



# The Messenger

## Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting Resumes at Trinity

Trinity has been a Host Congregation for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) for almost 25 years, since the network was first established in Grand Rapids in 1997. 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 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 volunteer or to contribute food. If you have questions about this important ministry, please contact Director of Congregational Life [Angela Davis](#). **Mark your calendar for Trinity's 2022 IHN Weeks:** January 30-February 6, 2022 • June 5-12, 2022  
September 4-11, 2022 • December 4-11, 2022



## Outdoor Worship and the Annual Blessing of the Animals

Trinity's 2021 "First Sunday" Outdoor Worship schedule concludes on Sunday, October 3, and will again 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 or at 9:15 a.m. for Rejoice worship with live-streaming.

**The Sunday, October 3, outdoor service will include our third annual Blessing of the Animals.** Humans and other animals are welcome! Plan now to bring your dog, cat, goldfish, cockatoo, iguana, or your favorite farm animal to worship. The blessing will be part of the outdoor service on the west lawn.

St. Francis of Assisi is remembered for his patronage of animals and the natural environment, and it has become customary to have celebrations blessing animals on or close to his feast day of October 4. For the third year in a row, we will commemorate St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 3.

In the case of inclement weather, we will reschedule on the second Sunday of the month, October 10.

## Three New Initiatives are Meeting in October

Take note of the descriptions of these three new initiatives on **page 17** of this issue of *The Messenger*.

Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom – Spiritual Growth 'Stakeholders' Meeting to shape a vision for ongoing and new small group, study, and retreat ministries at Trinity

Thursday, October 7, 7 p.m. – a Gathering of Earth Keepers, Land Conservancy advocates, gardeners, and others to develop a plan for the care of the woods and wetlands of the "Trinity Triangle" (our church property, bordered by Fulton Street, Robinson Road, and Cascade Road)

Monday, October 25, 7 p.m. – a first meeting of a new Publicly Engaged Church Committee, growing ministries of advocacy and "doing justice" beyond our broad base of benevolent giving through financial offerings and by volunteers

Interested? Speak with [Pastor Bob](#) or just show up and join us as we grow together in ministry.



# What's Happening at Trinity in October?

## Weekly at a Glance

### **Sundays**

Wreath Sales  
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.  
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.  
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
Live Streaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
(*Indoor Services Only*)  
True Vine Church Worship Service, 3 p.m.  
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

### **Mondays**

Functional Movement, 9 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Somatic Yoga, 10 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

### **Tuesdays**

Somatic Yoga, 9 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Stroller Strides, 9:15 a.m.  
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Tai Chi, 10 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Lutheran World Relief Quilting, 10 a.m.

### **Wednesdays**

Tai Chi, 9 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Somatic Yoga, 10 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Pastor Bob's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.  
JOYful Days Lunch & Speaker, 11:45 a.m.  
Art Class, 5 p.m.

### **Thursdays**

Somatic Yoga, 9 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Stroller Strides, 9:15 a.m.  
Tai Chi, 10 a.m.  
(*No class Oct. 10-17 & Oct. 21-31*)  
Art Class, 5 p.m.  
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.  
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

## Daily Calendar

### **Friday, October 1**

Fri Morn Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Al-Anon Speaker Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, October 3**

High School Bible Study, 9 a.m.  
Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.  
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

### **Monday, October 4**

Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Rejoice Band Practice, 6:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, October 5**

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.  
SOLO Together, Noon  
Exec Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

### **Wednesday, October 6**

Spiritual Growth Stakeholders Mtg, 7:30 p.m.

### **Thursday, October 7**

Aquinas College Choir Rehearsal, 1 p.m.  
Aquinas College Choir Concert, 3 p.m.  
Endowment Fund Committee, 6 p.m.  
Earthkeepers/Land Conserv. Mtg, 7 p.m.

### **Friday, October 8**

Fri Morn Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.  
Wedding Rehearsal, 5 p.m.

### **Saturday, October 9**

Gardening Bee, 9 a.m.  
Marriage of Kayla Jensen & Jacob Rosin, 4 p.m.

### **Sunday, October 10**

IHN Guests Arrive for the Week  
Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed, 12:30 p.m.  
Stephen Ministry Training Class, 12:30 p.m.  
Stephen Ministry Peer Supt Group 1, 1:30 p.m.  
Stephen Ministry Peer Supt Group 2, 1:30 p.m.  
Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.  
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

### **Monday, October 11**

IHN Guests on Site  
*The Messenger* Deadline  
Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Schubert Male Chorus Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
Congregation Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Beyond Belief Band Practice, 7 p.m.  
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

### **Tuesday, October 12**

IHN Guests on Site  
Tues Evening Book Club, 7 p.m.

### **Wednesday, October 13**

IHN Guests on Site  
Youth & Family Committee Meeting, 8 p.m.

### **Thursday, October 14**

IHN Guests on Site  
Entering the Narrow Gate, 9:30 a.m.

### **Friday, October 15**

IHN Guests on Site  
Fri Morn Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

### **Saturday, October 16**

IHN Guests on Site  
Medicare Consultation, 10 a.m.

### **Sunday, October 17**

IHN Guests Depart  
Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.  
Celebration of Music Concert Series, 3 p.m.  
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.  
Middle School Fellowship, 4:30 p.m.

### **Monday, October 18**

Rejoice Band Practice, 6:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, October 19**

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.  
Prayer Group, 11 a.m.  
Worship/Music Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

### **Thursday, October 21**

Ladies Bridge, 1 p.m.

### **Friday, October 22**

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

### **Saturday, October 23**

Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 9 a.m.  
Medicare Consultation, 10 a.m.  
Schwallier's Family Fall Outing, 6 p.m.

### **Sunday, October 24**

Stephen Ministry Training Class, 12:30 p.m.  
Middle School Service Project, 3 p.m.

### **Monday, October 25**

Outreach Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Beyond Belief Band Practice, 7 p.m.  
Pub. Engaged Church Committee Mtg, 7 p.m.

### **Tuesday, October 26**

Council on Aging, 8 a.m.  
Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed, 6:30 p.m.  
Stephen Ministry Peer Supt Group 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Stephen Ministry Peer Supt Group 2, 7:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, October 27**

Cub Scouts - Parents Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

### **Thursday, October 28**

Al-Anon Reception (*tentative*), 6 p.m.

### **Saturday, October 30**

Music Rehearsal, 9 a.m.  
Medicare Consultation, 10 a.m.

### **Sunday, October 31**

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.  
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

# A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom



## An Orange Banner for a Vigil of 225 Days

At the September meeting of the Congregation Council, I proposed that we embrace a request from the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association, a request that congregations throughout North America join in a vigil of remembrance and lament for First Nations children whose remains were found in the Kamloops Residential School mass grave in British Columbia, Canada. I included the full letter from the Association in the September issue of this newsletter. It read, in part:

*We speak to you all today on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North America. 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 and 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.*

The Council agreed to this vigil of remembrance and lament. Watch for the orange banners later this fall outside the sanctuary and Centennial Hall, posted with a statement explaining this prayerful action. Let us endeavor to remember all who have been victims among the indigenous people of this land and repent of our complicity with such atrocity as people of the Church. May we have humble, prayerful, and repentant hearts as we pass by those banners in the months ahead.

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

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Bob Linstrom

## Pastor Bob's Wednesday Adult Forum "Reformation Roots" in October

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 gather at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in Centennial Hall.** Sessions 4 through 7 continue to focus on the ministry of the great 16th century reformer Martin Luther:

- October 6 – From Priest to Outlaw
- October 13 – From Heretic to Hero
- October 20 – From Scholar to Father: The Domestic Luther
- October 27 – From Simple to Complex: The New Church Finds Common Ground

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



## 44 New Members Welcomed in September!



30 adults and 14 children celebrated with the people of this congregation in September as we welcomed these new members who have found a home at Trinity Lutheran Church. Many of them were received by an Order of Affirmation of Baptism at the three worship services on Sunday, September 19, with others being received by that same order on subsequent Sundays.

