-19.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH HEALTH SCREENING

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING IN

1. In the past 14 days, have you been diagnosed with, lived with, or cared for someone with Covid 19?
2. In the past 48 hours, have you had any of the following signs or symptoms?



If you answered "YES" to any of the above, please come back to visit another time and consider checking in with your health care provider.



Questions can be directed to
Faith Community Nurse
Kristin Bradley at 616.560.4496



WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening Check In Schedule/appointment Occupancy limits | | <p>COVER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a face covering as you enter the building. Cover sneezes and coughs. |
| <p>CLEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitize hands as you enter the building. Wash hands. Wipe surfaces | | <p>SPACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep a 6 ft distance from each other. Follow directional signs and seating guidelines |



PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE
616.949.2510



You will see information to read on the poster situated on the easel as well as information on the table. Wear your mask and take a sanitizing wipe with you to wipe off areas that you touch as you go through the building. Keep six feet of distance between yourself and other individuals or groups.

It may seem like you are being asked to do a lot just to be in the building! Once you have gone through these simple steps, the next time you visit will be a breeze. And, please keep in mind, that these temporary protocols are for your safety as well as the safety of Trinity members and friends.

September Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations!

September 1

David Fox
Hayden Fuger
Pat Johnson
John M. Leese
Brittany Thompson
Fran & Jerry Anderson
Pam & Gene Gunderson
Becky & Jurgen Luders

September 2

Brooke Giuliani
Audrey Kind
Audrey Korb
Gabe Mattison
Lois McCardell
Jaclyn & Zach Abbate
Brittney & Dan Zielinski

September 3

Kate Schaefer
Pam & Brad Burkle

September 4

Nathaniel Hahn
Patrick Ladwig
Doug Vander Woude
Brian Vigna
John Ziech
Marge & Jim Willman

September 5

Anna Breaugh
Alexander Hahn
Henry Harrison
John Johnson
Drake Selleck
Andrew Van Hagen
Samantha & Blake Garvey
Xristina & Gary Kuhlmann
Kara & Matthew Seyffert

September 6

John Ashby
Sarah Bernard
Nathan Howard
John Linsey
Nate McCardell
Stephen Nelson
Art Schmehling
Aven Smith
Karen Unruh
Lori & Greg Law

September 7

Addy Black
Bobbie Bollinger
Dustin Hughes
Madison Keller
Marilyn Mellema
Rachele & Greg Battreall
Laura & Tom Price

September 8

Eric Bryce
Malena Kind
Lisa Postlewaite

September 9

Dan Babin
Terri Greening
Parker Hutchinson
Lily Pardy
Lila Riegling
Cecilia Wood
Melissa & Doug Haneline
Sara & Joseph Robach

September 10

Eric Engblade
Lynn Getzin
Joy Horning
Ryan Huckstep
Michael Mulligan
Steve Olson
Mason Skalandis
Jeremy Tesch
Kellee & Liam Donovan
Karen & Don Smith

September 11

Brooke Kendall
Benjamin Sommers
Kyle Teichow
Brenda & Steve Heacock

September 12

Isabella Abbate
Bob Beaudry
Madelyn Ferguson
Midge Reges

September 13

Brett Ludeman
Rebekah Marks
Roger Marks
Tobias Marks
Dylan Rodriguez
Ryan Severns
Nikoa Wollen, Jr.
Susan & Gregg Cothorn
Kara & Bill Day
Jana & Mike Siminski
Morgan & Nate Taylor

September 14

Bill Bruin
Joe Fisher
Doug Haneline
Chad Hansen
Layla Lothschutz
Everett Phillips
Kristine & Gregory Lang

September 15

John Hall
Melat Lang
Joanne & Don Brouse

September 16

Debbie Duckworth
Ron Mishler

September 17

Chris Ashby
Benji Gavranovic
Dave Johnson
Megan Legault
Gabby Saum
Andrew Tyrell
Edmund Van Meter
Jennifer & Dustin Hughes

September 18

Andrew Ashby
Jamie Norris
Jacqueline Riegling
Kim & Bill Brock
Sarah & Dave Huckstep
Rebecca & Jeff Ulrich

September 19

Paul Deboer
Nate Peters
John Racek
Tori Shannon
Sue & Brian Bakkila
Gail & Brian Mazurek
Donna & Eric Wollen

September 20

Raymond Cargill
Bill Childers
Elizabeth Derbin
Jim McKee
Paula Tibbe & Todd Osbeck

September 21

Sammi Blair
John Hagenbush
Logan Juth
Jessica Marks
Chloe McMillan

September 22

John Fox
Levi Havard
Gloria Von der Heide
David Wait
Rebekah & Tobias Marks
Sue & Rodney Stanard

September 23

Joyce McKenzie
Laura & Allan Fawcett
Connie & Tom Helzer
Nicole & Nick Rodammer

September 24

Violet Bidle
Ian Hall
Nate Skalandis
Patricia Terpstra

September 25

Mark Bryce
Ethan Hale
Gregory Lang
Alyssa Phillips
Barb & Scott Hansen

September 26

Chloe Grooters
Karen Krummel
Sherry & Brad Blair
Sharon & David Flink

September 27

Liz Dever
Jennifer Hall
Mary Hamilton
William McClimans

September 28

Connie Helzer
Caroline Kuntzman
Marjorie Paul
Pamela Sellers

September 29

Joshua Braaten
Chad Crummel
Mary Johnson
Steven Kleiman
Joni Korb
Mike Lowe
Jenna Potter
Timothy Schauer
Michelle Wolner
Jennifer & Dennis Brown

September 30

Michelle Albaitis
Brianda Sellman
Kris & Mark Baker
Cami & Darin Estep (25)
Stacey & Kevin Henkel
Carol & Vince Schumacher

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

NEW! Trinity Fellowship Trivia Game!



Did you see the closeup photo on page nine of this newsletter? If you did, you know that we are starting a new trivia game of sorts.

Did you guess that the closeup photo was of the Christ Candle stand? If so, you are correct! The Christ Candle, pictured to the left, is located next to the baptismal font in the upstairs sanctuary. It was dedicated in memory of Pastor Emeritus David Paul (1934-2014).

You can find more of these Fellowship Trivia/Guessing Games on our Trinity Facebook Page. Just go to Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids on Facebook and like the page. We will be posting close up photos and answers two to three times a week on our Facebook page. We also plan to continue putting closeup photos and answers in the monthly issues of *The Messenger*. So, put on your thinking caps and learn a little more about some of the beautiful pieces displayed around Trinity in the process!

Trinity member, Amy Fox, is to be credited with using her creativity and photography skills in developing this fun activity for all of us to enjoy. Amy is a new Congregation Council member and the liaison to Trinity's Fellowship Committee. Thank you, Amy!



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 #)



facebook.com/tlcgr



YouTube.com
Search: Trinity
Lutheran
Church, gr

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Rev. Karen Niemeyer, Assisting Pastor (ext. 112)
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