



The Messenger

Interfaith Hospitality Network Comes to Trinity September 4-11

Trinity has been a Host Congregation for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) for the past 25 years, since the network was established in Grand Rapids in 1997. This amazing ministry involves churches in the Grand Rapids area 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 prepare evening meals, stay overnight, provide activities and/or help with set-up or take-down.

Look for a link in Trinity's upcoming Friday eBlasts to volunteer to make Trinity a welcoming home during the week of IHN. Please contact Tess Lundgren with questions at tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org or 616.889.9503.



Save the Date for the Annual Parish Picnic Potluck: September 11 at Noon on the West Lawn

Join us for our annual parish picnic potluck on **September 11 following our 10:45 a.m. outdoor service**. Trinity will provide our traditional entrée of pulled pork and your choice of barbeque sauce. Look for the SignUp Genius link in the Friday eBlasts to sign up to bring your favorite desserts, sides, etc.

Contact Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator Tess Lundgren (616.889.9503 or tess.lundgren@tlcgr.org) with questions or for more information.



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**NOW
HIRING!**



**Come
Join Our
Team!**



See page 14!

What's Happening at Trinity in August?

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.

Mondays

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Tuesdays

Fitness Classes, 10 a.m. – noon*
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Fitness Classes, 10 a.m. – noon*

*Contact fitness instructor **Xristina Kuhlmann** at 616.719.6961 for current class schedule.

Daily Calendar

Monday, August 1

Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 2

Executive Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 6

Gardening Bee, 8 a.m.
Wedding Shower, 11 a.m.

Sunday, August 7

Mission Moment: Survey

Monday, August 8

Stephen Leaders Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 9

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
Communications Comm Mtg, 1 p.m.

Friday, August 12

Wedding Rehearsal, 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 13

Wedding, 4 p.m.

Sunday, August 14

Outdoor Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Welcome to High School, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 15

Health Min Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 16

Worship & Music Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Friday, August 19

Life Begins at 60 Dinner, 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 20

De Colores, 10 a.m.
Tabletop Appreciation Day, 5 p.m.

Monday, August 22

Outreach Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 23

TLC Quilters, 10 a.m.
SM Continuing Ed, 6:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 1, 7:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 2, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 25

Choir Picnic, 6 p.m.

Sunday, August 28

Kindergarten Backpack Blessing, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Teacher Blessing, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.

A Fun & Successful Mission Trip



Fun at Stony Lake Camp!



A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

An Orange Banner for a Vigil of 225 Days, and More...

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.

Beloved Community,

In the fall of 2021, we introduced a vigil of 225 days at Trinity in remembrance of the nearly 225 indigenous children whose bodies had been discovered in a mass grave at the Kamloops residential school in British Columbia. The excerpt above was from the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association in mid-2021, inviting others in the Lutheran community to join them in that vigil. In our congregation, that vigil of remembrance was marked by orange banners lovingly crafted by Trinity member Nancy Moga, banners which still hang in the narthex and in Centennial Hall. The orange banners, each accented by the image of a single eagle feather, were hung on November 18, 2021, and were prominently featured at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which was hosted a couple of days later by the people of Trinity. We told the story of the orange banners and the grim discoveries they commemorated, and many paused in solemn remembrance. Our Thanksgiving observance last fall was accompanied by an element of repentant prayer as we remembered the children who had died.

On July 1, the 225-day vigil officially concluded at Trinity. It is likely that many of us had not reflected on the significance of the orange banners for months as July 1 came and went. But I have determined that it would be of value to continue the vigil. In May of 2022, the United States Interior Department released a long-awaited report indicating that more than 500 children had been buried throughout North America in residential school mass graves. And the report anticipates that additional bodies will be found.

The Interior Department report cited that at least 500 Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children died while attending Indian boarding schools run or supported by the U.S. government. The report identified more than 400 schools and more than 50 gravesites and said more gravesites would likely be found. The report was also the first time in U.S. history that the government has attempted to comprehensively research and acknowledge the magnitude of the horrors it inflicted on Native American children for decades.

I would propose that we need to make this remembrance a vigil of 500 days, or more . . .

I invite you to join me in continuing a solemn remembrance with our sisters and brothers in the Native American community. Perhaps you will join me in noticing again the banners which grace our places of worship and in reflecting on their significance. 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



A memorial outside the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia on July 15, 2021. A search of the property using ground-penetrating radar found the remains of 215 children buried near the former school.

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2022-2023

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 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.

