



The Messenger

Outdoor Worship on Sunday, June 6 and Sunday, July 4

Trinity's "First Sunday" plan for Outdoor Worship continues Sunday, June 6, and will continue to be offered on first Sundays of the month into the fall of 2021. The outdoor service will occur on the west lawn under the Cross Tower at 10:45 a.m., allowing those who wish to worship indoors that day to gather at 8 a.m. for traditional worship and at 9:15 a.m. for Rejoice worship with live streaming.

The June 6 Outdoor Worship Service will include a Blessing of 2021 Graduates, and we will also have an Order of Installation for the 2021-2022 Congregation Council. A reception will follow worship to honor our graduates.

All are welcome to join us in celebration and for outdoor worship in 2021. Mark your calendar for worship on the morning of July 4 on the west lawn and know that in case of inclement weather we will reschedule on the second Sunday of the month.

"In Person" Worship Continues

The people of Trinity in Grand Rapids continue to gather "in person" and via live streaming for worship services on Sunday mornings. Since March 7, the 'return to worship' has proceeded with an abundance of caution with masks and distancing offered by worshippers and with protocols that are carefully administered to help keep everyone safe.

The Reentry Study Group and the Congregation Council continue to evaluate metrics on a week-to-week basis to assist in our decision to gather, but we are grateful for the sign of hope and new beginnings as we gather for traditional worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on Sundays, and for Rejoice worship and live streaming at 9:15 a.m. You are welcome to join us!

Vacation Bible School - June 21 to 23, 9 a.m. to noon

VBS returns to Trinity! Children ages 3 years through 5th grade are welcome to participate in Vacation Bible School. There are also many opportunities to volunteer and/or help by providing resources.

The theme for VBS this year is "Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!" All activities will be outside and recommended health precautions will be taken.

Join in the fun of Vacation Bible School at Trinity! Please go to page eight of this newsletter for additional information.

A note from Sylvia Stouten, Trinity's newly retired Director of Discipleship...

As you might imagine, it was not an easy decision for me to retire. Trinity has been my home away from home for many years. But the pandemic gave me, like many others, time for reflection. I am so grateful that the Holy Spirit made it very clear to me what my path should be going forward.

In looking through files I hadn't seen in years, I came across an old document in which I was asked what I liked best about my job. Here's my answer then and it remains true today: "I love to share the excitement that people feel when they find meaningful connections at Trinity. I love the insights that people gain when a new volunteer experience has been very rewarding. It's exciting when I hear from people about how God has spoken to them in special ways as the result of a Bible Study. And, whether it's two members or a big group of us at an event together, I love to see the smiles and hear the laughter. By spending time together in a variety of ways, we become vital members of the same family - our Trinity church family."

What a wonderful community we are blessed to enjoy at Trinity. As a staff member for almost 16 years, I hope that I have contributed in some small way to this community we all know and love. It is the people of Trinity that I will always treasure and the connections that we have made over the years. My life has been enriched because of all of the amazing people from Trinity that I am blessed to call my friends.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, people of Trinity. I look forward to still seeing you around...as simply a member of our wonderful church community.

What's Happening at Trinity in June?

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.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Mondays

Tai Chi
Stroller Strides, 9 a.m.

Tuesdays

Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.

Wednesdays

Tai Chi
NAMI Family to Family 6 p.m.

Thursdays

Good Night Trinity

Fridays

Tai Chi

Daily Calendar

Tuesday, June 1

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
Spiritual Growth Committee Meeting,
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 3

Entering the Narrow Gate, 9:30am
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Friday, June 4

Schaner/Peurach Wedding Rehearsal,
5 p.m.

Saturday, June 5

Gardening Bee at Trinity, 9 a.m.
The Marriage of Carolyn Schaner and
Stephen Peurach, 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 6

Installation of the Congregation Council
Graduate Sunday
High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Outdoor Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Graduate Reception, noon
Lutheran World Relief Quilting, noon
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 7

Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8

Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 9

Youth & Family Committee, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 12

Work Day at Stony Lake, 10 a.m.
Senior Piano Recital - Gavin Burd,
11 a.m.

Sunday, June 13

VBS prep
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 14

VBS prep
The Messenger Submissions Due
Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 15

VBS prep
TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
All Staff Calendaring Meeting, noon

Wednesday, June 16

VBS prep
High School Youth afternoon of
service at Family Promise, 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 17

VBS prep

Friday, June 18

VBS prep
Life Begins at 60 Driveway Dining,
6 p.m.

Saturday, June 19

VBS prep

Sunday, June 20

Father's Day
VBS Set up

Monday, June 21

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, June 22

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Support,
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23

Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.

Thursday, June 24

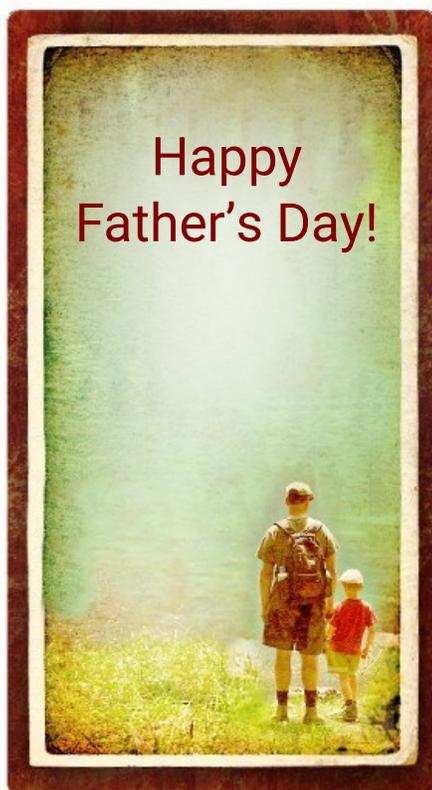
Entering the Narrow Gate, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, June 28

Outreach Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 29

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.



