



The Messenger

Worship Assistants Needed as We Resume Our Life Together in Worship

The Trinity congregation has resumed offering Holy Communion with fresh bread and wine since early July. Many have expressed their appreciation for the return to our Holy Communion practice. **To properly offer Holy Communion at Trinity, we need those who are willing to be back in worship to step up and assist us. We need:**

•**Bread Bakers:** Those who prepare fresh bread for Communion, generally for one month at a time – we could use three new bakers to join our team for the year ahead.

•**Sacristans:** Those who serve on a rotation to prepare the communion vessels with bread and wine for worship, and then clean up after worship, generally serving for just the worship service they normally attend – we hope to have enough sacristans that you would only serve once every six to eight weeks.

•**Communion Assistants:** Those who serve on a rotation to offer the wine as the pastors offer the bread during distribution of Holy Communion, generally serving at the worship service they normally attend.

•**Lectors:** Those who read the lessons from scripture and the Prayers of Intercession during worship.

•**Ushers and Greeters:** Those who welcome worshippers and assist them with worship materials and the movement forward to receive Holy Communion.

Particularly in this time when some of our members are not yet planning to return to worship and resume their way of serving, new volunteers are needed. The offering of wine in Holy Communion will be dependent on enough volunteers offering to serve! Contact the church office or one of the pastors for more information.



Outdoor Worship on First Sundays September 5 and October 3

The final two "First Sunday" Outdoor Worship gatherings of 2021 will be offered on Sunday, September 5 and Sunday, October 3, with the annual **Blessing of the Animals** offered at the October 3 service. The outdoor service will be located 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 or at 9:15 a.m. for Rejoice worship with live streaming.

All are welcome to join us in celebration for outdoor worship in 2021 – mark your calendar for the September and October outdoor worship gatherings and know that in case of inclement weather we will reschedule on the second Sunday of the month.

**FACE MASKS
ENCOURAGED
HERE**



Thank you for caring well for each other.

Please see **Page 11** for more information and a special *Nurse's Notes* update from Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley.

What's Happening at Trinity in September?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

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.
Live Streaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.
(Indoor Services Only)
Middle School Confirmation, 3 p.m.
Starting Sept. 12
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.
Starting Sept. 12

Mondays

Functional Movement, 9 a.m.
Stroller Strides, 9 a.m.
Somatic Yoga, 10 a.m.
Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Somatic Yoga, 9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10 a.m.
Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.

Wednesdays

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.
Starting Sept. 8
Somatic Yoga, 10 a.m.
Starting Sept. 8
Pastor Bob's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.
Starting Sept. 15

Thursdays

Somatic Yoga, 9 a.m.
Tai Chi, 10 a.m.
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.
Starting Sept. 9

Fridays

Stroller Strides, 9 a.m.

Daily Calendar

Wednesday, September 1

Tai Chi, 10 a.m.

Friday, September 3

Tai Chi, 10 a.m.
Al-Anon Speaker Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 5

Outdoor Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, September 6

Labor Day – Office Closed
NO FITNESS CLASSES

Tuesday, September 7

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
SOLO Together, Noon
Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 8

Stephen Leaders Meeting, 10 a.m.
Art Class, 5 p.m.
Youth & Family Committee, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 9

Art Class, 5 p.m.

Friday, September 10

Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 11

Gardening Bee, 9 a.m.

Sunday, September 12

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday
Sunday School Intro. Message, 9:15 a.m.
During 9:15 a.m. Service
LWR Quilters, Noon
Stephen Min. CE/Peer Supp., 12:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Training, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, September 13

Messenger Submissions Due
New Member VIP Night, 6 p.m.
Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
Congregation Council, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.

Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 15

Art Class, 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 16

Entering the Narrow Gate, 9:30 a.m.
Art Class, 5 p.m.
Communications Committee, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, September 17

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

Saturday, September 18

Prayer Tree Kick-Off Breakfast, 9 a.m.

Sunday, September 19

New Member Sunday
Preschooler Blessing, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.
First Day of Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Celebration of Music Series, 3 p.m.

Monday, September 20

Stroller Strides, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, September 21

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
Prayer Group via Zoom, 11 a.m.
Health Min. Action Comm., 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22

Art Class, 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 23

Art Class, 5 p.m.

Friday, September 24

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Life Begins at 60 Gathering - Reds, 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 25

West Michigan Flute Association, 8 a.m.

Sunday, September 26

Blessing of the LWR Quilts
Flu Shot Clinic, 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Training, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, September 27

Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.
Outreach Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 28

Council on Aging, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, September 29

Art Class, 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 30

Art Class, 5 p.m.

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



Remembering a Life Well Lived

In the spring of 2013, my father preached at my installation as the new Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. I had petitioned Bishop Schleicher to invite him to preach, as he had at my ordination nearly 30 years before.

My father died on July 30 after about two months of steadily declining health and hospitalizations. His passing was peaceful with hospice staff and family gathered at his bedside at home. My former bishop, upon learning of my father's death, sent words of consolation last week, along with memories of that Installation Day sermon more than eight years ago. My father had initiated that sermon intoning the familiar Pauline salutation. "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," he began. Dad continued, "Well," he said, "I understand that you have called Pastor Bob Linstrom to be your new Senior Pastor. Congratulations. But you need to know that I am the real Pastor Bob Linstrom . . ." he deadpanned. And he had his audience.

That Installation Day celebration remains a good memory for me. Bishop Schleicher recalled my father's "little raillery," a bit of gentle teasing as he intimated that I was not quite on par with his pastoral skills. Yet, without him quite saying it, I knew that he was honored that I had asked him to preach that day, and that he was pleased with my new call to ministry among the people of Trinity Lutheran Church.

We had a wonderful celebration of his nearly 94-year-old life on July 7, remembering his 55 years of marriage to my mother who predeceased him, his 66 years of ordained ministry as a pastor, the congregations and synod leadership positions he served, his honorary doctorate from Wittenberg University, his service in the Army Air Corps in the closing year of World War II, and his generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. All four of his sons offered words of remembrance, his daughters-in-law read the scripture, and his grandchildren served as crucifer, torch bearers, ushers, and pallbearers. A full church gathered in thanksgiving for a life well lived.