Congregational Council Executive Committee

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

Congregational Council Members

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



A Message from Council President Karen Unruh

Let's kick off this column with a little trivia!

Q: How many baptized members does Trinity have?

A: 1674

This number represents 660 households and includes the 27 new members who joined our church family in late June. By the time you read this column the number will have grown, as more members are set to be welcomed in worship in late July and August. Every class of new members is welcomed by the Congregation Council and Trinity staff at a special New Member VIP Night. Perhaps you remember this from when you were a new member, or have participated as a Council member or new member mentor. It's an evening of dinner, fellowship, and new member and staff introductions. We wrap up with a game of Trinity Trivia, working in teams to tackle categories like Congregational Life, Education, Being Lutheran, Organization & Structure, and Community & Global Outreach.

I've always thought of the trivia game as a fun way for new members to meet current members and coincidentally learn a bit more about Trinity, the ELCA, and our connections to our local and global communities. Sitting in worship on New Member Sunday in June, however, I realized that our little game of trivia has a more important purpose than just fun and fellowship; it is equipping members to fulfill our baptismal calling. The litany for welcoming new members begins:

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in God's mission in the world. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in the Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

How do we fulfill our calling to live among God's faithful people? The Congregational Life category introduces new members to fellowship and volunteer opportunities within Trinity. How do we hear the word of God? The Education category reviews our many educational opportunities for babies through adults. What is the good news we proclaim? Being Lutheran highlights some of our core beliefs. How do we serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth? Community & Global Outreach has got you covered.

As we continue to resume more and more of our regular pre-pandemic activities and events, now is a good time for a Trinity Trivia refresher course for all members. Beginning this month, each issue of the Messenger will feature a few Trinity Trivia questions. You can even find most of the answers in the various articles you'll read in that very issue's pages! If you'd like to learn more about any of the topics presented, ask a staff member, a Council member, or visit the Trinity (tlcgr.org) or ELCA (elca.org) websites.

The first trivia set is below. Answers are on **page 14** of this issue. Have fun!

1. **(Congregational Life) What are the two musical groups that participate in traditional worship, and when do they rehearse?**
2. **(Education) Name two educational opportunities for Trinity's school-age children and/or youth during the school year.**
3. **(Community & Global Outreach) What are three item collection efforts at Trinity that benefit our local community?**

New Members Being Welcomed in the Summer of 2022

After welcoming 45 new members of our congregation in the fall of 2021, Trinity is privileged to welcome another 35 to 40 new partners in ministry in the summer of 2022. We received 27 adults and children as new members on June 26 and additional new members will be received on July 31 and August 21 as we coordinate summertime schedules to intersect with our newest partners in ministry. Please watch for a special guide with photos and biographical sketches of our newest members in an upcoming issue of this newsletter!



Financials

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals Month of June 2022

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	90,877	76,934	(13,943)	-15.3%
Total Expenses	91,290	88,503	2,787	3.1%
Net Income (Loss)	(414)	(11,570)	(11,156)	

2022 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru June 2022)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	592,802	489,123	(103,679)	-17.5%
Total Expenses	503,084	453,668	49,416	9.8%
Net Income (Loss)	89,718	35,455	(54,263)	

TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving

Please Remember Your Offering When You Are Away!

As you travel this summer, remember that the ministry of your congregation continues all year long. Mail your offering or make your gifts electronically, but don't forget your church! We use "Tithe.ly" for our online giving. It's 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, go to <https://get.tithe.ly>, or scan the above QR code.** Tithe.ly can also be found in Trinity's pictorial directory application on your phone or other smart device.

Mark Your Calendar!



A Very Special Invitation

Great news! Trinity's *Life Begins at 60* group has been invited to a cookout at the home of Bruce and Joyce Schlanderer, 60 Forest Hill Ave. SE, on **Friday, August 19, at 5 p.m.** Bring a dish to pass and your favorite drink; hamburgers and brats will be provided. Contact Joyce at 616.949.4173 to make your reservation. See you there!

Save the Date: Habitat for Humanity Build October 1, 2022

Stay tuned for more information in the September newsletter and please plan to participate!

Bible Study & Book Club Opportunities for Fall 2022

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets weekly at Trinity starting Tues., Sept. 6 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Karen Unruh at karen@unruhfamily.net.

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets at Trinity the 1st, 3rd, & 4th Friday of every month starting Fri., Sept. 16 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Kristine Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net.

Pastor Bob's Wednesday Adult Forum

Meets at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in Centennial Hall beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 21. Contact Pastor Bob at robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org for more information.