A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



Our Mission as a “Publicly Engaged Church”

*We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

In his writing of the hymn refrain above, David Haas captured a Micah 6:8 understanding of mission and ministry. “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” That hymn refrain and its biblical foundation provides a grounding for the Publicly Engaged Church Committee of our synod. As disciples of Christ, we are all called to the ministry of service, justice, and advocacy for the “least of these.”

What does it mean for Trinity Lutheran Church to be a “publicly engaged church?” We have many volunteers who serve “the least of these” through Interfaith Hospitality Network weeks of housing the homeless, through the serving of meals at Dégagé Ministries on Division Street, through Habitat for Humanity Builds and through Kids Coalition Against Hunger meal packing events. Although many of those volunteers have been sidelined during our long pandemic retreat, last year Trinity funded more than \$430,000 in ministry beyond our doors through both the wider church and through service agencies here in the Grand Rapids area, caring for those with the greatest needs. Our newest partnership with “Christophe’s Children” in Kalehe, Democratic Republic of Congo, generated immediate and generous giving from the people of this congregation with its Mother’s Day kickoff. We give well to ministries beyond our doors.

A new group is forming to consider what it would mean for our congregation to take on advocacy and “doing justice” beyond our volunteering and offering giving. Being publicly supportive of a work or a policy is challenging in a congregational setting with a diverse membership, but it can be extremely important as we gather the best of our community’s intent to make a difference in the world. I agreed at a recent meeting of our Outreach Committee to support the birthing of such an initiative among the people of Trinity – if you are interested in learning more about this “publicly engaged church” initiative at Trinity, please be in touch. And let us pray for and lift up all the ministries God empowers us to do in the world. In so doing, we echo the beginning and the ending of the song composed by David Haas, “Come live in the Light; shine with the joy of the love of the Lord.”

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob Linstrom
Senior Pastor

Appeal for “Christophe’s Children” began May 9



Christophe Muganza returned from a trip to his home village of Kalehe in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the late winter of 2021 with a new mission, to support the homeless, orphaned children of Kalehe. Forced to flee the DRC in 2008, Christophe came to Grand Rapids and Trinity as a refugee and, in the summer of 2020, became a United States citizen. Now, Christophe and a grassroots initiative in Grand Rapids are launching “Christophe’s Children,” with opportunities for others to join him in sponsoring the most vulnerable in his home village with food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and education. You can give through designated offerings payable to Trinity Lutheran Church or you can give directly through the appeal website, christopheschildren.org.

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:

Fellowship: Amy Fox

Finance: Chris Engle

Health Ministries: Carol Butler

Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman

Human Resources: Steve Heacock

Outreach: John Fox

Property: Mike King

Property:

Spiritual Growth: Brad Kessel

Stewardship: Amelia Crist

Worship and Music: Kate Bredwell

Youth and Family:

Youth and Family: Alaina Lundgren
(Youth Representative)

New Congregation Council members

Bill Bush, Sarah Huckstep, youth representative Alaina Lundgren and Christophe Muganza will begin their terms at the meeting on June 14.

Committee assignments will also take place at that time.



Trinity's Children's Ministry lays the foundation for a lifelong journey with Jesus Christ. Children discover that God is active in their lives, form loving connections with a family of believers, and share God's blessings with our community and the world.

As with almost every other area of our lives, Children's Ministry at Trinity has looked different this past year, but our commitment to supporting the spiritual growth of Trinity's children and their families has remained strong. Many of our regular activities and events were reimaged so families could participate from home, and new programs and ways of staying in touch have emerged.

Since March 2020, virtual Sunday School has been offered every week. The recorded lessons include a Bible story, discussion, craft or activity, and prayer. Families receive weekly coloring pages and worship bulletins. In October 2020, we launched a new program, Good Night Trinity. Each Thursday we share a video of a Trinity member reading a children's book with a faith-based or positive message. Many thanks to all who have read this year so far, and we are always interested in welcoming additional readers!

Other events that were reimaged in a virtual format included the Blessing of Backpacks for Kindergarteners in August and the Blessing of Preschoolers in September, in which families submitted photos of their children that were shown during the services. And, of course, in December our Children's Ministry staff outdid themselves in coordinating and editing the contributions of 38 Trinity families into a very special Christmas program of video clips, photos, and music.

Our TLCGR Children's Ministry Facebook page has grown and become an important way of staying connected during this time. We use Facebook to post weekly Sunday School lessons, Good Night Trinity videos, updates on events, photos, and faith-related activities. This private Facebook group is open to Trinity families with children from birth to 5th grade, as well as Trinity staff. We currently have around 50 members participating and would love for more families to follow us!

Finally, after over a year of coordinating virtual programming, we are thrilled to be preparing for our first in person event: Vacation Bible School! It will be a little smaller this year, but our enthusiasm has never been bigger! The three-day, all-outdoor, Rocky Railway-themed VBS will take place June 21-23. See page eight in this issue of *The Messenger* for more information.

Karen Unruh
Congregation Council liaison to the Children's Ministry Committee

Please Remember Your Offering When You are Away

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



Tithe.ly

Online Giving Through "Tithe.ly"

We use "Tithe.ly" at Trinity for our online giving. Online giving is so easy and convenient, never miss a week even when you are out of town! To get started simply click on the 'Donate' button at the top of the Trinity Website or go to <https://get.tithe.ly>

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

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of April 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	108,483	140,549	32,066	29.6%
Total Expenses	121,437	106,583	14,854	12.2%
Net Income (Loss)	(12,954)	33,966	46,920	



2021 Fiscal Year-to-Date February 2021 thru April 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	289,765	440,694	150,929	52.1%
Total Expenses	295,621	262,978	32,643	11.0%
Net Income (Loss)	(5,856)	177,716	183,572	

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. – Isaiah 40:8

I cannot get my mind wrapped around how much things have changed in these past fifteen months. Things went from what we knew as normal, to the craziness of being completely locked down, and then followed by the many twists and turns of our pandemic living. I cannot recount all of the changes we have lived through these past fifteen months. It has been like trying to live inside a whirlwind.

