Volume 91 • Number 12 • December 2022
A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church

125 years of nurturing each other in our daily journeys of faith

The Messenger

IHN Coming to Trinity December 4 to 11, 2022

IHN is fast approaching and will be here at Trinity December 4 to 11, 2022! **Please prayerfully consider being part of this important ministry.**

You and your family can be part of helping families feel Trinity's Christian love during this week by making a meal, picking up groceries, setting up bedrooms, being a host, staying overnight, playing with children, and much more!

To donate groceries: https://tinyurl.com/nxpetcuc **To volunteer on-site:** https://tinyurl.com/2p98a9mc

You can also sign up through the eBlast or contact Kathy Bush at kathy.bush@tlcgr.org or 616.485.0031.

Advent Begins!

Wednesday Evening Advent Midweek Vespers

Join Us for Supper & Holden Evening Prayer!

A season of hope and expectation, during Advent we pause in the life of the church to provide a counterweight to the remarkable busyness of the holiday season. **Wednesday Midweek Vespers will be offered on November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21 at 6:30 p.m. following a simple supper in the Courtyard at 5:30 p.m.** You are welcome to join us for Midweek Vespers in Trinity's sanctuary on Wednesday evenings during the four weeks of Advent.

Pastor Kari Fast will provide the homily weekly with a series based on 2 Timothy 1:1-14, and Pastor Bob Linstrom will join cantors and Dr. Kuperus in leading a liturgy offering the well-loved vespers service of Holden Evening Prayer. **The December 21 service will feature a third annual commemoration of The Longest Night.**

Add a discipline of midweek worship to your journey to the manger in Bethlehem in December 2022!

The Longest Night *is a simple service of lament, petition and comfort, intended for the darkest night of the year – the Winter Solstice. Together we remember that while the darkness is real, we journey together with hope, preparing our hearts for the light of Christmas born among us.*

Our Longest Night service will be offered by Pastor Dan, our Stephen Ministry team, and Trinity musicians on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary as our last midweek Advent worship.

Please see pages 8-10 & 17 for more information about Advent and Christmas services and activites at Trinity!

What's Happening at Trinity in December?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
(No service on Dec. 25)

Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Live-Streaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
(No service/live-stream on Dec. 25)

Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.
(No Sunday School Dec. 18, 25, & Jan. 1)

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Live-Streaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.
(No live-stream on Dec. 25)

Mondays
Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.

Tuesdays
Fitness Classes, 10 a.m. – noon*

Wednesdays
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursdays
Fitness Classes, 10 a.m. – noon*
Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
(No rehearsal Dec. 29)
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.
(No rehearsal Dec. 29)

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

Daily Calendar

Friday, December 2
Art Makers Set-Up
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Medicaid/Medicare Help, 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 3
Art Makers Art Show, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Medicaid/Medicare Help, 10 a.m.
Youth Cookie Decorating/Delivery, 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 4
IHN Week Begins
High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
LWR Quilters, noon
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 5
IHN On-Site
Blood Drive, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Meeting, 1 p.m.
Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Property Committee Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6
IHN On-Site
Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Special Council Mtg, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7
IHN On-Site
Outreach Comm Mtg, noon
Midweek Advent Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Advent Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 8
IHN On-Site

Friday, December 9
IHN On-Site
Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 10
IHN On-Site
Rehearsal: Children's Christmas Prgm, 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 11
IHN Concludes
Children Arrive - Program Prep, 10:15 a.m.
Children's Christmas Program, 10:45 a.m.
Christmas Cookie Reception, noon
Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed, 1 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Sup. Grp 1, 1:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Sup. Grp 2, 1:30 p.m.
Advent by Candlelight, 6:30 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 12
The Messenger Submissions Due

Tuesday, December 13
Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14
JOYful Days Christmas Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Midweek Advent Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Advent Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
Youth & Family Comm Mtg, 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 15
Ladies Bridge, 1 p.m.

Friday, December 16
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 17
Scandanavian Smörgåsbord, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 18
Private Event, 1 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 19
Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20
Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Worship & Music Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21
Midweek Advent Supper, 5:30 p.m.
The Longest Night Service, 6:30 p.m.
Pack 3015 Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 23
Christmas Eve Music Rehearsal, 8 a.m.

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service, 3 p.m. *(with live-stream)*
Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.
Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
Candlelight Service, 9 p.m.

Sunday, December 25
Merry Christmas!
Christmas Carols & Communion Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, December 26
Office Closed

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

Thanksgiving, Gratitude, and the "Headwinds/Tailwinds Asymmetry"

In late 2016, Shai Davidai and Thomas Gilovich published a study entitled, “The headwinds/tailwinds asymmetry: An availability bias in assessments of barriers and blessings.” The basic premise they were exploring was that many people feel they face more headwinds and obstacles in life than everyone else, which breeds resentment. Furthermore, the authors maintained that people also undervalue the tailwinds that help them — the winds that move them along, which leaves them ungrateful and unhappy.

The authors completed a series of studies that provide evidence of an “availability bias” in people's assessments of the benefits they've enjoyed and the barriers they've faced. They cited that barriers and hindrances command attention because they have to be overcome; benefits and resources can often be simply enjoyed and largely ignored. Some results of this "headwind/tailwind" asymmetry, for example, are that political parties all claim that the electoral map works against them, that football fans take disproportionate note of the challenging games on their team's schedules, that people tend to believe that their parents have been harder on them than their siblings, etc. This can lead people to believe they have been treated unfairly and, consequently, they are more inclined to endorse morally questionable behavior.

As I am composing this reflection, it is ten days before our nation’s Day of Thanksgiving. In this nation's heritage, the Thanksgiving holiday we inherit has roots in a complex, morally mixed amalgam of different kinds of gratitude: for good harvest, for safe passage, for colonial conquest, for military victory. The question I am pondering in mid-November of 2022 is how we as a human community will mark this time of Thanksgiving and, following the premise of a “headwind/tailwind” asymmetry in our perception of our world, how we will live with thankful hearts. Do we have it in us to observe the tailwinds which have propelled us on life’s journey, the blessings and benefits we have received? Can we then nurture a spirit of deep and genuine gratitude?

There’s perhaps no better day than Thanksgiving to reflect on the astounding power of gratitude itself — and accordingly, to commit ourselves to cultivating it more intentionally in the coming year. If we think of “gratitude” primarily as a kind of duty to discharge (Now remember to write that thank-you note!), we’re missing the boat entirely, effectively reducing one of life’s wonders to mere good manners. On the contrary, gratitude is a vital force in the world, a profoundly dignifying act that builds relationships, communities, and healthy human hearts. Gratitude as an act of thanksgiving helps call our attention to the winds at our backs.

One of our most precious treasures is our time-and-attention, and how we spend that treasure will directly determine the health of our hearts (“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21)). Will we spend it all focusing on “headwinds,” thereby creating a perfect petri dish for growing resentments and narratives of grievance? Or will we spend it focusing on “tailwinds,” thereby nourishing the soil for growing joy and narratives of appreciation?