Tuesday Evening Book Club

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month beginning Tues., Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. This group is multigender and multigenerational, and has met at church, members' homes, and via Zoom. Contact Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com.

Friday Morning Women's Book Club

Meets the 2nd Friday of the month beginning Fri., Sept. 9 at 9:30 a.m. This book club typically meets September through May in a member's home. Contact Carol Hendricks at hendricksc@msn.com or 616.874.8351.

Outdoor Worship Continues on "Second Sundays" August 14 & September 11, with Blessing of the Animals on October 9!

Trinity's "Second Sunday" plan for Outdoor Worship continues on Sunday, August 14, and will be offered on second Sundays of the month into the fall of 2022. 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 a celebration of our beautiful church campus for outdoor worship in 2022 – mark your calendar for the August 14 outdoor worship gathering and additional outdoor services on September 11 and October 9. The October 9 celebration will include the annual Blessing of the Animals. In case of inclement weather, we will simply move back inside to the sanctuary on those Sundays.



Outreach Ministry Fair: September 18 in the Courtyard!

Outreach Ministry Fair



The Trinity Outreach Committee is planning an Outreach Ministry Fair on September 18, 2022, profiling some of our most active benevolent partnerships with community-serving organizations. All those agencies and groups that receive regular benevolent dollars and volunteer time from our congregation are being asked to be present at informational "booths" in the Courtyard that Sunday morning. Mark your calendar and plan to visit the Outreach Ministry Fair on September 18!

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the holy one!" –from the song by Henry Smith

So often we focus on what we want or do not have. Our consumer-focused culture reinforces this mentality in a myriad of ways that constantly surround us. Everything is something to be consumed with no end in sight.

Today I want to invite you to try something different: giving thanks and participating in an exercise we did at camp and on Mission Trip this summer. You will need something to write with and something to write on – I suggest a pen and some index cards.

Find a quiet space, pause for a moment, and try to clear your mind. Take a few deep breaths. As you center yourself start to think about all the things that you have been given in life. Physical gifts, opportunities, relationships, and anything else that comes to mind that has been given to you in some way.

Try to center in on a few things you are thankful for. Contemplate who helped make those things, opportunities, and experiences a reality in your life. Who helped breathe them into your life?

Focus on one of these things. Take an index card and write a note to that person. Start by saying "thank you for..." and specifically naming the thing you want to thank the person for, keeping it specific and not vague. Try to write a few of these thank you notes.

Next, think about all of the things God has given you. Think about the things you often thank God for. Think about the things you have not thanked God for in a while, and maybe there is something you have never thanked God for. Again, write a specific thank you note for the things that come to mind.

I encourage you to share these thank you notes as a practice of gratitude. Find a time to extend thanks to the people you thought of and, if it helps, use these notes as a starting place to let them know how appreciative of them you are. Send your note as a text, or email, or let it be a simple voicemail. You can use your notes to God as a start of a prayer of thankfulness.

Try to do this exercise a few times this month and see how it affects your outlook on life.

Shalom,
Pastor Dan Schewe



Youth News

9th Graders: Welcome to High School! August 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Ninth graders and their families are invited to join us for a special introduction to our high school ministries on August 14 at 6:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to experience and learn about our high school ministries with some of our older youth. We hope you can join us! Contact [Pastor Dan](#) to RSVP or with any questions.



Children's Ministry

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



Sunday School Teachers & Helpers Needed!

Please consider joining our team of dedicated Sunday School teachers! The Spark lesson plans can be accessed online and are easy to follow. Crafts and activities are prepared by our Sunday School coordinators. No prior teaching experience is necessary. Contact [Sheri Mason](#) for more information.



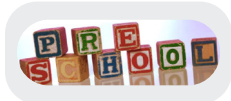
Kindergarten Blessing of Backpacks: August 28, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Kindergarteners bring backpacks to worship for a special blessing. They will receive a backpack charm.



Teacher Blessing: August 28, 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.

As the new school year begins, we lift up our teachers in worship. All teachers, from preschool to college, are invited to stand for a special blessing with Trinity's Sunday School teachers.



Pre-schooler Blessing: September 18, 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.

Sunday School Starts September 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Children three years old through grade 5 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. Sunday School takes place within the framework of the 9:15 a.m. service. Children start worship with their families and head to class after Children's Time. For families attending either of the traditional services, the approximate start time of Sunday School is 9:30 a.m. More information will be coming soon.

