

Volunteer With Home Repair Services On August 5

You are invited on Saturday, August 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make a profound difference in someone's life. We will be working with Home Repair Services to provide freedom to someone with permanent disabilities by constructing a wheelchair accessible ramp into their home.



Wheelchair 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. **Sign up here:** https://tinyurl.com/45a629az. Please contact Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator Laura Norton with questions.

Senior Pastor Transition Updates

Save the Date! Congregation Listening Sessions

The Council will be meeting with Bishop Satterlee in August to discuss the next steps in our Senior Pastor transition process. Following this meeting we will begin to gather information to complete our Ministry Site Profile, the extensive document presenting our congregation that will be shared with the Bishop's office and potential pastoral candidates.

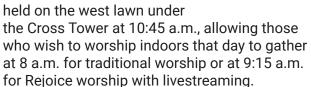
We need your input as we complete our Ministry Site Profile! We will be holding small-group listening sessions on two Sunday mornings in the fall following each service. Please plan to come on one of these dates:

September 24 October 15

More details to come on how to sign up for these sessions. If you have any questions, please contact Council President <u>Karen Unruh</u>, Vice President <u>Steve Heacock</u>, or the <u>church office</u>.

Outdoor Worship Continues on "Second Sundays" With Annual Blessing of the Animals in October

Trinity's "Second Sunday" plan for outdoor worship continues on **Sunday**, **August 13**, and will be offered on second Sundays of the month into the fall of 2023. Outdoor services are held on the west lawn under



All are welcome to join us in a celebration of our beautiful church campus for outdoor worship in 2023 – mark your calendar for the August 13 outdoor worship gathering and additional outdoor services on **September 10** and **October 8**. The October 8 celebration will include the annual **Blessing of the Animals**. In case of inclement weather, we will simply move back inside to the sanctuary on those Sundays.

Join us for Trinity's Fall Parish Potluck on September 17! See page 8.

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

"We Were Made for These Times"

Beloved community,

Clarissa Pinkola Estés is a writer and Jungian analyst who is perhaps best known for her bestseller *Women Who Run with the Wolves*. Her work has a focus on the journey of the soul, and she is known as a lifelong activist on behalf of the voiceless.



I did not know Estés and her work until I was preparing with Emily and our son Ben for their June 2023 wedding. Part of a larger essay written by Estés in 2020 entitled *Letter to a Young Activist During Troubled Times: Do Not Lose Heart, We Were Made for These Times,* Emily and Ben included the reading below in their marriage ceremony. I have read and re-read this beautiful directive since that time and now share it with you as a word of encouragement, inspiration, and hopefulness in a challenging time. Dare we believe that we were made for these times and are equipped to meet them?

My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times.

I have heard from so many recently who are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people.

You are right in your assessments. The lustre and hubris some have aspired to while endorsing acts so heinous against children, elders, everyday people, the poor, the unguarded, the helpless, is breathtaking.

Yet, I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope. Most particularly because, the fact is that we were made for these times. Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement.

I grew up on the Great Lakes and recognize a seaworthy vessel when I see one. Regarding awakened souls, there have never been more able vessels in the waters than there are right now across the world. And they are fully provisioned and able to signal one another as never before in the history of humankind.

Look out over the prow; there are millions of boats of righteous souls on the waters with you. Even though your veneers may shiver from every wave in this stormy roil, I assure you that the long timbers composing your prow and rudder come from a greater forest. That long-grained lumber is known to withstand storms, to hold together, to hold its own, and to advance, regardless.

In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus on that. There is a tendency, too, to fall into being weakened by dwelling on what is outside your reach, by what cannot yet be. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails.

We are needed, that is all we can know. And though we meet resistance, we more so will meet great souls who will hail us, love us and guide us, and we will know them when they appear. Didn't you say you were a believer? Didn't you say you pledged to listen to a voice greater? Didn't you ask for grace? Don't you remember that to be in grace means to submit to the voice greater?

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good.

What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares,

Continued on following page

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom (cont.)

builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these to be fierce and to show mercy toward others; both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity.

Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do. There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate.

The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.

Let us remember whose we are, and who we serve. Friends in Christ, it remains a privilege to serve as a pastor among the people of Trinity.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob Linstrom

What's Happening at Trinity in August?

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.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Fitness Classes, 9 a.m. - noon*

Fridays

Stroller Strides, 9 a.m.

*Contact Carol Hendricks at cahendricks14@gmail.com for exact dates and times.