Watch for a profile of our new members later this fall through this monthly newsletter and be sure to greet our newest partners in ministry, welcoming them to share our mission as the people of 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 Fellowship & Hospitality Council Liaison Jamie Kuntzman

As I write this, it is a beautiful 73° day with a blue sky and no humidity. This weather perfection is a stark contrast to the cold and snow of January when my last hospitality article appeared. With the arrival of spring, we cautiously returned to in-person worship and have since seen a welcome return of some fellowship opportunities, which help us to establish and strengthen connections with one another.

In June, Tess Lundgren joined the staff as the Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator, an important role of bringing people together and planning a variety of regular and special fellowship events, coordinating the Sunday coffee fellowship, and organizing funeral luncheons. Like our return to in-person worship, the return of fellowship activities is with careful consideration as the pandemic continues to be a part of our lives.

In May, a year after the originally planned date, the 2020 Confirmands were recognized and blessed at an outdoor service with light refreshments to follow. A similar celebration took place for the recent high school graduates. During the summer we saw a return of the fellowship coffee time in the courtyard following the worship services. In July, the Kids Coalition Against Hunger food-packing event took place with a brunch for participants. Confirmation Sunday took place on August 22 in the Sanctuary, with 16 youth making up the Confirmation Class of 2021, and the traditional reception following in the courtyard.

With the last New Member reception taking place in the fall of 2019, we once again were able to welcome new members to the congregation with the New Member VIP Supper with Congregation Council and staff on September 13. New members were officially received at all three services on September 19 with refreshments afterward. In recent months, memorial and celebration of life services have taken place. Funeral luncheons are an important part of fellowship and hospitality as family and friends gather to honor and remember a loved one, and to support one another during a difficult time.

I am thankful for the return of these opportunities of fellowship, and for Tess and all the volunteers who help make them happen. As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, sometimes with "two steps forward, one step back," I remain optimistic that we will again enjoy all of the many events that bring us together and strengthen our connections.

Grace and Peace,  
Jamie Kuntzman  
Council Liaison, Fellowship & Hospitality

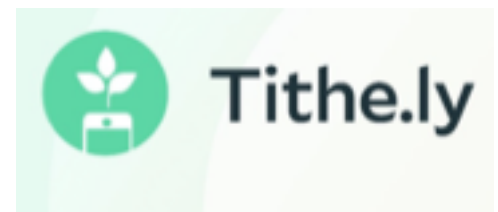


# Please Remember Your Offering!

## 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 August 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	88,776	86,076	(2,700)	-3.0%
Total Expenses	81,220	76,825	4,395	5.4%
Net Income (Loss)	7,556	9,250	1,694	



### 2021 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru August 2021)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	638,646	773,551	134,905	21.1%
Total Expenses	652,807	598,838	53,969	8.3%
Net Income (Loss)	(14,161)	174,713	188,874	

## A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

*"Jesus wept." – John 11:35*

In John Chapter 11, we find Jesus on a journey of grief. His friend Lazarus has died. He travels to his home and comforts Lazarus's two surviving sisters. In the midst of this journey we find the shortest verse in the Bible – John 11:35: "Jesus wept."

Jesus cries with his friends in the midst of their loss.

Growing up, I was told that men don't cry. I was taught and shown that men were supposed to be stoic and emotionless, especially in public. We were supposed to be 'strong,' and not let our inner struggles show, because those struggles could be interpreted as a sign of weakness, and weakness was to be avoided at all costs.

Were you taught this too?

Culturally, I find that we put so much pressure on being strong, or at least being perceived as strong. We are taught to work so hard to cover up our cracks, faults, and struggles. Again, and again, we are told to never let our struggles or our pain show. So much of our time, energy, and resources are spent on trying to appear strong.

Yet, we have a savior and God who meets us in the midst of our pain and cries with us. Jesus was with those women in their grief and he promises to be with you, too. He lets his emotions show, and in doing so gives us a model to follow for our own lives.

We all hurt. We all cry. We all have pain and suffer.

Jesus wept; you can too.

Shalom,  
Pastor Dan Schewe



## Message from Assisting Pastor Karen Niemeyer



**Surviving the Holidays**  
**Saturday, November 13, 2021**  
**10 a.m. – Noon**



No matter the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Especially during this time of COVID-19 when grief has touched so many of us in one way or another, Trinity will again be offering a seminar to support those who are grieving the death of a loved one. Surviving the Holidays has been designed for those who might be dreading getting through the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as they grieve the loss of a loved one. Our gathering will include a 40-minute video followed by a time for optional discussion. A \$5 registration fee will cover the cost of a participant Holiday Survival Guide, a take-home publication filled with holiday survival tips.

If you are finding it tough to face this year's holiday season due to the death of a loved one, please consider joining me to learn tips for getting through the holidays. Depending on COVID 19 conditions at the time of the seminar, the seminar will be offered either at Trinity in a safe, socially-distanced environment or online via Zoom.

Feel free to contact me at [karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org](mailto:karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org) if you would like more information or if you would like to register for the group. Pre-registration is requested.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Karen

# Communion Class for Young Children Offered on October 9

Pastor Linstrom is hoping to hear from Trinity parents who are interested in a brief class to prepare young children for Holy Communion in the fall of 2021. Trinity is a congregation that welcomes all the baptized, including young children, to participate in the Lord's Supper, and a wonderful, simple curriculum entitled "A Place for You" provides a meaningful introduction to Holy Communion for young children. In the fall each year, Pastor Linstrom gathers with parents and their children for a brief Saturday First Communion class – we will meet in the Courtyard and Centennial Hall, wear masks, and keep a bit of physical distancing to care well for one another as we gather.



At Trinity, all are welcome to the Lord's Table and children as young as preschoolers are invited to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion if their parents determine that they are ready to participate in the sacrament in worship. Different families have different preferences regarding the age for their children to receive Holy Communion with some waiting until the five-week class on Holy Communion offered each year to fifth graders and some waiting even until Confirmation. There is no "right time" to welcome a child to the Lord's Table, but a growing number of families are embracing the invitation to all the baptized, including very young children.

**The fall of 2021 First Communion Class is set for Saturday, October 9, at 11 a.m.** If you are interested in reserving a place at the October 9 class, please contact Pastor Bob at 616-949-2510, ext. 15, or at [robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org](mailto:robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org).

## "God's Work. Our Hands." Update

A group of **twenty volunteers** from Trinity showed up for the Mayor's Grand River Cleanup, which took place on "God's Work. Our Hands." Saturday. Together, the group worked with many others from the community to make Grand Rapids a more beautiful place and to help our environment.



Trinity member **Elaine Rongey** had her family decorate bags for Kids' Food Basket during Sunday dinner on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. They had so much fun that it has turned into a new Sunday dinner tradition!

Thank you to everyone who participated in these and other GWOH service events!

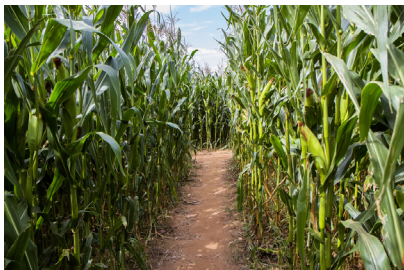


Bags for Kids' Food Basket were also decorated by **Brenda Fritts's 49508 Trinity Neighbors** group who combined their gathering of food, fun, and fellowship with service on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.



