



The Messenger

Bus Tickets Appeal Runs Through July

You are invited to support our community's most vulnerable members by purchasing bus tickets to be distributed to community organizations including Dégagé Ministries, Family Promise (IHN) and Samaritas. Many area residents do not have cars and rely upon public transportation to get to job interviews, work, grocery stores, and appointments. Bus tickets can provide stability for individuals and families who are struggling. Please place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off in the church office. Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with *Bus Tickets* on the memo line. We will collect for this special program through the end of July.



Supplies Being Accepted for Congress Elementary School

During the months of July and August Trinity hopes to supply much needed items for use by the students and teachers of Congress Elementary School.

The shopping list below indicates the number of specific items needed to begin the school year.

Please consider donating some of these items. Your donations can be placed in the black labeled barrels located in the west entryway and in the Narthex. **The collection of supplies will go through August 15.**

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. *Do not need to be individually wrapped.*

See [page 14](#) to learn about a special summer request for Congress!



Pastor Linstrom Announces Retirement

The congregation received notice of Senior Pastor Bob Linstrom's retirement in a mid-June congregational letter. The text of that letter is included on [page 3](#) of this newsletter.

What's Happening at Trinity in July?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.
(Outdoor worship not livestreamed/recorded)

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
(No meeting July 4)
Fitness Classes, 10 a.m. – noon*
(No meeting July 4)

Wednesdays

Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Fitness Classes, 10 a.m. – noon*

Fridays

Fit4Mom, 9 a.m.

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

Daily Calendar

Saturday, July 1

IHN Onsite

Sunday, July 2

IHN Concludes

Monday, July 3

Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 4

Happy Independence Day!
Office Closed

Thursday, July 6

Endowment Fund Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Green Team Mtg, 6 p.m.
Gardening Team Work Bee, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 9

Outdoor Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, July 10

The Messenger Deadline
Oasis Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Congregation Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Know Mercy Softball, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12

Youth & Family Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 13

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Children's Min Comm Mtg, 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 15

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.
De Colores Mtg, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 16

Stony Lake Camp Week

Tuesday, July 18

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
Know Mercy Softball, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursday, July 20

In The Image Volunteering, 1 - 3 p.m.
Life Begins at 60 Driveway Dining, 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 23

Self-Guided Prayer Labyrinth

Monday, July 24

Self-Guided Prayer Labyrinth, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday, July 25

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.
Know Mercy Softball, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, July 26

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursday, July 27

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday, July 28

Family Promise EOS Mtg, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

Stepping Into a New Phase of Life

"Transitions are almost always signs of growth, but they can bring feelings of loss. To get somewhere new, we may have to leave somewhere else behind."

—Fred Rogers (aka Mr. Rogers)



Beloved community,

I find myself stepping into a new phase of life, and I am filled with trust and acceptance of what is and what will be. There will most certainly be loss, and things will be different on the other side, but I am ready for the transition.

On Monday evening, June 12, I shared with the Congregation Council of Trinity Lutheran Church my intent to retire from active, full-time parish ministry in about six months, at the end of November of 2023. I shared that news with Bishop Satterlee a couple of weeks before, and with our Associate Pastors Dan and Kari over lunch a day or two later. Our Trinity staff had a preview of this letter to the congregation, and now I share this news with all of you. I am hoping that, though things will be different on the other side, you will offer a benediction for this old pastor in retirement and a measure of gratitude for the time we have shared in ministry.

I turn 67 at the end of 2023, and I have chronicled 40 years serving congregations within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor bodies. My internship year in Detroit began 40 years ago this summer, and by December of 1984 I was onsite serving my first parish in Lansing while still finishing my degree requirements in Chicago. After my first call to ministry in our state capital, I served five years in inner city Jersey City, New Jersey, before my call to Peace in South Haven, where I served for 21 years before accepting the call to Trinity in Grand Rapids in early 2013. On March 17, 2013, just over a decade ago, I presided at my first Sunday in worship with the people of this congregation as your Senior Pastor.

Every one of my calls to ministry was a surprise, and the Holy Spirit has blessed me with varied, vibrant ministry settings and amazing partners in ministry in each call. Grace upon grace.

Father Richard Rohr wrote recently of a sense of "mysterious gratitude" as he came to his decision to retire from active ministry. That concept of "mysterious gratitude" resonates with me. I am astonished that I have been serving in Word and Sacrament ministry for four decades. I am so grateful for the journey, and for all of you who have allowed me to walk alongside you. I have been richly blessed. I pray that you will remember my ministry with you as one of commitment and faithfulness.

Later this year I will enter retirement with Rebecca, the love of my life, with a growing family and our first grandchild. With our sons and their families living in New York City, Boston, and Detroit, I look forward to having a bit more flexibility to travel to those metropolitan areas and to take on the emerging role of family old guy.

