



The Messenger

Trinity's Ministry Fair: Sunday, October 1



Outdoor Worship & Annual Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 8

Trinity's 2023 Outdoor Worship schedule concludes on Sunday, October 8, and is again scheduled on the west lawn under the Cross Tower at 10:45 a.m. Worship at the Sunday, October 8 outdoor service will include our fifth annual Blessing of the Animals. St. Francis of Assisi is remembered for his patronage of animals and the natural environment, and it has become customary to have celebrations blessing animals on or close to his feast day of October 4. Humans and all other animals are welcome! Plan now to bring your dog, cat, goldfish, cockatoo, iguana, or your favorite farm animal to worship. In the case of inclement weather, we will gather in the church sanctuary and all, including the animals, will be welcome . . .

Senior Pastor Transition Updates

Save the Date! Congregation Listening Sessions

The Council met with Bishop Satterlee in August to discuss the next steps in our Senior Pastor transition process. Now 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! Please sign up for the next "Listening Session" offered at various times on **Sunday, October 15**. You can sign up by scanning the QR code above or by clicking the link in the weekly eBlasts. If you have any questions, please contact Council President [Karen Unruh](#), Vice President [Steve Heacock](#), or the [church office](#).



What's Happening at Trinity in October?

Weekly at a Glance

Sundays

WREATH SALES

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Livestreaming of Worship, 10:45 a.m.
(Outdoor worship not livestreamed/recorded)
HS Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Mondays

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.

Tuesdays

TLC Quilters*
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Fitness: Power Bend & Stretch, 9 a.m.
Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 a.m.
Pastor Bob's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.
JOYful Days Lunch & Speaker, 11:30 a.m.

Thursdays

Resound Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

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

Daily Calendar

Sunday, October 1

Congregational Ministry Fair, 8:30 a.m.
HS Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
MS Youth Group, 2 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Monday, October 2

Volunteer @ In The Image, 1 p.m.
Stephen Leaders Mtg, 1:30 p.m.
Property Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Executive Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Outreach Comm Mtg, noon

Thursday, October 5

Endowment Fund Comm Mtg, 6 p.m.

Friday, October 6

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

Saturday, October 7

Trinity Women's Retreat, 9 a.m.

Sunday, October 8

Young Children's Communion Class, 10:30 a.m.
Outdoor Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Blessing of the Animals
SM Continuing Ed, 12:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 1, 1:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 2, 1:30 p.m.
MS Youth Group, 2 p.m.
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Monday, October 9

Schubert Male Chorus Board Mtg, 5:30 p.m.
Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Congregation Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10

Grand Rapids Conference, 9 a.m.

Friday, October 13

Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 14

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.
Wedding, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 15

Congregation Listening Session, 9:15 a.m.
Congregation Listening Session, 10:30 a.m.
Congregation Listening Session, noon
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
Bunco Night Fundraiser, 6 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, October 16

Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Health Ministries Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.
Worship & Music Comm Mtg, 7 p.m.
Book Club, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18

Life Begins at 60 Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 19

Volunteer @ In The Image, 1 p.m.
Bridge, 1 p.m.

Friday, October 20

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

Saturday, October 21

Trinity Choir Retreat, 9 a.m. - noon
Schwallier's Fall Family Outing, 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 22

Middle School Service Project, 3 p.m.

Monday, October 23

Beyond Belief Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 24

Council on Aging, 8 a.m.
LW Quilters, 10:30 a.m.
SM Continuing Ed, 6:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 1, 7:30 p.m.
SM Peer Supt Grp 2, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25

Pack 3015 Comm Mtg, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 27

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

Saturday, October 28

Celebration of Music Rehearsal, 8 a.m.

Sunday, October 29

Spiritual Gifts Assessment, 10:30 a.m.
Spiritual Gifts Assessment, noon
Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert, 3 p.m.

Monday, October 30

Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 31

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.

Correction:

**The dates for
the High School
Mission Trip were
listed incorrectly
in last month's
issue. The dates
for the 2024
Mission Trip are
June 15 to 22.**

A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

Thankful for the Journey We Have Shared

Beloved community,

I have been spending time sorting through, organizing, and purging files in my office at Trinity in recent weeks. My aspiration is to leave good working files for Trinity's next Senior Pastor and to recycle a decade's accumulation of unnecessary documents.

Amid this process, I came to my files containing Trinity's Annual Reports to the Congregation. I spent a little extra time with those, reviewing ten years of Reports of the Senior Pastor, a bit of a diary of my ministry among you. This month I share with you a few highlights of that journey:



- I have the good memory of being introduced to the people of Trinity by Call Committee chairperson Dawn Brackmann at the January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Two months before I had not seriously anticipated the call to a Ministry of Word and Sacrament as Trinity's Senior Pastor. The meeting that day was both exciting and somewhat daunting. I officially joined this team on March 15, 2013.
- Over the first couple of years, I met with more than 250 members of this congregation in Cottage Meetings to shape a vision for our collaborative ministry, introduced a wider invitation to young children to find a place at Holy Communion, and reintroduced the weekly offering of fresh bread for the sacrament. I helped facilitate our parking lot replacement project and the purchase of the Sanctuary Steinway baby grand piano, and I helped establish formal guidelines for the Trinity Endowment Funds. All the while, I sought to get used to the Trinity "Sunday morning sprint," the unique and somewhat frenetic four-worship service schedule. Within a year of my call to serve as your pastor, we were beginning to recognize the essential repairs that the Cross Tower required and perhaps a larger building project.
- Staffing in a middle-sized congregation provides challenges and amazing opportunities. I have served with a gifted body of lay staff through the years, with various configurations of staffing that reflected the gifts of those who stepped up to serve, along with Pastors Sarah Stobie, David Paul, Jonathan Reid, Dan Schewe, Karen Niemeyer and Kari Fast. The privilege of partnership, collegiality, and the responsibility of being the lead staff person among the Trinity team has been deeply satisfying.
- I have very much enjoyed opportunities for faith formation in the context of well-attended Wednesday pastor's forums, men's breakfast Bible studies, Sunday evening supper forums on hot topics, and in the gathering for communion classes with Trinity's children. My one year of teaching Confirmation classes during our Associate Pastor vacancy was likewise very satisfying – middle school age youth are amazing in their emerging spirituality. A well-attended "Trinity Travelers" trip to Luther's Germany in the summer of 2016 allowed 26 of us to learn more of the Reformation heritage we share while enjoying an international pilgrimage together.
- We have probably averaged about 20 baptisms annually during my decade at Trinity, outpacing the number of annual funerals. First Communion and Confirmation blessings have been great celebrations, and through the years I have had the joy of welcoming nearly 600 new members into our life together.

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A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom (cont.)