I began sharing with church staff and others a prayer that has particular meaning for me in the weeks before my Dad died. Many of you have prayed it with me, a prayer from our sisters and brothers in the Anglican communion:

*O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes
and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.*

*Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest, and peace at the last,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Many of you have sent good wishes and prayers my way in recent weeks. Thank you. It remains a privilege to be a pastor among you, even if I am not the real Pastor Bob Linstrom . . .

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Linstrom



New Members Sunday Set For September 19

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 in the early months of our pandemic separation. Plans are underway for welcoming new members of our congregation in the late summer of 2021. Current plans include:

- **New Members VIP Supper on Monday, September 13** at 6 p.m. with Congregation Council leaders and church staff joining in
- **New Members Sunday on September 19**, celebrated at all three services of worship

Are you among those who are considering membership with Trinity Lutheran Church? Be in touch with the church office or one of the pastors. All are welcome to find a place in our life together – welcome to Trinity!

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2021-2022

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:

Congregational Council Executive Committee

President: Karen Unruh
Vice President: Steve Heacock
Treasurer: Chris Engle
Secretary: Amy Fox

Congregation Council Members

Children's Ministry: Sarah Huckstep
Communications: Nicole Rodammer
Congregational Life: Eric Gohlke
Endowment Fund: Brad Kessel
Fellowship: Amy Fox
Finance: Chris Engle & Mike King
Health Ministries: Carol Butler
Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman
Human Resources: Steve Heacock
Outreach: John Fox
Property: Paul Crist
Publicly Engaged Church: Christophe Muganza
Spiritual Growth: Bill Bush
Stewardship: Amelia Crist
Worship and Music: Kate Bredwell
Youth and Family Ministry: Amy Fox
Youth and Family Ministry: Alaina Lundgren
(Youth Representative)



A Message from Treasurer & Finance Committee Member Chris Engle

Well, I can't believe I am writing an article for September already. Our Michigan summers are wonderful, but they move so fast. As I write this, I remain hopeful that we continue to move toward a post-pandemic level of worship, mission, and social activity.

It has been almost two years since I last wrote a Messenger article and it has been a challenging two years to say the least. I am reminded of our promise of restoration and hope in Christ as conveyed in 1 Peter 5:10: *"And the God of grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast."* Have we grown stronger through these challenges?

Through your generous giving, the financial position of our congregation has strengthened:

- We have retired over \$500,000 of our mortgage in two years which puts us very close to being on pace to fully pay off the mortgage in the original 7-year period.
- Our Building Endowment Fund has tripled in value to \$662,184.
- Our Mission Endowment Fund has grown by 54% to \$840,760
- We now have \$397,024 in operating and capital reserves.

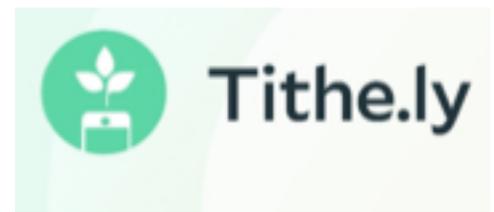
Staff and committees have done a great job of managing expenses during this timeframe. That being said, we have invested in upgrades to our audio/visual technology and security technology. We have learned new ways to meet and worship that prepare us for the challenges of the future. One thing is for certain: there will be more challenges in the future, but our efforts and faith will make us stronger.

To continue to meet these challenges, I will remind you of some giving opportunities that may be helpful as we finish the year. Gifts of appreciated stock, mutual funds, or other highly appreciated assets can be a very tax efficient method of giving. Also, a Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA has become very popular. Consult your financial or tax professional to see if these would be worthwhile for your situation.

Grace and Peace,
Chris Engle
Treasurer
Finance 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!



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 July 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	83,850	82,520	(1,330)	-1.6%
Total Expenses	94,356	89,442	4,914	5.2%
Net Income (Loss)	(10,506)	(6,922)	3,584	



2021 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru July 2021)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	549,870	687,475	137,605	25.0%
Total Expenses	571,587	522,013	49,574	8.7%
Net Income (Loss)	(21,717)	165,463	187,180	

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." –Genesis 12:1-3

This September, we seek to reengage our ministries in ways we have not for over a year. The pandemic we continue to walk through has forced us into new and different rhythms. It has forced us down paths we never saw coming. We have learned many things that will be carried with us into the future, and we all have been changed by this experience.

As we prepare to start this season of ministry, I find it helpful to return to one of the cornerstone passages of our faith. In Genesis 12, God tells Abram (who is eventually Abraham) to leave his homeland and go to where God is showing him. I'm sure Abram had some anxiety about this, as do many of us in these days.

God sends Abram with a two-fold blessing.

First, God promises to bless Abram. God promises to make him into a great nation, to be greatly known, and to bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him. God promises to pour into Abram's life and he will blossom into something wonderful.

Second, God promises Abram that he will be a blessing to all those around him. Abram is blessed to be a blessing. He is blessed by God so that God's love and promise can flow through him into all the peoples of the earth.

This passage is also for us. God is calling us to go, to do, to travel down paths we do not know, to follow where God is calling. Often into scary, unknown places.

We, too, receive this two-fold blessing. God promises to bless us in so many ways, and shows us that these blessings are not simply for us, but for everyone. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Remember that every day. You are blessed, and you are blessed to be a blessing.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan Schewe



Trinity's Prayer Tree Ministry



Prayer continues to make a difference in the lives of Trinity's adults and children. Our seventh annual Prayer Tree Ministry kicks off on **Saturday, September 18** with a breakfast gathering at 9 a.m. Come and learn about this wonderful ministry and discover how you can participate.

Please remember to RSVP to Angela Davis that you are attending so we can have enough food. New pray-ees and pray-ers are welcome! This amazing intergenerational ministry is an opportunity for Trinity's adult members to pray for our younger church family members. If you have questions, please contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life.

Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study



Meets weekly starting Tuesday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m.

This year we will be using Daily Discipleship, a free online lectionary-based Bible study produced by the ELCA. The objectives of Daily Discipleship are:

- To discover more about being a disciple of Jesus Christ
- To connect the Word of God with daily life experiences
- To explore ways to deepen faith practices in everyday living

Each session is available to be downloaded and printed from the ELCA website, and paper copies will also be available each week. Participants are welcome to prepare for the discussion, but advance preparation is not required or expected. This is the perfect study for those with busy schedules who may not be able to come every week or have time to prepare in advance!