# Upcoming Trinity Events - Save the Dates!

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Fall Outing at Schwallier's Country Basket



This fall we would like to invite you to join us at Schwallier's Country Basket for an evening of fellowship and fun with your Trinity family. Trinity will have Schwallier's Country Basket all to ourselves on **Saturday, October 23** after it closes at 6 p.m. We will take a hay ride to their corn maze where we can divide into family or friend groups to conquer the maze. While we are in the maze, the Schwallier's staff will be building our bonfire so that it is ready for us to roast hotdogs and s'mores.

**If you would like to enjoy u-pick apples, the petting farm, cider and donuts, pick your own pumpkin, or baked goods from the shop, you will need to arrive at Schwallier's Country Basket prior to their 6 p.m. closing time.** Leave yourself time to take your goodies to your vehicle so that you are ready for our hay ride to the corn maze and bonfire, which is scheduled to leave promptly at 6 p.m. at the west side of the petting zoo. Look for a link in Friday's eBlast to register you and your whole family! If you have any questions please contact [Tess Lundgren](#) or [James Morin](#).



Tess Lundgren  
Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator  
[tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org](mailto:tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org)  
616.889.9503

**Trinity's Family Fall Outing**  
Corn Maze & Bonfire at Schwallier's Country Basket  
Saturday, October 23, 2021  
6 – 8 p.m.  
\$5 per person / capped at \$20 per family

**Food Provided:**  
Hotdogs for roasting  
S'more Fixings  
Bottled Water



James Morin  
Family Activity Coordinator  
[james.morin@tlcgr.org](mailto:james.morin@tlcgr.org)

**We pray for the church.**  
Fill it with all truth and peace.  
Where is it corrupt, purify it;  
where it is in error, direct it;  
where in anything it is amiss,  
**REFORM IT;**  
where it is right, strengthen it;  
where it is in need, provide for it;  
where it is divided, reunite it.

ELW, p. 73

## Reformation Day - Sunday, October 31 *Join Us in Celebrating 'The Ongoing Reformation of the Church'*

We celebrate 'ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei,' "the church reformed, yet always reforming according to the Word of God," as Lutheran flavored Christians. After a significant worldwide ecumenical celebration in 2017 to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, including the Grand Rapids area joint Lutheran/Catholic worship celebration at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, we come together again on Reformation Day, **October 31, 2021**, to celebrate our heritage and the ongoing reformation of the church. Join us in festival worship on October 31!

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE  
SAINTS  
IN EVERY TIME AND PLACE**

ELCA

## All Saints Sunday to be Observed in Worship - November 7

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

Each year on All Saints Sunday, the people of Trinity gather to remember both those who have died and those newly baptized in our life together in the past year. **Both emphases will be observed at the three services of Holy Communion on November 7.** Be with us in worship!



# Upcoming Trinity Events - Save the Date!

## 2021 Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Monday, November 22 Trinity Lutheran Church Will Host Again in 2021

For more than 20 years, the people of the Grand Rapids community have gathered on the Monday evening before Thanksgiving for a celebration of our many faith traditions. Trinity hosted the 2017 Interfaith Thanksgiving service which included participants from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Bahai traditions and others in a genuine celebration of that which binds us. Because of our robust technology for live-streaming and recording, Trinity has been asked to host again in 2021.

The 2021 service will be hosted in Trinity's Centennial Hall on **Monday, November 22 at 7 p.m.** This service will be, if possible, both in-person by reservation and available via live-streaming. Watch for more information in the November issue of this newsletter and join us in celebrating our unity in diversity during the week of our national celebration of Thanksgiving!



## Veteran Appreciation Day at Trinity - Sunday, November 14th

We would like to recognize and thank every Trinity member who has served in any branch of our military: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, Army, Space Force, or National Guard.



If you have served, we are asking you to submit a photo of yourself, preferably in uniform, as well as a current photo. Submit either a digital copy or a hard copy to Tess Lundgren. If submitting a hard copy please bring or send it to the church office with attention to Tess Lundgren. If submitting a digital copy, please email to [tess.Lundgren@tlcgr.org](mailto:tess.Lundgren@tlcgr.org). All hard copies will be returned. We would also like some basic information to go along with your photo. Please provide the following:

Name	Military Branch	Length of Service	Where were you stationed?
Photo	Rank	Honors/Medals	Which campaign were you in?

## Trinity Prepares to Celebrate Congregation's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mark Your Calendar for a December 5 Celebration!

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

The heritage of this 125-year-old congregation is being celebrated in the fall of 2021, culminating with a congregational celebration on Sunday, December 5, as we give thanks for all of those who have gone before us and as we embrace the mission God has in store for the people of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Watch for details in the November issue of this newsletter.

### Share a Church Memory for Trinity's Updated History!

Do you have any special memories of our church history you'd like to share with other members of Trinity? As part of Trinity's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this December, an updated history is in the works (from 1996-present). The drama of a congregation's story, the place where the Word becomes flesh, is in the lives of its members. In our congregation there must be a treasure trove of recollections, anecdotes, and experiences that can open up Trinity's history. **If you'd like to share a special memorable moment or brief anecdote about something that happened at Trinity at any time (even before 1996), please email it ASAP to Communications Coordinator Carrie Lamb at [carrie.lamb@tlcgr.org](mailto:carrie.lamb@tlcgr.org).**



years of nurturing  
each other in our  
daily journeys of faith

# Middle School Youth News

## October and November Confirmation Schedule:

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 24 – Schwallier's outing 6 p.m.

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

November 7 & 14 – Youth group from 2 to 3 p.m. and class from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

November 21 – Class from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Craig's Cruisers outing from 5 to 7 p.m.

November 28 – January 2 – No Class – Thanksgiving and Christmas break

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



# High School Youth News

## Youth Group – Sunday Nights from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for Youth Group on Sunday nights from 6:30 – 8 p.m. We will be connecting and delving through the teachings of Jesus. Join the class on Remind and watch our YouTube channel for updates.

## High School Bible Study with Pastor Dan – October 3 at 9:15 a.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join Pastor Dan on October 3 during the 9:15 a.m. worship service in the youth room. Join us in journeying through the scriptures and enjoying donuts!

## Deposits for Next Summer's Trips

Next summer is a busy one in our youth ministries. We will be going to Wethersfield, Connecticut, on a Mission Trip (June 25 – July 2) and to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the ELCA Youth Gathering (July 23 – 28). **A \$50 deposit for the Mission Trip and a \$150 deposit for the ELCA Youth Gathering are due on October 17.** If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dan. Your young people do not want to miss out on these amazing experiences.

**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

## Christmas Wreaths for Sale at Trinity!

The Trinity High School Youth are once again selling Christmas wreaths to help raise funds for their upcoming trips. They are headed to Traverse City for Living Water's Charge Weekend in March, in June they are going to Connecticut for Mission Trip to help communities rebuild, and finally they are going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minnesota in July.

We have a new vendor this year. Wreaths are still \$25 each, but they are a little bit bigger at approximately 24 inches (20 inches in previous years) and they come with pine cones and a bow.

**Youth will be taking orders before and after every worship service in October or you may sign up via the link in the weekly eBlast.** Wreaths will be delivered to Trinity in November. Payment is due at pick-up. For more information, please contact Tess Lundgren (616.889.9503, [tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org](mailto:tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org)) or [Pastor Dan](#).



# Health Ministries

FACE MASKS  
ENCOURAGED  
HERE



*Thank you for caring well for each other.*

## Trinity Fitness Classes

October classes will **NOT** meet from the 10th - 17th due to IHN and from the 21st - 31st due to Kristina's family vacation.