I also look forward to a pause. Except for a three-month sabbatical in 2003, I have been active in full-time ministry settings since 1984, with never more than a week or two between calls as a parish pastor. It's time for a deep breath, what the monastics call *statio*, the practice of stopping one thing before beginning another, a holy pause full of possibility. I have not fully embraced *statio* since the summer of 1981, when I fled the seminary and made retreat in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. In that retreat I discovered my vocation, and I met an amazing young woman named Rebecca. Wonderful things can happen when one embraces *statio* . . .

Next winter I will take that deep breath. But until that time, I will seek to serve faithfully as your Senior Pastor, seeking to facilitate a healthy transition in our life together. The bishop intends to have an Interim Senior Pastor in place by the time I wrap up my ministry at Trinity. Until then, I will continue to give thanks for the journey we are sharing together.

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

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob Linstrom

Council Corner



A Message from Council President Karen Unruh

Dear People of Trinity:

When you first read or heard the news of Pastor Bob's retirement, you likely experienced many of the same emotions that we Council members did. Sadness that his time at Trinity is ending, gratitude for his shepherding our congregation for ten years, happiness for him as he looks forward to taking a breath and leaning into his role as, in his words, "family old guy." But after the immediate rush of emotions, maybe your next thought was, "What happens now?"

Well, for the next five months things will be pretty much business as usual. Pastor Bob intends to faithfully serve in all of his usual responsibilities until his anticipated last day on November 26. Fittingly, this is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year. The Council and Bishop Satterlee anticipate having an interim pastor ready to join us as we begin anew in Advent.

Over the next several months, Council members, with guidance from the bishop's office, will begin to lay the groundwork for calling a new senior pastor. As the synod affirms, this period of transition is important and intentional prayer and discernment is vital. One of the first steps we will take is completing a Ministry Site Profile (MSP), an in-depth and honest presentation of our congregation, its strengths, challenges, mission, goals, and vision, along with the gifts and passions we are seeking in our next senior pastor. While the Council is responsible for completing the MSP, it is essential that we take time to seek the wisdom of the congregation. How is God calling us now? What do we need? What does our community need? What do we discern as our goals as we live into God's mission? With this in mind, we plan to have listening sessions in the fall to solicit congregational feedback and address concerns.

The Council is also responsible for electing a call committee. This committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend a candidate for a call. This process, which will not begin until after Pastor Bob has retired, will take several months as it too is approached with intention and discernment. Once a candidate is identified, they will be introduced to the congregation and called by a congregational vote.

While candidate confidentiality is imperative, we will strive to be as open and transparent as possible during this upcoming transition. The Council will provide updates in The Messenger and Council members and pastors welcome any questions you have.

Pastor Bob told the Council that one of the reasons he feels it is the right time for retirement is because Trinity is so strong now, and I wholeheartedly agree. We have a full and excellent staff with renewed energy. We have revitalized committees and programming with forward momentum. We are financially strong, led by a committed Council. In a time when church engagement is declining nationwide, we recently welcomed a diverse group of over 80 new members.

In his message, Pastor Bob said, "There will most certainly be loss, and things *will* be different on the other side, but I am ready for the transition." While our congregation will feel this loss, and things will be different, we are strong and will be ready for this transition to the next phase of our life together.

Peace be with you all,

Karen Unruh, Council President

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of May 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	94,711	125,130	30,419	32.1%
Total Expenses	96,736	90,680	6,056	6.3%
Net Income (Loss)	(2,026)	34,450	36,476	

2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru May 2023)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	429,304	537,972	108,667	25.3%
Total Expenses	411,204	379,031	32,173	7.8%
Net Income (Loss)	18,100	158,941	140,841	

TITHE.LY
Innovative church giving



Don't Forget Your Offering While You're Away!

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>

Contact Trinity's Finance Assistant [Joanna Waite](#) if you need assistance.

FOR SALE

Trinity Tables for Sale!

Trinity has rectangular and circular brown tables available for a suggested donation of \$40 or more. Card tables are also available.

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

Trinity Congregation Council Members 2023-2024

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: David Marquardt; Endowment Fund: Brad Kessel

Fellowship & Hospitality: Jamie Kuntzman; Finance: Chris Norton

Health Ministries: Michelle Morin; Helping Hands: Susan Knoll; Human

Resources: Steve Heacock; Outreach: Dan Butler; Property: Erick Kind and

Lauren Wright; Publicly Engaged Church: Michelle Feutz; Spiritual Growth:

Bill Bush; Stewardship: Jacquie Murray; Worship & Music: John Fox; Youth &

Family Ministry: Chris Becker and Dakota Morin (Youth Representative)

A Message from Associate Pastor Dan Schewe

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

—John 14:2-3

As Jesus prepares for his earthly departure, he seeks to reassure his disciples in this well-known passage from John. He comforts them by letting them know that there is a place for them in His Father's house, and that they will be together again. They have a home with Him. It is a passage many return to for comfort and peace.