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

Daily Calendar

Tuesday, August 1

Know Mercy Softball, 6 p.m. (Field #2) Know Mercy Softball, 8 p.m. (Field #1)

Wednesday, August 2

Outreach Comm Mtg, noon

Saturday, August 5

Home Repair Services Ramp Build, 9 a.m. Private Party, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, August 7

In The Image Volunteering, 1 p.m. Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m. Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 8

Executive Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, August 9

Youth & Family Comm Mtg, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 12

HS Lock-In at Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 13

HS Lock-In Ends Outdoor Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, August 14

The Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, August 15

Worship & Music Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 17

Volunteer at In The Image, 1 p.m.

Friday, August 18

Life Begins at 60 Cookout, 5 p.m.

Monday, August 21

Finance Comm Mtg, 6 p.m. Health Ministries Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 22

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

Thursday, August 24

Trinity & Resound Bell Choir Picnic, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 27

Backpack & Teacher Blessings, All Services Crossman Reception, noon - 1:30 p.m. Ninth Graders Welcome Event, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 28

Race & Restitution Reading Group, 1 p.m.

Council Corner



A Message from Fellowship & Hospitality Council Liaison Jamie Kuntzman

In the spring, Randy and I enjoyed a wonderful trip to Greece, dividing our time between Crete and Athens. The sights, history, mythology, culture, and food were amazing but we both agreed the people really made the trip even more special. The Greek people are very welcoming and hospitable. They were engaging and loved to share their traditions and stories, inquire about ours, make recommendations, help with pronunciation of the few Greek words we know and any questions we had. Granted, many of these people work in the hospitality industry, but it was different –

much more personal - and in some instances, we felt like family.

There are many reasons why we love being members of Trinity, but the people, our church family, are an important part of that. In May, 82 adults and children were formally welcomed into the Trinity family. The New Member VIP supper was held on May 8, with new members, mentors, staff, and Council in attendance. The shared meal was an opportunity for new members to connect with others and learn a little about the many opportunities to get involved at Trinity. If you see a new face at church, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself. Whether you are a new or long-time member, connecting with others through shared experiences enhances our faith journeys. The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee offers special and ongoing events, providing those shared experiences which strengthen our connections.

Ongoing fellowship events include the weekly Sunday fellowship and coffee time, which is offered after all worship services so that worshipers can visit and chat with one another; JOYful (Just Older Youth) Days in the spring and fall, which offers a Bible study, luncheon, and guest speaker each week; and Lenten/ Advent soup suppers, which occur weekly during the seasons of Lent and Advent and offer a light meal and fellowship before midweek worship.

A variety of special events were held throughout the year to bring people together in fellowship. In January, the annual All-Congregation Meeting was held after a sumptuous potluck. The Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH) meal packing event was also held in January and was well-attended by participants of all ages. During this event, attendees came together in fellowship as they worked to fill thousands of meal packages that will be distributed all over the world. In the fall and spring, the euchre tournament and trivia night were great fun, with good food, lighthearted competition, and many laughs among participants.

Trinity celebrated Confirmation Sunday on May 7 with 13 eighth-graders being confirmed. A reception celebrating their commitment to the Christian faith was held after the 10:45 a.m. service. On May 21, high school graduates were also honored with a blessing during worship and receptions after services. The Start of Summer Celebration potluck was on June 11.

Fellowship scheduling picks back up in the fall with an outing to Schwallier's Country Basket apple orchard and the fall potluck picnic. As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, the traditional church decorating, Advent by Candlelight, and the Scandinavian Smörgåsbord are special times to celebrate with others at Trinity. I feel so blessed to have so many opportunities to engage with people who share in my faith journey.

Jamie Kuntzman, Fellowship & Hospitality Council Liaison

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals Month of June 2023

_	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	88,403	97,686	9,283	10.5%
Total Expenses	94,511	95,405	(894)	-0.9%
Net Income (Loss)	(6,108)	2,281	8,389	

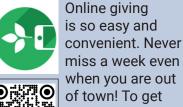
2023 Fiscal Year-to-Date (Thru June 2023)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	517,708	635,658	117,950	22.8%
Total Expenses	505,715	474,448	31,267	6.2%
Net Income (Loss)	11,992	161,210	149,217	

TITHE LY Innovative church giving

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

At Trinity, we use "Tithe.ly" for our online giving.



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 <u>Joanna Waite</u> if you need assistance.

Trinity is Hiring!

Trinity Lutheran Church is looking for an individual to work alongside our Associate Pastor as our **Youth Ministry Coordinator.** This position works with our middle and high school youth to help them delve into their faith and find ways to put it into action in their lives. Resumes with cover letters can be sent to dan.schewe@tlcgr.org. The full job description can be found at https://tinyurl.com/3ru9k6se.