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



let us pray

## Prayer Group

Please join fellow Trinity members for focused prayer time on **Tuesday, October 19 at 11 a.m. via Zoom**. In addition to our congregational prayers, this month we will focus on refugees and social service 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



## Medicare and Medicaid Open Enrollment Assistance Sign Up NOW!

Trinity member Jo Murphy, Executive Director of Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program, is once again providing assistance to older Trinity members. She will be available to assist both with Medicare benefits and with selection of a 2022 Prescription Drug Program. To sign up, watch for a link in the weekly Friday eBlasts or contact Angela Davis, Director of Congregational Life. You can also type in or cut and paste the following link in your browser to schedule an appointment: <https://tinyurl.com/9kttzctf>

# Stephen Ministry

## Trinity Celebrates 25 Years of Stephen Ministry

Every pastor makes a mark on his or her church, and part of Pastor Paul Krupinski's legacy at Trinity is Stephen Ministry. In a church this size, the pastoral needs of the members can overwhelm the pastoral staff. As a trained Stephen Minister himself, Pastor Paul recognized that the program could increase our capacity to bring care to those who are hurting and, at the same time, energize the congregation in a way that brings people closer together. A long-time Stephen Leader puts it this way: "In a large congregation, pastors can only do so much. It is vital we are there to walk with people when they most need it..."

And so, the journey began. In October 1996 we enrolled in the Stephen Series program, headquartered in St. Louis. Then, Partner in Ministry Brenda Heacock broke the ice by training as a Stephen Leader. She took on the assignment of organizing our program at Trinity and has remained heavily involved over the years. A sure sign of a good leader is finding good people to support you. Brenda did just that! Raija Boles and Cindy Zientarski stepped forward, also training as Stephen Leaders in the cold January of 1997. Cindy reported, "Leader training was inspiring. Committed people from all denominations bonded, sharing personal stories. There was a sense of inspiration in the room as a variety of speakers explained the different aspects of the program that make it so strong."

Energized and enthusiastic, Brenda, Cindy and Raija began an intense preparation period to launch a fall training class. They met weekly and divided the work of publicizing the opportunity, recruiting candidates, learning the material, and preparing to teach. A lasting friendship formed, and a new Stephen Ministry church got into action! The framework set up by this first leadership team laid a firm foundation for this enduring ministry.

Brenda says it was a blessing from God that fifteen members answered the call for the first class. They formed a substantive nucleus that allowed the ministry to thrive. Frank Remsburg, an alumna from the first class, reminisces: "The training materials were outstanding. They helped you anticipate and think through situations you might run into. My confidence was built up in a team that was effective and supportive. We were 'Stephen' to each other. Our faith encouraged us as we learned about ourselves and each other. It is wonderful that our congregation uses Stephen Ministry to help people when they need it."

A common thread among Stephen Ministers is the recognition of the Holy Spirit in action. He has worked in our hearts, exposed our spiritual gifts, and encouraged us to step forward for service. He leads us to seek help in times of trouble. He steps in when we are unsure of what to say or when the conversation is quiet. Perhaps the most poignant example is of a husband who participated in Stephen Ministry training mostly at his wife's request. Later, when she battled with cancer, he found himself in a place where he could tenderly minister to her.

Trinity's Stephen Ministry has endured and remained strong due to consistent support from the Pastors, Church Council, and Faith Community Nurses. They have integrated the ministry as a supplement to pastoral care and have funded training as needed. Since the first class was commissioned on Ash Wednesday of 1998, over 175 members have received care. There are typically 10 – 15 caring relationships active at any given time. Trinity has held 10 training classes and commissioned 95 Stephen Ministers, who have given over 4,600 hours of care. We have also sent 20 members to Stephen Leader training. We praise the Lord for this caring ministry! We all benefit when we "Think Stephen!"



One of the first Stephen Ministry classes in 2000



Stephen Ministry of 2011



## Thank you to all of our Stephen Ministers...

Lyn Adam Astrauskas  
**Nancy Anderson**  
**Kris Baker**  
 Lisa Barkema  
 Patti Bartos  
 Anne Marie Bessette  
 Jean Bessette  
 Laurel Billings  
**Patty Boer**  
 Raija Boles \*  
 Kwagdoo Bossuah  
 Mary Bowman  
**Kristin Bradley \***  
 Pastor Bill Brandner \*  
 Kate Bredwell  
 Dixie Brinks  
**Kim Brock**  
 Ellie Buggeln  
**Bill Bush**  
 Kathy Bush  
 Vicky Carron \*  
 Tom Coby  
 Carolyn Ciullo  
**Sue Coates \***  
 Brenda Conway  
 Jack DeGelder

**Carol Eriksen**  
 Diane Field  
 John Fischer  
 Becca Flanders Tape  
 Sharon Flink  
 Jan Fransisco \*  
 Mike Franz  
 John Gaylord  
 Pam Gotch  
 Katherine Gundy  
 Gary Hall  
 Cliff Hartline  
 Brenda Heacock \*  
 Linda Heine  
 Linda Hicks  
 Carol Huttenga  
 Kim Hysell  
 Susan Johnson \*  
 Jim Jouppe  
 Evelyn Kaiser  
 Sue Kamel  
 Kathy Klaus  
 Steve Kleiman  
**Susan Knoll**  
 Grace Lanning  
 Marcy Larson

Sue Lassa \*  
 Rebecca Mattison  
 Jill McKinney  
 LeeAnn McCormick  
 Lori McMillan  
**Patti Mutch**  
 Pastor Karen Niemeyer \*  
**Laura Norton**  
**Norm Palm \***  
 Dieter Panzer Jr.  
 Marjorie Paul  
 Roger Perham  
 Sue Perry \*  
**Bob Pfau**  
 Deb Pollert  
 Myma Postema  
**Kris Racek \***  
 Rose Ranville  
 Frank Remsburg  
 Petra Rotzell  
 Linda Schetz  
 Mike Schultz  
 Carol Schumacher  
**Pastor Marcia Shumate-Schultz \***  
 Jeanette Sorensen

Pastor Sarah Stobie \*  
 Chris Straw \*  
**Sheila Talsma \***  
 Nan Treul \*  
 Bill Vandenberg  
 Pat Vandenberg  
 Art Vanderven  
 Ronnie Vanderven  
**Beth Vanderwall \***  
 Rhonda VanDeusen  
**Dale Volkerding**  
 Todd Weber  
 Sue Weemhoff  
 Kathy Wilcox  
 Tracy Wilson Kucker  
 Kelly Wittry  
 Carl Wollen  
 Susan Youngren  
 Cindy Zientarski \*

**Bold** - Currently Active  
*Italics* - No longer at Trinity  
**Highlight** - Heavenly Peace  
 \* Trained Stephen Leader



Christian caring, for people, through people.  
 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)  
**25 Years ~ 1996 - 2021**



Stephen Ministry of 2019



# Trinity Continues to Partner in Prayer with Exalta Health

Trinity members have been invited to lift up the work that takes place at Exalta Health through quarterly prayer requests. Exalta Health provides quality medical, vision, dental, behavioral and spiritual care services. Unemployment, lack of insurance, or other financial factors are not barriers for service. Their chaplain, Rev. Kristen Meyer, will be sending quarterly summaries of specific praises and needs so that we can be more intentional in our prayers. Please consider including some or all of the requests below in your personal prayer life.