While so many aspects of our lives have changed rapidly and without warning, we can take assurance that some things have remained constant. Despite all the unpredictability there are things we can count on; things on which we can stand firm.

Isaiah reminds us that, while things will come and go in ways we appreciate and don't, the word of God will stand forever. God's presence will be a constant for us, no matter what. Isaiah gives this word of comfort to the people of Israel. Their world has shifted drastically in unexpected ways that have been horrific for them. Into their experience he reminds them that God is with them. Good times will come and go, but God will remain with them no matter what.

This is an important message for us, too.

I have no idea what our new normal will look like, but I do know that God will be with us in it.

This knowledge gives me comfort and hope in these changing times. This certainty helps me cope with the constantly shifting world in which we are currently living. I hope it does for you as well.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan Schewe



Middle School News

August 22 Confirmation!

Join us on Sunday, August 22 to celebrate Confirmation with the 2021 confirmands during the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Camp at Trinity: July 28 to 30

Join us for a taste of camp at Trinity! We will start things with a bonfire and fun night on July 28, and then have two days of day camp with staffers from Living Water Ministries. Mark your calendars now!

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



A Message from Assisting Pastor Karen Niemeyer



Join Us This Summer!

Life Begins at 60 Driveway Dining will take place this summer in safe environments, following necessary social distancing protocol and guest limits. Guests, please bring your own chairs, supper/snacks, and drinks; and hosts will supply the driveways. *Reservations are on a first-come basis, and repeat guests are welcome if there is room after first-time guests have signed up. Please contact the host to make your reservation.* See you there!

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

6 to 8 p.m. on the driveway of George Bauer,
george.bauer@sbcglobal.net; 616.464.4222

FRIDAY, JULY 9

6 to 8 p.m. on the driveway of Norm and Toni Petersen,
normanpetersen348@gmail.com; 616.202.4622

FRIDAY, JULY 23

6 to 8 p.m. on the driveway of Jim and Sue Coates,
suecoates1036@gmail.com; 616.254.7321

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

6 to 8 p.m. on the driveway of Joe and Marybeth Iaria,
surfin@charter.net; 530.209.0436

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

6 to 8 p.m. on the driveway of Dan and Carol Butler,
caroljb43@gmail.com; 616.540.1660

First Saturday of the month "Gardening Bee" at Trinity

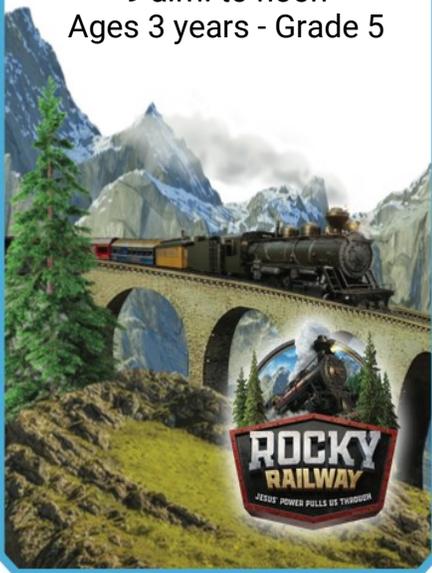


Plans have been made for an outdoor gardening bee to keep Trinity's landscape looking beautiful. We'll be trimming, weeding and spiffing up the garden beds around the church on Saturday morning, June 5 at 9 a.m. We'll work for a few hours. Join us!

Children's Ministry

All aboard for
fun at VBS!

June 21, 22, and 23
9 a.m. to noon
Ages 3 years - Grade 5



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Send your kids on a mountaintop adventure!

At Rocky Railway VBS, kids discover Jesus' power can pull them through life's ups and downs. Rocky Railway is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Scency gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Your kids will help launch our annual Kids Coalition Against Hunger fundraiser. VBS offerings will go toward our meal packing event held later this summer or fall. Help feed thousands of families all over the world.

All activities will be outside, and all recommended health precautions will be taken. For more information about our wellness policy, please go to the church website and click on the VBS link.

So mark these dates on your calendar: June 21, 22 and 23. The fun starts at 9 a.m. and will end at noon. Go to tlcgr.org and click on VBS Registration to register your kids for this life-changing adventure!

Sincerely,

Your VBS Team

Day Camp at Trinity – July 25 to 30

Due to the pandemic Living Water Ministries has canceled camp at Stony Lake Bible Camp for the season. While we will miss our time together there, we are excited to offer a camp alternative at Trinity for our elementary and middle school students!



Elementary Camp at Trinity – July 25 to 27

Elementary school children are invited to join us the evening of July 25 for a bonfire and fun night of faith conversations and experiences. Monday and Tuesday, we will have day camp at Trinity with staffers from Living Water Ministries. If you have questions, would like more information on this experience, or would like to reserve a spot for your children, please contact Pastor Dan.

Middle School Camp at Trinity – July 28 to 30

Middle school youth are invited to join us the evening of July 28 for a bonfire and fun night of faith conversations and experiences. Thursday and Friday we will have day camp at Trinity with staffers from Living Water Ministries. If you have questions, would like more information on this experience, or would like to reserve a spot for your children, please contact Pastor Dan.

Be sure to check our YouTube channel and weekly emails for current updates.

First Sunday of the Month Bible Study: June 6

Join Pastor Dan for Bible study in the youth room or outside by the trees! Come for the donuts and stay for the conversation. Let Pastor Dan know from where you would like him to get donuts.