I consistently hear from people new to our community and those who are long time members how welcoming and warm Trinity is. I've heard this from people of every walk of life and in a myriad of life's circumstances. Trinity has a truly welcoming presence, and it is a place that it is easy to call home. You have a home here and you have a home with God. I love that every Sunday when we welcome people to the Lord's Table we simply state, "All are welcome". There is a place here for you, and I love that we get to continue to share this message.



This spring, Desmond (Desi) Gadziemski expanded our welcoming presence by creating a home for some of God's creatures at Trinity. Desi approached me last fall about doing his Eagle Scout project at Trinity. We walked the grounds looking for things that interested him and he was intrigued by the possibility of making a home for wood ducks in our west woods. Traditionally, wood ducks are drawn to homes near marshes, swamps, or wetlands. The forester who assessed our woods last year thought our wetlands would be a perfect fit for wood duck nesting boxes, so after rounds of designing and trudging through the forest we were able to identify six trees that would serve as good sites for these boxes. Desi and

his troop were able to install them this past May to provide a home for our newest neighbors – we hope to welcome wood ducks to them and to our community next spring when they nest.

Pastor Dan Schewe



Youth News

Bless Our Youth!

Thank you for all the ways you support and surround our young people with a caring community. It is an amazing blessing in their lives.

On Sunday, July 16 we invite you to bless the campers headed to Stony Lake Bible Camp the week of July 16-21.



Transitions: A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

We rejoice with Pastor Bob and Rebecca, as Pastor Bob announces his retirement. We rejoice as well for their three sons, two daughters-in-law, and their one precious granddaughter, Chloe. We rejoice with Pastor Bob for all the beautiful, strong leadership he has provided with integrity and grace for Trinity's health and vibrancy.

While we rejoice, we also begin to grieve the anticipated losses. With any upcoming changes and transitions it is normal to have some anxiety and concerns. Transitions are the spaces in between – not where we used to be, but not yet where we will be in the future. As Pastor Bob mentioned in his letter this month, transitions can include growth, loss, new beginnings, and endings.



One of the most important things we can do during this time of transition is to continue to hold everything and everyone tenderly in prayer, without judgement for the bumpy pieces; because at times transitions can bring up misunderstandings, old hurts, or painful memories. Similar to any grieving process, transitions can be difficult and can include waves of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. It is natural to think of ourselves first and our disappointments. It is important to be honest in our prayers and as we listen to ourselves and to one another. We need to feel heard and seen but also be gentle and forgiving. We need to remember that we belong to Trinity and to one another as we move through this change together.

We are in a very strong place as a congregation to begin this transition and we love and belong to a fluid and flowing God, not a static and stagnant God. God is always presenting us with new opportunities for growth, new stages, new ways, and new people. God is always surprising us – if we have eyes to see.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43.1-19

Please know that I am here to listen to concerns and be with you during this transition, both as a member and as your Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. I end with pieces of a poem that I recently heard.

Some people need a good talking to./But almost everybody needs a good listening to.../Being heard changes people.../Listen like God listens to your prayers.../In the clear space of being heard/people may hear themselves for the first time,/hear echoes of the divine between the words. Someone who hears you hearing them/can believe God has heard them as well.../we can listen each other into wholeness,/listen people to life.

Listen by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

May we listen well to God, to one another, and to ourselves as we move forward into what God is doing amongst us at Trinity Lutheran Church and as we rejoice for the new things to come for Pastor Bob and his family!

God's Deepest Blessings now and always!

Pastor Kari, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Mark Your Calendar!

Green Team Meeting: July 6

Our Green Team is meeting on Thursday, July 6 at 6 p.m. to identify work dates in the fall and winter to continue removing invasive species from our forests, thus helping to regenerate our wooded areas. Join us as we care for this piece of God's creation! Questions? Contact [Pastor Dan](#).

Garden Team Work Bee: July 6

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

See [page 17](#)!



Outdoor Worship at Trinity

Outdoor Worship Continues on "Second Sundays" July 9 and August 13

Trinity's "Second Sunday" plan for outdoor worship continues Sunday, July 9, and will be offered on second Sundays of the month into the fall of 2023. 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 livestreaming.

All are welcome to join us in a celebration of our beautiful church campus for outdoor worship in 2023 – mark your calendar for upcoming outdoor worship gatherings on July 9 and August 13. In case of inclement weather, we will simply move back inside to the Sanctuary.



Men's Breakfast: Saturday, July 15

Author and Champion for Excellence Ray O'Laughlin to Be Our Guest Speaker

The Men's Breakfast group is planning its third gathering of 2023 on July 15. Gathering once every quarter for food, study, and fellowship, the Saturday, July 15 Men's Breakfast will run from 8 to 9:30 a.m. We will gather for a fresh, full breakfast, a brief Bible study led by Pastor Bob, and our guest speaker, author and organizational coach Ray O'Laughlin. With years of corporate experience, Ray uses his expertise to help schools, management organizations, and boards transform their thinking, solidify their values, and establish processes and systems that win for students and the adults who serve them. You can watch his TED Talk on personal responsibility at <https://tinyurl.com/n732atew>.