## Exalta Health Prayer Update - September 2021

- Every few years, our board and staff come together to create a new strategic plan for our organization. We are currently working on this process and are developing a plan to guide our work for the next four years. We thank God for this new beginning and the excitement and energy it brings. Pray with us that we will continue to listen to God's leading and to the needs of our community as we seek to care for those whom our healthcare system leaves vulnerable.
- Praise God for the return of Free Dental Day, following an 18-month break due to COVID-19! While we typically serve around 40 people on Free Dental Day, on August 20 we started back on a smaller scale, welcoming 17 patients to the clinic for a unique event. Because our dental schedule is booked out so far, and because many people fell behind on their routine cleanings during the pandemic, we focused on catching people up on dental hygiene. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this timely way. Pray for our dental team as they try to meet the overwhelming dental care needs of our community.
- While Free Dental Day has returned, the annual Exalta Health Luncheon will not be back this year. Our team recently made the decision to cancel the luncheon for the second year in a row due to COVID-19 uncertainties. This decision is the right one, but it also leaves a significant hole in our fundraising efforts. Please pray for our advancement team as they look for alternative ways to invite people to participate in our work through giving, volunteering, and prayer.
- As always, we are grateful for the support we receive through grants from foundations in our community. Grants help us undertake projects that provide new and unique ways for us to serve our patients. However, we also depend on individual donors whose gifts are even more important for keeping our doors open and supporting our day-in-day-out work. Please pray with us that God will stir hearts and call individuals to provide for our daily operating needs.
- Pray for Lou and Barb, a couple, both patients, who have recently received news that Lou's cancer is spreading and that he may have only months to live. Barb has some disabilities and pain challenges that make the prospect of being on her own daunting. They are balancing hope in God's power to provide miraculous healing with a sober understanding of his prognosis. Pray with us for healing and for continued hope, strength, and peace as this family faces the losses that are to come.
- Give thanks with us for over 1,150 COVID-19 vaccinations provided at Exalta Health to date!
- You've prayed with us before for God's provision in the form of new staff members. Please keep praying that God will provide! We are chronically under-staffed and need, once again, to find the right people to fill positions in our medical, dental, and front desk departments. Pray also for encouragement, perseverance, strength, joy, and the company of God's Spirit for our current staff members, many of whom find themselves stretched thin and overwhelmed in their work.

Thank you for praying with us!



## Trinity's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Music Concert Series Presents:



Gregory Crowell  
Harpsichord  
October 17, 2021  
3 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
***Free and open to the public!***

Gregory Crowell has appeared as organist, harpsichordist, clavichordist, lecturer, and conductor in Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, Canada, and the United States. He has performed in many international festivals and conventions, including the Boston Early Music Festival, Regional V Convention of the American Guild of Organists, nine National Conventions of the Organ Historical Society, the Saugatuck Chamber Music Festival, the Fontana Chamber Music Festival, the Boston Clavichord Society, the International Clavichord Symposium (Magnano), and the Historical Keyboard Societies. Particularly noted for his performances of the keyboard works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Crowell has been a featured performer at the Weener (Germany) International Bach Series, the Grand Rapids Bach Festival, the Old West Organ Society (Boston) Bach Marathon, and the Valparaiso Bach Institute. In the spring of 2000, Dr. Crowell was invited to perform and lecture in the Bach Organ Festival held at St. Luke's in Tokyo, during which time he also served as visiting scholar at Rikkyo University in Tokyo. In July, 2006, Crowell was asked to speak on interdisciplinary models of teaching music history at Oxford University as part of the Oxford Round Table. He serves as Organist-Choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

## Trinity 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert: December 5, 2021 at 3 p.m.

**Gloria in D, Antonio Vivaldi**  
**Featuring the Trinity Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra**

**Double Cello Concerto in G Minor, Antonio Vivaldi**  
**Featuring Karen Krummel and McCormack Wyn**

The Trinity Choir celebrates the 125th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church by presenting Gloria of Antonio Vivaldi. Gloria in D is one of sacred music's most uplifting choral works written for orchestra, oboe, trumpet, and strings and the text is perfect to celebrate this occasion and season of Advent. The music begins with the story of the Nativity in the Gospel of Luke when an angel announces Christ's birth to the shepherds. Under the direction of Sidney Hoeksema, Trinity Choir has prepared several large works with orchestra including compositions by Rutter, Haydn, Schubert, Fauré, Clausen, DuBois, and Vivaldi. The Gloria was last presented at Trinity in December of 1981.

The Double Cello Concerto in G Minor is the only double cello concerto that Antonio Vivaldi ever wrote. Though its completion date is still debated, it is probable that he finished it around 1720. Today, it stands out as one of Vivaldi's most popular works. The double concerto will feature the virtuosic skills of Karen Krummel and Mac Wyn.

Karen Krummel has taught cello at Calvin College since 1995 and was a full-time member of the Grand Rapids Symphony from 1989-2011. Her teachers included Samuel Mayes, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, and Louis Potter, and she participated in summer festivals at Aspen, Banff, Monterey, Los Angeles and Tanglewood. Besides her strong orchestral background, she is active as a chamber musician and has performed and premiered many contemporary works. Karen has performed as a soloist with the Calvin Alumni Orchestra, the South Bend Symphony, the Kankakee Symphony, and the Calgary Philharmonic. Mac Wyn is a senior at Grand Valley State University. He began playing his cello at age 14, studying with Karen Krummel, Horacio Contreras, and Pablo Mahave-Veglia. Mr. Wyn serves as assistant principal cellist for the Holland Symphony, and he plans to further pursue his education in the humanities while working as a freelance musician.





# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary JOYful Days

## JOYful Days Fall 2021 Schedule:

JOYful Days Lunch & Speaker will be held **every Wednesday in October** and will finish up on **Wednesday, November 3**. We will have a catered lunch at 11:45 a.m. followed by our speaker. This is a package deal, so to be respectful of our speakers, please plan to have lunch AND stay for the speaker. The catered Lunch & Speaker is \$8 per person. To sign up, please use the link in the eBlast, or call, text, or email Tess Lundgren (tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org, 616.889.9503). JOYful Days stands for “Just Older Youth” and is open to anyone who feels they fall into that category. We are in the process of lining up our speakers – see the preview below.



**Catering by Steve Stephan** – Back by popular demand, Steve will be catering our Fall JOYful days lunches. Steve is the owner of Culver’s restaurants in Grand Rapids, MI and a member of our congregation.

**October 6: Susie Finkbeiner** – A wife, mother, and novelist, Susie Finkbeiner will be speaking on “Your Story Matters.” Susie lives here in West Michigan and has a deep love for our beautiful state; so much so that many of her novels are set right here in Michigan. After speaking, Susie will stay for a book signing. Bring your copy of any of her books or buy a book at JOYful Days and Susie will sign your copy.

**October 13: Kim Karn** – Kim is the Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and will speak on the mission of the Land Conservancy: “How the Land Conservancy works to keep nature nearby and help people protect, enjoy, and care for the natural land in West Michigan.” She will highlight past and present Land Conservancy projects and discuss opportunities for you to enjoy natural areas around us. Kim will also talk about how we can get involved to care for the land around us.

**October 20: Tim Lundgren** – Tim, a Ph.D, JD, Partner at Potomac Law Group, will be speaking on “Renewable and Alternative Energy: The Energy Transition in Michigan.” Tim has been an environmental and energy attorney for nearly two decades here in West Michigan. He has worked on energy-related legislation and with various clients on energy supply and renewable energy matters, including renewable energy development in the state. Tim will address the national transition to renewable energy resources, why it is happening, and how it is playing out in Michigan.



**October 27 & November 2: TBD**

Please contact [Tess Lundgren](mailto:tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org) if you have any questions or if you wish to register.

## Life Begins at 60!



### Join Us at Shanghai Ichiban!

Life Begins at 60 will meet for dinner at **5 p.m. on Friday, November 5**, at Shanghai Ichiban, 3005 Broadmoor Ave SE. Due to restaurant accommodations, reservations will be limited to the first 22 people. Make your reservation by contacting our hosts Carol and Dan Butler at 616.540.1660 or caroljb43@gmail.com, or Pastor Karen at [karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org](mailto:karen.niemeyer@tlcgr.org).





# Get Involved in These New Initiatives at Trinity

## Three New Initiatives Meeting in October – Be Welcome to Join Us!

**On Wednesday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m., a Spiritual Growth ‘Stakeholders’ Meeting** will meet via Zoom to shape a vision for new small group, study, and retreat ministries at Trinity. Pastor Linstrom and Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall will gather with leaders of small group ministries, study groups, retreats, and other programming that nurtures the spiritual life of our congregation. Many of those who have or are currently involved in such ministries will be in attendance, but you are welcome to join in even if this would be a brand-new point of engagement for you. Contact Pastor Bob to be included in the Zoom invitation for this virtual meeting.