High School Youth Group: Sundays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. through June 13

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us weekly on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Courtyard or outside (depending on the weather). We continue to explore the intersection of faith and life. We are following the current trends and working with our partners to get back into working service projects into our time together. Continue to watch your email and our YouTube channel for updates. We will have youth group weekly until June 13 after which we will take a break for the summer months.

Graduate Sunday: June 6

On Sunday, June 6 we are celebrating 2020 and 2021 graduates during our outdoor worship at 10:45 a.m. Graduates from both years will be celebrated and graduates from this year will be blessed, given a gift, and highlighted in a bulletin.

Join us in celebrating these amazing young people!



Summer of Service

Local Service Week: July 12–16

All high school youth and their friends are invited to join us for a week of service around Grand Rapids from July 12–16! We will gather at Trinity in the morning for a devotion and then head to various projects in the community. The group will convene at Trinity in the late afternoon to debrief and relax with each other. We will be working with many of our ministry partners this week, learning more about our neighbors and how we are partners with them. Watch your email and future newsletters for more information. If your daughters or sons are interested in this experience, please reach out to Pastor Dan. This information will help him with planning for service opportunities.



Work at Stony Lake Bible Camp

While there will not be camp at Stony Lake this summer, there is plenty of work to be done on the grounds. All high schoolers, middle schoolers, and their families and friends are invited to join us at camp on June 12, July 24, and August 21 to help with this work. Plan on arriving at camp at 10 a.m. and working until about 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Pastor Dan. Continue to watch your email and our YouTube channel for more information.

Family Promise Partners in Housing – one Wednesday a month this summer

This summer we will be joining with the Family Promise Partners in Housing program one Wednesday afternoon a month from 1 to 4 pm. We will help them on June 16, July 14, and August 18. The July 14 date is part of our week of local service and will have a morning shift as well. Help us house our neighbors! If you have questions or want to reserve your spot today please contact Pastor Dan.

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.

Health Ministries



Walk & Talk

June Focus: The Fullness of God's Creation

God said, 'See I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seeds in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant of food.' And it was so. God saw everything that He has made and, indeed, it was very good. Genesis 1:29-31a

The emphasis this month is on the fullness of God's creation. As we reach the end of the spring and the beginning of summer, nature is blossoming, leaves fill the bare branches of trees, grass gets greener, flowers bloom. Everywhere we look, God's creation is full of color, warmth and light. This month is about celebrating the gifts from God the Creator.

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 and devotion, along with the date and time of our monthly group gathering. PRAISE GOD we can meet together outdoors!

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



Blood Drive - Monday, June 7

It's time for Trinity's next blood drive. Can you join us?? Versiti Blood will be onsite Monday, June 7 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Appointments are highly recommended. Current public health protocols will be in place. Our hospitals have a critical need for blood. Let's keep our local blood supply strong!

Contact Kristin Bradley to secure your spot or register online at:

https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/128369



"Know Mercy" Trinity Softball Team Returns!

Trinity's coed softball team, "Know Mercy," is back for another season of fun and competition. Led by Trinity member Chris Engle, they are ready for action! Let's show our support for the team by attending their games. Enjoy summer evenings by cheering our team on to victory!

All games are played on Tuesday evenings beginning June 8 at Manhattan Park located in East Grand Rapids just west of the East Beltline at 3180 Cascade Rd SE. You can also enter the park from the side street at 430 Manhattan SE.

June 2021 Tai Chi Offerings

We gather on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the parking lot. Times continue to be variable depending on the weather. Not only are we improving our mobility, agility and strength, we're learning to 'roll with it' and make the best of our outdoor classroom! Drop in anytime, no experience is needed.



Text [@tlctaichi](https://www.instagram.com/tlctaichi) to the number **81010** to get notified of weekly schedules or contact our fitness instructor, Kristina Kuhlmann at 616.719.6961 if you'd prefer a call or email. There is a suggested donation of \$3/class or \$20/month.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry Fall Class

When was the last time someone really listened to you, paying full attention to your needs? Wasn't that refreshing? We need more Stephen Ministers to provide that kind of care for those journeying through a life crisis.

Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one caring ministry. As a Stephen Minister, you would walk alongside someone who is dealing with a difficult time in life, perhaps grieving the loss of a loved one through death or divorce, dealing with illness, adjusting to a new baby, or navigating a transition in life.

You would meet with your care receiver weekly, providing a listening ear, encouragement, and prayer. Twice a month, you would participate in continuing education and peer support.

Stephen Minister training equips you to do an excellent job as a Stephen Minister as well as to improve the quality of all your relationships. Topics include listening, feelings, confidentiality, providing Christian care, maintaining boundaries, crisis theory and practice. Specific modules address circumstances such as ministering to people experiencing grief, divorce, hospitalization, illness and more.

Now is the time to act! The Stephen Leader Team is now taking applications for a fall training class.

Contact Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse at 616.560.4496 or Norm Palm, Stephen Leader at 616.430.6676 to find out more.



Trinity Welcomes two new Staff members

Welcome new Communications Coordinator Carrie Lamb and Hospitality/Fellowship Coordinator Tess Lundgren

In the spring of 2021, we welcome our **new Communications Coordinator Carrie Lamb**, a young adult new member who joined Trinity in the fall of 2019 with her husband Phil and their children Russell and Nora. A stay-at-home mom with an English major and teaching experience, Carrie is skilled at publishing and with electronic communications. Carrie's new staff position will include:

- a) oversight of all parish communications
- b) gathering, editing and publication of monthly newsletter *The Messenger*
- c) coordinating the weekly Friday eBlast
- d) coordinating all website and social media communications
- e) regularly meeting with staff and congregational leaders to facilitate communications ministry and the new Events Calendar
- f) developing new strategies for and programming new communications
- g) actively staffing/relating to the Communications Committee