Ray lives in Grand Rapids with his wife Melissa and is a devoted father and grandfather. He continues to volunteer his time and talents and especially enjoys his work with the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center. Ray was pleased to receive the invitation to address our Men's Breakfast gathering at Trinity.

Men of Trinity, watch for your invitation to sign up and plan to be in attendance on July 15 for our quarterly breakfast!

Mark Your Calendar!



Life Begins at 60 Gatherings This Summer

Driveway Dining at the Iarias': Thursday, July 20

Driveway Dining returns this summer on Thursday, July 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the home of Joe and Marybeth Iaria, 4852 Summer Ridge Court in Ada. Guests should bring their own chairs, supper/snacks, and drinks, and the Iarias will supply their beautiful, spacious driveway. To make your reservation, contact the Iarias at 2iarias@comcast.net or 530.209.0436.

Gathering at the Schlanderer's: Friday, August 18

Once again, the Over 60s have been invited to a cookout at the home of Bruce and Joyce Schlanderer, 60 Forest Hill Avenue SE, on Friday, August 18, at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite drink; grilled hamburgers and brats will be provided. Contact Joyce at 616.949.4173 to make your reservation. See you there!



Family Promise is hosting its 6th annual family community event, Family Frolic, at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum on **Sunday, July 23 from 6 to 9 p.m.!**

The event is a "choose your own adventure" that provides an age-appropriate platform to discuss family homelessness with the help of an educational scavenger hunt that allows you to follow a family on their journey home.



The evening will include prizes, giveaways, games, and unique exhibits for everyone to enjoy!

RSVP: familypromisewm.org/family-frolic

Tickets are \$18 for adults. Children under 18 get in for free!

This event is sponsored by Eastbrook Homes.



Overlook Gallery Featuring Eclectic Display During the Months of July & August

Stop by the Trinity Overlook Gallery this month and next to view an amazing display! This exhibit features fiber art made by people from our Trinity community, both living and passed. The exhibit includes quilting, crochet, applique, needlepoint, cross stitch, embroidery, weaving, and other processes using thread, yarn, and fabric. The art has been made in a wide variety of styles from traditional to contemporary.

Keep an eye on the weekly eBlast for more detailed information and a list of participating artists and stop by the Trinity Overlook Gallery today!

Come Walk the Prayer Labyrinth: July 23 & 24

We're excited to set up our labyrinths in the Commons when there are no activities going on in the education wing. This month you can come explore this mindful practice on July 23 before or after worship, and/or on July 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Suggestions for self-guided walks will be posted and additional resources will be available. See [page 11](#) for more details!

Music Ministries

Celebration of Music Concert Series: A Musical Outreach to Our Community

A full season of Celebration concerts ended on June 19 with Trinity's hosting of the Minnesota Boychoir. Trinity provided supper to the 66 guests which included singers and adult chaperones. Deep thanks to Tess Lundgren for creating this hospitality for our guests.

The concert drew a large and enthusiastic crowd and members of the Celebration of Music Advisory Team welcomed many new attendees to Trinity. The singers in the Minnesota Boychoir gave an outstanding concert under the skilled direction of Mark Johnson.

The 2023/24 series of concerts will begin in September. We look forward to your presence with us this fall!



Gratitude to Concert Series Supporters

Many generous gifts have been received for the 2022/23 concert series in memory and in honor of Joyce Schenk. Joyce and her husband Ralph were long-time members of Trinity. Joyce had a deep appreciation of hymnody and worship music. She also loved supporting the Celebration of Music Concert Series and was a faithful attendee. We are grateful to all who honored her through these recent gifts.

The Celebration of Music Concert Series is offered for free to the community. All are welcome to attend and enjoy amazing music in the resonant acoustical environment of Trinity's beautiful sanctuary. Your gifts for the 2022/23 concert series have helped us create a newly energized and very-well attended series of eight concert events. Deepest thanks for faithful and generous support by so many people at Trinity!

Dr. Darlene Kuperus

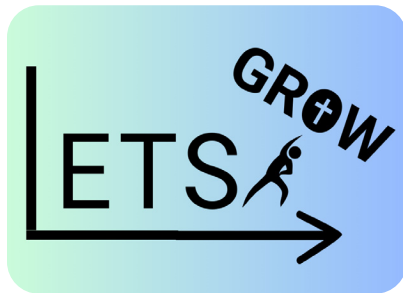
Director of Music & Organist

Artistic Director of the Celebration of Music Concert Series

Trinity Choir Members Participate in National Memorial Day Choral Festival

The 13th Annual Memorial Day Choral Festival featured 200 singers representing choirs from throughout the United States as they joined with the United States Air Force Orchestra to honor our nation's fallen heroes. Members of our own Trinity Choir participated in this choral festival in Washington, D.C. and enjoyed the support of fellow travelers Joy Murphy from Trinity United Methodist, Barb Cornell, Georgi Hoeksema, Jan Jacobson, and Liam and Luke McGinnis. Be sure to congratulate the Trinity Choir and the following Memorial Day Choral Festival participants on this great opportunity! **Liz Dever, Bill Dewitt, Deb DeWitt, John Fox, Kris Fox, Melissa Haneline, Doug Haneline, Gwyneth Hoeksema, Carrie Hoeksema, Sid Hoeksema, Darlene Kuperus, Kris Racek, Cheryl Reeve, and Carrie Wygmans**

Let's Grow Our Fitness Program!