In the end, we’re all “pilgrims” after all. A pilgrimage of gratitude is far more attractive to this wayfarer than a pilgrimage of grievance and resentment. Let this year’s Thanksgiving be not just a day of gratitude, but a springboard into a new life of gratitude, the most human and humanizing of gestures, the most graceful of all social graces.

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

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob Linstrom

Council Corner

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
Helping Hands: Susan Knoll
Endowment Fund: Brad Kessel
Fellowship & Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman
Finance: Chris Engle & Chris Norton
Health Ministries: Carol Butler
Human Resources: Steve Heacock
Outreach: John Fox
Property: Chris Becker
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 Member Kate Bredwell

As we move closer to the end of 2022, it's a good time to reflect on how we've worshiped through this year and to look forward to the future.

This year saw a continued return back to "normal" as our in-person worship evolved through the year. Our online streaming of services has continued to be a robust expression of faith. It has become common for families and individuals seeking a new church home to check things out online first. Online worship also continues to be very helpful to members of our Trinity family who may be ill at home or may be out of town on Sunday.

Outdoor worship has been another vibrant part of our experience this past year. Our monthly services at 10:45 a.m. on the west lawn from May to October were well received and enjoyed. While two of the five planned outdoor services were rained out, the ones that took place – including the October blessing of the animals – were appreciated by those who participated. We are planning to continue to worship outdoors at 10:45 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month during the warmer months of 2023, and we are exploring upgrades to the outdoor electrical access and sound system for next year.

This fall brought the return of the choirs to the 10:45 a.m. service after the summer hiatus. The Trinity Choir is singing three Sundays per month, and the Resound Bell Choir is playing once per month. We have also been blessed by guest musicians, including the Calvin Christian HS Choir at the 10:45 a.m. service on October 16, and the West Michigan Flute Orchestra for a Celebration of Music Concert Series concert on November 13. This fall, we have also adjusted the timing of Children's Time during the 9:15 a.m. Rejoice service to facilitate a slightly longer period for the kids to be in Sunday School, which has been going well. In addition, the Rejoice Bands have a rotation that is working nicely for them and they are welcoming some new members.

Moving into the future, Advent begins Sunday, November 27. Wednesday evening Advent services, featuring the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service, will begin on November 30. Sunday, December 11 will feature the annual Children's Christmas Program at the 10:45 a.m. service, and the Stephen Ministry Holden Evening Prayer service at 1 p.m. Christmas Eve will bring four services. Like last year, services will take place at 3, 5, 7, and 9 p.m. as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Christmas Day, December 25, is a Sunday this year, so there will be one service at 10:45 a.m. with Christmas carols and Holy Communion. Sunday, January 1 will feature the regular, three-service schedule.

We have been blessed with Dr. Deb DeWitt in her new role as the Rejoice Music Coordinator for the past year, as well as the welcome addition of Dr. Darlene Kuperus, who joined the Trinity staff this past February and serves as our music director, organist, choir accompanist, and bell choir director. Her talents have been a wonderful asset to the music and worship life here at Trinity. Your Worship and Music Committee is grateful for the opportunity to help shape the direction of our worship life here.

Financials

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of October 2022

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	88,163	98,563	10,400	11.8%
Total Expenses	97,952	89,345	8,607	8.8%
Net Income (Loss)	(9,789)	9,218	19,007	

2022 Fiscal Year-to-Date Thru October 2022

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	948,171	845,696	(102,474)	-10.8%
Total Expenses	899,967	819,010	80,957	9.0%
Net Income (Loss)	48,204	26,686	(21,518)	

Online Giving Through Tithe.ly

At Trinity, we use "Tithe.ly" 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, scan the QR code to the left, or go to:

https://get.tithe.ly.

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

Offer Your "Estimate of Giving" for 2023

November 20 was "Consecration Sunday" at Trinity. At all worship services there was an invitation for members and friends of Trinity to make their Estimates of Giving for 2023, their pledges of giving for the year ahead, as an act of worship that morning. **An additional "Estimate of Giving" form can be found on the back cover of this newsletter** so that you may offer your pledge for our shared ministry in the year ahead – please return your Estimate of Giving to the church office soon as our Finance Committee and Congregation Council use those estimates to plan the 2023 budget for our shared mission and ministry.

Year-End Giving of Stocks & Securities

As you are planning year-end giving to Trinity, gifts of stocks and securities are made through Norris Perné & French. When contacting the firm that is holding your securities you should give the following information:

- DTC Number: 0226
- Receiving Firm: National Financial Services/Fidelity
- Receiving Account Name: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Account Number: 645-063880

For assistance, please contact Elizabeth Poole at 616.459.3421.

You will also want to indicate which securities and how many shares you would like to donate.
REMINDER: Do not sell shares in your account as this can trigger capital gains.

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." –Matthew 1:22-23

This Christmas season I invite you to contemplate how amazing it is that God came to be with us; to dwell with us in the middle of the mess we have made of everything.

God did not come to condemn us, point out our flaws, or make us feel guilty for all the ways we have not lived according to God's commands, but instead came to show us the love that God has for us. In the coming of Christ, we find a model for us to follow in how we are to be with each other.

It is easy to be divided and separated from one another. We see this modeled for us nearly everywhere every day. We are encouraged to push away from ourselves anyone who has anything about them that does not completely agree with our thoughts and expectations. In following this lead, we find so much of our identity is defined by who we are not and not like, instead of who we are.

At Christmas we celebrate that God came to be with us, not to be separate from us or to separate us from each other.

The lines that we think separate us from God and one another are crossed by Christ at his birth, and continually in His life. In doing this He helps us see how we can be drawn back together; across the lines we draw and perceive. We are a people called to be together, differences and all. This can help us see that our identity is that of a diverse people drawn together by the love God has for us.

This December I invite you to contemplate how the amazing birth of Christ can draw us together across the lines we are encouraged to see.

Set your eyes and hearts on Emmanuel.

Shalom,

Pastor Dan Schewe

Trinity Trivia

Q1: (Congregational Life) Name at least three special events and/or worship opportunities at Trinity during the Advent season.

Q2: (Being Lutheran) The ELCA provides a system of liturgical colors for use by its congregations for vestments and paraments. What are the colors used for the following seasons/days?

a. Advent
b. Christmas
c. Lent
d. Good Friday
e. Day of Pentecost

Trinity Trivia answers located on page 24.

A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

Treasuring the Gift of Faith

Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

Our scriptural focus during the first three Advent Evening Vespers services will be 2 Timothy 1:1-14, with verse 14 as the main focal point.

> ***Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

The giver of the good treasure is God. The good treasure given is Christ. The helper of this gift entrusted to us is the Holy Spirit. The gift of faith comes from, is embodied in, and is supported by the entire Trinity. We find this in our focus verse 2 Timothy 1:14.

> ***Guard [God's] good treasure [which is Christ,] entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.***

This Advent season we spend time cherishing, appreciating, and drawing strength from our gift of faith.

