



The Messenger

Returning to “In Person” Worship on March 7 – you are invited!



A year after this congregation began to refrain from “in person” worship on March 15, 2020 in the face of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, the people of Trinity Lutheran Church will begin a return to worship on Sunday, March 7, 2021. Beginning that Sunday, we will again gather for worship services onsite at 8 a.m. (traditional in the sanctuary), 9:15 a.m. (Rejoice worship in Centennial Hall) and 10:45 a.m. (traditional worship in the sanctuary). Current metrics in the Grand Rapids region show a marked decline in new cases of the virus and hospitalizations – those metrics will continue to be monitored by congregational leaders as we resume “in person” worship.

For those who do not elect to come back to worship this spring, live streaming of the 9:15 a.m. Rejoice worship service will continue every Sunday. The upgrading of the AV system in the sanctuary should be underway by late March so that we will have the option to live stream both Rejoice and traditional worship services in the months ahead.

Many will choose to not return to worship right away – we hope that everyone will make the best choice for their own health and safety. If you do return to worship beginning March 7, please know:

- that **entry to traditional worship** will be from the sanctuary’s exterior doors only; ushers/greeters will meet you when you arrive and offer instructions regarding our distanced seating
- that **entry to Rejoice worship** will be via the west main office entrance and the Northeast entrance only; usher/greeters will meet you as you arrive and offer instructions regarding our distanced seating
- that **seating will be designed to provide six feet distancing** between rows, and that you will be asked to keep six feet between you and others in your row of seating
- that **everyone will be asked to wear a mask** for the entire worship service
- that the **offering will be received at a fixed location** as you come to communion
- that usher/greeters will direct you forward to receive communion, maintaining six foot distancing between communicants
- that **communion will be served by wafer only**
- that **we will not sing** during worship, but that worshippers will be invited to hum along to hymns, liturgy and songs
- that there will be no ‘physical’ Children’s Time
- that we will remain in our places at the Sharing of the Peace
- that we will not be providing nursery care or Coffee Hour refreshments at this time
- that a cleaning/disinfecting of the sanctuary will occur after the 8 a.m. worship service in preparation for the 10:45 a.m. worship service
- that you will be **ushered out of the worship space** at the end of the liturgy

Like it was with our short-lived attempt to return to worship in late October, that feels like a long list of provisions, but we are seeking to facilitate this return to worship with an abundance of caution.

Blessings O people of Trinity Lutheran Church! Come, and let us worship . . .

What's Happening at Trinity in March?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

Virtual Sunday School

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.

Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.

Zoom Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

High School Youth Group, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Pastor Bob's "Made for Goodness"

Adult Forum via Zoom, 10:30 a.m.

GriefShare, 4 p.m.

Lenten Midweek Worship (via YouTube), 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Good Night Trinity

Daily Calendar

Monday, March 1

Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.

Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2

Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 5

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

Sunday, March 7

High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.

Fifth Grade Holy Communion Class, 2 p.m.

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.

Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Monday, March 8

Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9

Communications Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10

Youth & Family Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 11

Entering the Narrow Gate, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 12

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

Sunday, March 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 12:30 p.m.

Fifth Grade Holy Communion Class, 2 p.m.

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.

Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Monday, March 15

Messenger Submissions Due

Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16

Health Ministry Action Committee, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18

Pandemic Prayer Group, 11 a.m.

Children's Ministry Meeting, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 19

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

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Grade Blessing and Presentation of Study Bibles

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.

Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Middle School Event, 5 p.m.

Monday, March 22

Outreach Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Walk & Talk Zoom Gathering, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23

Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Book Club, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 26

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

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
Confirmation Service Projects, 3 p.m.

March 14 Daylight Savings begins - spring ahead!



Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night, March 13 before you go to bed for the night. Or you might want to just rely on the time on your cell phone.

Ideally, we will all arrive for "in person" worship at the beginning of the

service we intended! And if you are not quite on time, not to worry. Chances are you will not be the only person temporarily confused about the time.

Happy "spring!"

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



All Life Is Interconnected – but we already knew that . . .

In the second episode of *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, in an exploration of evolution and genetics called “**Some of the Things Molecules Do,**” series narrator Neil DeGrasse Tyson shares an amazing bit of data. Reviewing the genetic formulae of the few living creatures who have had their full genome deciphered, he points out how the genetic code for processing sugar into energy among all of these living things – insects, animals, and fungi – is *exactly* the same. This fact does more than give strong proof that all life has a common, primeval ancestor. It is a tangible, scientifically verifiable proof that all life is interconnected. “Accepting our kinship with all life on Earth is not only solid science,” he concludes. “In my view, it’s also a soaring spiritual experience.”

I receive such scientific examination to be fascinating and uplifting. Skeptics of evolution and skeptics of religious faith weigh in readily when encountering such proofs, but I find that such proofs of the interconnectedness of life evoke for me a sense of awe and testify to the intent of our Creator God.

Paul wrote to the Roman Church, “For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” (Romans 12:4-5) We are members, one of another. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it this way, that all [of us] “are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be . . .” And in an age of growing awareness of our interconnectedness with the world around us, DeGrasse Tyson’s presentation also affirms the imperative that we embrace our role as stewards of creation.