We also welcome **Tess Lundgren, our new Hospitality/Fellowship Coordinator**. Tess, her husband Tim, and their daughters joined Trinity about eight years ago and Tess has been an active leader on our Congregation Council for six years and the chair of our Hospitality Committee. Tess' new staff position will include:

- a) facilitating/providing leadership/coordinating volunteers for all church fellowship ministries and events (Sunday coffee hour, potlucks and congregational meals, Advent and Lent suppers, JOYful Days, Advent by Candlelight, Start of Summer celebration, Trivia Night, Scandinavian Smorgasbord, refreshments for special events, etc.)
- b) seek to provide fellowship opportunities for the diversity of generational groups in the congregation
- c) actively staffing/relating to Hospitality, Congregational Life, Fellowship committees (or a new committee related to this staff position and combining the various former committees)
- d) staffing the church kitchen and pertinent licensing



Carrie and Tess both officially begin their work with the Trinity staff on June 1, 2021. Be sure to greet Carrie and Tess in the months ahead as they join our staff team and seek to care well for our faith community!

New Council Members to be Installed on Sunday, June 6



and giving thanks to those whose terms have concluded

The Congregation Council begins a new year in June, with Council members elected at the January 2021 Annual Meeting taking office for the 2021-2022 term.

Newly elected Council members will join returning members in June. We welcome Bill Bush, Sarah Huckstep, youth representative Alaina Lundgren and Christophe Muganza as new members of the Congregation Council. The entire 2021-2022 Congregation Council will be installed into their leadership offices during live streaming of worship on Sunday, June 6, and those able to be present will be installed during the outdoor worship service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 6.

Youth Representative Ryleigh Fischer, Tess Lundgren, Mike Mason and Rick Radke were thanked for their leadership as they completed their Council terms at the May 2021 Council meeting. All four have faithfully served Trinity as elected leaders of this congregation.

The people of Trinity are invited to hold their Council leaders in prayer as they seek to lead our ministry in this time of renewal in shared worship, fellowship and service.

Planning a Celebration of Two Faithful Staff Partners

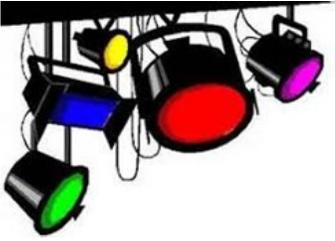


Sylvia Stouten, our Director of Discipleship, will be retiring from that position on May 28, 2021. A member of the Trinity staff for over 15 years, most of those years as a full-time employee, Sylvia has been deeply faithful to the life of our shared ministry and a joyful presence in our life together at Trinity. We knew this day was coming, and the people of Trinity will deeply miss Sylvia's vital partnership with this congregation, but we also give thanks as she enters a new chapter in life with travel and family at the forefront of her aspirations.

Trinity's Sexton **Steven Basher** will also be leaving our staff with the impending conclusion of his college courses in the summer of 2021 and his intent to seek employment in web development. Although he served just a couple of years on staff, Steven has become fully engaged in our life together and an active participant with our staff team. We will miss his willing partnership in the care of our facilities and grounds.

In both cases, we are privileged to bid farewell to these two key members of our staff team, knowing that their next steps on life's journey are positive and promising.

Mark your calendar to join us at the outdoor worship service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, July 4 as we offer a prayer of blessing and an after-worship reception to honor Sylvia and Steven.



Making Connections: Andy and Ausma Pupel

"The greatness of a Community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." Coretta Scott King

Andy and Ausma Pupel have found themselves as the "lucky ones" bearing the fruits of meaningful relationships produced from acts of service in the **Trinity in Touch** and **Youth Group** ministries. Through the **Trinity in Touch** program, Ausma has had the pleasure of meeting and caring for several "fabulous ladies," finding connections with each of them that weaves through her own life in tangible ways. When able to meet face to face, they share the Lord's supper and pray together, while also sharing family stories and life's happenings. These relationships have "left a lasting effect on my heart," Ausma reflects. She also participated in the Vacation Bible School program while raising her children.

When Andy accompanied their daughter, Alissa, on a **TLC Youth Mission Trip** in 2016, Andy "loved it." He was enriched by the experience of over 350 youth from all over the country gathered together with a common purpose. The opportunity to work alongside one another all day, sharing meals, and singing and praying together in the evenings created amazing memories that will last a lifetime. Andy regularly participates in Sunday evening youth gatherings. Both Andy and Ausma participate in fund raising activities for upcoming Mission Trips to keep those opportunities alive for our youth.

Andy and Ausma found that the **faith structure** and **community atmosphere** made Trinity a good place to connect and serve. Ausma was raised in the Latvian Lutheran church and wanted her children to grow up in a similar faith structure. Both our **Trinity in Touch** and **Youth Group** programs continue to be blessed by the time and talents that Andy and Ausma continue to share.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another -and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Note: The purpose of *Behind the Scenes at Trinity* is to praise God and to encourage others to utilize 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 Cathy Olson (cawolson@gmail.com) or Pastor Karen.



Confirmation Sunday - May 2, 2021

A year after the originally planned celebration, the 2020 Confirmands, now 9th graders, were recognized and blessed at a celebration on May 2 in an outdoor 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please keep in your prayers the following young people and their families: Makenna Beckett, Kai Bredwell, Grace Cairns, Lance Childers, K. C. Fawcett, Grant Ferguson, Andrew Fox, Nathaniel Hahn, Hannah Johnson and Peter Larson.