The first Wednesday, **November 30**, we'll begin with 2 Timothy 1:1-7. The *Honor* of God's Gift: the honor of the promise of life in Christ.

> ***6For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God... 7for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.***

The second Wednesday, **December 7**, we'll continue on with 2 Timothy 1:8-10. The *Grace* of Christ's Gift: the grace of our holy calling through the gospel of Christ.

> ***8...relying on the power of God, 9who saved us and called us with a holy calling... This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...***

The third Wednesday, **December 14**, we'll conclude with 2 Timothy 1:11-14. The *Courage* of the Holy Spirit's Gift: the courage to guard the good treasure of Christ.

The first three services Pastor Bob will be leading our musical liturgy found in the beloved *Holden Evening Prayer Service*, Dr. Darlene Kuperus will be providing her wonderful music, and I will be offering the homilies. The last of these four services on Wednesday, **December 21** will be our *Longest Night* service, a beautiful reflection on God's presence of light in the darkness. **Each Wednesday we will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Midweek Advent Supper followed by a 6:30 p.m. Advent vigil.**

May this Advent season — with all its winter darkness, the troubles of the world, and within our lives — be a time of renewing our love for our gift of faith. So we may, *guard [God's] good treasure [which is Christ,] entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Amen.*

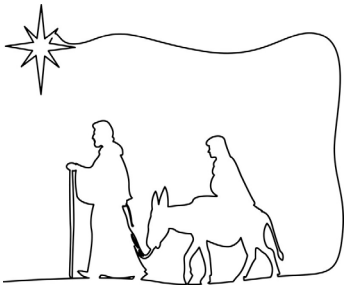
God's deepest blessings now and always!

Pastor Kari

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Advent Worship, Activities & Information

Advent Sundays: Journey to the Manger in Bethlehem



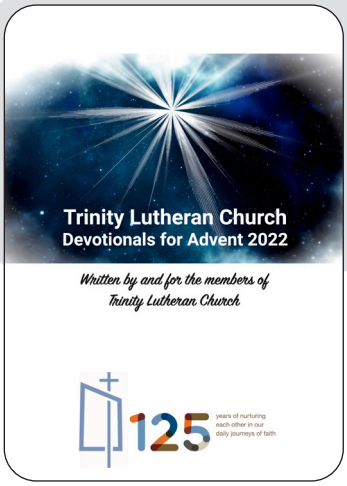
For four Sundays we gather during the season of Advent to make ready for the birth of the Christ child on Christmas Day. Each week we light another candle on the Advent wreath and our songs of anticipation and expectation are offered as the worship spaces begin to be adorned for Christmas. Join us as we begin the church year in Advent worship on Sunday mornings at 8, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Offering to Benefit ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Each year the offering received in special Advent offering envelopes and in Advent Wednesday Midweek worship services is designated for a benevolent cause. The 2022 Advent Offering will be designated for the work of the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support people around the world who face food insecurity. Give generously!

Christmas Eve Dinner

Our pastors, organist, and holiday musicians spend their entire day at Trinity on Christmas Eve as they prepare and lead all of our services. **We would like to provide a potluck meal for them to enjoy between the 5 and 7 p.m. Christmas Eve services.** If you would like to contribute to this meal please sign up in the eBlast link. If you have any questions please contact Tess Lundgren. **For more information about Christmas Eve services at Trinity, please see** **page 10****.**



Advent Devotional Booklet

Written by and for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church

Included with this issue of *The Messenger* is our 2022 Advent devotional booklet, providing a daily devotion for the days of the Advent season and Christmas morning. Enjoy this gift from your sisters and brothers at Trinity as a daily devotional discipline during this holy season!

Advent by Candlelight

After a hiatus, Advent by Candlelight is returning this year on Saturday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women 12 and older to set aside the tasks of holiday preparations, step away from busy, crammed schedules, and focus on the wonder and beauty of the birth of Christ. We will share an evening of fellowship, reflection, and wonderful desserts as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas Season.

We are looking for 16-20 table hostesses who will set their own tables and provide their own desserts. Different this year, we are asking participants to sign up for general seating as we come back together to reacquaint ourselves with each other and to make new friends.

We will be serving our traditional Christmas Tea. Tess has picked up 14 antique teapots and is looking for 6 more teapots that serve 8-10 cups. Please let us know if you have a teapot to share for this event!

If you would like to host a table or would like to sign up to attend please look for the sign up on an upcoming eBlast. If you have questions regarding this event, please contact Tess Lundgren.

Advent Worship, Activities & Information

Advent Potluck Suppers

Please join us for potluck suppers in the Courtyard on Wednesdays during Advent (November 30 through December 21). Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by Vesper Service in the upper Sanctuary.

Attendees are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please look for the link to our SignUp Genius in the eBlasts. **We also need people to help set up for supper and people to help clean up after supper.** The more helpers we get each week the faster we can all get upstairs for the Vespers Service. Please contact Tess Lundgren if you have any questions.

JOYful Days Holiday Lunch — Wednesday, December 14

Come celebrate the holidays with friends as we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant on Wednesday, December 14. Watch for a link in the upcoming eBlasts for more details and to sign up. Space is limited and will be first signed up/first on the attendance list. Trinity members and friends – men, women, singles, and couples — are all invited! For more information, contact Tess Lundgren.

Scandinavian Smörgåsbord — Saturday, December 17

We are pleased to announce that the Scandinavian Smörgåsbord is returning to Trinity this year after several years absence and is scheduled for Saturday, December 17 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Trinity's Scandinavian Smörgåsbord provides an abundance of great food, a musical program, and even a visit from Santa Lucia! **Doors open at 5 p.m. and the meal begins at 5:30 p.m. The cost is $12 per person.** Payment can be made by cash or check sent to or dropped off at the church, or at the door. Please indicate that this payment is for the Scandinavian Smörgåsbord.

This is a big undertaking and we especially welcome volunteers to help with the following:

- Make a Scandinavian side dish or dessert at home and bring to the event (recipes available if needed)
- Help with advance food prep at Trinity on **Friday, December 16** (laugh and talk while peeling potatoes, boiling and peeling eggs, etc.)
- Help set up the Courtyard for our event
- Help cook the food on Saturday
- Help serve during the meal by replenishing food items at the buffet
- Help clean up after the event and reset the space for our Sunday services

Please help us plan effectively for this special evening and RSVP early to make this beloved program a wonderful success. Look for the signup in the eBlasts and/or contact Tess Lundgren with any questions.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship at Trinity

Worship on Christmas Eve

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus's birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24, for one of four Candlelight Services of Holy Communion. All are welcome on this holy night as we gather for the proclamation of the birth of the Christ child and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and as we welcome the light that conquers darkness in our festival worship.