“We are all in this together . . .” Of course, we knew this all along. As I write this little article, I have gathered with about 260 of the people of Trinity in introductory “Trinity Neighbors” Zoom meetings and I still have a few more to attend. It has been wonderful to see so many of our people in these new configurations of 30 ‘neighborhoods’ and to dream of ways to build on our interconnectedness as a congregation. On a very small scale, this initiative draws on the cosmic assertions of *A Spacetime Odyssey* and we are reminded of how good it is to be together. Thanks be to God.

I hope that you will find a place in one of our Trinity Neighbors neighborhoods, a new thing in our commitment to being together in community. As the Apostle Paul said, we are members, one of another . . .

It remains a privilege to serve as a pastor among the people of Trinity.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Linstrom

Made for Goodness – a Wednesday Adult Forum



MADE FOR GOODNESS

And
Why This Makes All the Difference

“This book is a great gift to the world.” — *As Richard Doerflinger*

DESMOND TUTU
and MPHOTO TUTU

The people of Trinity are invited to join Pastor Linstrom in the late winter of 2021 for a Wednesday morning Adult Forum study based on Desmond Tutu’s [Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference](#). This multi-week study began in mid-January and continues weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom meetings and recordings posted on our YouTube channel through the end of March.

The series is using Tutu’s book as source material and seeks to explore what it means that “we are made for goodness and it is up to us to live up to our destiny.” With his daughter Mpho Tutu, we are being encouraged to engage the work of Desmond Tutu, and the call to hope, joy and the claim to the goodness we were made for. The themes for the sessions in the weeks ahead are as follows:

March 3	Chapter 7 – “Where is God When We Fail?”
March 10	Chapter 8 – “Why Does God Let Us Sin?”
March 17	Chapter 9 – “Going Home to Goodness”
March 24	Chapter 10 – “Hearing God’s Voice”
March 31	Chapter 11 – “Seeing with God’s Eyes”

Join us on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom this winter for study and conversation!

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)



For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

2 Peter 1:5-7

My reading of the above verse from Saint Peter, is his encouragement for each of us while on earth to seek continuous improvement and a maturity of our Christian faith. We either move forward or backward. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a very challenging environment for all of us, some more so than others. Too many lives have been lost, and too many livelihoods have been negatively impacted. Yet, with the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, we have had an extraordinary opportunity to learn and grow.

I am the council liaison to the Spiritual Growth Committee (SGC). The mission of the SGC is to support the congregation in growing their understanding of God's Word by encouraging lifelong Christian learning and providing opportunities for members to deepen their personal faith.

Historically, the work of the SGC such as Women's retreats, Grace Groups, Book Discussions, etc. was accomplished in a personal setting. This past year, we have transitioned much of the work to be delivered in a virtual setting. Of course there are pros and cons to both settings, what is most important is that we keep moving forward, each of us growing in love and relationship with God and our love and relationship with each other.

As I write this message, we have another terrific opportunity to learn and grow, The Lenten Grace Groups. Grace Groups are Trinity's short term small group Bible Studies. The Lenten Grace Groups take place during the five weeks of Lent, between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, for weekly study and conversation. It is a great way to see and connect with old friends and make new acquaintances. We are using a lectionary-based study published by the ELCA entitled "Daily Discipleship." It is not too late to join a group, click on the link to the SignUp Genius in one of the recent Trinity Friday eBlasts.

The SGC members include: Sue Babin, Kristin Bradley, Kim Brock, Kris Racek, Sylvia Stouten, Pastor Bob, and myself. The Spiritual Growth Team meets on the first Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 p.m. If you are relatively new to TLC or a long time TLC member and simply would like to get more involved, please consider joining our committee. In closing, I share a favorite passage, **1 Thessalonians 5:16. Be joyful always, pray continuously; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Brad Kessel

Congregation Council Liaison, Spiritual Growth Committee

Copies of the Annual Report available in the church office and online

The people of Trinity gathered for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 17, receiving 2020 reports, electing new leaders and adopting a budget for 2021. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the church office. You can also access the report on the Trinity website.

Another great year of progress in servicing our mortgage

At the end of fiscal year 2019, the first year in servicing our mortgage after completion of the \$5.8 million building project, financial reports indicated mortgage debt of \$1,662,145. That was very good news – we were projecting a mortgage of \$2 million following a successful building project at Trinity and a remarkably generous capital appeal program.

The Congregation Council received the financial report for fiscal year 2021 at its February 8 meeting and celebrated the continuity of very generous giving to reduce our mortgage debt. With all giving for the fiscal year reported, the mortgage principal balance has been reduced to \$1,535,448. That reduction of our mortgage principal balance by more than \$126,000 in the 2020 fiscal year is another sign of the deep generosity and faithfulness of the Trinity congregation.

Congratulations to the people of Trinity for their ongoing care of this obligation and a very successful building project.



Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of January 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	98,786	83,392	(15,394)	- 15.6%
Total Expenses	97,114	89,438	7,676	7.9%
Net Income (Loss)	1,672	(6,046)	(7,718)	



2021 Fiscal Year-to-Date February 2020 thru January 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	1,169,916	1,257,026	87,110	7.4%
Total Expenses	1,124,691	997,518	127,173	11.3%
Net Income (Loss)	45,225	259,508	214,283	

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

"... and you shall be my people, and I will be your God." Jeremiah 30:22

This particular promise comes from God to the people of Israel through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah. God speaks to them a word of comfort in the midst of their troubled times. God reminds them of the promises God has made to them, to always be with them, and of the love that God has for them. Again and again, God speaks this promise to us in the midst of our troubles ... God reminds us that we are not alone, that God has not forgotten about us, and that God has a plan for us.