The Nursery is Hiring!

Join our childcare team dedicated to providing loving care for little ones. Interested adults must be available 2 to 3 Sunday mornings per month. Work hours during the week are varied according to church programming. Compensation is competitive. Applicants should have some experience with infants and toddlers. If interested, please contact Awilda Diaz at awilda.diaz@tlcgr.org.



Behind the Scenes at Trinity



Flexible, Fierce, & Friendly: Grace Gohl

This month we're featuring a staff member whose work is literally all done 'behind the scenes.' Grace Gohl began working at Trinity as our part-time sexton in April 2021. She connected to our congregation through Rick Radke and is a valued and energetic addition to our staff.

As our youngest sexton, Grace is rising to the task. She is basically responsible for our facilities, which can include communication with service vendors, event set-up and take-down, worship space maintenance, and – in collaboration with the Property Committee – the general oversight of our physical space. She has learned a great deal about flat roofs, heating and cooling systems, water function management, laying carpet tiles, and how to creatively make screens for windows!

Some of Grace's favorite aspects of her job at Trinity are learning new things, the differing work days, and being allowed flexibility in when she gets her work done – if you're on-site around 10 p.m., you'll find Grace here moving chairs, hanging banners, or filling candles. Grace also wants to give a shout-out to office coordinator Kris Baker, who is a welcoming presence for electricians, plumbers, and other service people during the day.



Grace moving Trinity chairs

The most challenging thing about working 10 to 15 hours per week for a large community with a multifaceted, multi-aged building is being aware of what all the needs are and how to communicate best with everyone. Grace is very appreciative of Dave Mester for teaching her so much along the way. When asked "What can our congregation do best to support you?" Grace suggested being willing and able to help with setting up and taking down tables and chairs for events.

As a 21-year-old junior at Davenport University and Kuyper College, Grace is studying social work. She is drawn to social work because she sees a great deal of inequality in society and has also seen many system failures. She is seeking a broader look at complicated issues. Ultimately, she would like to be able to provide needed resources to help people live better.

As a student athlete, Grace plays on the Davenport rugby team and helped secure the women's 7s National Championship this year! If you don't know much about rugby, it takes strength, grit, and speed. When not in class, working at Trinity, or playing/training for rugby, Grace helps her dad at Landscape GR or babysits for nieces and nephews. Grace is also very creative and loves to paint just about anything including portraits, walls, and shoes! She also enjoys thrifting and had fun experiencing the Trinity rummage sale. Someday, when time and finances allow, Grace would like to take part in a mission trip in another country. This young woman is very productive!



Grace with teammates after winning the Rugby Championship

Please introduce yourself whenever you cross paths with our flexible, fierce, and friendly new sexton. You can also connect with Grace at grace.gohl@tlcgr.org to discuss ways in which you might support her or our facilities. You'll love meeting Grace!

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. –1 Timothy 4:12



Grace's Trinity Fan Club!

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 Communications Coordinator [Carrie Lamb](mailto:Carrie.Lamb@tlcgr.org).

Music Ministries

Gathering for Trinity & Resound Choirs!

Those who sing with the Trinity choir or those who ring in the Resound Bell choir are invited to a picnic at the church. Come and see your Trinity fellow-musicians and enjoy some time to greet one another after the summer break! **Date/Time:** Thursday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m. **Location:** Circle drive area of the church (or indoors of raining/too hot) **Food:** Pulled pork, buns, lemonade, and iced tea provided with table service. You are invited to bring a dish to pass.



Celebration of Music Concert Series: 2022/2023

This year's concert series has been thoughtfully planned by a team of church members along with Music Director & Organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus. We hope that your spirit will be refreshed as you enjoy these musical offerings in the exquisite acoustical environment of the church sanctuary. *If you wish to support these concerts, you may consider a donation at a variety of giving levels. Please contact the church office ([Joanna Waite](#)) for further information.*