- 3 p.m. – Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, led by brass, timpani, and organ
- 5 p.m. – Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, led by the Resound Bell Choir, brass, timpani, and organ
- 7 p.m. – Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, led by the Trinity Choir, brass, timpani, and organ
- 9 p.m. – Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, led by strings and organ

Director of Music and Organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus will be on the bench for all four Christmas Eve services and Trinity's pastors will all be taking part in our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

Join us in an evening of joyful proclamation!

Christmas Eve Live-Streaming & Nursery Care

For those who are unable to join us in the church sanctuary for one of the four Candlelight Services of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, **the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be live streamed and should be available on our YouTube channel early in the evening on Christmas Eve.**

For those who are in attendance and could use a bit of support with infants and very young children during Christmas Eve worship, **Trinity's nursery will be staffed from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.**

Worship on Christmas Morning

Christmas Day is a Sunday this year, with **one service offered at Trinity at 10:45 a.m. on Christmas morning.** Pastor Kari Fast will lead Christmas Day worship, a simple service of carols and Holy Communion.

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day
the Word illumines the world,
shining forth to bring all things into being.
Today we celebrate the incarnate Word,
God becoming flesh to live among us
in the person of Jesus Christ then and now.
Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth,
along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph,
and all witnesses to the light of Christ,
we declare to the world that we have indeed seen
and been transformed by the arrival of
"the salvation of our God."
O come, let us adore!

Flowers for Traditional & Rejoice Worship

Flowers are a wonderful way to honor family members or friends who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions; give recognition in memory of a loved one who has passed away; or to beautify our worship space.

Our procedure for ordering flowers will simply invite those who are purchasing arrangements to make that purchase directly with a florist of their choosing. Members of the Worship and Music Committee and church staff have additionally suggested the following four florists for those without a favorite option:

- Ball Park Floral & Gifts, 8 Valley Ave NW, GR, MI 49504, 616.459.3409 ballparkfloral.com
- Alpine Floral & Gifts, Inc., 5290 Alpine Ave NW, CP, MI 49321, 616.784.0626 - alpinefloralandgifts.com
- Kennedy's Flower Shop, 4665 Cascade Rd SE, GR, MI 49546, 616.956.6747 - kennedyfloral.com
- Ludema's Floral, 3408 Eastern Ave SE, GR, MI 49508, 616.452.2961- ludemas.com

We request delivery by the florist during office hours on **Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** We will seek to put arrangements in the refrigerator when there is room. Otherwise, the arrangement will be placed directly in the worship space. Our Office Coordinator Kris Baker will continue to gather information from your sign-up to properly note your memorial or honorary designation of the floral gift in the Weekly Connection.

Eternal Light

You are invited to remember a loved one who has passed away by sponsoring the Eternal Light for a week. The Eternal Light, which burns 24 hours a day throughout the year, hangs in the sanctuary near the sacristy and close to the altar. A bulletin announcement in Trinity's Weekly Connection will read: *The Eternal Light for today has been given by* _____ *in memory of* _____. A suggested donation of $10 to the Eternal Light Sustaining Fund will cover our costs for the wax candle. Others may also choose the same week to remember their loved ones. Their names will also be listed for that week. If you have any questions, please contact Kris Baker at kris.baker@tlcgr.org or 616.949.2510.

Trinity's Inclement Weather Policy

When the Forest Hills Public Schools close during the day, all Trinity daytime activities are cancelled and the church offices are closed. When Forest Hills Schools announce a two-hour morning delay, morning programming at Trinity will be cancelled. After 3 p.m. and on weekends, check WOOD TV8 about the status of our evening or weekend activities. Please be as certain as possible that it will be safe for you to be out on the road. We will miss you if you are unable to join us for worship or a church event, but we count on you to use your best judgment when it comes to your personal safety this winter!

News Briefs (cont.)

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation!

Mark your calendar for the All-Congregation Potluck and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on **Sunday, January 15, 2023**, when we will receive reports, elect leaders, and adopt a budget for 2023.

Wedding Coordinator Position Posted

After four years of faithful service as Trinity's Wedding Coordinator, Amelia Crist has stepped down after serving the last two 2022 wedding weekends in November. She has walked with many couples and their families as they entered the covenant of marriage at Trinity during her tenure in that position.

Is this a position that would interest you, dedicating yourself to Friday evening wedding rehearsals and Saturday marriage celebrations at Trinity Lutheran Church? Are you interested in learning more about the position? Be welcome to contact Pastor Bob Linstrom. We hope to have this position filled before the 2023 wedding season begins in April. Contact Pastor Bob at 616.949.2510, ext. 115 or robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org.

New Members Celebration Being Planned for 2023

Are you finding a home at Trinity? Are you back among the people of Trinity after a time away? Are you curious about these Lutheran-flavored folks and hoping to learn more, even if you are not sure that you are ready to become a member of Trinity Lutheran Church?

Pastor's classes for prospective members will be offered this winter and next spring for those who are ready to dig into this tradition of ours more deeply. Others may wish to affiliate as members of Trinity by a simple letter of transfer or by Affirmation of Faith. **A New Members Sunday will be celebrated on a Sunday in the spring of 2023.** Even if you are not a "joiner," or if you are unsure that membership with Trinity is the right thing for you, please know that you are welcome to explore what it would mean to affirm membership with the people of Trinity in mission and ministry. All are welcome – contact Office Coordinator Kris Baker or one of the pastors for more information.

Update on the "Pastor Karen Niemeyer Scholarship Fund"

Recognizing the need for pastors across the church and the potential of many lay members who are currently working in a different career, Trinity has initiated the Pastor Karen Niemeyer Scholarship Fund for second-career seminarians. The fund's purpose is to encourage gifted candidates to attend seminary and prepare to serve in Christ's name as ordained Word and Sacrament clergy. A series of *Messenger* articles highlighting four Trinity members who are second career pastors will be shared in the coming months. This month's article features Trinity member and retired pastor, Donna Erickson.

The Rev. Donna Erickson, D.Min.

There is one thing we shall never fully understand. Why has God chosen us who are like fragile vessels of clay, to communicate the love of Christ for all people?

As a child I loved to play church with our dolls, stuffed animals, and my little sister who were my congregation. We sang songs, prayed, and I told Bible stories that my grandmother had taught me. Then we had Kool Aid and crackers.

My next years were filled with caring for my chronically ill mother, for my marriage, and being Mom for three sons while remaining actively involved in our church community. I loved studying the scriptures and became a Bethel Bible Study leader; I prayed with people in need; and I helped resettle Vietnamese refugees. Later I attended Christians Women's Club and in time taking a leadership role, sharing my faith story, and becoming a speaker with other Midwest Clubs.

I had lived nearly half my life when my pastor challenged me with the words from John 15:16-17: "You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit…." He had been my teacher and friend always asking me to pray for what God has for me next. When he mentioned "seminary" I would say that I'm too old to spend the next 8 years in college and seminary. To that he said, "How old will you be in eight years if you don't attend college and seminary?"