Our fitness program is seeking to expand this fall and we'd love your input!

Do you have a favorite exercise class? Do you teach any fitness classes? Would you prefer daytime, evening, or weekend options? Dream big!

There are so many benefits to group fitness classes. Naturally, they are good for your physical health, but also for your mental and social health. Accountability, confidence, support, and motivation are fabulous additions to improving strength, balance, and mobility!

It is with great appreciation that we thank our current instructor, Xristina Kuhlmann, for her time, talents, dedication, and groundbreaking work to create a fitness space and facilitate classes over the past four years. She can't do it all though! We are looking forward to collaborating together to offer more classes with more instructors at more times of the day. Your ideas are valued! Please reach out to Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) with your ideas. **Through the summer, we will continue to offer Tai Chi, Strength & Balance and Somatic Yoga on Tuesday and Thursday mornings** Check with Xristina at 616.719.6961 for the current class schedule.

Join Us for Care & Share: July 18

We have a wonderful group of Trinity folks meeting together to Care for each other and Share in our caregiving journeys. If you are, or have been, a full-time caregiver for an adult child, parent, spouse or loved one, you too may benefit from this group. We discuss the challenges... and benefits... surrounding caregiving, learn ways to refocus when things get chaotic (both for us and those we are caring for), and ground ourselves in God's promises. **We gather next on Tuesday, July 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity.** Connect with [Kristin Bradley](#) with any questions or concerns.



Come Walk the Prayer Labyrinth!



Thanks to our Trinity middle schoolers, we now have two large portable canvas labyrinths! Middle school youth painted them this past spring and have already experienced the prayerful and meditative gifts offered by walking their circuitous path.

Labyrinths are used as a way to quiet the mind, calm anxieties, recover balance in life, connect spiritually, enhance creativity, and encourage meditation, insight, self-reflection and stress reduction. The practice of labyrinth-walking integrates the body with the mind and spirit.

We're excited to set up our labyrinths in the Commons when there are no activities going on in the education wing. **This month you can come explore this mindful practice on Sunday, July 23 before or after worship, and/or on Monday, July 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Suggestions for self-guided walks will be posted and additional resources will be available.**

If your Trinity small group would like to use one of our labyrinths for a meeting or event, please reach out to [Kristin Bradley](#) or [Pastor Dan](#) and we'll provide you with what you need.

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Volunteer With Home Repair Services



You are invited on Saturday, August 8 to make a profound difference in someone's life.

We will be working with Home Repair Services to provide freedom to people with permanent disabilities in low-income households by constructing wheelchair accessible ramp into their homes. These ramps serve as a gateway to the world, reopening connections with neighbors and the larger community while providing independence and accessibility.

Teens to octogenarians are invited, both men and women are welcome, no experience is needed, and tools will be provided.

Look for a signup link in July's eBlasts and/or contact Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator [Laura Norton](#) with questions.



Become a Reading Tutor!

Is God Calling You Here? MLK TUTORING CENTER

"Helping other people can be a cure, not just for those who are in need, but for your soul as well." -Unknown

Who? All kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students at Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy receive tutoring in reading. Tutors are all volunteers that receive training and orientation. Anyone can be a volunteer regardless of his or her experience! All volunteers pass a background check to be able to work with students at MLK.



What? Students meet with their tutor once a week for a half hour of one-on-one reading time. Time is spent reading, writing, and doing educational activities. The tutoring center provides all the books, supplies, and materials needed. We also have substitute tutors who fill in when regular tutors are absent and can choose to volunteer whenever their schedule allows.

Where? Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy is a K-8 Grand Rapids Public School located at 645 Logan SE. It is one block south of Wealthy Street between James and Henry. The Tutoring Center is located inside the school and sponsored by First United Methodist Church and private donors. The center has been in operation for over 20 years.

When? The FUMC/MLK Tutoring Center schedule varies.

Why? You can make a difference in the lives of students from our Grand Rapids community! Many of our students are not exposed to reading at a young age and fall behind. Having one-on-one time working on their reading, regardless of their abilities, helps every student who receives tutoring. The students LOVE tutoring and look forward to spending time with adults who care about them, helping them gain confidence in their reading skills.

How? Interested in becoming involved? Contact Maryann at mlktutoringcenter@gmail.com or 616.819.1745.

Pastor Karen Niemeyer is an active volunteer in this ministry and would be open to any questions that you may have. Pastor Karen can be reached at k.zn@icloud.com.