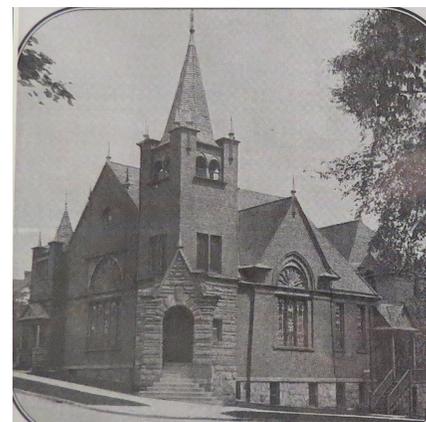


The Founding of Our Congregation

In celebration of Trinity's 125th anniversary in 2021, the following is excerpted from Christian Carron's 100th anniversary history of Trinity Lutheran Church, citing the emergence of German and Swedish speaking Lutheran congregations in Grand Rapids of the 1800's, but opening the door for another Lutheran community.

A Constitutional Start in a Shared Home

"Only male members of the church, in good standing therein, and over twenty-one years of age, shall be eligible to the offices of Deacon or Elder," so read the preamble to Trinity English Evangelical Church's constitution in 1896. What began in such an inauspicious start by today's standards did not exemplify the direction Trinity was to chart as a leading Lutheran congregation in Grand Rapids. Article II of the original constitution, which outlines the "Doctrinal Position" of Trinity, reflected the swing in the General Synod away from "Americanism" and back to a more traditional Lutheran adherence to the canonical scriptures and Lutheran confessions. This represented a return to a previous theological stance that brought the General Synod back in line with the General Council and United Synod-South, a progressive move during that era.



Over the next two years the Congregation saved money and drew plans for its first building. Until their own sanctuary was dedicated in 1898, they conducted worship and instruction in the lecture hall of the Reformed Jewish Temple Emanuel, then located downtown on Ransom Avenue NE. Congregation Emanuel was at that time suffering a period of declining membership and inactivity, to the point where they considered closing the Temple doors and dissolving the congregation. It was unlikely that use of the Temple by Trinity's small numbers would have created a scheduling conflict. On the contrary, it was probably welcomed for the activity it brought.

Members of the two congregations shared other circumstances which made this joint use of space possible. Congregation Emanuel's membership was almost exclusively German, so they shared a common nation of origin with many of Trinity's members. Also, both congregations belonged to the most "Americanized," reformed minded, and theologically liberal divisions of their respective faiths. Each group looked favorably upon cooperation and dialogue with other religious organizations. According to James Bratt and Christopher Meehan, in their book *Gathered at the River: Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Its People of Faith*, Joseph Houseman, a leader of the synagogue at that time, worked hard to bridge the gap between Jews and Christians. "Christianity and Judaism are actually growing nearer together," he once told a reporter. He went on to say that while anti-Semitism might be rife elsewhere, here the two religions were at some peace.

Watch for additional historical vignettes in the months ahead as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of this congregation.

Music Highlights

The Resound Bell Choir will play for the Outdoor Service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 6. This is a new adventure for the choir and something new for our congregation to hear them in the outdoor setting. We are hopeful you will be able to attend.

Resound will reprise a selection they played in May for this service. Joining me in the music for the June 6 outdoor worship service will be Karen Betz-Griewahn, flutist. We look forward to seeing you on the West Lawn for this event.

Larry Biser



Gavin Burd presents his Senior Piano Recital



Gavin began his piano study in the second grade with Trinity member, Karen Nagle. In 2017, Karen asked Larry Biser to take him as a student. He has played for area churches over the years and has played at Trinity Lutheran on several occasions for the 10:45 a.m. worship service. We have always admired his piano offerings. Both Karen and Larry feel he is one of, if not the best, students of their piano teaching careers.

Gavin was a well-versed student at Comstock Park High School where he recently graduated summa cum laude. While in high school he played in the school's jazz band and Jazz Trio and ran for the school's track program. He maintained top honors in several AP classes and won academic excellence for all four years of high school. Recently he won the Presidential Outstanding Academic Award. Gavin will attend GRCC and Ferris State University this fall with a dual enrollment in digital animation and game design. He has participated in several of Blue Lake's summer Piano Camps and plans to return one last time in July of this year.

He will play works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Serge Rachmaninoff, Friedrich Chopin, Franz Liszt, Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, George Gershwin and Scott Joplin.

Please feel free to join us (masked and distanced) for this festive program.

Trinity Overlook Gallery featuring Daniel Plasman

The walls in the Overlook Gallery have come to life after the long pandemic closure!

Daniel Plasman is by profession a minister. By avocation, he is a photographer. Ministry and photography, though seemingly unrelated, have fed and nourished each other throughout his adult life. During that time, he has pursued creating photographic images of people and places for the "heart and soul." One of Daniel's favorite quotes is from St. Augustine: "The whole purpose of life is to restore to health the eye of the heart whereby God can be seen." He experiences that statement as a connecting bridge between serving people as a pastor and seeing the world as a photographer. In both activities, a "presence" nudges him to pay attention and, if necessary, linger longer, lest he miss what's really going on in front of and around him.

Daniel graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NJ) in 1980 and served Reformed Church in America congregations in New York City; Rochester, NY; and Downers Grove, IL. He also served East Congregational UCC in Grand Rapids, and interim pastorates in East Lansing and Rochester Hills, MI. Currently he supports his spouse, Jody Betten, also a minister, as she is starting a United Church of Christ congregation in the Traverse City area.

In 2015, Daniel published a book of 365 meditations, including black and white photographs, entitled: "Jesus, a Life - Daily Reflections on the Gospel of Luke."

To be in touch with the artist, you may contact him at: danielpasman@gmail.com. To view a video of Daniel talking about some of his photographs in detail, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeXgB48rr7g>

To purchase his artwork, please contact the artist directly.

Be welcome to linger in the Overlook Gallery and take in God's creation through Daniel Plasman's photography.

Biographical information was taken from the plaque displayed on the wall at Trinity's exhibit.



Diapers and Underwear Appreciated



Disposable diapers are a huge expense for all families with little ones. Now imagine you have a limited income and can't afford to buy them. Choices must be made as to the relative importance of purchasing diapers or food items or other essentials.