- Sep. 18:** **"Majestic Brass": Music for Brass and Pipe Organ**
Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra Brass Members
Joined by Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Organ
The power and energy of brass will fill the sanctuary in this opening concert. The "Majestic Brass Ensemble" is a highly sought-after group that performs widely throughout the state. The concert includes music composed for brass alone as well as for the combined forces of brass and the pipe organ.
- Nov. 13:** **West Michigan Flute Orchestra**
Julie Sooy, Conductor
This ensemble has just celebrated 30 years as a local ensemble. They perform uniquely crafted classical music as well as folk music and show tunes all composed specifically for flute orchestra.
- Dec. 18:** **Handel's "Messiah" Community Sing-Along**
Dr. Darlene Kuperus & Dr. Kody Wallace (Chamber Choir Conductor), Artistic Directors
Presented collaboratively by Trinity Lutheran Church concert series and the Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids. A beloved Christmas tradition that fills the sanctuary.
- Jan. 22:** **Chamber Orchestra of Grand Rapids**
Zachary Graft, Artistic Director
This concert will include the beloved "Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major" by J.S. Bach. Music will be created by a chamber ensemble, organ, and harpsichord.
- Feb. 4:** **African Drum Circle, 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning**
Family Music Event in Centennial Hall
Leah Ivory, Leader (Conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus)
Approximately 40 drums from Africa are incorporated in this participatory, FUN event. A light lunch will be served at the end of the morning.
- Mar. 19:** **Calvin University Women's Chorus and Cappella Choir**
Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, Conductor
This concert will feature beautiful choral music accompanied by a string quartet and piano. Sacred choral music will be sung by students in these outstanding choirs.
- May 7:** **Vox GR: "Hearts and Hands and Voices"**
Dr. Chris Mason, Conductor
This newly formed group is a select vocal ensemble of professional singers from the Grand Rapids area. Dr. Mason is part of the music faculty at Aquinas College. The program will include Bach Cantata 147 (which features the hymn "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"). They will be accompanied by a small chamber orchestra.



Fitness at Trinity

Trinity fitness classes are here for you! Summer classes are on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings**. Tai Chi may even be outdoors!

All ability levels are welcome.

Please connect with our instructor, Kristina Kuhlmann at 616.719.6961 for the current class schedule.

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? Would you like to receive the Lord's Supper in your home? Trinity in Touch is here to help! Please reach out to [Pastor Kari Fast](#) or Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#).

Have you considered participating in this ministry? Join us at one of these upcoming Trinity in Touch (TnT) training session to learn more:

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 18, Noon

More information will be coming in the September newsletter. Or, see Pastor Kari Fast or Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley for more information.



Stephen Ministry FAQ

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a difficult time in life. The difficulty may be their own or something a loved one is experiencing. Some examples of difficult situations are death of a loved one, illness or accident, birth of a child, dealing with divorce or separation, relocation, or loss of employment. Confidentiality is always a priority.

Are Stephen Ministers Counselors?

Stephen Ministers are not counselors; they are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care, not to give advice. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's needs fall outside what they are equipped to provide—at which point they help connect the care receiver with appropriate outside resources.

How Can Someone Receive Care from a Stephen Minister?

[Kristin Bradley](#) and [Norm Palm](#) are the Stephen Leaders who coordinate referrals. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to one of them, one of our pastors, or any of our other Stephen Leaders. Any of our Stephen Ministers would also be happy to help you through the process.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

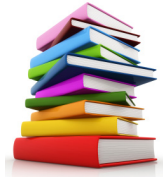
Do Some Gardening at Trinity



Trinity's August gardening workbee will take place on **Saturday, August 6 from 8 to 11 a.m.** Consider lending us some support as we add plants into beds we have been prepping all summer. Maybe you noticed the bare bark mulch planting beds in the west entrance lawn courtyard and gardens? The lawn was difficult to mow and maintain along the foundation of the education wing so we spread cardboard and topped with bark mulch to smother the grass. It is now ready for planting!

Please join us for what should be a satisfying improvement to this area. Bring a shovel and your work gloves to get a little dirty as we make things beautiful!

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 to help a child reach their goals and learn to read?

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. Please contact [Kris Baker](#) in the main office for more information.

Have Some Fun at a Know Mercy Softball Game!



Trinity's coed softball team, "Know Mercy," has been playing on **Tuesday evenings** all summer. Their last game will be played on Field #2 at Manhattan Park, 331 Cascade Rd SE in East Grand Rapids, on **August 2** at 6 p.m.!

Donate School Supplies for Congress Elementary School

As a church family, we hope to once again supply much needed items for use by the students and teachers of Congress Elementary School. The shopping list below indicates the number of the specific items needed to begin the school year. Please consider picking up some of these supplies and bringing them to Trinity. Your donations can be placed in the large plastic labeled barrels located in the entryway in the main entrance on the west side of the church building.