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Be a Welcoming Presence & Support Refugee Children

B.R.I.D.G.E.S. Summer Camp is seeking classroom support and lead teacher positions for their 4-week summer camp from July 17 to August 11.

The Grand Rapids Refugee Center B.R.I.D.G.E.S. (Building Refugee Independence and Delivering Guidance for Educational Success) Summer program provides relevant and effective lessons and activities for beginner level refugee students. B.R.I.D.G.E.S.'s vision is to support refugee children in West Michigan as they began their new education in a foreign land.

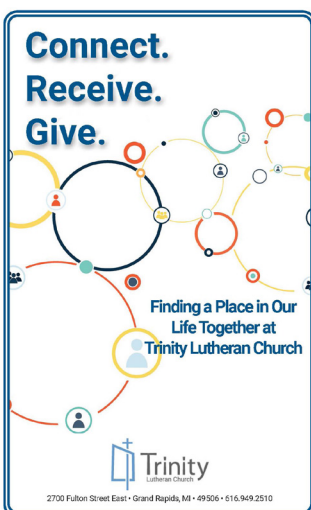
Support roles are responsible for welcoming students in the mornings, assisting with beginner literacy lessons, being involved with activities, games, and snack times, and supporting any needs that arise for program efficiency. Commitment is flexible based on volunteer position and is open to 16 years old and up. Teaching positions are also available to Michigan residents with a bachelor's or master's degree in Education or EL/TESOL.

For more information contact new Trinity member Skip Franklin at skip@refugeeeducationcenter.org or Volunteer Coordinator Anna Bundy at Anna@refugeeeducationcenter.org or 616.247.9611.



News Briefs

New Life at Trinity Handbook Available!



If you haven't already picked up a copy of Trinity's new handbook, *Finding a Place in Our Life Together at Trinity Lutheran Church*, please pick up or download a copy! **The handbook lists all the possibilities to make a difference within the church, our community, and within the world while providing you a sense of belonging.** You can find copies in the Narthex or downstairs in the Courtyard Welcome Center.

Download: <https://tinyurl.com/pfvrnyye>



News Briefs

Trinity Partner Safe Haven Ministries Provides Safe Space for Those Experiencing Abuse

1 in 4 women and **1 in 7 men** in the U.S. have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetimes.

1 in 3 teens in the U.S. experiences some form of abuse by someone they're in a relationship with.

We believe you. Call Safe Haven Hotline at 616.452.1168. They are ready to listen and help.

Summer Request: Help Collect Hygiene Items for Congress Elementary!

Congress Elementary could use travel size deodorant, shampoo, soap bars, toothpaste, and toothbrushes for student personal care bags. **Please drop off at Trinity in the black donation barrels through the end of July.** We will put together personal care bags in August.

Thank you!

Trinity's Softball Team Playing on Tuesday Nights!

Trinity's coed softball team, "Know Mercy," is playing on Tuesday evenings this summer! Let's show our support for the team by attending their games. All games are played on Field #1 at Manhattan Park, 331 Cascade Rd SE in East Grand Rapids.

Tuesday, July 11: 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18: 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 25: 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 1: 7 p.m.



Come cheer on Know Mercy this summer!

LWR Quilters Make Book Bags for Christophe's Children!

Trinity's LWR Quilters recently made book bags for all of Christophe's Children! Christophe traveled in June to deliver the monogrammed book bags to the orphaned children of Kalehe, Congo. Thank you, LWR Quilters!



Thank You, Habitat For Humanity Volunteers!

On Saturday, June 3, Trinity volunteers came together to work on a Habitat build on Prince Street SE in Grand Rapids. In spite of the high temperature we had a full crew come together to do God's work for this outreach program, and enjoyed the camaraderie as we worked.

In the kitchen the stove vent fan was installed, and the counter backsplash and flooring under the refrigerator were finished. Throughout the two-story house, interior and exterior doors and molding were painted and exterior doors were painted as well. A complete shed (with roof!) was also built in the backyard area.

Our Trinity volunteers accomplished an incredible amount of work that day. Thank you to everyone who helped and to Kelly Smith for coordinating these efforts.



News Briefs (cont.)



Megan Floyd Chosen as Second Scholarship Recipient

Megan Floyd has been chosen as the second recipient of Trinity's Pastor Karen Niemeyer Scholarship Fund. Megan is a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI. She is finishing her last class this fall while beginning her culminating internship. Your scholarship committee is delighted to name Megan as a scholarship recipient. Below is Megan's note of appreciation to the people of Trinity.

I am so grateful that God is persistent! When I began as the bookkeeper for Prince of Peace thirteen years ago, I would never have believed I would be a candidate for ordained ministry. That was not my life plan. It took some

convincing before I fully responded to God's call, but now that I have responded and followed, my heart is full of joy.

Church bookkeeping was only supposed to be temporary while my second daughter was an infant. Before that, I worked in the business sector, intending to continue building my career there. The way I saw it, I was only filling a need for my congregation. But soon after I started as the bookkeeper, I also began helping with the youth ministry program and accepted a second part-time role as the youth ministry coordinator. Then, a few months after that, Prince of Peace offered me a full-time position – a combination of bookkeeper and children, youth, and family minister. I discovered that I loved working for my church and with the youth. Yet still, seeking ordination was not a consideration.