- Being an advocate and active cheerleader for Trinity's outreach and benevolence ministry has been deeply satisfying. In my decade among you we have grown from \$250,000 in giving beyond our doors to nearly \$500,000 in recent years. And the many Trinity members who serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in our wider community make incarnate that deep intent for benevolent service ministry.
- By 2015 we had initiated facilities master planning with Progressive AE, a firm of architects and engineers who had already taken the lead with projecting our Cross Tower remediation. By the end of the year, we were reviewing conceptual dreams about how we could better house our mission and ministry, remove extensive asbestos in pipes and ceiling/floor tiles, and significantly update HVAC and other systems. A Capital Campaign followed with an overall goal of a \$5.8 million building project, from parking lot to Cross Tower to a major redesign of our church facilities. Pledges and gifts totaling nearly \$3.8 million were received by late 2016 and the project began to move forward. In September of 2017 Owen Ames Kimball (OAK) was contracted to serve as our overall contractor for the project by a 95% favorable vote of the people of Trinity in Congregation Meeting. Groundbreaking was on Palm Sunday in 2018 and a year of disruption and dislocation followed as the building project progressed. We dedicated the completed building project and new facilities on May 19, 2019. As this report goes to print, the mortgage balance is \$1,075,538.20, reflecting the successful donation of more than \$4.7 million to the project in five years' time.
- Through the years, an element of my personal commitment to building bridges through interfaith understanding became part of the congregation's profile through our Standing Together initiative with Masjid at-Tawheed, Temple Emanuel, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. I have been grateful for the openness of the people of Trinity to these interfaith initiatives, which have included Trinity hosting several of the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Services onsite.
- We have also had significant engagement in the ecumenical community, culminating in the 2017 Reformation Sunday Lutheran/Catholic celebration at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, with a full house and both of our bishops preaching. Personally, the deep privilege of making an interfaith Holy Land pilgrimage to Israel with pastors, rabbis, and local imam Dr. Sharif Sahibzada was one of the spiritual high points of my life journey, an opportunity made possible with the support of Trinity leaders.
- Less than two months after the January 2020 Annual Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church entered the societal closure that marked the COVID-19 pandemic. For a year our worship was livestreamed as the congregation sheltered at home. I had the privilege of working with a small team of pastors and tech experts to facilitate that weekly worship for a congregation in exile and joined that effort with semi-weekly email epistles to the people of Trinity as we sought to withstand our separation. I will always be grateful for the Lenten banner that hung in the sanctuary as that pandemic separation began, citing from Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God." We were all challenged in that yearlong separation to find new ways of perceiving that deep truth.
- A new effort to get Trinity's archives in order was begun in the summer of 2017 as the congregation prepared to mark its 125th anniversary in 2021. A dedicated team of Trinity volunteers led the preparation for that celebration, which included a significant update to Trinity's 100th anniversary historical booklet. Our 125th Anniversary celebration year culminated with a festival Sunday on December 5, 2021.

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A Message from Pastor Bob Linstrom

Meanwhile, in October of 2019 our eldest son John married Monique, and this past June our son Ben married Emily. Chloe Christina was born to John and Monique in March of 2022, and we have expectations of welcoming another grandchild or two in the years ahead. And one of the unexpected gifts of the COVID-19 pandemic and our "sheltering in place" was the joy of spending more time with Rebecca, the love of my life.

She and I have had rich vocations and very busy careers for decades, and it was good to have more time to be together at home. We began to think that we could get used to that reality and we began to work on our house in South Haven to make it ready for eventual retirement. Rebecca retired in the spring of 2022 after 27 years in the public schools. Now 40 years since my internship at Augustana Lutheran Church in Detroit I am making ready my retirement, and with our sons and families living in Detroit, New York City, and Boston, Rebecca and I look forward to the privilege of time together and with our family, time to travel, and setting a pace less consuming than we have known in our working careers.

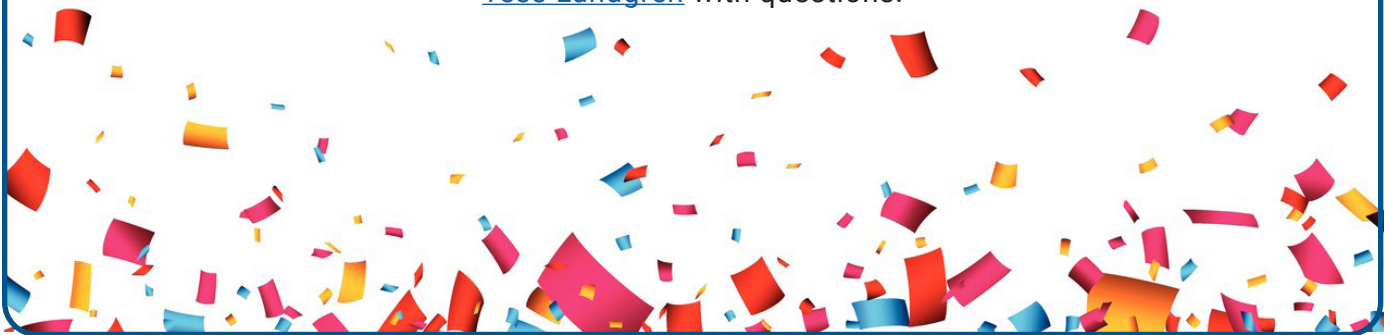
It is time for that transition, but as I review our decade together at Trinity, I am filled with deep gratitude for the journey shared and for your partnership with me among the people of this congregation. It remains a privilege to serve as a pastor among the people of Trinity. Thank you for that privilege.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob Linstrom

Celebration of Pastor Bob Linstrom's Ministry on Sunday, November 5

Join us on Sunday, November 5 at noon as we celebrate the ministry of Pastor Bob Linstrom as he retires after 40 years of service in the Lutheran Church. We will share a potluck lunch following 10:45 a.m. worship. Please look for the potluck signup in the Friday eBlasts. Contact [Tess Lundgren](#) with questions.



Council Corner



A Message from Council Member Sarah Huckstep

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I. –Matthew 18:20

Children's Ministry Mission Statement

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

In August the Children's Committee was able to gather and share a meal together. New members were welcomed to the group as they shared what the ministry means to them and the committee discussed many new and exciting opportunities for Trinity families with young children. We have a strong team of people dedicated to seeing growth within our children's ministry.

The fall kick-off for Sunday school was in September. Children were very excited to meet their teachers for the school year and see their classrooms; they also enjoyed donuts with old friends along with meeting many new friends. My boys especially enjoy getting back into the routine of class on Sunday mornings. They have formed some great relationships through Sunday school and I love that they are learning about God while building relationships that can follow them through life. A great year is planned ahead for the children of Trinity!

Another highly anticipated event for children and their families is the Family Fall Outing at Schwallier's Country Basket ([page 14](#)). This is a wonderful gathering for all ages and groups of families. New connections are formed while attendees get to explore Trinity's special section of the orchard. Families have fun roasting hot dogs and marshmallows around bonfire pits and enjoying each other's fellowship. Keep an eye out for information about this event happening in October.