The collection of supplies will go through August. Items needed:

- Tissues (200 boxes)
- Hand sanitizer (50 large pump bottles)
- Sanitizing wipes (50 containers)
- Glue sticks (200 each)
- Crayons (200 boxes)
- Pencils (400 each)
- Healthy dry boxed snacks (crackers, pretzels, granola bars, etc.) for younger grade classes. No need for individual wrapping.
- Dry erase markers
- Two-pocket folders
- Notebooks
- Pencil top erasers



The Nativity of Mary by Mark M. Mattison

Have you ever wondered how Jesus' human parents met? How old were they? Some say that Joseph was a widower and Mary was a teenager. Where does that tradition come from? It's not in the Bible, but there is an ancient story – just as old as the Bible – that talks about it.

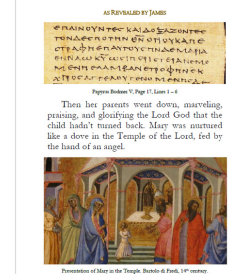
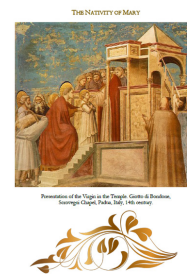
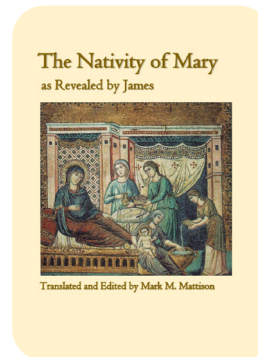
Who was Jesus' grandma? What was she like? Again, the Bible doesn't say, but this ancient story does.

The story is *The Nativity of Mary as Revealed by James*, first written down early in the second century. Known by several different titles and preserved in well over a hundred ancient manuscripts, it's a highly influential tale about Mary's parents, birth, marriage to Joseph, Temple service, and motherhood. The earliest existing Greek manuscript was discovered in 1952 in Egypt and purchased by Martin Bodmer. Today, it's conserved by the Bodmer Foundation in Cologne, Switzerland, outside Geneva.

With the kind permission of the Bodmer Foundation, I've just published a book with full-color photographs of the Greek manuscript, along with my own colloquial English translation and over eighty full-color photographs of frescos, mosaics, paintings, and sculptures from India, Persia, Africa, and Europe. These works of art range from the fifth century to the seventeenth century, all illustrating scenes from this amazing story.

To the best of my knowledge, there's never been a book quite like this one. More than just a translation of an ancient text, this latest project blends art, literature, history, tradition, and contemporary spirituality in a unique way, forging a beautiful creation that's as new as it is old. I'm very excited to share it with you, my church family.

To learn more about *The Nativity of Mary*, visit my new website, www.luminescence-llc.net/nativity. The paperback costs \$24.99, and the hardcover costs \$29.99. Although it's available from Amazon, I'm happy to provide a personalized autographed copy on **Sunday, August 25** after worship services. I look forward to seeing you then!



Overlook Gallery: Featuring Artist Mary Reusch

Be sure to stop by Trinity's Overlook Gallery through August to view the works of local artist Mary Reusch. From Mary's blog:

Painting landscapes gives me the opportunity to go out into nature and observe it very closely. Standing in a meadow, or in a forest, or on the shore of a lake gives me a chance to soak up the essence of the land and enjoy its rhythms. Capturing these many scenes is a time-honored vision. As civilization has encroached on the landscape, artists have been working hard to preserve the memory of wild areas. One such group were the Barbizon painters from 19th century France, who first felt the impact of industrialization. Painters like Rousseau and Millet strove to monumentalize everyday life and their surroundings, bringing in new honesty and soul to the world of painting. These ideas were echoed a few years later here in the United States by artists such as George Inness as he endeavored to give his landscapes a sense of the divine. My own connection to the natural world causes me to want to capture what I observe and experience. As our current wilderness continues to disappear right here in West Michigan, and we spread out and build more and more, I find that what we have left is increasingly sacred in my eyes.

Trinity Neighbors



Brenda Fritts's Trinity Neighbors group met in June for dinner at First Wok. Even with church activities returning to near-normal, summer and fall are great times to get your Trinity Neighbors group together for fun and fellowship.



Trinity is Hiring...Come Join our Team!

Are you seeking a collaborative, supportive, and meaningful way to serve Trinity and our community? Consider joining the Trinity staff! We have two part-time openings detailed below. See [Pastor Linstrom](#) if you are interested.