After the departure of our associate pastor, Prince of Peace asked me to become the full-time children, youth, and family minister. I was eager to explore this path, so I enrolled at Luther Seminary to earn an MA in Children, Youth and Family Ministry, which I completed in 2018. I could hear God, and others, encouraging me to take a more significant step, but I chose to remain focused on my CYF path and my position at Prince of Peace.

But God is persistent! The more I grew into my CYF ministry role, the more clearly, I knew God wasn't giving up on me. Eventually, every reason I had named for why I couldn't follow God's call evaporated. I finally said, "Here I am, Lord, I trust you." It's terrifying but in a good way!

It helps that my family took God's side in all this. My husband, Bill, has been on this journey with me, fully supportive and confident that I was on the right path. We will have been married for 20 years this fall and are in this together. Our oldest child, Sabrina, will be a senior in high school this fall, and our youngest will be in 7th grade. Their attitude is that they aren't losing their home church community, whom they love, but they are gaining new communities.

I am grateful that God is persistent, and I am also grateful for your congregation. Your generous support makes it financially possible to finish this last stretch and complete my internship.

With thanks and appreciation,

Megan Floyd

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.

Musclewood, Caterpillars, & Gardening at Trinity

Did you know that six new native trees were planted at Trinity last fall? Three white oaks, two musclewoods, and one sugar maple were carefully planted to enhance Trinity's landscape with native species that not only look beautiful, but also serve as an important food source for birds and insects.

The oak trees were selected for the extraordinary ecological value they provide. Birds of all kinds feed on the caterpillars that depend on oak leaves. Some of those caterpillars become moths or butterflies, while many of them get consumed by baby birds who cannot eat anything other than caterpillars!



The Musclewood trees are easy to identify, as their trunks look like someone flexing their muscles. This important native tree is considered an understory tree to larger statured oaks or maples (which are referred to as the canopy trees). Over time, we will be able to witness this canopy and understory tree dynamic in the southeast corner of the church building.

These trees were carefully planted by a nursery company using a large drill called an auger. After that, our very own Eagle Scout, John Fox, sprang into action nurturing these new trees by wrapping them for the winter, followed by installing water bags on each tree to keep them hydrated this summer. Thanks to John, these trees are off to a great start. It's going to be exciting to watch these beautiful trees mature and enhance our landscape!

The Gardening Team at Trinity can always use extra hands to help with planting perennials, weeding, deadheading, and loving on our lovely landscape. You don't have to be a master gardener nor have herculean strength to serve on the Gardening Team. The commitment is pretty low-key and we can provide gardening guidance as needed.

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve with the Gardening Team:

- **Join the July work bee on Thursday, July 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** for low-key gardening tasks. Tools will be provided.
- **Help us water the new native trees!** We need people to fill the watering bags around the new trees. It's a fast and easy job that you can work into your schedule. Contact Lisa or Rebecca to sign up to be a waterer this summer.
- **Want to help in a limited way?** Just reach out to Lisa or Rebecca and we'll set you up with simple gardening jobs that you can do on your own schedule this summer.

Help us keep Trinity's landscape looking beautiful while serving the native environment. It's a lovely way to serve at Trinity! Please contact Rebecca Marquardt at rebecca@reverystudio.com or Lisa Mead at lmead340@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

News Briefs (cont.)

Fun, Fellowship, & Learning at VBS!

In June, kids from preschool through 5th grade enjoyed Stellar Vacation Bible School at Trinity! Thank you to our Director of Family Ministry Rachele Battreall, Sunday School Coordinators Amy Stephan and Sheri Mason, and the many other staff members and volunteers who made another great year of VBS possible!



Livestreaming Services at Trinity

We are streaming our **9:15 & 10:45 a.m.** 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: 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*.

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.

July Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

July 1

Jenn Dwyer
Andrew Murray
Joy Prusak
John & Elizabeth Derbin

July 2

Ellie Brandstadt
Tristan Derbin
Haley Fisk
Linda Grinstead
Nick Harrison
Joe Rosloniec
Calvin Steketee
Micah Steketee
Dan Zielinski
Mark Hagbom & Sally Mahoney

July 3

Nanci Guigue
Isaac Johnson
Yvonne Lynn
John Moglia
Ned Quinn

July 4

Greg Battreall
Oscar Heaford
Eric Lemaitre
Donna Linsey
Jeff Ulrich

July 5

Bonnie Brandstadt
Caden Budzyn
William Cannon
Michael Idema
Victoria Priebe
Oliver Ruble
Dave & Susan Gutierrez