Another event families look forward to is the children's Christmas program, which kids will begin practicing for in the coming months. Other great opportunities to stay connected with Trinity Children's Ministry include the Young & Sleepless, Kids Coalition Against Hunger (KCAH), Vacation Bible School (VBS), and Stony Lake Camp.

With all of these great opportunities for Trinity's young children and their families, comes the need for volunteers who support the Children's Ministry, helping it to run smoothly and offering more ideas, caring hearts, and the opportunity to make a difference in our children's lives. There are many chances to be a part of this wonderful ministry.

A special thank you to the Children's Ministry Committee, staff, and volunteers for everything you do to help our children feel connected to God in our community.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

–Proverbs 22

Sarah Huckstep, Children's Ministry Committee Liaison

Trinity Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actuals

Month of August 2023

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	88,403	77,889	(10,514)	-11.9%
Total Expenses	110,126	100,803	9,324	8.5%
Net Income (Loss)	(21,723)	(22,914)	(1,191)	

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

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	694,515	800,021	105,506	15.2%
Total Expenses	709,974	671,326	38,648	5.4%
Net Income (Loss)	(15,459)	128,695	144,153	

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<https://get.tithe.ly>

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

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 surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. –Hebrews 12:1-2

Rick Wavneack had a huge impact on my faith. He was not one of my pastors, professors, coaches, or teachers. He isn't related to me. He is not an author, speaker, or musician that inspired me. Rick was the dad of one of the other boys in my home church's youth group. His son was a couple of years younger than me. Whenever our youth group went anywhere, on a short or long trip, Rick was always one of our drivers. He took us to concerts, on mission trips, and all over the Twin Cities. I can clearly see in my mind him lying on his cot after driving us to Missouri, his bare feet hanging off the end of it, resting from a long drive.



Rick did not impact my faith with his deep insights into the scriptures or with sage words of wisdom. What impacted me was that he was present, he was consistently there for us. Wherever we went, he was there supporting us and walking with us. He didn't always get what we were doing or what we were talking about, but he was there with us. Rick worked as a truck driver, doing long and short hauls. While he could not do a lot of things, he knew he could drive us where we needed to go. So he did, and his constant presence taught me so much about how God is with us wherever we are.

Rick is one of those who makes up my "cloud of witnesses" – those people who have helped us learn or catch faith. He is one who helped me see what faithfully living looks like and how constantly present God is with us.

Who are the people who make up your "cloud of witnesses"? How did they help you grow in your faith?

One of my desires for Trinity is that each young person connected to our congregation can be surrounded by a web of caring adults. People who are there for them in diverse ways and simply want to share life and the journey of faith with them like someone had done for them in years past. As we move into the fall, I hope you consider how you can be a part of one of our young people's "cloud of witnesses." Rick had a huge impact on me by what he did, and you can have a similar impact in the lives of our young people.

Shalom,

Pastor Dan Schewe

Trinity is in need of hauling implements to aid in the Middle School Youth Service Day on October 22. Please see [page 18](#) if you can help.

Trinity High School Youth are holding their annual wreath sale! See [page 19](#).

A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast

Some Ways to Offer and Receive: Connection, Support, Insight, Healing, & Growth

Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

We begin October with our Ministry Fair on Sunday, October 1, a day of celebrating the ways we serve one another and grow in our faith. The Ministry Fair will highlight various ministries **within** the church, contrasting with last year's fair which highlighted outreach ministry opportunities. There will be twelve ministry tables featuring people who can answer questions, give out pamphlets, and provide signup sheets for those interested becoming involved. The Ministry Fair tables will be out all morning during and following each of the worship services and will also include a sumptuous brunch for all of us to enjoy.



As you wander from table to table, maybe you'll feel reassured that you are serving in the ways you feel presently called. Perhaps you'll walk around and pray over Trinity's many ministries, or even discover new information that you may wish to pray on for the future. Maybe it will be a day where the Spirit touches you with a new invitation to serve or grow!

Delightedly, there will be one table with the moniker *Pastoral Care*! As I've been prayerfully discerning what opportunities to include at this table and ways to invite engagement, I have come up with these opportunities that will be highlighted at the Pastoral Care table:

CONNECTION: Heart-to-Heart Conversations with Pastor Kari These Heart-to-Heart Conversations meet monthly, excluding December and the summer months. Feel free to join one or all of them.

Next Session: Thursday, October 19

1:15 p.m. for Doughnuts & Coffee/Tea • 1:30 p.m. Heart-to-Heart Conversation

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/rbjxvea2>

SUPPORT: Surviving the Holidays This event helps us consider strategies and awareness of how to best move through the holidays while experiencing grief. Participants also gain the support and understanding from others who are walking through the same journey. Please plan to attend — friends are also welcome!

Next Session: Saturday, November 4

9:45 a.m. to noon

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/436cta69>

INSIGHT: Spiritual Gifts Assessment Gatherings Our Helping Hands Coordinator Jeanne Becker and I would like to extend this offering to anyone desiring to learn more about the spiritual gifts God has imparted to them. Spiritual Gifts are given uniquely to each person and through these gifts God invites us to bless the world, as expressed in Romans, chapter 12: *For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us... Let love be genuine... love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

Next Session: Sunday, October 29

9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and noon (following each worship service)

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3wphbeym>

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A Message from Associate Pastor Kari Fast (cont.)

HEALING: GriefShare A 13-week grief support group offered each spring. So much happens in the relatively short period of 13 weeks: a genuine sense of community, support, honesty, laughter, tears, and healing. Please consider joining us in the spring, whether you've had a recent loss or one from long ago, that is still really weighing heavily on your heart. **Next session starts on February 20, 2024.**

GROWTH: One-On-One Pastoral Care Conversations These conversations are available upon request by emailing me directly at kari.fast@tlcgr.org. These informal pastoral care conversations are usually scheduled on a very short-term basis; often, just one meeting can be beneficial. Maybe you're aware of something that just continues to get in the way of a fulfilling, generous life. If you are suffering from loss, stress, or mental health issues, don't suffer alone. At the end of our conversation, we can talk about possible resources for connection and help.

There are many more opportunities for connection coming up soon! Please consider attending the Women's Retreat on **Saturday, October 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Put this special day on your calendar and invite your adult women friends and family members! **Sign up here:** <https://tinyurl.com/3yxdfnek>

Another major event in the life of Trinity is Pastor Bob's retirement. This brings with it joy for his and Rebecca's time of retirement, a time of transition as a faith community, and a time of balancing well the celebration over Pastor Bob's wonderful ministry at Trinity and our own healthy grieving. This may in part be accomplished by sending a note of thanks or offering a word of appreciation at Pastor Bob's reception on **Sunday, November 5 from noon to 3 p.m.** and/or extending a hearty "Godspeed" during Pastor Bob's last worship service on **Sunday, November 19.**

God's Deepest Blessings now and always!