All women are invited to join us in the **5th grade classroom** every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. beginning September 7. Zoom participation may be coordinated on request. For more information please contact Karen Unruh at karen@unruhfamily.net.

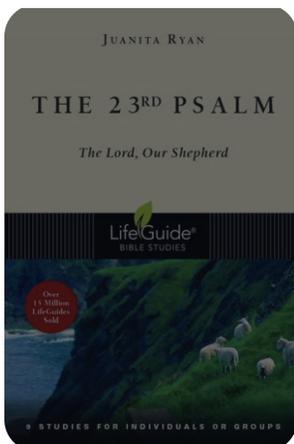
Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Friday of every month starting Friday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m.

The Friday morning Women's Bible Study will be studying *The 23rd Psalm The Lord, Our Shepherd* by Juanita Ryan. The study will meet from 9:30-11 a.m. in the **5th grade classroom** every Friday EXCEPT for the 2nd Friday of the month.

Psalm 23 pictures life as deeply secure and richly blessed. It offers us a panorama of what life can be like when lived with awareness of God's intimate love for us. This picture of life lived in God's care touches our deepest longings and speaks directly to our darkest fears. Perhaps that is why we return to this Psalm over and over again. It is possible, however, that our frequent exposure may actually result in our becoming too familiar with this jewel. This Bible study will help us to look more deeply at this Psalm (InterVarsity Press 2021).

For more information, please contact Kristine Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net.



Pastor Bob's Wednesday Adult Forum for the Fall of 2021

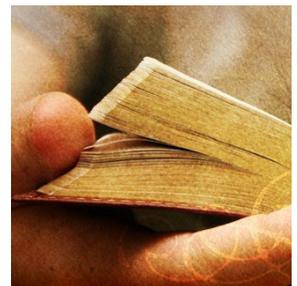
Do you ever wonder why we have so many Christian denominations and if there is really much difference between them? The answers to these questions have a foundation in the dramatic and turbulent times of the 16th century Reformation. You are invited to join Pastor Linstrom for "Reformation Roots," a 12-session series that brings to life the stories and struggles that still impact us today.

With 25-minute DVD sessions featuring prominent Reformation scholars, Pastor Linstrom will take participants on a journey that focuses on Luther's legacy, and that concludes with four sessions on the Swiss, Radical, English and Catholic Reformation movements.

We will gather at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in Centennial Hall beginning on **Wednesday, September 15**. The first three sessions will be offered in September, focusing on the emerging ministry of the great reformer Martin Luther:

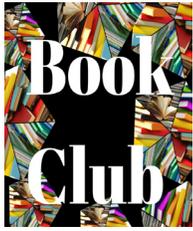
- **September 15 – From Night to Dawn**
- **September 22 – From Bondage to Freedom**
- **September 29 – From Scholar to Provocateur**

Join us on Wednesday mornings in the fall of 2021 for a weekly forum on our Reformation heritage!



Book Club Opportunities

Tuesday Evening Book Club



Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month beginning Tuesday, September 14 at 7 p.m.

The Tuesday evening book club meets the second Tuesday of the month and is looking for more people to join us. **The group is multi-gender and multigenerational**, and has met at church, at members' homes or via Zoom. For September, we will be reading *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. **Please contact Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com for the location our September 14 meeting** or if you would like to be added to our email list to get details about future meetings.

Books for 2021-22:

September: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

October: *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Wood

November: *The Reason You Are Alive* by Matthew Quick

December: *The German Girl* by Armando Lucas Correa

January: *The Girls with No Names* by Serena Burdick

February: *A Stitch of Time: The Year a Brain Injury Changed My Language and Life* by Lauren Marks

March: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab

April: *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

May: *Broken (in the Best Possible Way)* by Jenny Lawson

Friday Morning Women's Book Club

Meets the 2nd Friday of the month beginning Friday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m.

If you like reading a wide variety of books, you will enjoy interacting with this group of women. This book club typically meets in a member's home the second Friday of the month (September-May) at 9:30 a.m., but has also opted to meet at TLC or by Zoom when needed. They love having new members. Contact Carol Hendricks at hendricksc@msn.com or 616-874-8351 for more information.

Books for 2021-22 (Blank spaces are in need of a book and host!):

September 10: *When We Were Young and Brave* by Hazel Gaynor (Host: Carol Hendricks)

October 8: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. (Host: Pam Gunderson)

November 12:

December 10: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman (Host: Sue Coates)

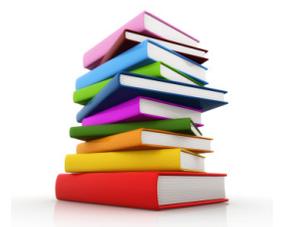
January 14:

February 11: *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline or *The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan, (Host: Kris Fox)

March 11:

April 8: *What They Meant for Evil* by Rebecca Deng (Host: Jamie Kuntzman)

May 12:



Life Begins at 60!

Join Us at Reds at Thousand Oaks!

Life Begins at 60 will begin monthly gatherings at restaurants this fall, beginning with a dinner at **Reds at Thousand Oaks at 6 p.m. on Friday, September 24**. Due to restaurant accommodations, reservations will be limited to the first 30 people. Make your reservation by contacting our hosts, Jim and Sue Coates, at suecoates1036@gmail.com or 616-254-7321, or Pastor Karen at karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org.



Middle School Youth News

Confirmation Kick-Off is Sunday, September 12 at 3 p.m.

Parents of Confirmation students (6th – 8th graders) are invited to attend our first session of the year where we will be talking about covenants, looking at the year ahead, and getting to know each other better.

September and October Confirmation Schedule:

September 12 – Class for parents and youth from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

September 19 & 26 – Class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

October 3, 10, & 17 – Youth Group from 2 to 3 p.m. and class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

October 24 – Service projects from 3 to 5 p.m.