This sentiment of the people being God's people, is repeated countless times throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. Vast swaths of the scriptures are dedicated to helping the people understand just what this promise means to them and their daily lives. It is more than mental gymnastics for them to agree to; someday this reality has practical implications for how they live with one another.

The books of the laws (Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy...) are filled with regulations and ways for the people to, more than understand, live into this new reality. They are no longer the people they were once were, slaves in the land of Egypt. Instead they are God's people learning how to live in the promised land and God has plans for how they can do this.

These laws, guidelines, and rules are given to the people to help form them into the kind of people God wants them to be, not necessarily the kind of people they want to be. This is the same thrust behind the 10 Commandments. These rules, directions, are given to us as a gift, to help us shape up, to help us turn from our desires for how we would like to be and become oriented toward how God would have us be with one another.

This Lent, I invite you to join us in seeking to be formed by God into the people God would have us be. We are to be formed by the practices of Lent: fasting, abstaining, prayer, introspection, contemplation, service, and giving. This Lent, I hope these disciplines can help us see the people we are, and the people God would have us be for the sake of the world that God loves.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan Schewe



Fifth Grade Holy Communion Class meeting with Pastor Bob

Pastor Linstrom is leading a Fifth Grade Communion class for Trinity kids on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. via Zoom during the season of Lent. All our fifth graders will be presented with the Study Bible they will use in sixth, seventh and eighth grade Confirmation classes at the end of the four-session Sunday class, with that presentation and an order of blessing in worship on the Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21. With the return to "in person" worship, the blessing will likely occur both live and in a virtual format with the Bible presentation scheduled later in the year.

The four-session class continues meeting on Sunday afternoons via Zoom on February 28, March 7 and 14. Be in touch with Pastor Bob with questions or for more information.





March and April Confirmation Class Schedule

The current plan is to continue Confirmation Classes and Middle School Youth Group via Zoom. The sessions are being recorded and saved to an unlisted YouTube playlist that families can access with a link from Pastor Dan. Watch your email for changes.

March 7, 14, and 21: Youth group from 2 to 3 p.m. and class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

March 28: Possibly service from 3 to 5 p.m. instead of class. Watch for updates.

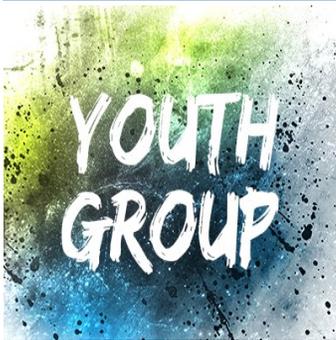
April 4: No Class for Easter!

April 11 and 18: Youth group from 2 to 3 p.m. and Class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

April 25: Confirmation Class only.

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

High School News



Be sure to check our YouTube channel and look for my weekly emails for current updates. As we all know too well, plans can change quickly these days!

First Sunday of the Month Bible Study – March 7

All high school youth, and their friends, are invited to join Pastor Dan for Bible study during the 9:15 a.m. service on March 7. We are planning on meeting via Zoom. Watch our Remind messages and YouTube updates if things change. We will be exploring the scriptures and how they connect and guide our lives. Get your donuts and join Pastor Dan!

High School Youth Group – Sundays at 7 p.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for our weekly youth group on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. We are continuing to explore who our neighbors are and how we can care for one another in these strange times. We are currently meeting on Zoom. For updates check your weekly emails from Pastor Dan and our weekly YouTube updates.

Mission Trip

You are invited to an important conversation about this summer's mission trip. We will meet on Sunday, February 28 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Pastor Dan would like to talk to parents and youth about whether or not we should go to Hazlet, NJ. We will talk about what we know, what we don't know, and what the week would look like from the information received from Group Mission Trips. Pastor Dan would also like to talk about some emerging summer plans for community service things around Grand Rapids.

Here is the information to join that meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89871607614?pwd=MyswTUVIM1d6T1VEdnVPeE1NZkNPZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 7160 7614

Passcode: TLCGRMT?

Stay connected with our high school ministries via Remind: text @2ehkd8 to the number 81010.

Stay connected with our mission trip via Remind: text @a289cd to the number 81010.

Children's Ministry



Young and Sleepless 3.0 launches this spring!

Do you have a newborn or toddler? Would you like to connect with Trinity families at the same stage of life? Then this group is for you! "The Young and the Sleepless" is a fellowship group especially for Trinity families with young children ages birth through preschool age. Every few years, a new generation of Y&S is launched. For the past decade, many strong friendships have formed between Y&S families. Parents offer and receive support and encouragement from each other. As children grow, they are excited to be with friends at church and Sunday school.

Typically the Y&S families gather about once a month for family adventures at church, parks, zoos, apple orchards, and more. Date nights are very popular, with childcare offered in the church nursery. Unfortunately, the current health crisis has put a pause on many activities. But, as the weather warms, many families can look forward to venturing outdoors. With spring comes hope and new adventures!

Interested parents are invited to participate in an informational Zoom call this spring facilitated by Pastor Bob. Look for more information in the months ahead. If you have any questions, please reach out to Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall.