Pastor Kari
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Synod-Sponsored Adult Theological Education: *Luther's Small Catechism for Adults* Course Begins October 24 – Register Now!

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod is excited to announce its next theological education course. The synod will offer a six-week Zoom course led by the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, for a study of Luther's catechisms. When Luther wrote that familiar question, "What does this mean?" he meant it! He wanted Christians to understand their faith and to see how God was at work in their lives, in the church, and in the world.

Before she was Dean at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Dr. Kleinhans taught religion, including Lutheran Confessions and History of Christianity, at Wartburg College for 25 years. A fifth-generation Lutheran pastor and a brilliant theologian and Luther scholar, Dr. Kleinhans cares about her students, the Church, and what it means to be Lutheran today. She has a pastor's heart and is capable of both the deeply esoteric and the foundationally concrete.

The class will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings – October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, and 28 – from 7 to 8:15 p.m. ET. This course is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers, and is free of charge. Sessions will be recorded and available to registered participants. **Registration is required and will close on October 19, 2023. To register, visit:** <https://tinyurl.com/sfse79hz>. Additional information, including Zoom links, will be sent via email closer to the start of the course. If you have additional questions, please contact communications@mittensynod.org.

Join Us for JOYful Days!

Fall 2022 JOYful Days An Adult Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church Wednesdays Through October 25

Schedule

10:15 a.m. – Coffee & Donuts in the Courtyard
10:30 a.m. – Pastor Bob's Forum in Centennial Hall
11:30 a.m. – Catered Lunch in the Courtyard
12:30 p.m. – Speaker/Presentation in Centennial Hall



JOYful Days is an adult ministry inviting you to start your Wednesday with coffee and donuts and conversations with friends new and old. Top off your coffee or tea, slip on a lid and bring it with you to engage in Pastor Bob's Forum. Enjoy a catered lunch in the Courtyard at 11:30 a.m. followed by a speaker/presentation in Centennial Hall.

Pre-registration is required for the luncheon and speaker and the fee is \$10 per person. The link to our SignUp Genius registration will be published in our weekly eBlasts. Please send or drop off payment by noon on the Monday prior to the week you are attending. If at all possible, prior to the start of our series, it is very helpful to register and pay for all of the dates you plan to attend.

While many who attend JOYful Days are senior adults, we welcome all ages of Trinity members and friends. If you have time in your day, join us for JOYful Days! If you have any questions or concerns please contact Fellowship & Hospitality Coordinator [Tess Lundgren](#).

Speaker/Presentation Schedule

October 4 – Paws With A Cause – Learn more about what it takes to go from puppy to work dog.
Meal: Steve Stephan – Beef pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, dinner roll, and dessert

October 11 – Laura Huizenga, Owner of Hestovin Stables Therapeutic Riding Center – This stable opened in November 2022, transforming from the previous Grand Arabian Horse farm. It partners exclusively with Icelandic horses.
Meal: Steve Stephan – Grilled chicken fettuccine green salad, garlic bread, and dessert

October 18 – Dave Smoes, Trinity Member – Sharing about his travels to Finland and Norway
Meal: Steve Stephan – Baked cod, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert

October 25 – Pam Withrow, Warden – Finding Joy in Prison Work – Ms. Withrow will be selling her memoir, *Madam Warden*.
Meal: Steve Stephan – Chicken Cordon Bleu, green salad, oven-roasted potatoes, and dessert

Mark Your Calendar!

Trinity Women's Retreat on October 7

Gals, there is still time to sign up for our Women's Retreat! We are gathering at Trinity on **Saturday, October 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** for a day to learn together, laugh, build relationships, enjoy treats, slow down, have fun, and hear biblical teachings.

Our retreat will definitely be better if YOU are present. Adult women of all ages are welcome.

This year's theme is **JUST LOVE**. We'll be exploring God's love, how we love ourselves, and how we extend God's love to our family and community. It's amazing to see LOVE beneath the cross of Jesus!

Our lunch will be a spectacular salad bar. Trinity will provide rolls, greens, proteins, and dressings and we ask that each participant bring a salad bar topping of their choice to share.

Please sign up here for this engaging, empowering and encouraging day: <https://tinyurl.com/2xh9kft6>. The \$10 registration fee covers the cost of materials and snacks. Checks can be made out to Trinity Lutheran with *Women's Retreat* in the memo and can be dropped in offering plates or brought to the church office. Contact [Kristin Bradley](#) or [Pastor Kari Fast](#) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.



Communion Class for Young Children to be Offered On Sunday, October 8

Pastor Linstrom is hoping to hear from Trinity parents who are interested in a brief class to prepare young children for Holy Communion in the fall of 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 has gathered with parents and their children for that 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 one more time on Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 a.m.**

The class lasts about 45 minutes, followed by another 30 to 40 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 the October class, please use the following link to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/mrf4sx69>. If you have difficulty with the sign-up link, be in touch with [Pastor Bob](#).



Mark Your Calendar!

October 14 Men's Breakfast — Join Us!

The Men's Breakfast group is planning to gather again in the Courtyard Fellowship area on October 14, 2023, with breakfast beginning at 8 a.m.

Embracing the pattern of gathering once every quarter for food, study and fellowship, the Saturday October 14 Men's Breakfast will include a full hot breakfast, a brief Bible study led by Pastor Linstrom and the welcoming of our guest speaker, Edward Postma of Exalta Health. Ed is a combat veteran in the 82nd Airborne Division and worked for 37 years at Amway Corporation before accepting the invitation to serve as Exalta Health's President.

Steve Stephan will be back in the church kitchen as our executive chef for the meal and he will need several volunteers to join him in setup, cooking, and cleanup. Men of Trinity, watch for your invitation to sign up and be in attendance on October 14 for our quarterly breakfast!



NEW EVENT: BUNCO NIGHT! To Benefit Christophe's Children October 15 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Christophe's Children are in need of some essential clothing so we're doing a fundraiser where you get to have a whole lot of fun while raising the necessary funds for the kids. Come play Bunco with us! No special skills or previous experience necessary.



Bunco is a fun dice game played in rounds with new partners each round. So not only do you get to help Christophe's Children, but you get to have a great time with your Trinity Family and meet new people. The buy-in is \$15 at the door. We'll have snacks and nibbles to enjoy. Prizes will be given out at the end of the night. Childcare will be provided.

Look for the signup in the weekly eBlast or contact [Tess Lundgren](#) or Ruth Ann Evans (937.689.8941) to join. If you cannot attend but would like to help Christophe's Children, you can send donations to the church – be sure to indicate that your donation is for the *Bunco Fundraiser*. Thank you so much for all the care you have shown these children. Your generosity is humbling.

Life Begins at 60: Upcoming Gatherings



Let's Gather at Beer City Bread Co.