Prayerfully, and with the support of my family and friends, I registered for my first college class, which would include study abroad in Israel. When in seminary, I discovered my passion for hospital chaplaincy. The eight years seemed to go so quickly. Upon graduation from seminary I took another year of Clinical Pastoral Education and was certified for chaplaincy ministry. My first call was a shared-time ministry between a congregation and a church related long-term care facility. I'll never forget my very first day of ordained ministry. I was to conduct Sunday worship services at the care facility. I was definitely over-prepared for preaching, but my balloon was burst when one of the residents said to me, "You've got big shoes to fill 'Girlie, Girlie.' You are no Pastor Seastrand." Eventually, she became one of my dear ones and asked me to conduct her funeral service when she died. Some years later, while serving in another setting, I got a phone call saying she had passed away, and on her deathbed had insisted that Pastor Donna preside over her funeral. I did so with the words of God's calling ringing in my ears: "You did not choose me. I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit."

If you or someone you know are desiring to go into Word and Sacrament ministry as a second career, please contact the Trinity Office (office@tlcgr.org or 616.949.2510) or speak with one of the Scholarship Team members (Pastor Karen Niemeyer, Pastor Donna Erickson, Pastor Galen Knutson and Pastor Frank Rothfuss). Continued contributions to the "Pastor Karen Niemeyer Scholarship Fund" are always welcomed.

News Briefs (cont.)

Forestry Update

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) looks at sustainability as the capacity of natural and social systems to survive and thrive together over the long term and recognize that what is sufficient for peoples' wants often conflicts with what can be sustained over time. Humans have treated the earth as something to be used rather than the finite, fragile ecological system upon which life depends, according to the ELCA's adopted social statement.

With our global, regional, and local commitments in mind, our purpose, as the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, is to heed the call of God to care for creation, specifically the land on which Trinity Lutheran Church sits in the eastern portions of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Trinity Lutheran Church wishes to support the global, regional, and local mission and goals of responsible stewardship of our land and has a written document and action plan that will guide the renewal of our own land and revitalization of this corner of creation. The desire is to achieve these goals as holistically as possible, lending more inspiration to our members and to the larger community we serve.

Trinity's proposed goals and actions, as recently shared in our Michigan Forest Management Plan written by Forester Jason Darling, include:

- Improving forest and wetland health by promoting biological diversity, managing invasive tree and shrub species, and protecting ecologically valuable and desirable tree and shrub species.
- Managing our forest and wetland species to ensure native Michigan species are prioritized and flourish through prescribed, documented invasive species removals and any proposed native planting replacements.
- Adding more naturalized buffer planting areas along Trinity's property boundaries, creating a better sense of place and solitude while also better protecting our natural wetland areas.
- Creating areas for personal and group gathering that also support spiritual reflection and rejuvenation.
- Development of annual care for creation plan of activities that may be carried out through group volunteer efforts, hired support, and personal skilled contributions.

For over 100 years, the congregation of our Grand Rapids Lutheran Church has welcomed individuals and families from throughout West Michigan to join us in celebrating the spirituality, love, and enlightenment of Christianity. Our care and stewardship of the land on which our church building resides is a natural extension of Trinity's welcoming to others, celebration of spirituality, and love and enlightenment of our world through our shared Christianity. We invite you to learn more about this important work by reading the plan online or in our church library, joining a property stewardship committee, or simply participating in upcoming land stewardship days that will be shared with the congregation.

To review the document, please see: https://tinyurl.com/2pbrhfjp

Thanks!

Dear Trinity Members,

On behalf of Heartside Gleaning, I would like to formally thank you for your special gift of $4,000 on September 27, 2022 to provide lean protein to 50 families at our Fresh Food Fair. With the rising cost of food, your gift will directly benefit the children and young adults who require protein for normal growth.

I would also like to thank you for the warm, welcoming space you provided Heartside Gleaning over the past year. Thank you for your support in making a mission a reality!

Sincerely,

Debbie Lown, RDN, Ph.D

Music Ministry Highlights

Come and enjoy singing some of your favorite Christmas choruses from Handel's *Messiah*. We will also sing a few choruses from Part II, including the *Hallelujah Chorus*. All singers are welcome to participate.

This is a community collaboration between Trinity Lutheran Church and the Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids. Artistic Directors include Dr. Darlene Kuperus and Dr. Kody Wallace.

Music will be led by guest soloists, a chamber orchestra, pipe organ, and harpsichord.

A donation of $5 per person is suggested to support this event.

Consider Supporting the Celebration of Music Concert Series

The 2022/2023 concert series has presented two magnificent and highly successful events so far this season. Record attendance and enthusiastic concert attendees have contributed to a renewed sense of energy. Concerts take place in the beautiful church sanctuary with its excellent acoustical environment.

The concerts are offered to the community with no ticket charge. It is through the support of generous donors that we can continue to offer this gift to the church and wider community.

All donors are acknowledged in each concert printed program. If you would like to join that list of concert supporters, please contact Joanna Waite in the church office.
Donations may also be made on the church website, tlcgr.org.

Children's Christmas Program & Cookie Reception on December 11

Children will present the story of Jesus' birth on December 11 in the sanctuary at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. The program will replace the lessons and homily and conclude with the order of Holy Communion. A Christmas Cookie reception in the Courtyard will follow the 10:45 a.m. service.

All children aged 3 years through 5th grade are invited to participate in this cherished tradition. Children will rehearse this month during Sunday School at 9:20 a.m., learning both classic and contemporary Christmas songs. 4th and 5th graders will have speaking parts.

Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/3kypumet

Dress rehearsal: Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. to noon.

Contact Rachele Battreall for more information.

Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School will conclude for 2022 on December 11, with the annual Christmas program at the 10:45 a.m. service. On this day, there will not be class during the 9:15 a.m. service. Children are asked to arrive at 10:15 a.m. to prepare for the program. Sunday School will resume on January 8, at the usual time during the 9:15 a.m. Rejoice service.

Dec. 4:	Practice for Christmas Program: Class time extended to 10:15 a.m.
Dec. 11:	Christmas Program: No class; Children meet in classrooms at 10:15 a.m.
Dec. 18:	No Sunday School
Dec. 25:	Merry Christmas! No Sunday School
Jan. 1:	Happy New Year! No Sunday School
Jan. 8:	Sunday School Winter Kick-Off at 9:20 a.m.

KCAH Comes to Trinity January 29, 2023

Our annual meal-packing event with the Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH) will be January 29. With your help, we hope to pay for and package 25,000 meals. Each of those meals can feed a family of six at a cost of 35 cents per meal. To do this, we need to raise a total of $8,750. In addition to your financial support, we also need volunteers to help us pack these meals. The whole family is welcome, and snacks will be provided! Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on January 29!

Youth News

Middle School

January and February Confirmation Schedule

January 8 & 15 – Youth Group, 2 to 3 p.m.; Confirmation Class, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
January 22 – Tubing at Cannonsburg, 3 to 5 p.m.
January 29 – No class due to Kids Coalition Against Hunger food packing
February 5 & 12 – Youth Group, 2 to 3 p.m.; Confirmation Class, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
February 19 – No Class due to Midwinter Break
February 26 – Service (instead of class), 3 to 5 p.m.