Let the children come!

After so many months of "at home church" children may find it difficult to sit in church. (And yes, some adults may find it difficult too!)

We have "Busy Bags" available for young children. Each bag contains crayons, paper, and quiet activities to keep children occupied during worship. Busy bags can be picked up from the ushers and greeters.

Copies of the Children's Worship Bulletin are also available, good for children and youth, containing activities related to the scripture readings.

New Volunteers Needed to help with live streaming of worship

Volunteer Opportunities in Centennial Hall and the Sanctuary

In the late winter of 2021, a significant new AV system is under development for installation in the sanctuary, seeking to remedy many years of challenges in sound amplification in an extremely bright acoustic space. Long recognized as a wonderful room for music because of that exemplary acoustic environment, the sanctuary has been a challenging space for properly hearing the amplified spoken word. The new AV system will meet that challenge in addition to providing improved hearing assistance support and, for the first time, the ability to live stream from the sanctuary.

We are also implementing an upgrade to the Centennial Hall video system to improve our live streaming and recording technology as part of the overall AV project.

As we begin to return to "in person" worship, new volunteers are needed to assist with live streaming of worship in both the sanctuary and Centennial Hall. For more information, contact the church office or one of the pastors to learn what is needed and/or to schedule training.



Lenten Blood Drive at Trinity - Monday, March 1

Be a First Responder!

You too can join the front lines in the fight against COVID-19 by ensuring that our community's blood supply remains strong. Versiti of Michigan will be here on Monday, March 1 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. in the Courtyard to accept your Lenten donation. Your sacrifice of time is all it takes to save at least three lives!

The link to sign up is - https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/125304 or you can contact Sue Babin by phone or text at 267.218.5967 or email smbabin@yahoo.com.

Versiti continues to test for COVID-19 antibodies on successful donations. The biggest "new" thing is how the vaccine impacts donation. Donors essentially have to wait two full days before donating after the shot, so anyone vaccinated after Friday, February 26 will need to sit this drive out.

The link to answer your health questions the morning of the drive is: versiti.org/versipass/michigan-versipass

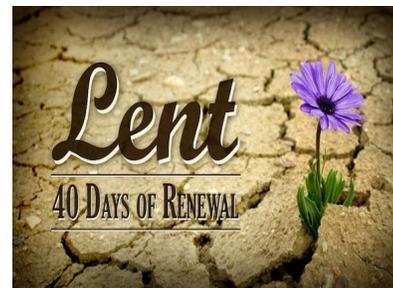
Remember, the need is constant, so give if you can. Oh, and HOMEMADE COOKIES ARE BACK!



Lent Culminates with our Holy Week Journey to the Empty Tomb

Lent began with our observance of Ash Wednesday on February 17. Holy Week begins March 28 and provides the culmination of the Lenten journey to Easter morning at Trinity in 2021.

- **Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday**, March 28, with the Blessing of Palms at 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 1, worship at 7 p.m.
- **Good Friday**, April 2, worship at 7 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of Our Lord** – April 4, festival worship at 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.



With our return to “in person” worship we are planning for Holy Week worship in the sanctuary and Centennial Hall with live streaming for those who are not yet ready to return to worship. Plan now to be with us as we get “to the heart of the story” during Lent and Easter in 2021!

Wednesday Lenten Midweek Worship Recordings continue

Our time-honored tradition of gathering on Wednesdays for Soup Suppers and then worship in the sanctuary has been curtailed in Lent of 2021. Meal fellowship will likely not occur at Trinity until we have achieved a post-pandemic reality in west Michigan, but there is an offering of Compline, the Service of Prayer at the Close of the Day weekly on Lenten Wednesdays through March 24.



Wednesday
Lenten Services

Much like the Advent Vespers services, Lenten Midweek Worship is being recorded and made available via Trinity’s YouTube channel. Pastor Bob serves as cantor and Pastor Dan is offering a Wednesday preaching series during Lent of 2021. Check congregational emails each Wednesday to follow the link to our Lenten Compline services.

Lenten Grace Groups - it’s not too late to join in the discussion!

Everyone is invited and encouraged to join a Grace Group, Trinity’s short term small group Bible Studies that meet weekly during Lent to read and reflect on the same topic. Trinity members volunteer to serve as small group facilitators and each Grace Group studies the same topic and uses the same materials. Because of the current restrictions to safely meet together in person, Lenten Grace Groups in 2021 will take place via Zoom at least initially.

Most of the 2021 Grace Groups have started meeting but you would still be welcome to join in. Please go to the link found in recent Trinity eBlast to sign up. If it is not possible for you to join a small group, please consider using the materials for your own individual study and reflection.

We are using a free lectionary-based study published by the ELCA entitled “Daily Discipleship.” Hard copies of the study can be picked up in the office at Trinity. You can also find the study in its entirety on the Trinity website under “Adult Ministry.” Be sure to view a recorded Grace Group video on Trinity’s YouTube channel to assist in your studies.

If you would like more information, please contact Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten.



Graphic by Olivia Bradley

Easter Flower Contributions

On Easter morning our sanctuary will be a beautiful floral garden of lilies, tulips, daffodils and hydrangeas.



Easter Flower Contribution Form

Please use this form to make an Easter flower gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Forms are due by Wednesday, March 25. You may drop the form with your payment in the offering plate, contact the church office, or mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Please print legibly - thank you!