Plans are in the making to meet on

Wednesday, October 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the Beer City Bread Co, 2650-D E Beltline Ave SE. If you are 60 years or older, come enjoy the evening with us! Contact hosts Bob and Louise Pfau (text or call 616.460.2807) to make your reservation.



Dinner at Timbers Inn



If you're 60 years or older, please join us as we gather on **Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m.** at Timbers Inn, 6555 Belding Road NE in

Rockford. Reservations are limited to the first 30 guests. Contact hosts Cheryl and Denny Rosen (text or call 231.250.1390) to make your reservation.

Mark Your Calendar! (cont.)

Family Fall Outing at Schwallier's Country Basket: Saturday, October 21



Please join us at Schwallier's Country Basket for an evening of fellowship and fun. Trinity will have the place all to ourselves on Saturday, October 21! **Please meet at 5:45 p.m.** to take a hayride to their corn maze where we can divide into family or friend groups to conquer the maze. While we are in the maze, Schwallier's staff will build our bonfire so it's ready for us to roast hotdogs and s'mores. ***Please Note: If you would like to enjoy U-pick apples, the petting zoo, or the other regular activities Schwallier's has to offer, you will need to arrive prior to their 6 p.m. closing time.***

This event is offered to our Trinity members and friends at a discounted price of \$5 per person with a cap of \$20 per family. **Sign up for this event by Wednesday, October 18 by following the link in the weekly eBlast. Payment is also due that same day and can be sent or dropped off to Tess Lundgren or to the church office. If you sign up and then realize you can't make it, please let us know!** Questions? Please contact [Tess Lundgren](#).

Schwallier's Country Basket

1185 9 Mile Rd NW, Sparta, MI 49345
Saturday, October 21, 2023 — 5:45 to 8 p.m.
\$5/person (capped at \$20)

Food Provided

Hotdogs for roasting
S'more fixings
Bottled water

Reformation Sunday is October 29

Join Us in Celebrating 'The Ongoing Reformation of the Church'



We celebrate "ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei," "the church reformed, yet always reforming according to the Word of God," as Lutheran-flavored Christians. After a significant worldwide ecumenical celebration in 2017 to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, including the Grand Rapids area joint Lutheran/Catholic worship celebration at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, we come together again on Reformation Sunday to celebrate our heritage and the ongoing reformation of the church in worship at Trinity. Join us in festival worship on October 29!

All Saints Sunday to be Observed in Worship November 5



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

Each year on All Saints Sunday the people of Trinity gather to remember both those who have died and those newly baptized in our life together in the past year. Both emphases will be observed at the three services of Holy Communion on November 5. Be with us in worship!

Ongoing Biblical Learning Opportunities

Pastor Bob's Adult Forum

SIN, sins and the Deadly Sins

The Wednesday adult forum for the fall of 2023 will feature a seven-week series on the seven deadly sins inspired by a course taught by Dr. Brad Binau of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.



Beginning on Wednesday, September 27, Pastor Linstrom will lead a final forum and Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in Centennial Hall on "SIN, sins and the Deadly Sins." Developed by Gregory the Great in the 6th century to encourage people of faith to mark the seven days of the week with disciplines of right living, the seven deadly sins are matched with seven virtues and, in this study inspired by Professor Binau, are further matched with key parables from the teaching of Jesus and other biblical sources. Topics for the seven-part series are:

- September 27 **Pride: Thinking of Ourselves, More or Less** (Luke 15:25-30)
- October 4 **Envy: The Consuming Desire to Have Everyone as Unsuccessful as You Are** (Luke 10:25-37)
- October 11 **Anger: Wrong Wrath** (Matthew 18:23-35, Ephesians 4:26, Proverbs 16:32)
- October 18 **Sloth: Who Cares?** (Luke 16:19-31)
- October 25 **Greed: Possession by Possession** (Luke 12:13-21)
- November 1 **Gluttony: Raiding the Icebox for a Cure for Spiritual Malnutrition** (Matthew 5:6, 6:25-33)
- November 8 **Lust: The Craving for Salt of a Person Who Is Dying of Thirst** (2 Samuel 11:1-26) and a final reflection on **Ebenezer Scrooge: The Classic Converted Deadly Sinner** (Romans 12:1-5)

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. this fall for a stimulating discussion of an old (and new) daily reflection for the seven days of the week. All are welcome!

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

This group meets at Trinity the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Friday of every month from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

New participants are always welcome!

Sometimes hope becomes so real that it's almost tangible. But at other times – especially when tragedy or hardship intrudes – you wonder whether your hope will fail, leaving you exposed, vulnerable and overwhelmed. In this eight-session LifeGuide® Bible Study, Jack Kuhatschek leads you to explore both sides of hope. You'll confront doubts and fears, and you'll anticipate the great joy that awaits you in Jesus Christ. Contact Kris Fox at jklsafox@comcast.net.



Ongoing Book Clubs

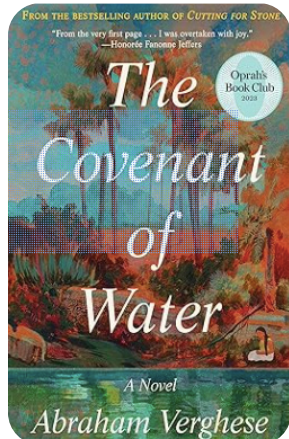
Join a Trinity Book Club!

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!

Check out our picks for 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 through May in a member's home. Contact Carol Hendricks at cahendricks14@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

October 13: *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur* by Alka Joshi

Host: Meri Liedel

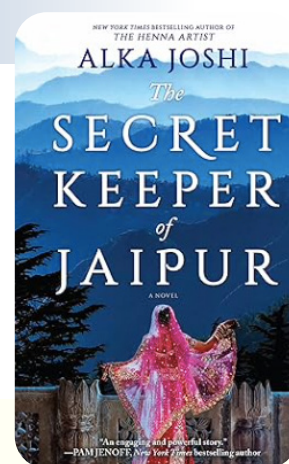
November 10: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

Host: Pam Sellers

December 8: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Host: Carol Hendricks

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



JOIN US

New Exhibit in Trinity's Overlook Gallery

Be sure to check out the work of Julie Quinn featured now through October!

Julie Quinn was one of only 30 artists worldwide selected for the first-ever Contemporary Christian Art Exhibit in 2015. The exhibit was juried by the Vatican, viewed by the Pope, and is still on exhibit indefinitely throughout Europe. Additionally, Julie's work was curated into a group exhibition at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris in 2018. She is represented by PAKS Galleries in Vienna, Austria, and Munich, Germany. Locally her work is represented by J. Petter Galleries in Douglas, MI. Julie has also developed a passion for teaching and mentoring students of all ages.