“Helping Hands” Coordinator

A part-time staff position, 10 to 15 hours weekly, that seeks to lead our efforts to care well for our congregation’s members through programs and volunteers, including:

- coordination of “Helping Hands” ministry for meals, rides, and other needs of Trinity members
- working with our pastors/staff to coordinate care of homebound members/“Trinity in Touch” visitation ministry
- coordination of altar flower delivery and of Christmas poinsettias to the homebound, grieving, hospitalized, etc.
- assisting with communications to support Trinity’s Prayer Ministry/prayer chain and helping coordinate the Prayer Tree Ministry matching adults and children in prayer relationships
- providing administrative support for outreach with prospective members, including our “Let’s Connect” ministry, and procuring Time and Talent surveys from new members; helping facilitate our activation of members and constituents based on Time and Talent surveys
- helping coordinate “Trinity Neighbors,” an every-member effort at building community within our congregation
- supporting efforts to maintain a Trinity pictorial directory
- developing and supporting a “Helping Hands” Committee to share leadership of this ministry
- providing for communications with the congregation to grow support for “Helping Hands” initiatives

Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator

A part-time staff position, 15 to 20 hours weekly, that seeks to lead our efforts at outreach in the wider community with our benevolent community service partners, coordinating Trinity members to serve through:

- coordinating roughly 65 volunteers, four times annually, for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)
- coordinating efforts to activate volunteers for other community outreach such as Habitat for Humanity builds, serving meals at agencies like Dégagé and God’s Kitchen, supporting Congress Elementary School partnerships, and other volunteer initiatives
- supporting Trinity’s ongoing refugee resettlement efforts
- supporting Trinity’s many financial appeals for local ministries and for churchwide efforts like the World Hunger Appeal and Disaster Response, special offerings during Advent and Lent, etc.
- working with Trinity’s Outreach Committee to provide oversight to our many outreach ministries and to establish and administer our outreach financial support
- supporting other congregational outreach efforts including backpack/school supply appeals, Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH) meal packing, Family Promise and Access fundraisers, LWR quilting, etc.
- helping facilitate our activation of members based on Time and Talent surveys
- providing for communications with the congregation to grow support outreach and discipleship ministries

These are position descriptions that will evolve as candidates interview for and step into these roles in our life together. Please contact [Pastor Linstrom](#) for more information.

Trinity Trivia Answers

1. The Resound handbell choir and the Trinity Choir rehearse on Thursday evenings. All members are welcome to join! Contact Choir Director Sid Hoeksema or Director of Music & Organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus for more information.
2. Sunday school, Youth groups (MS & HS), 5th grade first communion class, Communion class for younger children, Confirmation class. Contact Rachele Battreal for information about Sunday School, Pastor Dan Schewe for information about youth groups and Confirmation, and Pastor Bob Linstrom for information about 5th grade communion class.
3. School supply drive (going on now!), diapers and undies, household cleaning items, personal care items, coats and blankets, food collection for local food pantries, bus tickets. Contact Kris Baker or Tess Lundgren for more information about donating items to our drives or to volunteer to help with our collection efforts.

August Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

August 1

Spencer Olson
Paul Smith
Terry & Angie Brace
Bob & Mary Hamilton
Chas & Marcia Schaner

August 2

Kara Bacon
Kieran Blair
Drew Bradbury
Ally DeStefano
Alissa Pupel
Jodi VanGorp
Colton Wright
Chris & Kim Engle

August 3

Carrie Boer
Bill Bush
Ben Keller
Gordon Kirsch
Tom & Marilyn Fredrickson

August 4

Mandi Ezell
Dale Sommers
David & Amy Fox
Chuck & Phyllis Schadler
Andy & Courtney Steketee

August 5

Bret Kendall
Joey Preston
Kevin & Brenda Conway
Michael & Bethany Dunning
Paul & Sheree Smith

August 6

Jacob Beld
Kathy Fuger
Larry Petrick
Carrie Wygmans
Mike & Kim Danielski
Michael & Charmayne Mulligan

August 7

Lynn Begin
Jack Brubaker
Daniel Pollert Sr.
Bruce Zakem
Chris & Joanna Waite

August 8

Aidan Cole
Kathie Fetting
Anne Meeuwssen
Nick Salasky
David & Gail Mester
Erica & Mike Spalding

August 9

Owen Budzyn
Joshua Kendall
Alex Mochel
Noah Pell
Roy & Kristen Lamprich

August 10

Drew Flemming
Ann Gooch
Carol Hendricks
Julieanne Lee
Ron & Shelley Mishler
Lance & Kim Owens