**On Thursday, October 7, at 7 p.m. a gathering of Earth Keepers, Land Conservancy advocates, gardeners and others** will meet to begin developing a plan for the care of the woods and wetlands of the “Trinity Triangle” (our church property, bordered by Fulton Street, Robinson Road, and Cascade Road). The following invitation was sent out by Pastor Bob to Trinity’s ‘earth keepers’ and gardeners in mid-September:

*Pastor Dan Schewe and I would like to invite you to a time of brainstorming and shaping a vision for the care of our property, the so-called “Trinity triangle” which is bordered by Robinson Road, Fulton Street and Cascade Road. We are privileged to be stewards of that stand of woods and wetlands, along with our developed property and its lawn, gardens, and landscaping that surrounds our church building. A number of us have spoken of the need to develop a management plan, of working with land conservancy and DNR leaders and Trinity’s own gardeners, of seeking to increase native plantings, of clearing away dead trees but doing so in a way that does not displace wildlife, and of planning to intentionally take care of this bit of green space on the east side of Grand Rapids.*

*This invitation is going out to about 40 of Trinity’s people – we may invite some of our neighbors to join us in the months ahead. The concept of gathering those with such interest and engagement becomes very local with this initiative. How shall we properly care for the bit of land entrusted to this congregation, woods and wetlands in the midst of a major urban metro, in a way that makes manifest good stewardship in our care of creation?*

*I am inviting you to join us for this initial conversation on Thursday, October 7 at 7 p.m. We will meet in the Courtyard fellowship space at Trinity for a brief meeting to launch this initiative. Thank you for considering this invitation.*

**Finally, on Monday, October 25, at 7 p.m., a first meeting of a new Publicly Engaged Church Committee** is scheduled to advance growing ministries of advocacy and “doing justice” beyond our broad base of benevolent giving through financial offerings and by volunteers.

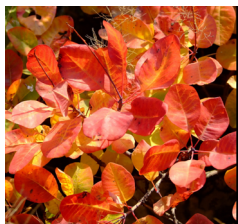
This past spring, Pastor Linstrom wrote on this initiative in his newsletter column:

*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.*

Interested in any of these gatherings? Speak with [Pastor Bob](#) or just show up and join us as we grow together in ministry.

## Participate in the Next Gardening Bee

### Gardening Bee - Saturday, October 9 from 9 a.m. to Noon



As we prepare the gardens for the fall and winter months, please join us **Saturday, October 9 from 9 a.m. to noon** to trim perennials back, plant spring bulbs, and talk about plans for the 2022 season. Bring gloves and pruners/shears (if you have some). We’re a small group that will always welcome new faces!

Contact Lisa Mead ([lmead340@gmail.com](mailto:lmead340@gmail.com)) or Rebecca Marquardt ([rebecca@reverystudio.com](mailto:rebecca@reverystudio.com)) with questions.

# Children's Ministry

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pancakes & Playtime: November 13, 9-11 a.m.

Families with children ages newborn through pre-school are invited to this fun fellowship event! Come and enjoy a pancake breakfast, Bible stories, songs, and activities. It's a great way to connect with other Trinity families. Grandparents and older siblings are welcome! Look for an invitation in your email or contact Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall at [rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org](mailto:rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org).



## A Significant Facelift to Trinity's Children's Wing

Led by the tireless (?) efforts of Property Committee leader David Mester and Trinity Fitness Instructor Kristina Kuhlmann, the children's wing at Trinity underwent a significant facelift in the summer of 2021. Beginning with an asbestos remediation of the floor tiles throughout that wing of the building, and ceiling patching to rectify the removal years ago of portable wall dividers, a long project of laying carpet tiles throughout all of the classrooms and the common space, along with a hard laminate floor in the space used by exercise classes, has been completed as of early September. In addition to the exemplary volunteer efforts of David and Kristina, a significant gift of carpet tiles by David and Mary Smoes brought the project to completion.



## Please Keep in Touch With Us!

### Are You Expecting or Adopting?

The Trinity staff would like to celebrate and share in your happy news of being pregnant or welcoming a new child through adoption. We like to know about it, so we can pray for and support your family. Our ministry to your baby/child begins even before they arrive! Contact Director of Congregational Life [Angela Davis](#) with details.



### Baptism at Trinity

Are you interested in having your child(ren) or yourself baptized? Contact [Pastor Bob](#) with the potential date(s) and service that will work for you and your family.



## A Way of Life: Ken Block

*"Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts." --Psalm 105:2*



According to Ken, "My involvement with Trinity is not a purposeful undertaking: it is just a way of life – a way of caring and sharing." Ken attended catechism "under duress," but found joy in the church as a choir boy in 1945, finding an early ministry and passion in song. Instead of an inherited talent, Ken sees his talent as "a gift from God." Ken explained that his parents fell more in line with making a joyful noise unto the Lord; in other words he did not inherit his gifts in singing from either parent, yet they certainly loved to raise their voices together in song.

Ken's passion in singing was cultivated by "very helpful and dedicated Choir directors," from Gerald Boer in the '40s-'50s to the enthusiastic and dedicated work of Sid Hoeksema. As Ken recalls, "I thought that my singing days were behind me when I matriculated at Wittenberg University, but little did I know that Herr Boer wrote to the director of music at Wittenberg and recommended that I be recruited to sing in college. Thank you, Gerry! Fueled by that experience, my joy of singing has blossomed in many different ways and provided relief from daily stresses."

Ken's years of musical ministry have been a blessing to many. He recalls when he shared joy and blessings singing to his oldest daughter in a zany quartet at the Mother-Daughter Banquet in the '60s. ("I'm the Geek on the left with Ken Tibbe, Bruce Kennedy and Dave Benkert. Our oldest daughters are on the right").



More recently, Ken has found joy in singing Hallelujahs under the organized direction of Sid during Christmastime at Trinity.

In this way of praising the Lord, praising God in His sanctuary, as Psalm 150:1 exhorts, Ken has supplied decades of "caring and sharing," as he states, through volunteering, music ministry, and congregational connection. Are you interested in praising God with the sounding of your voice, trumpet, strings, pipes or resounding cymbals (Psalm 150:1-5)? If so, Trinity offers many opportunities to serve in our lively music program. May Ken's years of raising his voice to Heaven, inspire each of us to make our own joyful noise unto the Lord (Psalm 100).



Please consider reaching out to [Sid Hoeksema](#) to discuss ways in which you might engage within the Music Programs at Trinity.

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 [Pastor Karen](#).

# 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, opening the door for another Lutheran community.

## A Vision for Mission

In 1975, Trinity dedicated the large Memorial Covenant Stained-Glass Window which flanks the sanctuary. Only one year before, the congregation had rejoiced with a mortgage-burning celebration. A highlight was a special poem entitled "At the Mortgage Burning," written for the occasion by Trinity's poet laureate, Clem Block. Following are a few short excerpts:

Some people think a church is built  
With mortgages and brick.  
To tell it like it really is  
Would take a boot quite thick.

So faith that was our fathers',  
So faith that's ours today,  
May it keep us giving, loving.  
For this we'll always pray.

We started out and picked a site,  
And, without a plan to pay,  
Three men went to a local bank  
And signed their lives away.

So let's get on with burning,  
For really it's no joke.  
When you burn an old church mortgage,  
You raise some Holy Smoke.