A statement from Julie: *"As an artist of faith, I believe it is my calling not only to create work by the leading of the Holy Spirit but also to use it as an avenue by which to minister in Christ's name to those around me. On abstract art... Look closely and quietly at the paintings for several minutes. Let the image speak to you. Quiet your mind and heart and ask God to reveal His intent or message for you through the artwork. Abstract work is not meant to be illustrative, but rather viewed as "poetry"...suggestions of ideas, themes, feelings, etc. Some paintings will speak to you more than others. My hope is that you find my work to be authentic and powerful and that it creates a space where you can engage with these visions in an intimate place of reflection and revelation."*

Backstage at Trinity

Children's Ministry Team to Hire New Part-Time Leaders

Trinity's ministry with young children is led by a dedicated team of part-time staff who bring their love of faith formation to our youngest families. The Children's Ministry team is seeking to add new staff members in the year ahead. Positions range from 5 to 15 hours weekly in a variety of areas, such as:

- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Children's Christmas Program
- Fellowship Activities
- Milestone Celebrations & Blessings

The good news is that our existing Children's Ministry staff team is going to remain in place through the spring of 2024. We are seeking to interview prospective staff members this fall, allowing new staff partners to shadow our existing staff leaders in the school year ahead.

Are you interested in a part-time position at Trinity working with our Children's Ministry? Contact [Pastor Bob Linstrom](#) for more information.



Youth Ministry Team Seeking Youth Ministry Coordinator

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>.

Middle School Youth News

October & November Confirmation Schedule:

October 1 & 8 – Youth Group, 2 p.m. / Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

October 15 – Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

October 22 – Service Project (Mulch Day!), 3 to 5 p.m.

October 29 – Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

November 5 & 12 – Youth Group, 2 p.m. / Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

November 19 – Confirmation Class, 3 p.m. / Craig's Cruisers, 5 to 7 p.m.

November 26 through December 31 – Thanksgiving/Christmas break

Stay connected with our middle school ministries via Remind!

Text @a4ha6a to the number 81010.



ATVs/4-Wheelers/Lawn Tractors Needed – October 22 from 3 to 5 p.m.

On October 22, our Confirmation students are working on the grounds of Trinity. One large project for this day is spreading 18+ yards of mulch on our Nature Trail. We have found that motorized vehicles are great for hauling the mulch to be spread which speeds up the project significantly. If you (or someone you know) have a vehicle and trailer that would work for this project, please contact [Pastor Dan](#). We will gladly cover the cost of fuel for the day.



High School Youth News

HS Youth Group – Sunday Nights, 6:30 to 8 p.m. All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for youth group Sunday nights in the Youth Room. Come for some fun and conversation around how God is leading us in our lives. On **October 15** we are playing Bunco to help raise funds for Christophe's Children! Bring some cash that night if you want to purchase items from the bake sale. On **October 22** we will not be meeting because we will have been at Schwallier's the night before!

HS Bible Study with Pastor Dan – October 1 at 9:15 a.m. All high schoolers and their friends are invited to join Pastor Dan on Sunday, October 1 at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room for Bible study. Come for donuts, juice, and conversation.

Breaking News! HS Construction Project – October 1 at 4 p.m. Make sure to check your email for more information!

Plan for Next Summer! There are three great events to plug into! *Pastor Dan messed up the dates for Mission Trip last month....sorry!* Please put these dates on your calendars now and contact [Pastor Dan](#) with any questions.

Mission Trip to Lincoln, Illinois: June 15 to 22

ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans: July 15 to 20

Stony Lake Camp: July 22 to 27

Stay connected with High School Ministries via Remind!
For information on our summer trips text @k8dk9d7 to 81010. For general High School Ministry information text @42gefgh to 81010.

High School Youth News



Christmas Wreath Sales: Sundays in October!

Our annual Christmas Wreath Sale is going on in October. Find a high schooler dressed up in the wreath sandwich boards before or after services or follow the link in the eBlast to order yours! The funds raised will help fund our summer trips, including our Mission Trip to Lincoln, Illinois and the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. If you run into problems placing an order, please contact [Pastor Dan](#).

Middle & High School Upcoming Events

Family Fall Outing

Schwallier's Country Basket
Saturday, October 21 • 5:45 to 8 p.m.

Corn Maze & Bonfire
\$5 per person / capped at \$20 per family
Hot dogs, s'more fixings, and bottled water will be provided. See [page 14](#) for more details.

Craig's Cruisers

Trinity youth, family, & friends!
Sunday, November 19 • 5 to 7 p.m.

\$20/person
Includes the buffet, \$5 in game credits, and 3 attraction tickets.
RSVP to [Pastor Dan](#) to reserve your spot today!



CHARGE! November 10 to 12 **Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City**

High schoolers, middle schoolers, and their friends are invited to join us for Charge! This is an awesome conference at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City November 10 to 12, 2023. It is an

impactful weekend put on by our friends at Living Water Ministries. The event focuses on helping young people in their journeys of faith and building friendships. It is a lot like camp, but at a resort over a weekend. We hope you can join us for this awesome experience! The cost for Charge is \$150 (or 5 fund raising credits). This includes event registration, housing, and food. Pastor Dan needs a \$50 deposit ASAP to get you registered. If you have any questions please reach out to [Pastor Dan](#).

Children's Ministry

Connect with Sunday School!

The 2023/24 Sunday School year is in full swing! Children ages 3 years through fifth grade are invited to join anytime throughout the year. Sunday School takes place within the framework of the 9:15 a.m. service, lessons are taught using a Lutheran curriculum, and children are divided into small groups by age. Children in preschool through third grade will start worship with their families and head to class after Children's Time. Students in fourth and fifth grades 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.



Preschool: Lessons consist of Bible stories, coloring, stickers, and plenty of time to play! Thank you to lead preschool teachers Andrew Heaford, Amanda Cox, and Katie Gardner.



Young 5's/Kindergarten & 1st grade: Children are starting to read and can follow along in the storybook Bible. They enjoy simple crafts and games. We welcome our new Y5's/Kindergarten teacher Kristy Bennett and welcome back our first grade teacher Peni Aldrich.

2nd & 3rd grade: Children of this age often like to read aloud from the Spark Bible and engage in discussions. Many enjoy expressing themselves through drawing. Lead teachers for this combined class are Sarah and Ted Frecka, Dawn Brackmann, and Amanda Schneider.

4th and 5th grade: Our "tweens" are forming strong friendships, making connections between Bible stories, and sharing thoughts and ideas. Thank you to returning teachers Lara Freeburger, Chris Becker, and Cheryl Ahrens.