October 31 – Class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Stay connected with our middle school ministries via Remind: text @7ecfc67 to the number 81010



High School Youth News

Youth Group Kick-Off is Sunday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Youth in 9th - 12th grades, and their family and friends, are invited to join us for a kick-off celebration for our year in ministry together on September 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.! We will reconnect, have fun, and share information on all our plans for this coming year. High School Youth Group will resume meeting weekly in the following weeks.



First Sunday of the Month Bible Study with Pastor Dan

Starting **October 3**, Pastor Dan will host a Bible Study the first Sunday of the month during the 9:15 a.m. worship service in the youth room. All high schoolers and their friends are invited to journey through the scriptures with us. There will be donuts!

Youth Activities for Next Summer

Make Your Plans for Next Summer Now!

Next summer is a busy one in our youth ministries. We have two trips planned for our high schoolers and camp for all our children. Put these dates on your calendar now!

Mission Trip for Youth Currently in 8th – 12th Grades: June 25 – July 2

Camp for All Youth: July 10 – 15

ELCA Youth Gathering for Youth Currently in 8th – 12th Grades: July 23 – 28

Stay connected with our high school ministries via Remind!

For general high school information, text the message @428ag4 to the number 81010

For Mission Trip information, text the message @ff9ekh to the number 81010

For ELCA Gathering information, text the message @gdbhbg to the number 81010



Health Ministries

Trinity Fitness Classes are Back in Session - Indoors!

Classes are offered in The Commons, Monday to Thursday from 9 – 11 a.m., beginning September 7. ALL levels and abilities are welcome.

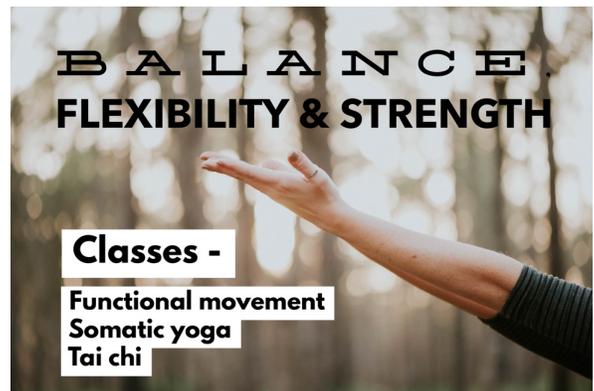
	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAYS
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Functional Movement	Somatic Yoga	Tai Chi	Somatic Yoga
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Somatic Yoga	Tai Chi	Somatic Yoga	Tai Chi

FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT - Focused activities to improve mobility and agility.

SOMATIC YOGA - Reset your body by consciously controlling your neuromuscular system with slow, mindful movements and exercises.

TAI CHI - Improve flexibility, balance, and core strength through low impact movement.

Contact our fitness instructor, Kristina Kuhlmann, with any questions or concerns: 616.719.6961
Suggested donation is \$3/class or \$20/month.



Trinity in Touch: Contact & Communion

Do you know a Trinity member who is not able to attend church services?

Are you worshipping solely online? Has it been a while since you've received the Lord's Supper?

Trinity in Touch is here to help!

Please reach out to [Kristin Bradley](#) at 616.949.2510 x119 and arrangements can be made to keep you connected in our faith community.



let us pray

Prayer Group

Please join fellow Trinity members for focused prayer time on **Tuesday, September 21 at 11 a.m. via Zoom**. In addition to our congregational prayers, this month we will focus on students, teachers, and healthcare workers. Contact Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley with any questions and/or specific prayer requests.

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

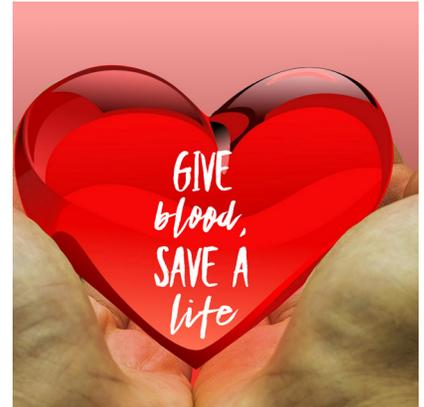
Meeting ID: 933 2268 1488 Passcode: PRAY

Blood Drive - September 27, 2021

It's time for Trinity's next blood drive. Can you join us? **Versiti Blood will be onsite Monday, September 27 from 12:30 to 6:00 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 our new blood drive coordinator, Kristen Lamprich, at 616.821.9869 or kristendml@yahoo.com to secure your spot or register online at https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/130606

Not able to donate? Check the SignUpGenius for other ways you can help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EACA623AAF85-blood>



Nurse's Notes: An Update

It was nice to see each other's smiles for a bit, wasn't it?
For now, though, we're back to covering.

With the virus variants posing new risks, substantial disease transmission in our region, and children unable to be vaccinated yet, Trinity is encouraging all people to wear masks indoors for gatherings and worship. Public health guidelines and metrics are being monitored closely and any changes will continue to be announced in worship and shared in eBlasts.

Wearing a mask is one of the easiest and more effective ways to protect and love our neighbors during this season. Combined with hand hygiene, cleaning, distancing, and vaccinations (if able), we can continue to get to the other side of this pandemic!

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. --Galatians 5:13-15.

We can do this, friends! TOGETHER!

In His peace,
Kristin Bradley
Faith Community Nurse



Get Your Flu Shot!

Trinity will be hosting an Influenza Immunization Clinic on Sunday, September 26th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Library. Spectrum Health is providing this clinic for our members/guests aged 5 and above. Children under 18 must have a parent present. Both regular and high dose vaccines will be available.



To provide the highest level of safety, members are asked to make an appointment, answer health screening questions as they arrive, follow 6 ft. distancing guidelines, and wear a mask.

Sign up [HERE](https://tinyurl.com/d42ethr9) (<https://tinyurl.com/d42ethr9>) or contact Kristin Bradley for available times.

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

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry is Growing at Trinity!

The Stephen Ministry team is growing! A new class begins **September 12** with four students. In addition, two Stephen Ministers have transferred into the congregation! We were delighted to welcome **Laura Norton and Marcia Schumate-Shultz** into the congregation and Stephen Ministry this summer. We are blessed to have them at Trinity and to engage with our team!