Stay connected with our middle school ministries via Remind: Text @7kkdg2 to the number 81010.

High School

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

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for Youth Group Sunday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. In December we will be meeting on the 4th, 11th, and 18th. Join the Remind Class and watch our YouTube channel for weekly updates. See you Sunday nights!

High School Bible Study with Pastor Dan – December 4 at 9:15 a.m.

All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join Pastor Dan during the 9:15 a.m. service for Bible Study in the Youth Room. There will be donuts and juice. Bring your questions and join Pastor Dan as we explore the scriptures.

Summer Mission Trip – June 24 to July 1, 2023

Next summer our high schoolers and their friends are going to East Bank, West Virginia, on our annual Mission Trip. It is going to be an amazing week of community, faith formation, and white water rafting. If your high schooler (or upcoming 9th grader) is interested, please connect with Pastor Dan as soon as possible. **Our next team meeting is Sunday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

Stay connected with our high school ministries via Remind:

- For Mission Trip information text @dcaeebg to 81010
- For general High School Ministry information text @fag2c7 to 81010

Cookie Decoration & Delivery: Saturday, December 3 from 2 to 6 p.m.

All middle school and high school families and their friends are invited to help us spread Christmas cheer on Saturday December 3. We will meet in the youth rooms at 2 p.m. to decorate Christmas cookies, and then split into groups and deliver them to members of our community! Come help us brighten someone's Christmas season. Contact Pastor Dan if you would like to participate.

Charge Recap

Seventeen of our young people had an amazing weekend at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City for Charge! It was a great weekend of fun, community, and delving deeper into our beliefs.

Camp is Coming: July 16 to 21, 2023

It is time to start thinking about Camp this summer!

Registration opens in January, and you do not want to miss out!

Youth going into first grade through current seniors in high school and their friends are invited to join us for an amazing week of community and faith formation. Trinity makes camp extremely affordable for families. Each camper is asked to pay a $100 deposit and Trinity will cover the rest of the cost of camp. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Dan.

Mark your calendars now and watch your email for the registration link!

Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

Tubing at Cannonsburg: January 22 from 3 to 5 p.m.

We are going tubing at Cannonsburg on January 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. **Please arrive at 2:45 p.m. to check in with Pastor Dan.** Watch your email for an RSVP form. The cost is $20 per person tubing. We will bring snacks and hot chocolate for everyone to enjoy around the campfire!

Health Ministries

December Blood Drive

This holiday season many people will need life-saving transfusions. Others will need donated blood of all types as they continue to fight disease, undergo surgery, or recover from trauma. One donation can help save the lives of up to three people!

Versiti Blood will be onsite **Monday, December 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Appointments are highly recommended but walk-ins are welcome in the midday. Current public health protocols will be in place. Our hospitals have a critical need for blood. Let's keep our local blood supply strong!

Plan your holiday giving today! Contact Kristin Bradley to secure your spot or register here: **https://tinyurl.com/hze86wxe**

Not able to donate? Check the SignUpGenius for other ways you can help: **https://tinyurl.com/5h9v6bz7**

Give the Gift of Life this Christmas season!

Creating a Safe Haven • January 28, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Creating a Safe Haven is a program designed to help communities receive comprehensive domestic violence training. The certification process ensures that leadership has the education and resources they need to work with an individual or family faced with this crisis as well as having policies and procedures in place to respond if someone is a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence.

SAFE HAVEN MINISTRIES

Trinity is hosting and participating in a full day certification training on **Saturday, January 28, 2023** and anyone from the congregation is invited to attend.

Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/bdec44e7 or contact Kristin Bradley or Laura Norton for more info.

Please note that this training day is not the best environment for an individual who is currently experiencing domestic abuse. Call Safe Haven at 616.452.6664 to learn about support groups and advocate connections.

Stay Active During the Holidays!

Please join us in the Commons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Tai Chi, Strength & Balance, and Somatic Yoga can be enjoyed by all! No experience necessary.

Contact our fitness instructor, Xristina Kuhlmann, for the current schedule and with any questions or concerns: 616.719.6961. Suggested donation is $3/class or $20/month.

Health Ministries

Food for Thought Recap

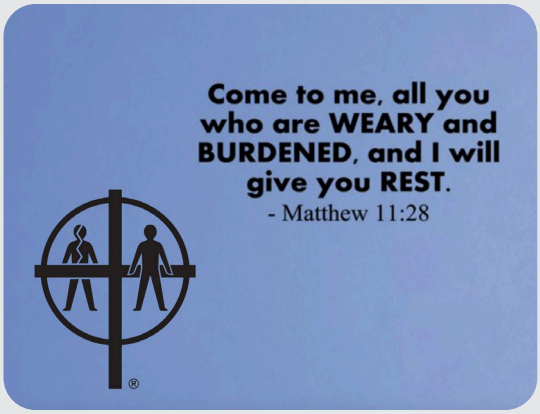
Thank you, Vonnie Woodrick @iunderstandloveheals, for helping our congregation learn more about changing the narrative surrounding brain health/mental health issues and suicide and for helping us "be the ONE." Thanks also to Thrivent for a grant to offset the cost of our meal!

Stephen Ministry

Can You Hear Jesus' Words of Comfort?

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus tells his followers, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yolk is easy and my burden is light.”

- Do you feel weary?
- Does the yoke of life seem too difficult to carry alone?
- Are your burdens too much to bear?



God has called some people in our midst to Stephen Ministry. These people are trained in walking with others through life’s difficult times.

Could you benefit from a Stephen Minister?

Contact one of the pastors or Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley to find out more.

Ongoing Biblical Learning Opportunities

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets at Trinity Weekly on Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

During Advent, this women's Bible study will focus on the ELCA's Daily Discipleship lessons, which follow the Gospel lectionary. After the holidays, the group will study *Heaven on Earth: Studies in Matthew* by Janelle Hooper, which follows the post-Epiphany lectionary.

This women's group meets weekly on **Tuesdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m.** To order a study guide or for more information, please contact Karen Unruh at karen@unruhfamily.net.

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets at Trinity the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Friday of the Month from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. To be spiritually mature is to show the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. These nine-session LifeGuide® studies from Old and New Testament passages highlight each quality and inspire us to nurture the Spirit's fruit in our lives. Contact Kristine Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net or 616.460.0052 for more information.

Ongoing Book Club Opportunities

Tuesday Evening Book Club

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7 p.m.

Do you enjoy reading? Please join us for Tuesday evening book club! This group is open to adults of any age and any gender. We love having new people, so bring a friend! This year we will be meeting at Trinity on the third Tuesday of every month starting at 7 p.m. Reach out to Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com for more information.

Friday Morning Women's Book Club

Meets the 2nd Friday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.

This book club typically meets in a member's home September to May at 9:30 a.m. Contact Carol Hendricks at cahendricks14@gmail.com or 616.874.8351 for more information.