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

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. –Romans 5:1–5

In June, eleven of Trinity's high schoolers and four adults traveled to East Bank, West Virginia for a mission trip. Our friends from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant traveled with us. Our goal was to encounter what God was doing in East Bank and find a way to take part in it. We partnered with Group Mission Trips who run

weeks like this all over the country. In East Bank we joined 214 other individuals from fourteen churches

in eight states to work on 26 projects in the community. We built wheelchair ramps, repaired decks, painted homes, and did a myriad of other projects. Everyone came back from this trip with amazing

stories of how they saw God at work during the week.

Each of us was invited to think about a time in our lives when we were filled with hope, and then about how that hope turned to suffering. From that place of suffering, we thought about how we

endured and persevered, not passively but took an active role in the situation we were in, and how that journey strengthened our character and returned us to hope. All of this was accompanied by many stories of how this has happened in our lives. I chose to talk with the group about how when my first son, Sam, was born we had no idea that we would spend the first month of his life in a NICU. All of this helped the group think about the resilience we all need in our lives as we journey through struggles.



It was an amazing week of community, serving our neighbors, and learning how God was/is calling and directing us. Thank you for all of your support to make this trip a reality for our young people.

Shalom.

Pastor Dan Schewe



A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

September Heart-to-Heart Conversation with Pastor Kari

Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

Please consider joining our Heart-to-Heart Conversation in September. This small group time is one of listening, wondering, and discernment — listening for what's on one's heart and listening with others — as we all listen for God's wisdom and love.

Heart-to-Heart Conversation: A conversation... in which people talk freely about their joys, wonderings, feelings, or struggles. It can include laughter, silence, feelings of closeness, sharing of joys, curiosity, an awareness of God's presence, and a growing compassion and awareness of the joys and burdens in one another's lives.



I continue to be impressed and grateful for the people and ministries of Trinity as we continue to live out the encouragement found in 1 Thessalonians:

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing... And we urge you, beloved, to... encourage the faint hearted, help the weak... See that [you] always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit... May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely... The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. -1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14-19, 23-24

Heart-to-Heart Conversation Facilitated by Pastor Kari:

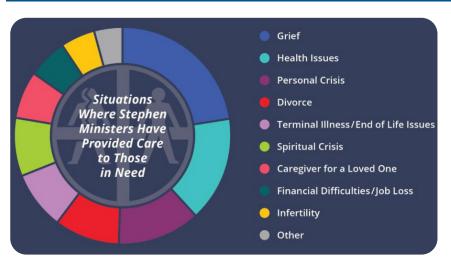
Thursday, September 14 · Doughnuts & Coffee/Tea at 10:15 a.m. · Heart-to-Heart at 10:30 a.m.

Consider inviting someone to attend with you! If you've attended a Heart-to-Heart Conversation in the past, please be very welcome to come again! **Sign up here:** https://tinyurl.com/rbjxvea2.

God's Deepest Blessings now and always!

Pastor Kari, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry is available for you!

Contact one of our pastors or Faith Community Nurse Kristin Bradley to learn more.

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tlcgr.org

616.949.2510

Mark Your Calendar!



Life Begins at 60 Gatherings This Summer

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!

Save the Date for Our Fall Potluck

Join us for our annual Fall Potluck on **Sunday**, **September 17 following our 10:45 a.m. service**. Trinity will provide our traditional entrée of pulled pork and your choice of barbeque sauces. Look for a link in the Friday eBlasts to sign up to bring your favorite desserts, sides, etc. We will also need

people to help set up and clean up. Those needs will also be listed on the SignUp Genius.

Contact Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator <u>Tess Lundgren</u> with questions or for more information.



Pastor Bob's Adult Forum

Pastor Bob's Fall Forum will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in Centennial Hall beginning on Wednesday, September 27. Contact <u>Pastor Bob</u> for more information.



Save the Dates for Our Fall JOYful Days Series



Fall JOYful Days begins **Wednesday**, **September 27** and runs for five Wednesdays through October 25. Coffee and donuts are served before Pastor Bob's adult forum at 10:30 a.m. We will have a catered lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by a guest speaker from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for each date in the series. Look for more information in our September *Messenger*. SignUp Genius registrations will be announced starting in the August 25 eBlast.

Women of Trinity: Save the Date!

We're having a Women's Retreat at Trinity and you're invited! Saturday, October 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for a day of fellowship, Bible study, laughter, and reflection.