Still, the building was not complete. Architect and chief designer, Wagoner, planned for a larger education wing, with a permanent fellowship hall and a stage. In 1988, as Trinity's centennial approached, the need to complete the design became overwhelming. The existing Fellowship Hall could not accommodate the large crowds at some functions, and the Sunday School was badly in need of additional space. Also, the Pels organ had become unreliable over time, disrupting worship and requiring costly repairs.

The long-range planning committee under the chairmanship of Robert Eckberg completed a study begun in 1984 that outlined the future facility needs of the congregation. They worked closely with the building committee, established in 1985, and chaired by Charles Ramlow and Myron Pearson. They solicited help from architects at the WBDC Group, which drew up plans for renovation and additions to the existing space.

A separate committee was appointed, under the chairmanship of Dave Benkert from 1980-1988 and Eric Johnson from 1988-1992, to recommend a solution to the problems with the organ. Consultants eventually urged that it be replaced. To match the full ensemble of the Pels organ and to do justice to the sanctuary's superb acoustics, the committee solicited proposals from six organ builders. In 1988 they chose Orgues Letourneau Ltee, of Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec, to construct its first organ in the United States, with three manuals, thirty-one stops, and thirty-nine ranks.

After much careful planning, the Centennial Vision for Mission Campaign was launched in 1990. In 1991 the congregation approved plans for an 8,400-sq.-ft. addition, including a new fellowship hall with a stage, a kitchen, an elevator, restrooms, additional classrooms, renovation of the old fellowship hall, parking lot renovation, enclosed walkway, and courtyard. The plans also included the new Letourneau organ and benevolence gifts to LSSM (now Samaritas). Unfortunately, delays in the congregation's decision to proceed drove construction prices up, and a weak economy made the campaign fall short of the total project cost. At the time of its centennial in 1996, Trinity looked forward to the day when it could again be "debt free."

Dedicatory events were held throughout the year in 1992. They began with the dedication of the organ, Letourneau Opus 26, "to Trinity's use to the glory of God," on March 29. This was followed with an organ recital by consultant Dr. James Kibbie and a special choir concert in May, as well as a dedicatory concert by Trinity's organist Kathy Bolthuis in October. After nearly a year of construction (under the constant scrutiny of building committee member Ken Tibbe), the congregation processed from the sanctuary down to the new Centennial Hall for its joyful dedication on September 19. Since that time, it has seen a wide variety of activities, ranging from potluck suppers and dinner dances to sleep-overs, puppet shows, area-wide youth gatherings, wedding receptions, volleyball and basketball games, choir concerts, and summer worship services. And the more people outside the congregation become aware of Trinity's new facility, the more it becomes a center of activity for the whole community.

*Continued on the following page*



# The Founding of Our Congregation (Cont.)

Below: Building and floor plans for Trinity's Centennial Hall addition completed in 1992.

## A NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL, REMODELED OFFICE AND EDUCATION AREAS

### THE BUILDING PLAN

The building plan, as proposed, is the product of many years of intensified study by the long range planning committee working under the direction of several pastors and many council members coupled with the input of our membership concerned with the needs of church school, youth and adult education, fellowship, choir, weddings, funerals, receptions, etc. that contribute so much to the life and future growth of this congregation. After careful consideration of the options available to us, the building committee chose to adopt a "wrap-around" design that would serve to cluster areas of major activities without losing the incorporation of "commons" or just plain "togetherness" before, during and after services and would still provide isolation by functional area during

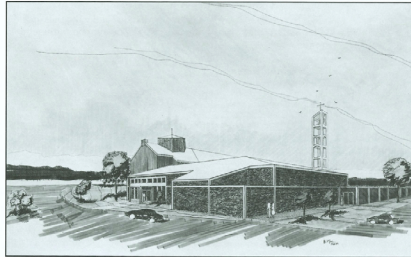
the week for meetings, practices, etc. Three other considerations became prominent of the design process:

1. Maximum land use for expansion without damage to the aesthetics and appearance of the present structure.
2. Improvement of access to all areas of the building on all levels by adding three new entrances; plus stairways and elevator from parking levels to sanctuary and parlor areas.
3. Additional parking to accommodate growth and increased activities in the use of this new facility.

Fringe benefits are an outdoor enclosed area for gatherings, high ceiling area in the fellowship hall for youth activities and a stage area for presentations by youth, choir, and adult groups. In other words, the plan as presented meets all of the requirements and, in our opinion, will serve the needs of this congregation for now and for the predictable future at a cost that is both reasonable and affordable in our time - without sacrifice to other areas of ministry.

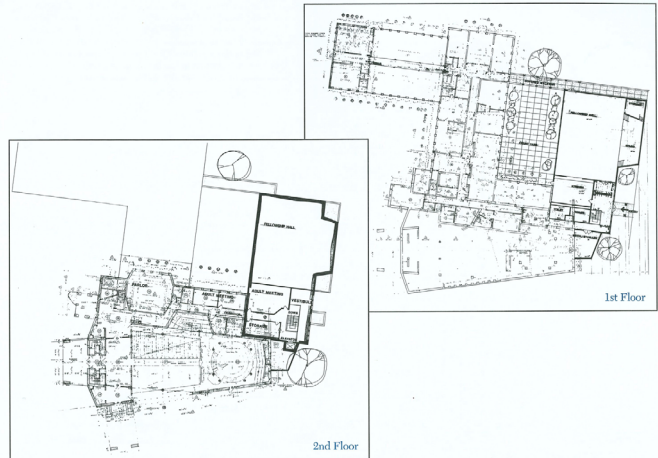
"We feel that the committees that have worked on this process have served us well! We are convinced that the design, as proposed, is the best available! Our membership has heard and been heard long enough. The time for action is now - and the plan is in place - we await your command and support to move ahead!"

FOR: The Building Committee  
Co-chairpersons  
Charles Runlow and Myron Pearson



6

## FLOOR PLANS



7

## Opportunities to Support Church & Community

### Afghan Refugee Network – Putting Faith In Action

The following update on Afghan refugee resettlement was received from Pastor Beth Birkholz of Samaritas. Join us in preparing to welcome new neighbors in the Grand Rapids area.

350 Afghan women, children, men – families like yours – will arrive soon in Michigan to be resettled by Samaritas. This humanitarian crisis is an opportunity to join together and respond loudly to the Taliban and the world that violence, intolerance, and persecution will not be tolerated.

### THE MISSION

Welcoming the stranger is something we believe our Mission calls us to do, and we ask you to stand with us to support these desperate human beings as they flee the only home they have ever known for the chance of a new life.

### TIMELINE

**By December 31, 2021**– we urgently need to raise these funds by December 31. Refugee arrivals are imminent, and we must act now to ensure they are supported now and in the immediate future.

### JOIN THE NETWORK!

Join Samaritas Board Director and Christ Church Cranbrook's Reverend Dr. William J. Danaher, as he co-chairs with Kelli Dobner, Samaritas' Chief Advancement Officer; this coalition of community, corporate and civic leaders is answering the call to welcome hundreds of those escaping war and unspeakable trauma. The Network's goal is to raise \$430,000 to provide housing, support and basic needs for 350 Afghan refugees for at least four months. Helping these refugees make a new start is one critical way we can express our gratitude and thanks for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf. **We urgently need to raise these funds by December 31.** Refugee arrivals are imminent, and we must act now to ensure they are supported now and in the immediate future.