First Name

Last Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Yes! I'd like to make a Easter Flower donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

_____ Number of tulip plants (\$10 each)

_____ Number of daffodil plants (\$10 each)

\$ _____

_____ Number of lily plants (\$10 each)

_____ Number of hydrangea plants (\$25 each)

My contribution is given by: (list how you would like your name to appear in the bulletin): _____

in honor of: _____

in memory of: _____

Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church - (write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line)

NOTE: If you ordered flowers for Easter 2020, we still have your order and will order them for this Easter 2021.

Walk & Talk

WALK & TALK



March Focus: Virtues for Healthy Living

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." Galatians 5:22-25

In the above passage from Galatians, Paul reminds us of the fruits of the Spirit, or virtues for a healthy spiritual life and relationship with our Creator. As we move through the weeks to come, we will reflect on these fruits and how they may help us on our journey.

Combining scripture, devotion and physical activity, in whatever ways work best for you, we are caring well for our minds, bodies and spirits. Each week you'll receive an email with a brief message, weekly devotion and the monthly zoom link.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a44a4a92aa5fb6-walk> or connect with Rebecca Ulrich or Kristin Bradley.

Pandemic Prayer Group



Please consider joining fellow Trinity members for focused prayer time on the third Thursdays of the month at 11 a.m. through Zoom. Our meeting in March will take place on March 18. Together we will seek God's strength, hope, understanding and peace during this pandemic season.

Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with any questions and/or specific prayer requests.

<https://zoom.us/j/93322681488>

Meeting ID: 933 2268 1488

Passcode: 091483

2021 Family Promise Virtual Gala - Thursday, March 11



You are invited to look ahead with Family Promise to a "new day" in 2021! The night of the virtual gala will feature live music, a gift box for each household, the Shining Star Award Recipient, the Nikole Canute Scholarship Award and Fund the Mission Auction.

The virtual event will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 11. The cost to participate is \$100 per household. You are asked to register by March 1 by contacting Kate O'Keefe at 616.608.8905 or kate@familypromisegr.org.

Thanks to our community, Family Promise has been able to continue their important work, ensuring families have had a safe place to shelter during the pandemic. You will have an opportunity at this event to financially support the work of Family Promise.

Stephen Leaders Brenda Heacock and Sue Coates Retire

With mixed emotions, the Stephen Leader team bids a fond farewell to Brenda Heacock and Sue Coates. These dedicated women have served Stephen Ministry for many years and have strengthened it with their skill and wisdom.

When Brenda attended Stephen Leader Training in 1996, little did she know it would ignite a passion that would endure for 25 years. A Trinity staff member at the time, Brenda organized the first Stephen Ministry class and has championed the organization ever since. Over the years she has served in many capacities, including training, matching care receivers with ministers, acting as a Stephen Minister herself, and coordinating the leadership team.

We are thankful she answered the call to use her gifts of compassion and empathy to nurture care receivers, mentor Stephen Ministers and make dozens of matches, pairing those in need with ministers. She has stepped in to fill the gap during staffing transitions and she has recruited gifted leaders and ministers to carry on. Her organizational skills have been key in keeping the ministry strong for decades.

Sue Coates was a trained Stephen Minister when she joined the Trinity congregation in 2013. She jumped right in with refresher training and has served in the ministry ever since. As a Stephen Minister, Sue faithfully walked with her care receivers and has been a blessing to her fellow ministers, imparting wisdom and support during supervision. Sue stepped into leadership in 2017. She has been a key resource in training and has led supervision of a group of ministers. Sue also made it her mission to raise awareness of Stephen Ministry for those in need and those who wish to serve. Her caring spirit and warm personality have been a gift. Sue will continue as a Stephen Minister, a calling dear to her heart.

We thank Brenda and Sue for their generous contribution to Stephen Ministry and wish them continued blessings in their future endeavors.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**



Brenda Heacock



Sue Coates

Nurse's Notes

ON RE-ENTRY ~ TAKE 2...

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

Using an Advent verse during Lent is probably atypical but that sort of summarizes the year we've had, doesn't it?! It's been a very long, tumultuous, stressful, isolating year and yet... we can now see light at the end of the tunnel! We know by faith that the Light has always been present but sometimes our physical circumstances overshadow the light of Christ.



We are heading into spring, school is back in session, extracurricular activities have restarted, more businesses are open, vaccines are being distributed and we get to join together again for worship!

So much LIGHT!

Our re-entry protocols from last fall served us quite well and will guide us again as we gather together. We may be tired of masking, sanitizing and keeping our distance but we must stay vigilant in these areas to best care for each other while this pandemic is still a threat to our lives and livelihood of us all.

Here's a little refresher:

Masks are expected to be worn over your nose and mouth when inside the building (even if you've had Covid 19 or the vaccine series). Seating in the Courtyard and Sanctuary remain distanced and we recommend household units stay 6 feet from each other. Use the Sanctuary entrances for the 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services and the west or Northeast entries for the 9:15 a.m. service. Please refrain from coming to Trinity if you feel unwell or have had an unprotected exposure to someone with Covid-19.