Through June, we will gladly welcome your contributions of diapers and underwear. Please consider donating all sizes of NEW unopened packages of children's, women's and men's underwear, undershirts and socks as well as diapers. You may place your donations in the labeled black bin located in the entryway of the main entrance on the west side of the building and in the narthex.

Monetary gifts are also appreciated. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, and write "Diapers/Undies" in the memo line.

The underwear will be distributed through local Grand Rapids organizations that serve our community's most vulnerable families. There is a need, especially, for larger adult size underwear and undershirts such as XXXL.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Summer Youth Workshops - June 14 to 17



The Kaufman Interfaith Institute is pleased to offer a virtual Summer Leadership Workshop on June 14 to 17, which is geared toward students currently in grades 8 through 12. These workshops will center on interfaith leadership with daily themes that include navigating difficult conversations, environmental action, exploring power and privilege, and embracing mindfulness.

Each day will convene at 10 a.m. as an introduction to the day. Students will have a break from 10:30 a.m. - noon to work on their projects/activities for the workshop and have lunch.

Projects might include building a composter with materials provided, creating a collage of where you see your identity represented positively or negatively or taking pictures of places that bring you peace.

The workshop portion of the day will take place from 12 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. on Zoom. There will be guided conversations, engaging lessons, and interactive experiences around the daily themes. The workshops will wrap up each day by 1:45 p.m.

All materials for the activities or projects will be provided by Kaufman Interfaith Institute. There is a small fee of \$35/student to cover some of these costs.

Daily Themes:

- June 14: Navigating Difficult Conversations
- June 15: Environmental Action
- June 16: Exploring Power and Privilege
- June 17: Embracing Mindfulness

For more information and to register, go to: www.interfaithunderstanding.org

Sharing with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Trinity's used AV equipment finds a new home in Uganda!

What a joy it is to have a new sound system in the Trinity sanctuary, bringing us the ability to stream both the traditional and Rejoice services! And our joy has been compounded with the opportunity to share the cast-off equipment with a congregation in need!

Unity International Ministries in Uganda was founded by Anastaze Nzabonimpa in 2009. We met Anastaze through our refugee resettlement program. He works for Samaritas as a translator and has been invaluable to our team in settling Kanyeshuri's family. Anastaze is currently enrolled in a Master of Divinity Program at Calvin Seminary.

The goals of Unity International Ministries include preaching the good news centered on Christ our savior, helping the community by providing education to their children and providing clean water to the community. Although the church is in a poverty-stricken area 20 miles from Kampala city, through the grace of God it has grown steadily over the years. As resources have become available, they moved from worshipping in an open field, to a grass hut, to a constructed building.

The congregation loves music and is adept at worshipping a cappella but oh to have a sound system and instruments! Wouldn't that be grand? As Trinity moved new equipment into the sanctuary, Bryan Bredwell of our AV Team worked with Anastaze to tag equipment that could be re-purposed in their environment. We are grateful for his assistance and for the chance to put this equipment to good use.

May God be glorified through songs of praise!



Buy Bus Tickets for Local Non-Profits!



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

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

Start of

Summer

CELEBRATION

This year's **Annual Start of Summer Celebration** has been canceled due to the current global pandemic. Mark your calendar for next year's Start of Summer. The fun will start at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022** when you can meet up with old and new friends on the west side of Trinity. As always we will have:

- Dinner favorites - pulled pork, all beef hot dogs, salad, fruit, chips,
- Culver's frozen custard with a topping bar and more!
- Bingo, bounce house, sidewalk chalk, face-painting, and more!



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!

June Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations!

June 1

Kristine Candela
Beverly Heyne
Michael Mason
Karen Nagle
Eric Tooley
Marie & Brad Selleck

June 2

Chas Schaner
Kelli & John Basher
Marge & Jack Greiner

June 3

Tara Anderson
Sue Bailey
Gretchen Flemming
Charmayne Mulligan
Calvin Posthumus
Rebecca & Mark Mattison

June 4

Susan Cothorn
Jacob Hall
CJ Havard
Georgi Hoeksema
Gayl & Brad Kessel

June 5

Megan Hudson
Erin & Aaron Breagh

June 6

Jim Bennett
Patrick Brang
Biruta Fessenden
Emily Keller
Theo Marquardt
Dick McKenzie
Elliot Rieth
Sarah & Travis Budzyn
Linda & Terry Zabel

June 7

William Beute
Jane Claus
Lori Law
Jacqueline Murray
Sarah Turnage
Lara Freeburger & Michael Soczek

June 8

Todd Brandstadt
Laurie Freshour
Andy Steketee
Carol & Erick Kind

June 9

Ben Battreall
Darin Estep
Niki Ferguson
Beverly & Kenneth Block
Jennifer & Ryan Dwyer
Krista & Kyle Flack
Chris & Dave Straw

June 10

Matthew Blair
Kim Bradbury
Robert Crossman
Sarah Kuntzman
Alexis Mason
Ethan Mason
Jen & Dave Thamban

June 11

Kim Danielski
Ryan Dwyer
Kevin & Katie Gingras
Amanda & Bruce Hungerford
Nancy & Bob Scott

June 12

Andy Bekker
Lynn Hagenbush
Larry Longstreth
MayEllen Morin
Eli Owens
Jennifer Ackerman-Haywood
& Jeff Haywood

June 13

Jackson Brandstadt
Janice Colby
Miles Donovan
Tom Malvitz
Lexy Shannon
Lindsey Skalandis
Mike Thorsen
David Young
Caitlin & Robert Oliver

June 14

Debra Petrick
Kris Shannon
Jane & Donald Barsema
Jaci & Morgan Cole
Micki & Michael Smokovich