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Christmas Stores at Dégagé Ministries & Family Promise

Through your donations, people are able to purchase gifts for loved ones at a reduced cost, allowing them to maintain their dignity and self-worth.

Common Wish List for Both Family Promise and Dégagé Christmas Stores (NEW items only, please):

- Children's toys for all ages
- Games and puzzles for all ages
- Books for all ages
- Small appliances (toasters, coffee makers)
- Hats, scarves, quality gloves for all ages
- Flashlights and batteries
- Travel mugs, water bottles
- Mini tool kits
- Household items (radios, alarm clocks)
- Pillows, sheets, blankets
- Towels and washcloths
- Backpacks
- Candles and jewelry
- Scented lotion and body wash
- Thermals, undershirts, socks
- Gift cards
- Stocking stuffers
- Wrapping paper, gift bags

In addition, Dégagé Ministries has set up a Wish List on Amazon at: https://tinyurl.com/2p9a992n

Please place your orders by December 1 in order to ensure a timely delivery, or you may drop off your gift items yourself at Family Promise or Degage Ministries. Please contact Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator Laura Norton for more information.

ELCA Good Gifts

Finding meaningful gifts for loved ones at Christmastime can sometimes be a challenge, especially for those people who seem to have everything imaginable. Have you ever thought about purchasing a "good gift?"

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a multitude of life-giving items that you may buy in someone's name that are actually delivered to someone in need around the world.

Go to **ELCA.org/goodgifts** to view the Good Gifts catalog.

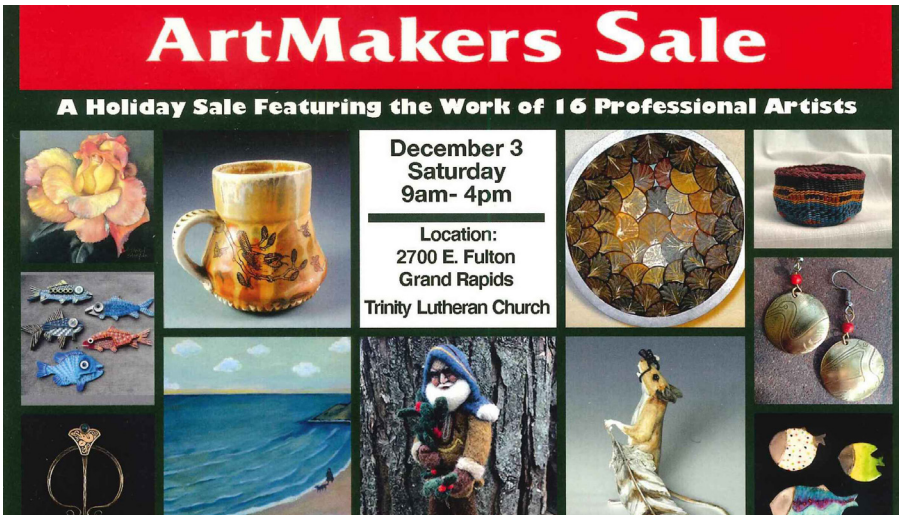
ELCA GOOD GIFTS CATALOG

Christmas Wish Program

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to bring Christmas joy to a child this holiday season. Trinity adopted 82 children ages one month old to 17 years old through the Samaritas Christmas Wish program. Unwrapped gifts and paperwork need to be brought to the church by December 11. Contact Tess Lundgren with any questions.

Samaritas

Mark Your Calendar!



Wish you could get away? We have your ticket! Join us for a travel-themed Women's Retreat!

SAVE THE DATE

Friday evening February 10- Saturday afternoon Feb. 11, 2023

Maranatha Retreat Center, Norton Shores, MI

All are welcome! Invite friends and get ready for a fun journey around the world! *More details to come!

Adult Theological Education Classes Starting January 23

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod is excited to announce a new series of theological education courses!

The first course offering will be Corinthian Correspondence: Conflict, Case Studies, Contemporary Congregations, and Christ led by Rev. Dr. Walter F. Taylor.

Classes begin January 10, 2023, are open to all adults, and are free of charge.

Learn more and register here:

https://tinyurl.com/muetzfsb

Trinity Trivia Answers

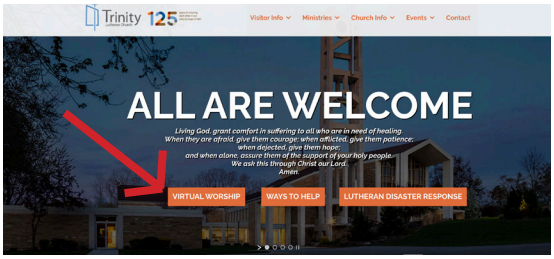
A1: Deck the Halls, Advent midweek worship, Scandinavian Smörgåsbord, Children's Christmas program, Advent by Candlelight, The Longest Night service

A2: a. Blue, b. White (some also use gold), c. Purple, d. None (the altar is stripped on Maundy Thursday), e. Red

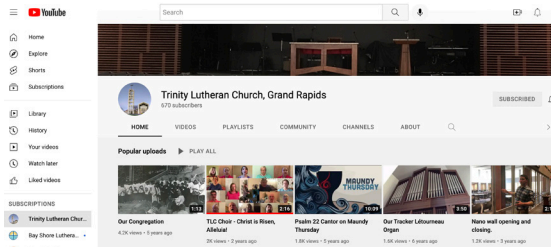
Trinity is Live Streaming Services!

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

(1) Go to the Trinity website (**www.tlcgr.org**) and click on **Virtual Worship**.

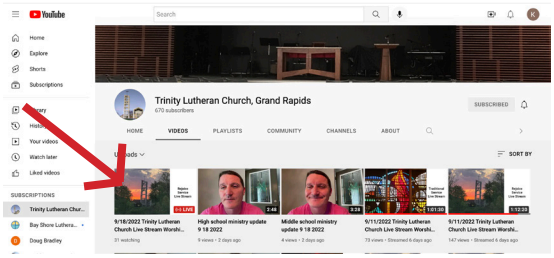


(2) Clicking the Virtual Worship button will take you to our YouTube page:



(3) If the service is currently streaming live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. and 10:40 to 11:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings), **you will see a video with a red box with the word "LIVE" in it. Click on that video.**

Note: If you go to YouTube early, you may have to wait a few minutes or refresh the page to get this "LIVE" option.

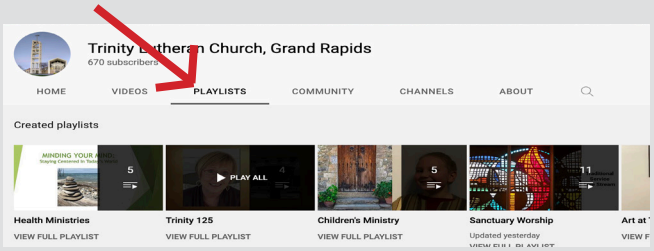


You can also go directly to www.youtube.com and search *Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids* to find our YouTube page.