Laura Norton and her husband Chris moved to the Grand Rapids area from Pittsburgh, where she was an active Stephen Minister. Laura enjoys the ministry and wanted to continue using her caregiving skills. She quickly came up to speed and has been matched in a caring relationship.



Marcia Schumate-Shultz is an old friend. She and her husband Mike were trained as Stephen Ministers right here at Trinity in 2004. Schooling and work assignments took them away from the area for several years and we are thrilled to have them return to Trinity. Marcia has been trained as both a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader. We are blessed to have her energy and skills to support and encourage our team.



We are excited that **Renee Fisk, Emily Keller, Krista Knight, and Terry Zabel** will embark on Stephen Minister training this fall. The instruction will help them develop all the skills needed for effective, Christian caring. We appreciate their dedication in attending sessions on two Sundays per month from September through February.

Norm Palm and Beth Vanderwall will be leading the class, with the support of the Stephen Leader team. There is still time to register for the class!

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

"God's work. Our hands."

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Mark your calendar and plan to participate. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.



Trinity Choir Returns!

Following an unprecedented hiatus, the Trinity Choir will once again convene!

If you have entertained the idea of singing in choir, this is an excellent time to ask questions and get started; all of our music is new, and our new choir room is beautiful. **Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 9 at the new time of 7:15 p.m.**

For more information, please contact choir director Sid Hoeksema at sidney.hoeksema@tlcgr.org or 616.540.7190.



Celebration of Music Series Rescheduled from 2020



September 19, 2021

Wilkie and Hurd Piano Duo

3 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Sanctuary



October 17, 2021

Gregory Crowell,
Harpsichord

3 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Sanctuary



November 14, 2021

Renée Anne Louprette,
Organ

3 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Sanctuary

Free and open to the public!

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.

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Trinity's congregational membership grew rapidly in the early 1900's, reaching a point where the original structure was no longer adequate. In 1912 a loan from the Board of Church Extension was repaid. In that same year the congregation purchased the lot south of the parsonage on Bostwick St., "to be held until such time when it may become necessary to enlarge our church." The Annual Report of 1914 showed that continued growth, with an average Sunday attendance of 375 to 400, had made expansion an inevitability.

At the January Annual Meeting of 1915, a committee was appointed to begin planning for an enlargement of the church. At an evening meeting in June of 1915, slides were shown of changes to the exterior, enlargement of the "auditorium" interior, as the sanctuary was called at that time, and new Sunday School rooms. They carried a total cost estimate of \$25,000.00. By September of 1915, nearly \$22,000.00 had already been pledged, and the congregation voted to proceed. A Building Committee and supporting Advisory Committee were also appointed, under the chairmanship of Mr. George A. Krause. A \$20,000.00 loan was secured from Kent State Bank, and the remodeling began in the Spring of 1916. The parsonage was removed to make room for the lengthened auditorium, basement rooms, and education building. The old pews and pipe organ were sold and replaced, this time with straight pews facing forward which could seat 500.

Perhaps the most memorable addition for those who worshipped there, was the carved reredos behind the altar, containing a carving of Da Vinci's "Last Supper." This art piece remains at Trinity today prominently displayed in our overlook. The expanded church was rededicated on January 7, 1917. Total cost for the additions and remodeling was \$33,166.00.

In celebration of Trinity's fiftieth anniversary in 1946, the congregation elected to build a chapel "as an expression of appreciation to God for the many blessings received in that first half-century." A campaign was begun in 1947 to raise the necessary funds, while plans were drawn by the architectural firm of Daverman & Co. Yet another Building Committee was appointed, this time under the direction of Mr. Henry Walstrom. The June 2, 1949, *Messenger* carried an article about the second fund campaign for the new chapel. One of the justifications in favor of building stated that, "This will probably be the last building project for the congregation. The chapel will give us everything that we shall probably need for our expanding work for many years to come."



The chapel was constructed by general contractor Burt Aalsburg. It ran parallel to the main sanctuary and connected to the narthex by means of a cloistered walkway. Between the two was a sunken garden. Most of the blonde wood furnishings again came from Grand Rapids furniture manufacturers. The Reredos, altar, baptismal font, pews seating 130 people, lectern, and pulpit were all made by the American Seating Company of Grand Rapids. Fifty additional side chairs for the balcony came from Grand Rapids manufacturer Brower Furniture Co. A twenty-five by six-foot greenhouse flanked one side of the chapel and was planted with flowers and shrubs. The cornerstone was laid on September 24, 1950. The Chapel was dedicated on April 22, 1951, and cost \$85,000.00.

A donation was made in 1953, which enabled the congregation to install a carillon in the Chapel tower. The March 26, 1953, *Messenger* announced that the chimes would be rung for the first time on the following Sunday. Members were encouraged to park their cars south or west of the church, and "spend a quiet thirty minutes listening to familiar hymns played on the carillon." After its dedication, Trinity received many letters of appreciation from patients at

Continued on following page

The Founding of Our Congregation (cont.)

nearby Butterworth Hospital, saying that the familiar hymns renewed their faith and courage. **In 1954 the speakers were turned toward the hospital for the patients' benefit, and requests were taken, to be played on the following Sunday.**

Fourteen art glass windows were added to the Chapel in 1955. These windows were incorporated into the current church when it was constructed in 1961. During the ten years that Trinity remained downtown, the chapel was used for all its intended purposes. After Trinity moved to its present site, the chapel remained in use as the Spectrum Theater of Grand Rapids Community College until 1996 when it was scheduled for demolition.

Planning Underway for a Fall Celebration of Trinity's 125th Anniversary

On behalf of the 125th Anniversary Committee, Doug Haneline recently updated the Congregation Council on plans and proposed activities to mark Trinity's 125 years of mission and ministry in the Grand Rapids community. The committee has met several times this spring and summer and has identified the following ideas for celebrating Trinity's 125th:

1. Placing monthly pieces drawn from Chris Carron's 100th anniversary historical booklet into *The Messenger*
2. Interviewing older/lifelong church members to record their memories of our heritage
3. Reaching out to recent former pastors (Krupinski, Cobb, Stobie) for interviews and/or participation in anniversary activities
4. Reaching out to local media to lift up our celebration
5. With the help of retired Director of Discipleship Sylvia Stouten, compiling a record of Trinity's benevolence giving historically
6. Working with volunteer archivists Karen Legault and Mary Minich-Carwell, gathering a record of who we are and have been as a congregation
7. Supplementing Chris Carron's excellent 100th anniversary history with an update for the past quarter century
8. Making use of the Overlook Gallery for displays and exhibits between now and December
9. Planning a musical event/choir concert/festival, in consultation with Trinity Choir Director Sid Hoeksema, nearer to the December 9 date of the congregation's formal organizing in 1896
10. Planning for a "post pandemic" congregational celebration on December 5, the Second Sunday in Advent



In addition to celebration in worship at the services on that day, a celebration of food and fellowship will be available in the Courtyard area throughout the morning.