We'll consider how justice and love intersect by focusing on Jesus who shows us what **just love** truly is. Mark your calendar now and watch for signup details in September!



Join a Trinity Book Club This Fall!

Tuesday Evening Book Club Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Trinity

The Tuesday night book club invites you to join us for a new year of reading great books and enjoying great conversation. We are open to all ages and genders and always welcome new members! Our first meeting this fall will be on **September 19** and we will be discussing *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews.



One evening, eight Mennonite women climb into a hay loft to conduct a secret meeting. For the past two years, each of these women, and more than a hundred other girls in their colony, has been repeatedly violated in the night by demons coming to punish them for their sins. Now that the women have learned they were in fact drugged and attacked by a group of men from their own community, they are determined to protect themselves and their daughters from future harm.

While the men of the colony are off in the city, attempting to raise enough money to bail out the rapists and bring them home, these women—all illiterate, without any knowledge of the world outside their community and unable even to speak the language of the country they live in—have very little time to make a choice: Should they stay in the only world they've ever known or should they dare to escape?

Based on real events and told through the "minutes" of the women's all-female symposium, Toews's masterful novel uses wry, politically engaged humor to relate this tale of women claiming their own power to decide.

Check out our other picks for the rest of the year:

October: The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

November: *Divide Me By Zero* by Lara Vapnyar **December:** *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

January: I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer by Michelle McNamara

February: Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

March: Rodham by Curtis Sittenfeld

April: The Wide Circumference of Love by Marita Golden

May: Yellowface by R. F. Kuang

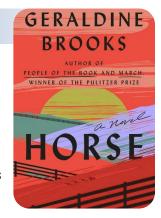
Contact Corina Dulecki at cdulecki@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Friday Morning Women's Book Club Meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

This book club typically meets September through May in a member's home. Our first meeting of the fall will be **September 8.** Contact Carol Hendricks at <u>cahendricks14@gmail.com</u> with questions or for more information.

September 8: Horse by Geraldine Brooks
October 13: The Secret Keeper of Jaipur by Alka Joshi
November 10: Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
December 8: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
Host: Kim Brock
Host: Meri Liedel
Host: Pam Sellers
Host: Carol Hendricks

Look for the rest of our picks in an upcoming issue of *The Messenger!*



Music Ministries

Welcome Back Picnic: Trinity Choir & Resound Bell Choir Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Trinity Courtyard

Enjoy an evening of fun and food while catching up with members of the Trinity Choir and Resound Bell Choir. New singers and ringers are encouraged to join and meet other Trinity Church members who participate in these music ensembles.

Participants are asked to bring a dish to share. The main course is provided.

Last names A – J bring a salad and last names K – Z please bring dessert.



CELEBRATION OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES 2023/24

An Outreach to the Church & Community

Sunday, September 24, 2023 • 3 p.m.

FANFARES & FLOURISHES: MUSIC FOR BRASS & PIPE ORGAN

The fall season begins with an afternoon of energetic and evocative music for brass and pipe organ. A guest brass quintet will be joined by Trinity organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus. The concert will feature music styles from majestic ceremonial music to beloved Beatles melodies and some Gershwin classics. From trumpet, to tuba, to organ pipes, the Sanctuary will resonate with powerful sounds of these combined forces!

Most events
are held in
the beautiful
acoustical
space of Trinity's
Sanctuary!

Sunday, October 29, 2023 • 3 p.m.

DUO PIANISTS: DR. DEBORA DEWITT & EMILY GRABINSKI CONKLIN

Two magnificent pianists perform on two grand pianos all in a fantastic acoustical space! Dr. DeWitt serves on the music staff at Trinity Lutheran Church. She and Ms. Conklin are part of the music faculty at Grand Rapids Community College. They will share an afternoon of classical music crafted for two pianists and written by 20th century composers. It is sure to be grand!

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

VOXMas: Christmas Choir Music by VoxGR

VoxGR has quickly gained an enormous following as one of Grand Rapid's finest chamber choirs. They are conducted by Dr. Christopher Mason. Enjoy VoxGR in a sparkling concert of Christmas music. The audience will also have an opportunity to sing Christmas carols with this stellar vocal ensemble, accompanied by the pipe organ in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 3 p.m.

VOICES OF EXTRAORDINARY YOUTH: MANDALA, BELLA VOCE, AND CHAMBER CHORALE

Mandala is an ambassador choir from the Grand Rapids Youth Chorus program. It is conducted by Leah Ivory and accompanied by Sean Ivory. This auditioned ensemble of high school girls will amaze you with their exquisite sound and advanced repertoire. They will be joined for several works by two ensembles from Grand Rapids Christian High School, conducted by Candice Sytsma.