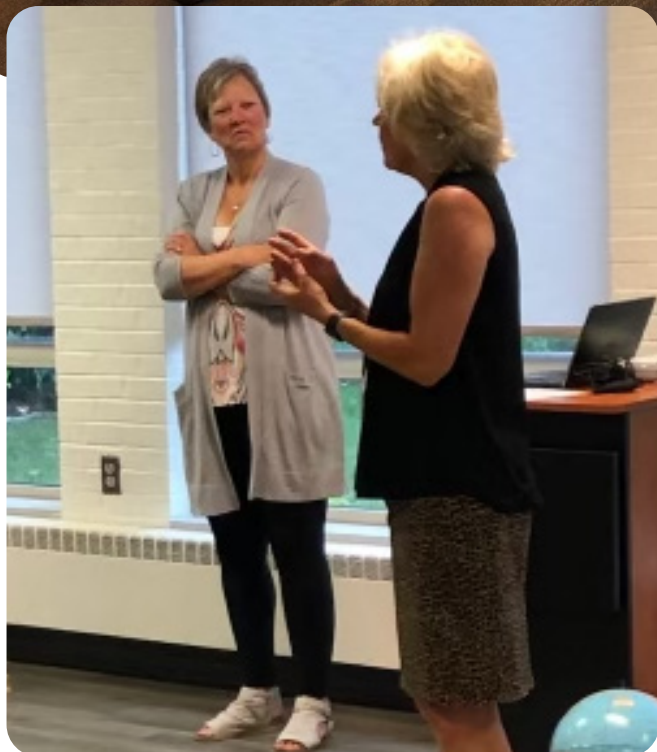
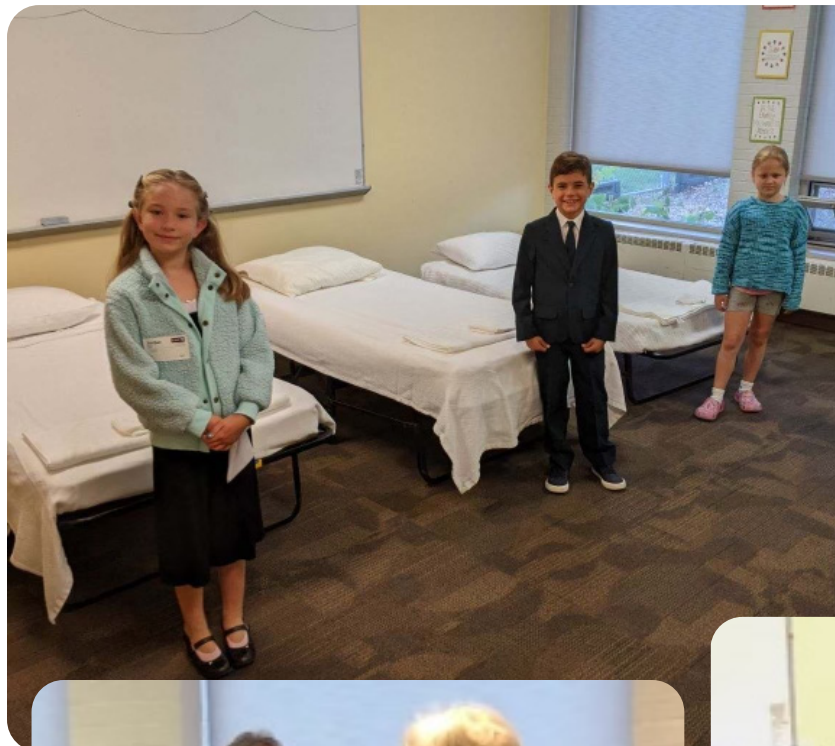
Parents of Sunday School children are asked to assist in the classroom a couple of times each season. Please contact Sheri Mason at sherimason@tlcgr.org to sign up.

Trinity's Children's Ministry is Hiring!

See [page 17](#) for details.

Children's Ministry

It was a great first day of Sunday School! As part of their first Sunday School class, Trinity's children proudly helped set up rooms for incoming IHN families. Thank you to all of the Sunday School organizers, teachers, volunteers, and kids who made this day a success!



Music Ministries

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES: UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 29, 2023 • 3 p.m.

DEBORA DEWITT & COMPANY: MUSIC FOR DUO GRAND PIANOS + VIOLA SOLO & PIANO

Trinity's own Debora DeWitt presents duo repertoire with pianists Justin Colwell and Caleb Wenzel and violinist Libor Ondras. Enjoy music in many styles including a Brahms Sonata, and contemporary works by Philip Glass and a piano piece composed by Debora DeWitt. Other selections include works by Piazzolla, Dello Joio, and Bach.

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

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

VOXMAS: CHRISTMAS CHOIR MUSIC SUNG 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.

Band Corner

SHINING A LIGHT ON TRINITY'S REJOICE MUSIC-MAKERS

Have you wondered about the people who volunteer for the Rejoice worship bands? Do you have a talent you can share with the bands? Please contact Rejoice Service Coordinator Debora DeWitt at 517.507.9271 for more information. Read on to learn about Terry Knoll, our awesome lead guitar player who has been playing in Trinity's Rejoice services since 1998/99.

Do you play or do music anywhere else? Yes. I play with a local 6-piece rock variety cover band that I started about 13 years ago called Lush. Lush plays at local bars, festivals, corporate or other private parties, weddings, or anywhere else live music is heard.

What got you involved in playing for Rejoice services? Trinity was looking for a back-up guitar player back in the late 1990s when Karen Niemeyer was heading up the Tapestry program at Trinity. My wife often volunteered to help her, and she ratted me out as a guitar player who could fill in. It was also a good excuse to get over my stage fright, and it worked.

Why do you play with us on Sunday mornings? Because I love to play my guitar. All of the other musicians are so nice, and I enjoy the opportunity to play with such talented people.

What is your main profession? I have been self-employed since 1986, specializing in custom laminate countertop installations. I learned this skilled trade from my father, and my oldest son is now learning the family business from me.

Say "hi" to Terry next time you see him at church and be sure to sing along when you hear him playing during Rejoice worship!



Fall Fitness



Power Bend & Stretch, Reach for the Sky!

This new class meets Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Commons. Bring a yoga mat or use a chair.

Instructed by Trinity member Debra Freeberg, this class is geared for anyone who wants to strengthen their core and increase flexibility. All abilities welcome!

Debra can be reached at dkfreeberg55@comcast.net.

Recommended donation - \$3/class.

Watch for more class opportunities coming soon!

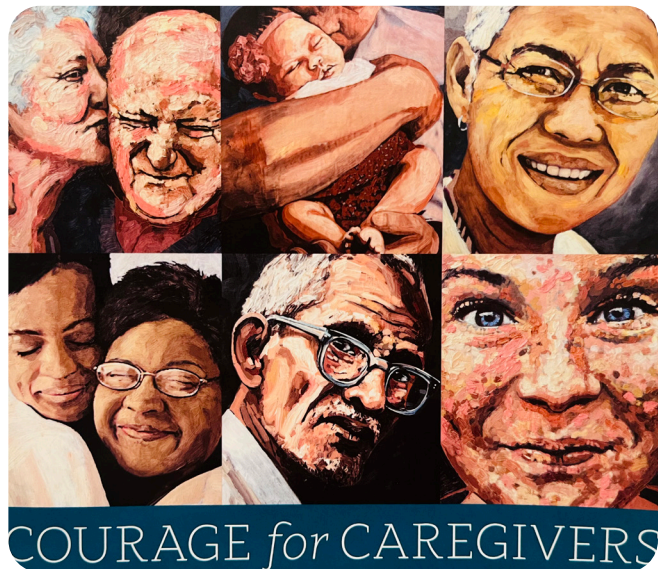
Care & Share

Are you a primary support partner for an adult child, spouse, sibling, or parent? Do you work in social services, nursing, medicine, ministry, psychology, education or have anything to do with caring for others? This series may be for you!