June 15

Brayden Croly
Russell Lamb
Katie Moga
Ryleigh Owens
Erin Vigna
Anthony Zarou
Linda & Bob Heine

June 16

Marcelyn Anderson
Marilyn Grant
Melissa Haneline
Scott Hansen
Hannah Johnson
Rebecca Linstrom
Carol Schumacher
Meri & Bill Leidel
Venta & Jamie Norris

June 17

CJ Conrad
Sarah Frecka
Sandy Rothfuss
Lynn & Kevin Grzelak
Kathy & Fred Wilcox

June 18

Gavin Law
Fiona Pardy
Joyce & David Kuecherer

June 19

Ryleigh Fisher
Janet Genow
Joshua Giuliani
Eden Korb
Hannah Parshall
Tami Saum
Tom Williams
Deb & Bill DeWitt
Lisa & Bill Keller

June 20

Janelle Beaudry
Mary Frick
Jacob Johnson
Christophe Muganza
Joshua Price
Sheryl VanderBaan
Tammy & Eric Engblade
Joan & Ed Lohr
Jeremy & Amanda Lynn

June 21

Peter Fisk
Brylee Peters
Tara & Song Anderson
Norma & Stephen Brink
Anna & Mark Bryce
Tess & Tim Lundgren

June 22

Kelsey Becker
Craig Curtiss
Thomas Lee
Alaina Rose Lundgren
Ryan McNally
Valerie Seif
Cindy & Morrie Fongers
Emily & John Keller
Jamie & Randy Kuntzman

June 23

Steve Archer
Norma Brink
Nick Johnson
Brian Mazurek
Mark Rohde
Sue Wait
Donna Wollen
Raija & Jim Boles

June 24

Kris Baker
Bob Pergler
Edie Pergler
Bill & Pat Bruin
Ann & Lee Schomberg
Kathleen & Dale Sommers
Kathryn & Scott Stoll
Patricia & Nicholas
Terpstra

June 25

Carol Kind
Elena Luders
Gavin Van Meter
Lisa & Jeff Postlewaite

June 26

Chris Bickel
Alexis Braaten
Jodi Hutchinson
Jon Kelder
Jim Kubicek
John Mielock
Mila Perez
Silas Perez
Halle Ulreich
Jane & John Ashby
Ginta & Ryan McNally
Judy & Don Otten
Sue & Neil Sandler

June 27

Morgan Black
Jim Coates
JT Hudson
Evan Reiersen
Ruth & Denny Helzer
Debbie & Kenneth Lown
Jessica & Roger Marks
Patti & Bill Patton

June 28

Norah Barker
Vaiva Norris
Parker Proux
Anne Tooley
Jennifer & Scott Hall

June 29

Nick Grooters
Joan Hansen
Wendy Johnson
Roy Lamprich
Melissa Ziech
Corina & Scott Dulecki

June 30

Robert Missman
Emmett Morin
Patrick Murray
Lisa & Matt LaFleur
Elizabeth & Thomas Lee
Gale & Dale Volkerding
Ning Liu & Gary Watson

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

Are You Finding a Home at Trinity?

New Members to be received in the spring and summer of 2021

Our last reception of New Members at Trinity was in the fall of 2019. Planning that was underway for the Spring of 2020 reception of New Members was set aside, along with most of our parish program in the early months of our pandemic separation.

Several individuals and families have reached out in recent weeks and months to indicate that they are finding a church home among the people of Trinity. Are you among those who are considering membership with this congregation? Be in touch with the church office or one of the pastors – we are hoping to schedule “Curiosity Classes” with those who are prospective members soon.

All are welcome to find a place in our life together – welcome to Trinity!



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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Lutheran
Church, gr

Rev. Robert Linstrom, Senior Pastor (ext. 115)
robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org

Rev. Dan Schewe, Associate Pastor (ext. 124)
dan.schewe@tlcgr.org

Rev. Karen Niemeyer, Assisting Pastor (ext. 112)
karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org

Brooks Alder, Sound Board Operator,
616.949.2510

Kris Baker, Office Coordinator (ext. 110)
kris.baker@tlcgr.org

Rachele Battreal, Director of Family Ministry
rachele.battreal@tlcgr.org

Larry G. Biser, Organist/Director of Bell Choirs
(ext. 118) 616.304.7259, larry.biser@tlcgr.org

Christian Blauwkamp, Youth Ministry Coordinator,
christian.blauwkamp@tlcgr.org, 616.949.2510

Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse (ext. 119)
kristin.bradley@tlcgr.org

Ingrid Brang, Sunday School Coordinator
ingrid.brang@tlcgr.org

Amelia Crist, Wedding Coordinator
weddings@tlcgr.org

Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life
(ext. 129) angela.davis@tlcgr.org

Deb DeWitt, Trinity Choir accompanist,
616.949.2510, deb.dewitt@tlcgr.org

Awilda Diaz, Nursery Coordinator
616.427.2261, awilda.diaz@tlcgr.org

Grace Gohl, Sexton (ext. 117)
grace.gohl@tlcgr.org

Sidney Hoeksema, Trinity Choir Director (ext. 118)
616.554.2998, sidney.hoeksema@tlcgr.org

Carrie Lamb, Communications Coordinator, (ext. 121)
carrie.lamb@tlcgr.org

Tess Lundgren, Hospitality/Fellowship Coordinator,
(ext. 121) tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org

Sheri Mason, Sunday School Coordinator
kids@tlcgr.org

Peter McKinney, IT Coordinator (ext. 200)
peter.mckinney@tlcgr.org

James Morin, Family Activity Coordinator
james.morin@tlcgr.org

Kim Owens, Rejoice Music Coordinator (ext. 118)
616.949.2510

Andrea Severns, Sunday School Coordinator
kids@tlcgr.org

Joanna Waite, Finance Assistant (ext. 111)
joanna.waite@tlcgr.org