***If you click the **subscribe button** on Trinity's YouTube page, videos should automatically show up on your feed.

Miss a Live-Streamed Service?

We record our services, so you can always watch a past service. These are referred to as "**Rejoice Worship**", and "**Sanctuary Worship.**" (On Sundays, it may be a few hours before videos are available.) These are available under the **PLAYLISTS** tab on our YouTube page.



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!

Please Note:
If live services are unavailable due to internet issues at Trinity, please check YouTube later in the day to watch a recorded version of that day's service. Most Sundays, services will be available by 2 p.m.

Poinsettia Plants Provide a Beautiful Worship Setting

Poinsettia Contribution Form

Poinsettias help create a beautiful worship setting during the Christmas season! Please use this form to make a poinsettia plant gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. **Forms are due by Thursday, December 8.** Place the form in the offering plate/basket, drop it off in the church office, or mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids 49506. ***Poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas Day services through Sunday, January 8. If not picked up by the 8th they will be discarded.***

_____
First Name Last Name

_____
Address

_____
City, State, ZIP

_____
Home Phone Cell Phone Email

_____6" single red plant ($9 ea.) $_____

_____8" double red plant ($17 ea.) $_____

_____10" triple red plant ($23 ea.) $_____ TOTAL DUE: $_____

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

_____

☐ In honor of: _____

☐ In memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and write *Poinsettia* in the memo line.

Trinity Members Enjoy Poinsettias

If you would be willing to deliver poinsettias to the homebound, please contact Jeanne Becker at 616.949.2510 ext. 129 to be set up with a homebound member. You may also sign up through the link in the Friday eBlasts. Plants will be ready for delivery in early December.

Poinsettias Get Thirsty Too!

Keeping our delicate Christmas poinsettias beautiful is a simple but very important task! We are seeking helpers to come in once or twice in mid-December to check and water the poinsettias throughout the church. With a little TLC our poinsettias will look beautiful on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. If interested, please contact Jeanne Becker at 616.949.2510 ext. 129.

December Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

December 1
Grace Gooch

December 2
Maya Anderson
Nancy Anderson
Brenda Baker
Jane Legault
Nyki Lundgren
Harper Posthumus
Maddie Scurfield
Helen Slider

December 3
John Bradley
Linda Redman
Frank Remsburg
Lucas Smokovich
Lindsey & Nathan Peters

December 4
Katelyn Basher
Melissa Ferens
Linda Hicks
Debbie Kulas
Louise Pfau
Kristen & Michael Sytsma

December 5
Connor Price
Karen Betz-Griewahn &
Elwyn Griewahn
Amy & Glen Myers

December 6
Sarah Ashby
Emily Larson

December 7
Jacob Brackmann
Marilyn Fredrickson
Maya Rosloniec
Michael Smokovich
David Thorsen
Kelly & Matthew Blair

December 8
Charlotte Czerew
Lily Lothschutz
Erik Wood
Sandra & Bob Ortiz

December 9
Dale Barkema
Ethan Curtiss
Jack Danielson
Chris Duyser
Kori Grooters
David Marquardt
Kati Missman
Gary Stevens
Jason Stevenson
Sarah & T.J. Turnage

December 10
Cynthia Gardiner
Shirley Kleiman
Taylor Knoll
Terry Knoll
Jim Owens
Jonah Schneider
Breslin Waite

December 11
Amy Fox
Petra Rotzell
Jim VanderWall

December 12
Terry Brace
Kathy Bush
Kim Engle
Jack Frick
Brenda Heacock
Marcy & Eric Larson

December 13
Riley Day
Jim deJonge
Joesy Johnson
Nicky Kearney
Luke Robach
Melody & Leo Ditchcreek
Christine & Tom Malvitz

December 14
Kate Bredwell
Michelle Morin

December 15
Lauren Gallagher
Jodi Nikolajuk
Jim VanDeusen
Nancy & Dave Krupp

December 16
Annie Lang
Meri Leidel
Stephanie McLeod
Mark Mochel
Abigail Siminski

December 17
Kari Fast
Ethan Huckstep
Jennifer Hughes
Sandy Kishman
Madelyn Malvitz
Jim Smith
Ted Turnage
Madelyn Williams
Susan & James Boyse

December 18
Royce Frecka
Sid Hoeksema
Grayson Kimble
Ben Schewe
Lisa Wilson
Carrie & Dave Boer
Laura & Joe Fisher
Beth & John Hall

December 19
Evan Krummel
Bob Linstrom
Kyle McKee
Tyler McPheron
Scott Stoll
Susan Vanden Bout

December 20
Lolly Hatkowski
Randy Kuntzman
Amy Myers
Sue Perry

December 21
Bill Ahrens
Jason Loepp
Inara McNally
Lauren Sytsma
Dave Talsma
Sharon & Bill Schaefer

December 22
Henry Bouwman
David Kuecherer
Nathan Legault
Sam Mielock
Tom Price
Bill Westveld

December 23
Mike Horn
London Laakko

December 24
Julia Cole
Marge Willman
Marcia Shumate-Schultz &
Michael Schultz

December 25
Amanda Lynn

December 26
Michael Bernard
Erin Childers
Samantha DeBoer
Dave Huckstep
Kathy Meuser
Nancy Moga
Allison Tooley
Bennet Wollen

December 27
Zoe Virginia Bredwell
Mimi Cairns
Hannah Kuhlmann
Sam Linstrom
Craig Mester
Tammy Parat
Nick Rodammer
Nicholas Soczek
Shawn Ulreich
Sara Vander Baan
Eric Wollen

December 28
Bob Carlson
Glen Myers
Kelly Smith

December 29
John Baker
Larry Frazier
Lara Freeburger
Paige Lackey
Calvin Platt

December 30
Kirsten Begin
Bill Brandner
Karen Legault
Cindy Mirque
Alex Saum
Brendan Saum
Emma Vigna
Holly Volkerding

December 31
Derek Fredericks
Grady Gooch
Josh Keller
Dan Prusak
Marcia Shumate-Schultz
David Smoes
Layton Sykes

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

Estimate of Giving Form

Be welcome to clip out the form below to use it to pledge your Estimate of Giving for 2023! Additional copies will be available in worship on Sundays.

My/Our Estimate of Giving for 2023

So that others may know God's grace and engage in God's work, I/we plan to offer $_____ per week/month/year to support Christ's mission through Trinity Lutheran Church.

I/we additionally plan to offer $ _____ per week/month/year to service our building project mortgage.

_____This amount reflects a commitment to percentage giving.

_____This amount reflects a one percent increase in giving.

_____I/we are unable to make a commitment at this time.

_____

First and Last Name(s) Street Address City/State/Zip

_____

Telephone Email

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

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

Follow us on social media!
instagram: tlc.gr
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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 #)

Contact Trinity

Instagram: tlc.gr
facebook.com/tlcgr

YouTube

YouTube.com
Search: Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids

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