Doug wrote, "As the committee continues to meet, we generate new ideas and give our plans more substance. Our goal is to mark this important event with reminders of Trinity's past and inspiration for the future. We welcome suggestions from the congregation to maximize the quality of our anniversary celebration."

Let us give thanks for 125 years of ministry and the heritage we share in our time with those who have gone before us!

Behind the Scenes at Trinity

Worker Bees: Bob and Liz Dever

For just as each of us has one body, with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. --Romans 12: 4-6



“Bob and I don’t see ourselves as ‘leaders’...a better description might be worker bees! We were attracted to Trinity because of the many and varied opportunities to serve, the wonderful pastors and staff, and the vitality of the congregation.”

Bob and Liz Dever have seamlessly moved into service and community connection after relocating from Kansas City to Ada 3 years ago. They delight in time spent with their son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. Yet, they also add vibrancy and fullness by blending family life and community life in meaningful ways.

Bob can be found fishing, working in the yard, exercising, or playing guitar with a “jam” group he formed. He is a member of Trinity’s **Earth Keepers** group and is dedicated to projects that get people involved in promoting cleaner and healthier lives for us and our planet. Liz notes, “Bob is a retired health and physical education teacher, and his volunteer interests are an extension of what he did as a career before retirement.”

Liz loves to read, dabble in crafts and scrapbooking, cook, participate in water classes, and walk with their senior dog, Mack. In continuation of her passions as

a retired special education teacher and school guidance counselor, Liz lives out her commitment to helping with service projects and encouraging life participation. She has offered a helping hand with **IHN** and **Dégagé**, donated blood, participates in choir, and has supported drives for various organizations. Liz says, “The IHN experiences have been important reminders of the struggles that so many people face in life, and the grace with which they meet their challenges.”

Together, Bob and Liz are **Trinity Neighbor** contacts, “because we enjoy being with others and felt that connections are important, especially in light of pandemic life changes.” They are also active as **New Member Mentors**, assisting others in finding their place in service and connection here at Trinity.



Liz humbly summarizes Romans 12:4-6 with a beautiful inspiration: “Do whatever your particular gifts allow, make a contribution, help others. There’s a place and a ‘job’ for anyone who wants to pitch in at Trinity, and that’s all we are trying to do.”

Please consider reaching out to Angela Davis or Pastor Karen to discuss ways in which you might support the New Member Mentors program.

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.

Sunday School is Back In-Person this Fall!

Children 3 years old through grade five are invited to join us in Sunday School this fall! Lessons are taught using a Lutheran, lectionary based curriculum. Children will study the same scriptures heard in worship, sing songs, play games, and make crafts.

Learn all about Sunday School on September 12 during a special Children's Time message. Families will hear about our wellness policy, the check-in and pick-up procedure, the revised schedule, volunteer opportunities, and more. All kids will receive a Welcome to Sunday School Goodie Bag! *Note: There is no class on September 12.*



Our first day of class is September 19. Sunday School takes place within the framework of the 9:15 a.m. service. Children start worship with their families and are dismissed after Children's Time. This year, children will rejoin their families during the "Passing of the Peace" and will remain in the service until its conclusion. For families attending either of the traditional services, the approximate time of Sunday School is 9:30-10 a.m. All children are encouraged to join! Please register for Sunday School at tlcgr.org.

Pre-schooler Blessing - September 19, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.

All pre-schoolers are welcomed to Sunday School with a special blessing in worship. Three year-olds and children new to Trinity's Sunday School will be gifted a storybook Bible. First-time pre-school parents are invited to experience Sunday school with their children.

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers Needed!

Please consider joining our team of dedicated Sunday School teachers! The Spark lesson plans are easy to follow. Crafts and activities are prepared by our Sunday School coordinators. No prior teaching experience is necessary. Contact Sheri Mason at sheri.mason@tlcgr.org for more information.

The Nursery is open!

Trinity's Nursery Coordinator Awilda Diaz is excited to welcome little ones back to our beloved church nursery! The nursery is open on Sunday mornings from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. *Please see the poster below for important health information as it pertains to the nursery.*

WELCOME BACK!

We've missed your children and are excited to provide a safe & enriching space for them!!

Each staff member completes a health check prior to working and they have been fully vaccinated for Covid 19 or are masking at all times.

Temperature checks are currently in place.

Your child should not use the nursery if they have a temp over 100.4 or in the past 48 hours they have had any of the following signs or symptoms of communicable disease...

Cough * Difficulty Breathing
Fever * Headache * Sore Throat
Drainage from Eyes
Diarrhea * Vomiting
Head Lice

To best care for each other, if your child develops an illness within 48 hours of attending nursery, please contact Nursery Coordinator Awilda Diaz at 616.427.2261



Remembering the Children

This letter was received throughout our denomination in July of this year, after the devastating discovery of the mass grave at the Kamloops Residential School in Canada. I will be asking the Trinity Congregation Council to consider hanging an orange banner for 225 days beginning in Advent of 2021. –Pastor Bob Linstrom

Greetings in the name of our Creator, in the name of Jesus, Savior of all. We speak to you all today on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North Americas. We come with sad hearts at the news of 215+ children of the Kamloops Residential School whose remains were recently found in a mass grave and of the children of the Rosebud Sioux whose bodies were returned to their homeland this past week. They are being remembered by many by the color orange.

The color orange is symbolic and came from the inspiration of a survivor of that era, Phyllis Webstad, who stated that when she was a 6-year-old girl arriving at a residential boarding school, she was stripped of her clothes which included a new orange t-shirt her grandmother had gifted her which was never given back. The orange shirt/color now symbolizes how the church and the schools they administered took away the Indigenous identity of the children in their care.