At this time the nursery is unavailable, but children of all ages are welcome in church! Individual kids' activity bags can be picked up as you enter all services. With a bit more room around all of our seats, there is definitely space for our young ones to join in and be comfortable. We all agree with Jesus: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."* Matthew 19:14

Our LiveStream worship continues and will become even more robust as the Sanctuary audio/visual system is installed and upgrades are made to the Courtyard system. If you aren't able to view the services online and aren't able to be present in person, please call the church office and arrangements can be made to receive weekly communications and worship notes by mail.

Whether we get to worship in our church building - spaced apart with energetic kids (or antsy adults) at our feet; or in our homes - eating breakfast or doing dishes; or in the car on the way to visit family; or in the afternoon when time allows... the spirit of the Lord will be in our space together!

ON COVID-19 VACCINES...

(This information is up to date as of publication printing ~ February 15, 2021)

When one person asks a question, it's likely many others are thinking it too. Below is a compilation of questions fellow congregation members have asked regarding the Covid-19 vaccine. Thanks to everyone who is reaching out to make the most informed decisions for themselves and those around them. Let's keep learning together!

1. Are these vaccines safe? The process seemed so rushed.

Yes, the vaccines are safe. The timeline was accelerated due to: previous research, funding and resources, high levels of disease, production, overlapping phases and enrollment in trials. In this case speed does not mean compromise.

2. How do I sign up for the vaccine? AND... I've filled out the online form, but haven't heard anything back. Should I call? Will I miss out?

This has definitely caused frustration. There have been supply chain issues and communication challenges with this roll out nationwide. Please be patient. The number of people waiting to get their immunizations is so encouraging!

There are a number of ways to request vaccination appointments. To be notified when you are eligible to make an appointment for a vaccine, please click on or call one of the providers listed on the next page and complete a COVID-19 vaccination questionnaire. As doses become available, eligible individuals will be contacted by that provider to make an appointment.

If you have already filled out a questionnaire, you WILL be notified when vaccines are available for you. If you already have requested appointments from more than one place, please only take one appointment when offered.

Nurse's Notes Continued

[Kent County Health Department](#) 616.326.6992

[Mercy Health](#) MyChart

[Spectrum Health](#) MyChart

[Metro Health - University of Michigan Health](#) MyChart or 616.252.6161

[West Michigan Vaccination Clinic at DeVos Place](#) 833.755.0696

Calling the **United Way at 2-1-1** is also a way to be directed to vaccination resources.

3. I'm not comfortable getting this vaccine. If I pass now, can I get it later? What can I do to help stay protected and keep my loved ones safe?

Vaccine hesitancy is understandable. We've had a great deal of new information thrown at us at a rapid pace over the past year. Please continue to seek the information you need to make the best decision for you. If now is not the right time for you to get vaccinated, know that you will be able to get immunized at a later date. In the meantime, you can best care for yourself and others by masking, distancing, hand washing and limiting time in close proximity to others.

4. I am immuno-compromised. Is it safe for me to get the vaccine?

In almost all cases -- YES! The current vaccines are not made of inactivated virus, so you can not get Covid-19 from the vaccine. The risks of Covid-19 disease are far greater than the adverse effects of the vaccine. If you are on chemo, immunotherapy or steroids, check with your health care provider to coordinate your vaccination with your treatments.

5. I'm allergic to a lot of things - what about an allergic reaction to this vaccine?

The current Covid-19 vaccines do not contain egg, soy, or peanuts. If you have had a severe reaction (breathing problems, total body hives, anaphylaxis) to a vaccine in the past, please discuss with your health care provider before signing up for an appointment.

6. Should I expect to feel sick after getting the vaccine? Should I take medicines to avoid this?

Some people report arm muscle soreness, body aches, fatigue or fever in the day or two following a Covid-19 immunization. This is expected. It's your body ramping up your immune system so the next time it is exposed to this virus it can kill it. More people report these symptoms after their second vaccine dose and younger people (under 55) seem to be more affected.

The current recommendation is to avoid taking Tylenol or Advil BEFORE your vaccination. If you get some of the aches afterward, it's OK to medicate as needed.

7. If I already had Covid-19, should I still get vaccinated? If so, how long should I wait?

Yes, you should be vaccinated even if you've had the COVID-19 infection. If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with antibodies or plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your health care provider if you are unsure what treatments you received.

8. When can I safely see people outside of my 'bubble' after having the vaccine? Will I still need to take precautions?

After completing the Covid vaccination, it takes 2 weeks to reach full immunity benefits. At that time YOU will be protected against severe Covid-19 disease. There is more freedom to see your family and friends but consider distancing, masking, having good ventilation and continuing to wash your hands often! Once everyone in a family/friend group is vaccinated it's very safe to get together but it will be several months before the vaccine is readily available to the general public.

9. Why do I need to continue to wear a mask after I'm vaccinated?

Vaccines prevent severe disease but do not completely prevent infection. Having asymptomatic disease makes it still possible to spread the virus to others. Until we substantially reduce community transmission of Covid-19 and continue to see hospitalizations and deaths dramatically decrease, we still need to wear masks and practice physical distancing even after vaccination, especially in public places at large gatherings.

10. Can I give blood after getting the vaccine?

Versiti Blood (Trinity's blood drive partner) has a 48 hour waiting period after a Covid-19 vaccine administration prior to donating blood or platelets.

Thanks for all of your questions. Praise God we have the ability to research, refine and adjust!

Let's close with a Lenten verse...