Continued on following page

Music Ministries (cont.)

Saturday, February 10, 2024 • 2 p.m. • Location: Centennial Hall

AN AFTERNOON AT THE "SILENT" MOVIES:

AN EVENT FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN, & THE YOUNG AT HEART

Come and watch some short comedy classics with LIVE piano accompaniment by Robert Edwards, an expert in accompanying silent movies. Enjoy favorites such as Charlie Chaplin and the hilarious onscreen antics so popular in these silent films. Popcorn and movie candy will be provided. Be prepared to laugh and enjoy an afternoon at the movies.

Sunday, March 3, 2024 • 3 p.m.

KAREN KRUMMEL. CELLO

Karen is a Trinity Lutheran Church member and former member of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Her musical career has been broad and varied. She frequently performs worship services and concerts at Trinity. Karen will present a chamber concert exploring the depth of music written for cello, piano, and music composed for cello ensemble.

Monday, April 15, 2024 • 7 p.m.

Annamae Rotman: Young Organist Competition

This local competition is sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The 2023 competition was held at the Basilica of St. Adalbert and the 2024 event will be at Trinity Lutheran Church on the 3-manual Letourneau pipe organ. Enjoy the performance of young organists (ages 24 and under) as they compete for the generous prizes given by Dr. Richard Rotman.

Sunday, April 28, 2024 • 3 p.m.

TRINITY MOSAIC: DR. DARLENE KUPERUS, ORGANIST & PIANIST

A tapestry of colors fills the Sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church in brilliant stained glass. The last concert in the 2023/24 series celebrates a mosaic of musical colors, sounds, and textures. The concert explores music composed for instruments or voice accompanied by the pipe organ or piano. Musical guests will include some of Trinity's gifted musicians.

Health Ministries

Save the Date for Trinity's Fall Blood Drive!

Mark your calendars for our fall blood drive, happening Monday, September 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.!

Plan your giving today. Contact Kristin Bradley to secure your spot or register here: https://tinyurl.com/3zpm6xdy.

There are many ways to help out, even if you aren't able to donate. From calls to cookies, there is a place you can plug in. To sign up, visit: https://tinyurl.com/5h9v6bz7.

Let's keep our local blood supply strong!



Health Ministries (cont.)

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. 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. Contact Xristina at 616.719.6961 for the current class schedule.

Art Ministries

Trinity's Overlook Gallery Featuring Fiber Art Creations

The new exhibit in Trinity's Overlook Gallery contains art created by some names familiar to many at Trinity Lutheran Church. This invitational exhibit features lovely fiber art works by women in our community – both from those living among us and from a few who have passed on. Feel free to connect with these talented needle workers and ask them about their entries. They will tell you some wonderful stories connected to what they have created with hands and hearts.



Nearly all the pieces on display are owned and treasured by the maker themselves or their loved ones, however there are two beautiful pieced-cotton items on display, which are for sale with proceeds going directly to Christophe's Children. In addition, copies of a displayed delicate cross can be made to order. Please contact the artists listed on the wall tags if you are interested in purchasing these specific items.

The following Trinity members are featured in the current Overlook Gallery art show:

Fran Anderson Kris Fox Pam Sellers Including these dearly Kris Baker Carol Hendricks Linda Taffs departed Trinity artists: Barb Crossman Beth Krueger Gloria Von der Heide Dixie Brinks RuthAnn Evans Melissa Ziech Shirley Pearson Tess Lundgren Diane Field Elaine Rongey Joyce Schenk

The Franciscan Life Process Center Showing Trinity Member HJ Slider's Collage Art

The Franciscan Life Process Center at 654 Davis NW 49504 is hosting an exhibit of recent collages by Trinity member and fine arts committee co-chair Helen Johnson (HJ) Slider. The 25-piece exhibit is on display in the third-floor hallways of the center. It can be viewed most Tuesdays and Thursdays during the hours of 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. As this is a secure building, please call 616.458.3065 to confirm accessibility. HJ's newest works continue to explore themes of God's love and hope for all people and the world we share. She seeks to create unique visual expressions of the beauty which can be discovered in recycled, salvaged, and discarded materials. This exhibit is planned to run from now until September 21.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Important Updates

Although Sunday School has been on hiatus, summer brought some exciting events for our young people at Trinity. VBS was four days of high-energy activities, singing, and learning that God is with us all the time! These amazing experiences continued in an outdoor setting as many of our children, some for the first time, got to experience God's love at Stony Lake Camp.