*God of all, we know you come to us as a stranger and someone who is foreign to us.*

*Show us how to welcome others as you welcome all.*

*We especially pray for those who are coming to us from Afghanistan,  
the Congo, and all other countries with severe conflicts.*

*We pray for all those who are in need of clothing, housing, and food,  
and for the Samaritas front-line staff who serve as your hands and feet in the world. Amen.*

# Opportunities to Support Church & Community (Cont.)

## College Care Packages

Are you the parent of a college student? Every year, about 50 of Trinity's young adult students receive a special college care package during the fall semester – a reminder of love and support from the congregation. With the return to in-person learning on campuses, care packages will be mailed to the students at school. If your student is taking courses remotely from home, the care package can be sent to the home address. **If you have college student(s) in your household, and would like them to receive a care package, please email Jamie Kuntzman with the student's first and last name and complete mailing address by October 24 at [jamkuntzman@gmail.com](mailto:jamkuntzman@gmail.com).** All students, from community college through graduate school, are welcome to receive a care package. **NOTE:** Packages will be sent earlier than in previous years. Please contact Jamie at the above email or call 616.485.5763 with any questions.

## Donations Needed for College Care Packages

As the fall semester is in full swing, we are thankful to see colleges welcome students back to campus after a long year of remote learning. It is an exciting time but also a challenging one. It's important to let our college students know that we are thinking of them and supporting them. **Items are needed for the college care packages and can be brought to the church between October 17 and October 31 and placed in the entryway by the main office.** Please use the link below to sign up to donate or watch for the link in the Friday eBlasts. Please contact Jamie Kuntzman with any questions at [jamkuntzman@gmail.com](mailto:jamkuntzman@gmail.com) or 616.485.5763. To Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/bhkc22y>



## JOIN US

**FREEDOM DRIVER**

**Change the world, one life and one mile at a time.**

We pair dedicated volunteers with veterans and their family members in need of transportation, allowing those in need to access medical care, employment, groceries, church, and more.



Roy J., Volunteer Driver since 2019

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Benefits**

- » Desire to Help Others
- » Become Part of a Team
- » Receive Gifts of Appreciation
- » Receive Mileage Reimbursement



## SIGN UP TODAY!

Visit [idriveforfreedom.org](http://idriveforfreedom.org) Call 833-653-6544



## Dégagé Panhandler Vouchers



For some time now, it has been possible for Trinity members and friends to purchase Panhandler Vouchers from Dégagé Ministries. For \$2 per voucher, these can be distributed to people who are publicly asking for money. Each panhandler voucher, when taken to Dégagé Ministries in downtown Grand Rapids, can be used for the purchase of a simple, nutritious meal, a haircut, a locker for a week, a pair of warm socks, one load of laundry and much more. **Look at the Welcome Center in the Courtyard for a display like the one pictured to the left.** Vouchers can be purchased using the instructions on the displays.

## 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. **You can place your items in the labeled bins located in the narthex or by main entrance on the west side of the building.** If you have questions, please contact Director of Congregational Life [Angela Davis](mailto:Angela.Davis@tlcgr.org).



# October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

## October 1

Stephanie Bonjour  
Adam Laakko  
Lee Schomberg  
Julie Williams  
*Brian & Jennifer Braaten*  
*Jim & Cheryl Reeve*

## October 2

Kevin Gingras  
Lexie Lynn  
Kara Seyffert  
Jamie Stevenson  
*Chris & Jeanne Becker*  
*Jim & Wendy Mielock*  
*Steve & Beth Olson*

## October 3

Margaret Crummel  
Awilda Diaz  
Kevin Grzelak  
Lynda Schuen  
Phil Lamb  
TJ Turnage  
*Jim & Renee Bennett*  
*Bruce & Cathy Olson*  
*Fred & Shawn Ulreich*

## October 4

Lilah King  
Mary Mochel-Jackson  
Austin Quinn

## October 5

Judy Cisler  
Sue Coates  
Liliana Feutz  
Morrie Fongers  
Brett Kulas  
Jeremy Lynn  
Rod Stanard  
Stella Tyrrell  
*Tyler & Katie Wolfe*

## October 6

Mollie Brandstadt  
Anna Bryce  
Leo Ditchcreek  
Jonathan Mukendi  
Joan Walls  
*Dean Juth & Tina Porcelli*  
*Matthew & Brittney Mencarelli*

## October 7

Evelyn Gingras  
Curtis Hahn  
Benjamin Rodammer  
Esther Sellman  
Bill Stouten  
*Bob & Laura Swain*

## October 8

Emily Black  
David Mester  
Benita Muganza  
Deborah Mukendi  
Linda Ritch  
Joyce Schenk  
*Michael & Amy Bishop*  
*John & Mary Leese*  
*Steve & Tiffany Lewkowski*  
*Bill & Sylvia Stouten*

## October 9

David Beckett  
Jim Boles  
Joanne Brouse  
Pam Burkle  
Sharon Hoebeke  
*Chad & Rachel Zollman*

## October 10

Ally Becker  
*Dave & Julie Murray*  
*John Taylor & Amelia Crist*  
*Eric & Anne Tooley*

## October 11

Jordan Knoll  
Dan Olson  
Logan Price  
Liam Selleck  
*Shad & Kristen Selleck*

## October 12

Makenna Beckett  
Nora Robach  
Tommy Tyrrell

## October 13

Ann Morin  
Karen Palaszek  
Joyce Schlanderer  
*Doug & Dawn Brackmann*  
*Bob & Rebecca Linstrom*  
*Richard & Mary Beth Mencarelli*  
*Kim & Kathy Meuser*

## October 14

Fran Anderson  
Corbin Bennett  
Jackie Moglia  
*Patrick & Jacquie Murray*

## October 15

Sydney Fisher  
Marcy Larson  
Norm Palm  
Bridget Rieth

## October 16

Gavin Bernard  
Laura Cairns  
Megan Gohlke  
Cassie Hartline  
Isaac Stephan  
Allison Vigna  
*Craig & Stacey Curtiss*  
*Doug & Amy Vander Woude*

## October 17

Lillian LaFleur  
Marcia McClimans  
*Curtis & Jill Hahn*

## October 18

Aaron Breaugh  
Brendan Cargill  
Grace Greiner  
Andy Heaford  
Rebecca Marquardt  
Nathan Taylor  
*Dan & Karen Legault*

## October 19

Angela Davis  
Scott Proux  
*John & Kris Racek*

## October 20

Crew Kleiman  
Tiffany Lewkowski  
Jean Waide  
Amy Williams  
*Greg & Linda Hicks*  
*Jeremy & Lisa Tesch*

## October 21

Spencer Hutchinson  
Maya Law  
*David & Judy De Stefano*  
*Mike & Biruta Fessenden*

## October 22

Jerry Hendricks  
Acadia Platt  
*Steve & Joni Korb*

## October 23

Katelyn Breaugh  
Ilze Schlanderer  
Susan Sandler  
Jack Sommers  
*Tom & Judy Cisler*  
*Dick & Joyce McKenzie*

## October 24

Don Bushman  
Kim Meuser  
Linda Taffs  
Joanna Waite  
*Jerry & Carol Hendricks*

## October 25

Alexis Schewe

## October 26

Isaac McKinney  
William McLeod  
Norm Petersen  
James Rodammer

## October 27

Nick Brandstadt  
Audrey Coles

## October 28

Carol Eriksen

## October 29

Bob Heine  
Bill Stroh  
***Dale & Lisa Barkema (50)***  
*Jim & Sharon Hoebeke*

## October 30

Amy Bishop  
Dan Butler  
DeeDee Cairns  
Tim Dudley  
Mollie Fourcha  
Greg Hicks  
Carl Mielock  
Mya Parshall  
Ashley Smith

## October 31

Corbin Dulecki  
Rob Ferguson  
Chad Zollman



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

# 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. 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./10:40-11:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings), there will be **Live Now** video. Simply click on the video.

- 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!

### 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!

Follow us on  
Instagram and  
Facebook!  
[Instagram: tlc.gr](#)  
[facebook.com/tlcr](#)



2700 Fulton Street East  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616.949.2510 [tlcr.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 #)



Instagram: [tlc.gr](#)  
facebook.com/[tlcr](#)



YouTube.com  
Search: Trinity Lutheran  
Church, Grand Rapids

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