"but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

With anticipation and in His Peace,
Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse

Resources: [CDC](#), [Johns Hopkins](#), [Mayo Clinic](#), [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#), [Vaccinate West Michigan](#),

2020 Benevolence Giving by Trinity Lutheran Church

Access of West Michigan	\$5,794.58
AYA Youth Collective	\$2,000.00
Arbor Circle	\$4,000.00
Baxter Community Center	\$1,672.31
Blessed by Brookelyn	\$4,000.00
Community Food Club	\$4,000.00
Community Rebuilders	\$4,000.00
Congress Elementary School	\$1,000.00
Dégagé Ministries	\$7,625.65
Dwelling Place	\$4,338.45
ELCA Disaster Response	\$3,790.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$11,073.00
Exalta Health	\$6,639.07
Family Promise (IHN)	\$20,574.03
God's Kitchen	\$406.14
Habitat for Humanity	\$11,536.73
Heartside Gleaning	\$4,000.00
Heartside Ministry	\$406.14
Home Repair Services	\$2,078.45
ICCF	\$6,875.38
In the Image	\$2,755.34
Kids Coalition Against Hunger	\$7,000.00
Kids Food Basket	\$1,268.99
Living Water Ministries	\$131,643.14
MI Interfaith Power and Light	\$840.92
Mission India - Neerekshe	\$37,000.00
New City Neighbors	\$1,401.55
NW Lower MI Synod	\$106,000.00
The Pantry	\$1,862.68
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$30,316.90
Safe Haven Ministries	\$1,401.55
Samaritas New Am. Services	\$3,667.33
Samaritas Senior Living	\$541.52
SECOM	\$1,862.68
Seminarian Grant	\$5,000.00
World Vision	\$235.70
YWCA	\$4,000.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$430,878.99

Thank you to all of you who so kindly and generously contributed to Trinity Benevolence in 2020! Trinity's gifts to support our local and global community have always been an integral part of our mission to serve joyfully in response to all people in need, sharing God's gifts of love and grace.

Circumstances during most of 2020 prevented us from gathering in groups to work together and the need has been greater than ever. Nevertheless, Trinity members have been committed to helping our neighbors any way possible.

Because of our fiscal year (February 1 to January 31), the information on this page was not available at the time of our Annual Meeting of the Congregation in January.

Praise God for the blessings Trinity members shared with others!

Gifts-in-Kind

Trinity members are very generous when we have special projects and collections of items to be distributed in our community or around the world.

Blood Drives at Trinity - in 2020, 120 whole blood cell donations, 20 double red cell donations and one plasma donation were gifted.

Cleaning Supplies, Personal Care Items, Coats and Blankets, Diapers and Underwear - people in need received these donations through organizations in the greater Grand Rapids area such as Family Promise, Dégagé Ministries, Exodus Place, In the Image, Samaritas, etc.

Congress Elementary School - donations from Trinity members included numerous school supplies as well as hygiene and disinfecting supplies to help students and teachers stay safe during the unusual 2020-21 school year.

IHN Backpacks - 25 backpacks filled with useful and fun items were packed and delivered to Family Promise to distribute to the homeless children in shelter.

Kids Coalition Against Hunger - we were able to pack 25,854 simple, nutritious meals for distribution both locally and globally.

Lutheran World Relief Quilters - 102 quilts, 44 school kits and eight fabric kits made by Trinity women will be distributed around the world wherever they are most needed. The group also made at least 436 face masks for adults and children for local distribution.

Gifts for Refugee Families - Trinity members have been very generous in supplying numerous items for the refugee family we are currently sponsoring as well as for the children other refugee families supervised by Samaritas New American Services.

TLC Quilters - 48 quilts for baptisms and gifts for members were made by this group of Trinity women.

Volunteer Hours - our gifts of time in being of help to others was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. We look forward in 2021 to volunteering again at Dégagé Ministries, through Family Promise (IHN), tutoring, etc.

Small Group Forming to Study "The 1619 Project"

A brief message to those of you who have been inspired by some of the national and local messages in February featuring Black History Month in the United States:

Our church (our own congregation as well as the ELCA generally) has been described as the "whitest church." Do you remember the book [Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US](#), by Lenny Duncan?

Let's try digging a little deeper into the subject.

In 2019, to honor the 400-year saga of the African population in the United States, in all its struggle and horror and perseverance, *The New York Times* began publishing "The 1619 Project." The Project features a large and growing library of essays and poems on the experience of persons of African descent, as slaves and servants and menials and celebrities and leaders and dissidents and citizens.

Shall we start a literature study group based on the material in "The 1619 Project?" We may discover much that was omitted in our secondary school American history classes.

For additional information about "The 1619 Project" go to : <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html> or scan the QR Code below.

Please call Vince Schumacher at 616.204.7681 or the church office to express your interest.



Personal Care Items to be Collected through April

The members of Trinity's Outreach Committee would like to encourage everyone to consider donating personal care items during the months of March and April. These will be donated to area social service agencies for distribution to their patrons. Many go without the simple things we take for granted.

The following items are most appreciated:

- bar soap, body wash, deodorant, Q-tips, nail file/clippers
- toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, mouth wash
- comb, brush, shampoo, conditioner, hand or body lotion, lip balm

While sample sizes are useful, it would be wonderful if we could provide items in regular sizes that will last longer.