As September nears, the Children's Ministry team is hard at work preparing for the upcoming year of faith formation and fellowship activities for our youngest members. As we do so, we are asking you to consider being a part of what we do! Whether you are a kid at heart, a quiet, nurturing soul by nature, the wild and crazy fun one, or the natural born teacher, we can find a place for you! **We are currently looking for:**

Sunday School Teachers: This is a one-Sunday-a-month commitment during the school year. The lesson plans can be found online and are easy to follow. Crafts and activities are prepared by our Sunday School coordinators and no teaching experience is necessary. Contact Sheri Mason at sheri.mason@tlcgr.org.

Children's Christmas Program Director: Each year in December Sunday School children bring the story of Jesus' birth to life with readings, costumes, scenery and song. We are seeking someone to lead the production with practices starting in November during Sunday School time. Contact Rachele Battreall at rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org.

Upcoming Events

Blessing of Backpacks: August 27 - All Services, All Kids!

School-age children are invited to bring backpacks to worship for a special blessing. Each child will receive a backpack charm. Kindergarteners will be invited to come up first to get special recognition as they enter "big kid" school for the first time.

Teacher Blessing: August 27 — All Services

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

Preschooler Blessing: September 17 — All Services

All preschoolers are welcomed to Sunday School with a special blessing in worship. Three year-olds and children new to Trinity's Sunday School will be gifted a storybook Bible.

Sunday School Starts September 17!

Sunday School takes place within the framework of the 9:15 a.m. service. Children three years old through grade 5 are invited to join us in Sunday School this fall. Lessons are taught using a Lutheran curriculum. Children in preschool through grade 3 will study the same scriptures heard in worship, sing songs, play games, and make crafts. Children start worship with their families and head to class after Children's Time.

Students in grades 4 and 5 will have lessons from the New Testament. They will begin class at 9:15 a.m. in the classroom we call "The Lounge."

All children will return to worship during the Passing of the Peace. For families attending either of the traditional services, the approximate time of Sunday School is 9:30-10:05 a.m. for ages preschool-3rd grade, and 9:15-10:05 a.m. for grades 4 and 5. Look for registration links in the September *Messenger* and eBlasts.

Youth News

Build Day! Saturday, August 5 from 9 to 2 p.m.

High schoolers and their friends are invited to help build a wheelchair ramp on Saturday, August 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are partnering with Home Repair Services to help a low-income family in Grand Rapids. Tools/lunch will be provided. RSVP to Pastor Dan or visit https://tinyurl.com/45a629az to sign up.

High School Lock-In in Mt. Pleasant! Saturday, August 12 to Sunday, August 13

Our friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant are having a lock-in on Saturday, August 12 to Sunday, August 13, and they are inviting our high schoolers to join them! The plan is to arrive at Mt. Pleasant Saturday afternoon and leave Sunday at 1:30 p.m. after their "fun day," which includes inflatables. Transportation to and from Mt. Pleasant is available. Trinity is covering the cost of this event for those who want to participate. To RSVP, contact Pastor Dan or visit https://tinyurl.com/4sa3rzk9. Please direct all questions to Pastor Dan.

Ninth Graders: Welcome to High School! August 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Ninth graders and their families are invited to join us for a special introduction to our high school ministries on Sunday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to experience and learn about our high school ministries with some of our older youth. We hope you can join us! If you have any questions or want to RSVP, please contact Pastor Dan.

In July, Trinity Youth Enjoyed Fun, Fellowship, & Faith Formation at Stony Lake Camp!









Trinity Lutheran Church

tlcgr.org

Opportunities to Support Church & Community

Thank You!

Many thanks to all of you who donated to the diaper and undie fund! The Outreach Committee delivered 2,583 infant diapers, 282 adult diapers, and 100 pairs of underwear to AYA, Samaritas, Exodus, In The Image, and Safe Haven.

For there will never cease to be poor in the land.
Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.

-Deuteronomy 15:11

Cheer On Trinity's Softball Team!

Trinity's coed softball team,
"Know Mercy," has one more
game this summer! Come watch
them not once, but twice on

Tuesday, August 1! Their first game is on Field #2 at 6 p.m. and their second game is on Field #1 at 8 p.m.

Know Mercy plays at Manhattan Park, located at 331 Cascade Rd SE in East Grand Rapids.

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 <u>k.zn@icloud.com</u>.

Opportunities to Support Church & Community (cont.)