July 6

Kim Brock
Delia DeBoer
Kristi Flatt
John & Kristin Bradley
Dave & Lisa Reiersen

July 7

Elena Griewahn
Adrienne Hall
Brian Sarnacki
John & Melissa Ziech

July 8

Kaitlyn Childers
Zephyr Engblade
Margot Frecka
Abigail Lamprich
Matt Mead
Hudson Proux
Rachel Vigna

July 9

Cori Beckett
Angie Brace
Jan Curry
Hayes Dudley
Annie Hudson
Lisa Mead
David Morrison
Chloe Tesch
David & Sue Wait

July 10

Gordy Engstrom
Chris Kutschinski
Austin Mester
Karin Moglia
Micki Smokovich
Jonathan Sommers

July 11

Tom Helzer
Fred Ulreich

July 12

Abi Battreall
Julianna Hahn
Marybeth Iaria
Connor Krupp
Judy Otten
Mae Preston
Andrea & Timothy Dudley
Keith Gohlke & Lisa Wilson

July 13

Brad Burkle Jr.
Sofia Crist
Donna Erickson
Geoff Larsen
Madison Montgomery
Andrea Salasky
John & Debbie Potter

July 14

Martha Carter
Sarah Huckstep
Clara Osbeck
Brock Smith
Alexander Soule
Sid & Carrie Hoeksema
Ashley & Erik Perkins

July 15

Laura Fisher
John Idema
Kathryn Langenburg
Mary Wollen
Steven & Laura Cairns

July 16

Brooklyn Breon
Bill Fisk
Katie Grzelak
Mae Olson
Kaitlyn Poort
Karen Smith
Andrea Williams
Patrick & Ingrid Brang
Nicholas & Jane Claus
Jim & Kerry McKee
Victoria & Matthew Priebe

July 17

Benjamin Cannon
Sam McMillan
Tadas Norris
Tom Shannon Jr.
Tom Vander Woude
Peyton Wollen
Robert & Beth O'Connor

July 18

Sue Bakkila
Jon Feinauer
Byan & Kate Bredwell
Joey & Wendy Johnson
Dan & Yvonne Lynn
Kaitlyn & Spencer Poort

July 19

Mikaela Bradley
Nancy Krupp
Laura Swain
Larry & Connie Frazier
Jason & Kelly Montgomery

July 20

Jennifer Ackerman-Haywood
Dave Reiersen
Tom & Michelle Albaitis

July 21

Rachel Ahrens
Ken Beld
Benson Beuker
Katelyn Tooley
Kara & Christopher Posthumus
Tom & Heather Worsfold

July 22

Jordan Donahue
John & Betsy McIntyre
Brian & Rachel Vigna

July 23

Fred Wilcox
Jodi Wood
Todd & Bonnie Brandstadt
Art & Liz Schmehling

July 24

Abby Cole
Laura Elliott
Cyndi Harrison
Charles Krug
Taylor Montgomery
Virginia Stoll-Tyrrell
Megan Unruh
Maggie Vander Woude
Paul Vander Woude

July 25

Susan Candela
John & Kyle Teichow
David & Kathy Young

July 26

Tom Fredrickson
Pam Gunderson
Carrie Hoeksema
Christopher Humphreys
John Kendall
Molly King
Jesca Westra
Susan Youngren
Michael & Ann Morin
Steve & Melissa Potter

July 27

Peter Bowman
Emilia LePow
Ivy LePow
Leo LePow
Barbara Meyers
Jay Rosloniec
Dale Volkerding
Dick & Chris Duyser
Ned & Michelle Quinn

July 28

Alain Carron
Bruce Hungerford
Ian Love
Beth Olson
Steven Salasky
Chris & Joanna Kutschinski
Jason & Jamie Stevenson
Chris & Elizabeth Van Meter

July 29

Steve Colby
Peter Larson
Ronald McNally
Elaine Ronney
Jennifer Salasky
Jonathan Schultz
Kay Zeaman
Jeffrey & Kori Grooters

July 30

Zach Budzyn
Devin Burnside
Grant Greiner
Gene Gunderson
Nancy Lindquist
Kathleen Longstreth
Roy & Emily Black
Bill & Sharon Brandner

July 31

Lyn Allen
Jillian Beld
Brooke Croly
Clara DeVita-Krug
Mary Rasmussen
Mary & Carlos Ashimine
Tori & Diante Harris
Kristen & Omar Zarou

Keep in Touch With Us!

Are You Expecting or Adopting?

Trinity would like to celebrate and share in your happy news of being pregnant or welcoming a new child through adoption so we can pray for and support your family. Our ministry to your baby or child begins even before they arrive! Contact [Kris Baker](#) in the church office with details.

Baptism at Trinity

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

Trinity's Pictorial Directory for Your Smartphone or PC

If you have not taken a chance to download the Trinity Pictorial Directory App for your smartphone or your desktop PC, contact the [church office](#) for instructions. This app provides the most up-to-date information about our church family.



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



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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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](https://www.instagram.com/tlcgr)
facebook.com/tlcgr



[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Search: Trinity Lutheran
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Rev. Dan Schewe, Associate Pastor (ext.124)

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