August 11

Carson Brang
Melody Ditchcreek
Roger Heldt
Brittany Hildebrandt
Andrew Luders
Patricia Stevens
Sylvia Stouten
Nicole Yoder
Amy & Andrew Beuker
John & Marilyn Leese

August 12

Lynn Grzelak
John Murray
Josh Peterman
Jenna Peterson
Ben Zuzelski
Bob & Kristy Rieger
John & Joan Walls
Bill & Sandy Westveld

August 13

Karen Betz-Griewahn
Mike Fessenden
Ken Morrow

August 14

Bill DeWitt
Ander Perkins
Isabell Swain
Bob & Liz Dever
Kenneth & Susan Vanden Bout

August 15

Lance Childers
Lisa Gavranovic
James Heaford
Brendan Moglia
Nancy Morrison
Suz Schalon
Matt Seyffert
Darrell Yeager
John & Lynn Hagenbush

August 16

Luke Ezell
Michelle Hall
Mike & Sheri Mason
Jay & Maya Rosloniec

August 17

Jane Ashby
Holly Grzelak
Natalie Swain
Clara Wilson
Natalie Yeager
Mark & Gayle Rohde
Steven & Jennifer Salasky
John & Lynda Schuen

August 18

Jason Kinney
Steven & Shirley Kleiman
Mike & Lois McCardell
Jason & Jacqueline Riegling

August 19

Shelby Fritts
Debbie Lown
Debbie Potter
Kelli Woolworth
Heather Worsfold

August 20

Claire Selleck
Michael Sytsma
Spencer Waite
Joshua & Marci Anderson
Bob & Cindy Burchfield
John & Kris Fox

August 21

Larry Biser
Ruth Ann Evans
Callan Hughes
Kathryn Stoll
Phil & Carrie Lamb
Greg & Jenna Peterson
Chad & Tami Saum

August 22

Mark Baker
Cade Lewkowski
McKenna Malvitz
Ausma Pupel
Thea Taylor
Robin Walker
Alex & Amanda Janeczek

August 23

Bob Burchfield
Elwyn Griewahn
Joe Iaria
Ryan Kulas
Doug & Katie Moga
Mike & Karen Unruh

August 24

Donna Alkema
Doug Moga
Joshua Nakasila
Corey & Nicole Yoder

August 25

Izzie Anderson
Kay Hahn
Gayle Rohde
Mike Vander Baan
David & Nancy Morrison

August 26

Andrew Beuker
Carter King
Penuelle Muladja
Andy Pupel
Bob Swain
Paul & Lynn Getzin

August 27

Lulu Gavranovic
Dieu Merci Manyonga
Gail Mazurek
Marcella Morrow
Elena Pell
Nancy Scott
Donald & Sandra Kishman

August 28

Peter Crist
Scott Hall
Anne Larson
Cathy Olson
Dave & Mandi Ezell
Frank & Annette Remsburg
Brian & Bridget Rieth

August 29

Joel Cairns
Ryan Idema
Kaili Melucci
Jennifer & Dennis Brown
Bob & Barb Crossman
Jordan & Katie Knoll
Jim & Laura Krug
Lindsey & Jim Mooney

August 30

Connie Frazier
Ailee Van Hagen
Sarah & Andrew Pfeiffle
Tom & Sammye Zollman

August 31

Kevin Bouwman
Betty Hall
Kate Krug
Mark Lothschutz
Benjamin Mielock
Joseph Robach
Don & Cheryl Bushman
Paul & Elisabeth Crist
John & Donna Linsey

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. **Two ways to find streaming services:**

(1) Follow the home page link to **Virtual Worship** on Trinity's website; select **Video** to connect to the stream. (2) Go to [YouTube](#) by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage.

Search for and click on **Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids**. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. and 10:40 to 11:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings), there will be **Live Now** video. Simply click on the video.

•We also save past services (called **Rejoice Worship**, and **Sanctuary Worship**), so you can view a past service at any time. (On Sundays, it may be a few hours before videos are available.) ***If you **subscribe** to Trinity's YouTube channel, videos should automatically show up on your feed.

We are on GRTV! Our Sunday services are 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](#)



Follow us on social media!

instagram: [tlc.gr](#)
facebook.com/[tlcgr](#)



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

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

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 #)



Contact Trinity



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



YouTube.com
Search: Trinity Lutheran
Church, Grand Rapids

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dan.schewe@tlcgr.org

Rev. Kari Fast, Associate Pastor for Pastoral

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Brooks Alder, Sound Board Operator,

616.949.2510

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