In honor and memory of the children of the First Nations people and of our Native children who never made it home, and for those still living the nightmare imposed on them as children of Canada and the United States we humbly ask our brothers and sisters of the church to hang an orange banner in the sanctuaries of your churches for 225 days. In remembrance and lament of each child that was thrown into those graves, and those yet to be discovered, we honor each of their lives.

Please grieve with us and remember us as the Indigenous people of this land who are going through a very sad and heartbreaking time in our collective psyche. We invite all our Christian brothers and sisters, in solidarity with us, to honor all our First Nations and our Native children that never made it out of residential schools by hanging an orange banner for 225 days.

We now call on the Church to acknowledge and confess its complicity in all the atrocities committed against the Indigenous peoples of North America and throughout the world where western Christianity colonized Indigenous peoples. Please stand in partnership with us for the children.

The true history of the western church in America has been participation in acts of ethnic cleansing, genocide through warfare including biological and chemical, sterilization, depletion of our main food source, the taking of land and resources for personal gains. We ask you, the ELCA Church and Bishops Church leaders and congregations to support our people in remembering the children.

Many Tribal nations have had church groups offer apologies on behalf of their ancestors, which is well and good, but that only serves to assuage any feelings of guilt or shame for them and does not bring about true repentance. So, in light of these past gestures we call upon the churches serving in the United States to advocate the U.S. Government to fully acknowledge all the atrocities it has committed against the indigenous peoples of this land now known as the United States of America and for the future of Christianity in Indian Country.

Wopila

In Christ,

Pr. Joann Conroy, President

Pr. Manuel Ratamoza, Vice President

Pr. Will Voss, Treasurer

Kelly Sherman-Conroy Ph.D. Candidate, Secretary

Pr. Larry Thiele, Incorporator

Patterson Yazzie

Loni Whitford

Vicar Jonathan Old Horse

Pr. Jack Russel

Amanda Straw

Lisa Whitford July 23, 2021



Kamloops Residential School

Entering the Narrow Gate 2021-2022

School of Spiritual Formation-Year-long Program

Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

Staff Contact: Kris Baker kris.baker@tlcgr.org, 616.949.2510, x 110

Program Facilitator: Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP: (616) 560-4580 or nbrousseau@aol.com

Open to anyone who would like to explore the classic elements of monastic, spiritual & contemplative life to discover how this ancient wisdom, learning, and spiritual practice might be understood and lived in new settings and life today. The program offers a reflective personal and transformative process for all who desire a deeper life in Spirit and more intentional living of the Christian life. The rich and inspiring teaching is centered on the saints, mystics and spiritual teachers of the Christian centuries, personal contemplative prayer practice, lively conversations, and living of a personal Rule of Life.

September 2021 to June 2022, Ten Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (please bring your lunch; coffee/hot water provided)

- **Ten sessions: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, one Thursday per month (separate registration form available)
- **Tuition: \$600** (Payment in full or 50% due with registration and 50% due in February)
- **Required Books** (may be purchased on Amazon.com at reduced cost): *The Wisdom Jesus* by Cynthia Bourgeault; *The Rule of Benedict*, Ed., Timothy Fry Liturgical Press, 1982; *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Rolheiser, *The Cloud of Unknowing* translated by Carmen Acevedo Butcher, 2009; *The Spiritual Life* by Evelyn Underhill;
- **Recommended:** *The Deeper Journey* by M. Robert Mulholland, Jr., *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr

Course Requirements

- **Attendance** at all sessions
- **Preparation** for each session, required readings (short background and/or readings from the original writings of each spiritual teacher), and journal questions emailed to participants prior to each session. Participation in class discussion is expected.
- **Participation** in a four-day silent directed retreat during the year is encouraged – Dates TBD
- Participants are encouraged to have a **spiritual director** during the year
- Those completing this first year may apply for an **18-session Intensive Formation Program & Practicum** for becoming a Spiritual Director. Program begins August 2022 at Christ United Church in DeWitt, MI.

2021-2022 Program Schedule

- **9/16/2021** Gospel according to John
Paschal Mystery & Spiritual Journey
- **10/14** Mothers & Fathers of the Desert
Contemplative Prayer & Approaches to God
- **11/18** St. Benedict and St. Scholastica,
Hildegard of Bingen
- **12/16** St. Francis & St. Clare Meister
Eckhart
- **1/13/2022** Beguine Women's
Movement, St. Catherine of Siena
- **2/17** Julian of Norwich Cloud of
Unknowing
- **3/17** St. Teresa of Avila St. John of the
Cross
- **4/21** St. Ignatius of Loyola, Howard
Thurman
- **5/12** Evelyn Underhill Teilhard de
Chardin, SJ
- **6/16** Dorothy Day Thomas Merton

Please see page 23 of *The Messenger* for the Narrow Gate Registration Form

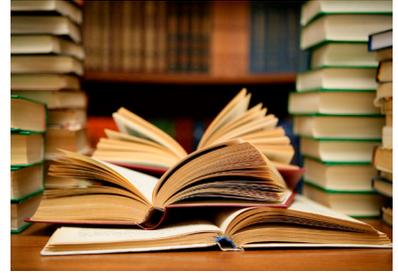
Opportunities to Support Church & Community

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

Could you possibly carve out a small amount of time in your schedule each week? There is a young student at Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy in Grand Rapids that needs your help working toward the goal of high school graduation. You being there for them and your presence in their life could literally make or break their future.

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

If you would like more information about tutoring, please contact Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis.



Interfaith Hospitality Network Returns to Trinity October 10-17, 2021



Trinity has been a host congregation for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) for 24 years, since 1997 when the network was established in Grand Rapids. This amazing ministry is operated as a division of Family Promise of Grand Rapids. IHN involves Grand Rapids area churches that house homeless families on a rotating basis in church buildings four times per year for a week at a time. A small army of welcoming volunteers are needed at each church during host weeks to act as an evening hosts, prepare evening meals, stay overnight, provide activities for the children, and/or help with set-up or take-down.