Donate School Supplies for Congress Elementary School

Trinity has partnered with Congress Elementary School to supply much needed items to students and teachers. The shopping list below indicates the number of specific items needed to begin the school year, however the easiest way to donate is to visit the Amazon Wish List here: https://tinyurl.com/59t96tsa

Your donations can be placed in the black labeled barrels located in the west entryway and in the Narthex 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

To All My IHN Volunteers:

Thank you for all you do to make this important ministry a huge success. This thank you is not only from me, but also comes from Kelsy at Family Promise and a family we housed during the month of June:

Hi Trinity Friends!!

I just saw this on one of the IHN surveys and had to send it to you all.

"The volunteers were all so accommodating and very kind to myself and my children. They were helpful with everything and the facility was clean, spacious, and amazing!! We loved it. Thank you."

Once again, Trinity knocks it out of the park with amazing hospitality! Thank you for helping these families!! You all are so appreciated for what you do.

Kelsy Vining, Family Promise Congregational Development Manager

Once again, thank you for what you all do and let's keeping doing it for these families.

Hugs,

Kathy Bush







We will be folding, sorting, and restocking at In The Image on Monday, August 7 and Thursday, August 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. Give two hours of your time to a worthy community store that allows the dignity of shopping without charging a penny for the goods. Contact Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator Laura Norton for more information.

In The Image: 4255 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, GR, MI 49508

Thank

Communion Class for Young Children to be Offered Three Times in the Fall of 2023

Pastor Linstrom is hoping to hear from Trinity Lutheran Church parents who are interested in a brief class to prepare their young children for Holy Communion in the fall of 2023. Trinity is a congregation that welcomes all the baptized, including young children, to participate in the Lord's Supper, and a wonderful, simple curriculum entitled "A Place for You" provides a meaningful introduction to Holy Communion teaching for young children and their parents.

In the fall each year, Pastor Linstrom gathers with parents and their children for a brief First Communion class followed by bread baking in the church kitchen. The bread the children bake (with a bit of help) will be shared the following Sunday morning in worship along with a blessing of First Communion children and their families. In the fall of 2023, Young Children's Communion Classes will be offered three times:

- · Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, October 14 at 11 a.m.

The class lasts about 45-50 minutes, followed by another 45 minutes in the church kitchen for those who wish to stay and help with communion bread baking. If you are interested in reserving a place for your child/

children at one of the fall classes, please use this link to sign up: https://tinyurl.com/mrf4sx69

Even if your child is already communing, you would be welcome to join us for this mini-course.

If you have questions about Trinity's celebration of Holy Communion with young children, or if you have difficulty with the signup link, please be in touch with <u>Pastor Bob</u>.



The Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, will teach "Luther's Small Catechism for Adults" for six weeks beginning **October 24, 2023.** The class will be held via Zoom.

People across the North/West Lower Michigan Synod gathered for a synod sponsored adult theological education class in January and February of 2023. Some met at their church to watch the lecture together and then gathered subsequently in the days that followed for coffee and discussion.

These classes are designed for both lay people and rostered ministers. Watch for more information as registration will be available soon!





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.

News Briefs (cont.)

Mission in India Update

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. -Galatians 6:2

A new school year has begun for Neerekshe after full days of student admissions, teacher recruitment, and purchasing new school readers (textbooks), notebooks, and school uniforms. Buses are traveling into two new villages and bringing children to school (where they receive education, food, and general care). There has been concern regarding all of the expenses - care for the children (many who cannot afford school fees), teachers' pay, and diesel expenses (which have increased). Gladys shares that at times they feel shaken and greatly need our prayers, but she "keeps trusting the Lord to meet our every need. We are grateful we can share our needs with godly friends like [Trinity]. Please pray for wisdom as we help the children and parents."

They also share that this year the monsoon rains were delayed, which made it difficult to have enough water in the gardens amidst great heat; however, with their onsite well, they



Shadrach leads a morning Bible study with some students and staff members



Gladys teaches songs to new kindergarten students

had what they needed to drink and wash. During the shortage, people from a neighboring village came to get water from the well. They are thankful for and share what God has provided them. Then, when the rains came, they were happy because it lowered the temperatures. However, the "Electricity Department removed all electrical supply so children in Boys Hostel and Girls Hostel had to live without lights" (which adds concerns that the children will not see dangerous snakes if they need to get up during the night). They hope to purchase two UPS (Unlimited Power Supply) inverters which will provide electricity even when supply lines are cut.

Shadrach and Gladys share that "we trust you all will pray for us as we are in the beginning of the new academic year. . . we are very grateful to all the church family for their love, kindness and generous giving." Please continue to pray for our mission partners in India and please know that with even small financial contributions from us, they accomplish so much. Thank you!