Please drop off your donations in the labeled black bin located in the entryway of the main entrance on the west side of the building by Sunday, April 25.



News Briefs



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" to 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.
- 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!

Thank You Note



Dear Trinity Family,

Sue and I want to thank you for all of the prayers, cards, emails, and texts we received after my stroke and Sue's step-father's passing. Your caring and concern for us during the past couple of months has been very comforting. Due to COVID and taking care of me, Sue was unable to travel to Arizona to be with her mother, but through modern technology was able to watch his memorial service live. My rehab is progressing well and I plan to return to work soon.

Thank you all, again, very much.

In Christ's name,
Neil and Sue Sandler

March Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations!

March 1

Sam Schewe

March 2

Stellan Bowman
Connor Fetting
Allie Idema
Kristen Selleck

March 3

Josh Anderson
Melanie Glenn
John Keller
Mandy Kettel
Lauren Krug
Phillip Youngman

March 4

Jeff Fischer
Xristina Kuhlmann
John Walls
Gary Watson

March 5

Grant Ferguson
Maria Heldt
Heather Kimble
Avery Missman
Lillian Scalabrino
Lisa Tesch
Sydney Waite
Margaret & Chad Crummel

March 6

Judy Carlson
Dean Juth
Travis McMillan, II
Jo Murphy
Hannah Perez
Debbie Shumaker

March 7

Tom Anderson
Megan Brackmann
Sharon Brandner
Kevin Conway
Leslie Gallagher
Kenneth Lown
Ruby Peterman
Brian Talsma

March 8

Angel Bonjour
Mike Danielski
Marge Enell
Linda Hallman
Jim Hudson
Ashley Perkins
Jessica Scalabrino

March 9

William Becker
Avery Hungerford
Carol Huttenga
Gayl Kessel
Joanna Kutschinski
Kali Mochel
Kate Vander Woude

March 10

Kyle Basher
Mary Beth Mencarelli
Carol Welz-Gustafson
Aidan Zarou

March 11

Linnea Fox
Chad Saum

March 12

Nicholas Claus
Grant Juth
Samantha Smith

March 13

Diane Barnes
Heather Loepp
Sarah Pfeiffle
Everett Taylor
Zoey Zupin

March 14

Gwyneth Hoeksema
Torie Lynn
Ethan Schaefer
Mike Siminski
Audrey Zollman

March 15

Amanda Brondyke
Dan Lynn
Kathy & Bill Bush

March 16

Lydia Albaitis
Harris Frecka
Charlotte Worsfold

March 17

Joyce Bonbrake
Brenna Havard
Denny Helzer
Elizabeth Mulligan
Joan Start
Steve Triesenberg
Tim Vander Woude

March 18

Daniel Gutierrez
Kristine Lang
Marian Schaible
Ashley Zollman
Erin & Bill Childers
Sheila & Dave Talsma

March 19

Dana Brouse
Morgan Cole
Ray Engle
Natalie & Darrell Yeager

March 20

Emily Albaitis
Martha Blandford
Lindsey Czerew
Kaori Schau
Ben Worsfold
Tom Worsfold
Kathy Young
Shauna & Jeff Allchin
Janet & James Genow (50)

March 21

Bill Bailey
Robert Guigue
Sally Reinke
John Schuen
Brittney Zielinski

March 22

Olivia Black
Maggie Coles
Chris Engle
Paul Getzin
Eric Larson
Kathryn Larson
Chris Owens
Kelly Smith & Edward Gauthier

March 23

Jack Cole

March 24

Olivier Bouwman
Bob Hamilton
Ashlie Johnson
Tate King
Meredith Kubicek
Katarina Lundgren
Tim Lundgren
Andy Nikolajuk
John Ruble

March 25

Megan Ahrens
Brandon Basher
Beverly Block
Cora Dudley
Julie Earhart
Gail Mester
Patti Patton

March 26

Richard Gehl
Megan Glass
Jack Greiner
Richard Mencarelli
Michael Rubenstahl
Jennifer Sommers

March 27

Mason Childers
Dave Ezell
Chris Posthumus
Sammye Zollman

March 28

Sue Babin
Jim Donahue
Stacey Phillips
Bruce Schlanderer
Franny Turnage

March 29

Everson Brang
Brian Rieth
Lillian Wollen

March 30

Ben Hall
Emma Hall
Jesse Hall
Aubrey Loepp
Mary Minich-Carwell
Kristy Rieger
Luke Sommers
Patrick Tyrrell

March 31

Kathy Coles
Donald Kishman
Mark Mattison
Amy Parshall-Peters & Rob Peters

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

Trinity's Current Inclement Weather Policy

If you are thinking about driving to Trinity and the weather is snowy and/or icy, please reconsider. Typically when Forest Hills Public Schools close during the day, all Trinity daytime activities are cancelled and the church offices are closed. But it may not be realistic to base our building/programming plans on school cancellations this winter.

If an event is scheduled at Trinity and FHPS is not holding "in person" classes, please check WOOD TV8 or WZZM TV13 for updates on Trinity cancellations. Please be as certain as possible that it will be safe for you to be out on the road. We count on you to use your best judgment when it comes to your personal safety this winter!



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

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



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

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

Staff

Direct Dial:
616.949.2510

(then dial extension #)



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Church, gr

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