Our next host week at Trinity is from October 10 to 17. Look for a link in Trinity's Friday eBlasts to the SignUpGenius to volunteer. As we get back into the routine of hosting, we will need quite a few of our Trinity volunteers to step up. Please consider sharing some of your time with these precious families.

If you have questions about this important ministry, please contact Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis.

Trinity's Annual Coat and Blanket Drive

Share the warmth! We are collecting clean, gently used or new coats and blankets this fall to help people served by local agencies stay warm this winter.

Samaritas, Dégagé Ministries, Family Promise, and In the Image receive our Trinity donations. Your contributions of warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are also most welcome. **You can place your items in the labeled bins located in the narthex or by main entrance on the west side of the building.**

Is it time to move your child to the next coat size? Are you planning to replace your warm coat? Have you downsized your home recently and have too many blankets?

Please consider donating to Trinity's Annual Coat and Blanket Drive. If you have questions, please contact Director of Congregational Life Angela Davis.



Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Make a Difference with “Christophe’s Children”

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 U.S. citizen.

Now, Christophe and a grassroots initiative in Grand Rapids have launched “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. This partnership has already made a big difference. You can give through designated offerings payable to Trinity Lutheran Church or you can give directly through the appeal website christopheschildren.org.



Gardening Bee Scheduled for Saturday, September 11 from 9 a.m. to Noon



Have you noticed how lackluster the landscape looks along Robinson Road? We are working on a lovely landscape plan, which includes native plants that provide food and shelter to birds and butterflies. It's really going to look fantastic while restoring some of God's natural creation!

Please join us **Saturday, September 11 from 9 a.m. to Noon for the next Gardening Bee!** Bring your energy, favorite shovel, water bottle, and gardening gloves. Contact Lisa Mead (lmead340@gmail.com) or Rebecca Marquardt (rebecca@reverystudio.com) with questions.

News Briefs

Trinity’s Refugee Family Begins a Second Year in America

It was a delightful day in early August for Cynthia (10) and Gloria (8) shopping with their mother, Amani, and Trinity members Carol Butler and Donna Erickson for back-to-school clothes as they were getting ready for another school year.

Trinity has been sponsoring their family which includes their father Kanyeshuri, brother Clever (3), and grandmother Souzane since their arrival in America from a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on September 2 of last year.

It has been an incredible year becoming friends with these new Americans, helping them enroll in school, setting up their household, applying for Social Security, getting jobs for both parents, going to doctors' appointments, getting Covid shots with Linda Grinstead, weekly English tutoring since December with Sheila Talsma, as well as shopping for clothes. Thank you to all who have volunteered in many other ways and for financial contributions to the Refugee fund that continue to make this ministry possible. Trinity will continue to walk with this family, and pray for them, as they make their way toward being independent in their new homeland.



A Special Note from Member Marilyn Mellema

I would like to thank all my family at TLC for their prayers, cards and best wishes. I am slowly getting back into the human race...no running in my race, but thanks again. I am looking to the day to see all at church.

Blessings to All,
Marilyn Mellema

September Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

September 1

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

September 2

Brooke Giuliani
Audrey Kind
Audrey Korb
Lois McCardell
Jaclyn & Zach Abbate

September 3

Kate Schaefer
Pam & Brad Burkle
Brittney & Dan Zielinski

September 4

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

September 5

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

September 6

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

September 7

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

September 8

Eric Bryce
Malena Kind
Lisa Postlewaite

September 9

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

September 10

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

September 11

Brooke Kendall
Benjamin Sommers
Kyle Teichow
Brenda & Steve Heacock

September 12

Isabella Abbate
Bob Beaudry
Madelyn Ferguson
Midge Reges

September 13

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

September 14

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

September 15

John Hall
Melat Lang
Joanne & Don Brouse

September 16

Debbie Duckworth

September 17

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

September 18

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

September 19

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

September 20

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

September 21

Sammi Blair
John Hagenbush
Logan Juth
Jessica Marks
Chloe McMillan

September 22

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

September 23

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

September 24

Violet Bidle
Ian Hall
Patricia Terpstra

September 25

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

September 26

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

September 27

Liz Dever
Jennifer Hall
Mary Hamilton

September 28

Connie Helzer
Caroline Kuntzman
Marjorie Paul
Pamela Sellers

September 29

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

September 30

Michelle Albaitis
Brianda Sellman
Kris & Mark Baker
Cami & Darin Estep
Carol & Vince Schumacher



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

Entering the Narrow Gate 2021-2022

Hosted by: Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Registration

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

Make checks payable to **Dominican Sisters** (please print **Narrow Gate** on memo line of check)

Mail completed registration form with payment to:

Nancy Brousseau, OP
151 W. Brunswick Dr #71
DeWitt MI 48820

Church Contact: Kris Baker kris.baker@tlcgr.org 616.949.2510, x 110

Facilitator: Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP

Email: nbrousseau@aol.com Cell: 616-560-4580

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

- Ten Thursdays, 9:30am-4:30pm; one Thursday per month, September-June
- Dates: **2021** - 9/16, 10/14, 11/18, 12/16; **2022** - 1/13, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/12, 6/16
- Coffee available; please bring your lunch/beverage; snack to share if you wish

_____Please mail this bottom portion with your check_____

Registration: Entering the Narrow Gate at Trinity Lutheran - 2021-2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amt. enclosed: _____

Technology @ Trinity

Trinity is Live Streaming our Rejoice Service - How do I find it?



We are streaming our **9:15 and 10:45 a.m.** Sunday "Virtual Worship" services on YouTube. The 10:45 a.m. service is streamed for **indoor** services only. **To find them:**

- 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. Then, 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. or 10:40-11:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings), 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 playlists called **'Rejoice Worship,'** and **'Sanctuary Worship,'** so you can view a past worship service at any time. (On Sundays, it may be a few hours before YouTube makes videos available.)

If you have a YouTube account, **please subscribe to the Trinity channel** and our videos will show up on your feed!

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!



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

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (M-F)



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

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

Staff

Direct Dial:

616.949.2510

(then dial extension #)



facebook.com/tlcgr



YouTube.com

Search: Trinity Lutheran Church, gr

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, Rejoice Music Coordinator/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, Fellowship & Hospitality 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

Andrea Severns, Sunday School Coordinator
kids@tlcgr.org

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