Please contact <u>Dawn Brackmann</u> for more details or information. Our prayers provide encouragement as they know they are not alone. Our financial contributions are greatly needed and provide basic food supplies, student educational fees, books, support for teachers and much more. As always, financial contributions may be made payable to Trinity with *Mission in India* written in the memo line.

August Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

August 1

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

August 2

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

August 3

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

August 4

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

August 5

Bret Kendall Steven Olson Joey Preston Lynne Spoelhof Melissa Wittlinger Gretchen & Bruce Bieneman Kevin & Brenda Conway Paul & Sheree Smith

August 6

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

August 7

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

August 8

Aidan Cole Kathie Fetting James Heaford Anne Meeuwsen Nick Salasky David & Gail Mester Erica & Mike Spalding

August 9

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

August 10

Drew Flemming Ann Gooch Carol Hendricks Julieanne Lee Steve & Kristy Bennett Ron & Shelley Mishler

August 11

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

August 12

Lynn Grzelak John Murray Josh Peterman Ben Zuzelski John & Joan Walls Bill & Sandy Westveld

August 13

Karen Betz-Griewahn Mike Fessenden

August 14

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

August 15

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

August 16

Luke Ezell Michelle Hall Mike & Sheri Mason

August 17

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

August 18

Liam Zielinski Steven & Shirley Kleiman Mike & Lois McCardell Susan & Kirk Rich Jason & Jacqueline Riegling

August 19

Shelby Fritts
Debbie Lown
Debbie Potter
Kelli Woolworth
Heather Worsfold

August 20

Katelyn Eimers Claire Selleck Michael Sytsma Spencer Waite Joshua & Marci Anderson Gordy & Beth Engstrom John & Kris Fox

August 21

Ruth Ann Evans Callan Hughes Kathryn Stoll Phil & Carrie Lamb Chad & Tami Saum

August 22

Mark Baker Cade Lewkowski McKenna Malvitz Ausma Pupel Thea Taylor Robin Walker

August 23

Bob Burchfield Elwyn Griewahn Joe Iaria Ryan Kulas Doug & Katie Moga Mike & Karen Unruh Eric Gustafson & Carol Welz-Gustafson

August 24

Donna Alkema Doug Moga Corey & Nicole Yoder

August 25

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

August 26

Carter King Andy Pupel Paul & Lynn Getzin

August 27

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

August 28

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

August 29

Joel Cairns Jennifer & Dennis Brown Bob & Barb Crossman Jordan & Katie Knoll Jim & Laura Krug Lindsey & Jim Mooney Joel & Lynne Spoelhof

August 30

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

August 31

Betty Hall
Kate Krug
Mark Lothschutz
Benjamin Mielock
Don & Cheryl Bushman
Paul Crist & Elisabeth Degener
John & Donna Linsey

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.



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 facebook.com/tlcgr





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



facebook.com/tlcgr



<u>YouTube.com</u> Search: Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids Rev. Robert Linstrom, Senior Pastor (ext.115) _robert.linstrom@tlcgr.org

Rev. Dan Schewe, Associate Pastor (ext.124) <u>dan.schewe@tlcgr.org</u>

Rev. Kari Fast, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care (ext.112), kari.fast@tlcgr.org

Brooks Alder, Sound Board Operator, 616.949.2510 Kris Baker, Office Coordinator (ext.110)

kris.baker@tlcgr.org

Rachele Battreall, Director of Family Ministry rachele.battreall@tlcgr.org

Jeanne Becker, Helping Hands Coordinator and Co-Wedding Coordinator

(ext. 129), jeanne.becker@tlcgr.org

Kristin Bradley, Faith Community Nurse (ext.119) kristin.bradley@tlcgr.org

Kathy Bush, IHN Coordinator

616.485.0031, kathy.bush@tlcgr.org
Dr. Debora DeWitt, Rejoice Music Coordinator/

Accompanist, 616.949.2510 deb.dewitt@tlcgr.org

Awilda Diaz, Nursery Coordinator 616.427.2261, awilda.diaz@tlcgr.org

Grace Gohl, Sexton (ext.117), grace.gohl@tlcgr.org

Sidney Hoeksema, Trinity Choir Director (ext.118) 616.540.7190, sidney.hoeksema@tlcgr.org

Dr. Darlene Kuperus, Director of Music & Organist (ext. 118), darlene.kuperus@tlcgr.org

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Sheri Mason, Sunday School Coordinator kids@tlcgr.org

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Andrea Severns, Sunday School Coordinator kids@tlcgr.org

Amy Stephan, Interim Sunday School Coordinator kids@tlcgr.org

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