This fall, our caregiver support group is delving into Henri Nowen's writings related to "Courage for Caregivers". While this is a 4 part series, each session can stand alone. We explored Shared Suffering and Compassion in September. The October session relates to Naming and Embracing the Challenges of Caregiving. Please join us.

We meet Tuesday, October 17 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Centennial Hall. Study guides will be available.

Contact Faith Community Nurse [Kristin Bradley](#) with questions.



September Blood Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered at our September blood drive. As the day progressed, we changed our original goal of 31 units to 40 units, and still ended the day with a **record 47 units of blood!** Thank you for helping to provide our hospitals with a much needed supply.

The next blood drive is **Monday, December 4, 2023**. It's not too early to secure your spot here: <https://tinyurl.com/muwd5er9>

Please contact [Kristin Bradley](#) with any questions and for additional ways you can support this ministry.



Stephen Ministry

Leadership Opportunity in Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is one way our congregation carries out our mission 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." Stephen Ministers have been caring for congregation and community members for over 25 years.

One reason we have a strong and healthy Stephen Ministry at Trinity is because of our Stephen Leader team who tirelessly works behind the scenes. This team of five handles all the administrative details so that Stephen Ministers can focus 100% on caring. The skillset of a Stephen Leader is different than that of a Stephen Minister. Stephen Leaders have gifts and skills in areas such as leadership, teaching, and organizing people, along with a heart for caring ministry.



The main Stephen Leader functions are:

- Organize the ministry including scheduling, budgeting, and ordering materials
- Publicize, educate, and cast a vision for Stephen Ministry in their congregation
- Recruit, select, and train Stephen Ministers
- Connect Stephen Ministers with people who need care
- Provide ongoing supervision and continuing education for Stephen Ministers
- Keep Stephen Ministry vibrant and strong

Leaders divide up the tasks according to each person's strengths and interests. Our current Stephen Leaders are Kristin Bradley, Norm Palm, Kris Racek, Sheila Talsma, and Beth Vanderwall. They love talking about their roles in this ministry.

We are planning to train another Stephen Leader in the next few months. Please contact [Beth Vanderwall](#) to learn more about this opportunity to serve.



Opportunities to Support Church & Community

ATVs/4-Wheelers/Lawn Tractors Needed October 22 from 3 to 5 p.m.

On October 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. our Confirmation students are working on the grounds of Trinity. One large project for this day is spreading 18+ yards of mulch on our Nature Trail. We have found that motorized vehicles are great for hauling the mulch to be spread and they help speed up the project significantly. If you (or someone you know) have a vehicle and trailer that would work for this project, please contact [Pastor Dan](#). We will gladly cover the cost fuel for the day.



Trinity's Annual Coat & Blanket Drive

Share the warmth! We are collecting clean, gently used or new coats/outerwear and blankets this fall to help people served by local agencies stay warm this winter. Samaritas, Dégagé Ministries, Family Promise, and In The Image receive our Trinity donations. **You can place your items in the labeled bins in the narthex or by the main entrance on the west side of the building.** If you have questions, please contact the [church office](#).



College Care Packages

Are you a college student or do you have a child or grandchild that is currently in college or trade school? We'd love your permission to send some goodies their way as a reminder of love and support from our congregation.

Please use this link to provide contact information: <https://tinyurl.com/ph4nw25m>. Be sure to indicate any food allergies.

Donations Needed for College Care Packages

Of course, we're also accepting donations of items to include in these mailings and care packages. Check out the list here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2az9u9j>

Items can be brought to church from October 29 to November 12.

Please contact Jamie Kuntzman with any questions at jamkuntzman@gmail.com or 616.485.5763.



Volunteer at In The Image!

October's volunteering dates are:

Monday, October 2, 1 p.m.

Thursday, October 19, 1 p.m.

In The Image is located at 4255 Kalamazoo Ave. SE in Grand Rapids.

Can you help?



Opportunities to Support Church & Community (cont.)



Mayors' Grand River Cleanup Recap: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

We had excellent weather and a good turnout for the 2023 Mayors' Grand River Cleanup. It was great to meet other Trinity members and work alongside them and others from our community to clean up the river. It's a very worthwhile project and I am thrilled that Trinity has partnered with West Michigan Environmental Action Committee (WMEAC).

—Bob Dever



God's work.
Our hands.



Christophe's Children Update

First and foremost, thank you all for your prayers, love, and support! You have wrapped your arms around children and a community 7,500 miles away, and they can feel your love! We are so excited to share an update on our children you have supported for over two years.

christophe's
children

Our trip in June had two very important purposes: 1.) To make sure our children are well and plan next steps, and 2.) To assess the situation in the surrounding community after the devastating mudslides that occurred on May 4, 2023.

In keeping with our first goal, a big accomplishment on this trip was fixing the water supply issue at the Christophe's Children home. Over several days, with the help of the King, we worked with local officials to get it fixed. So now the children have water coming from their faucets and water filling up the reserve tank as well. We also negotiated the purchase of adjoining land with an existing building to house a pig operation. It has capacity to hold up to 60 pigs. This will provide a sustainable source of protein for our children and will also provide them with vocational training. In the future, the additional land will be used to build rental housing for children that age out of the Christophe's Children home at 18.



First Day of School – September 4, 2023

The second purpose of this trip was assessing the effects of the May mudslide in the Bushushu and Nyamukubu areas of Kalehe. Nearly 5,000 homes, hospitals, buildings, and schools were buried and approximately 5,000 people were killed as a result. Christophe's Children were not physically affected by the mudslide. We are so thankful for their safety, but mourn with the community at the loss of so many men, women, and children.

A special donation was made to Christophe's Children to help our children's neighbors living with so much loss. With a portion of that donation, Christophe's Children provided 1.5 tons of rice, 1,300 pounds of bar soap, clothing for 100 elderly women, and 85 French & Swahili Bibles to families.



The new land and pig farm we own next to Christophe's Children

continued on following page

News Briefs (cont.)

The people were so grateful for your kindness and were especially thankful for the Bibles, which provided hope to the hopeless.

There is much more to share but not enough room to share it. Please stop us at church, email us, call us, or check out the website at www.christopheschildren.org to see more pictures and updates on our family in Kalehe or to sign up to sponsor one or more of the children. When looking at recent first day of school pictures and comparing them to photos of the children two years ago, the changes are astounding. What a difference love and hope make!

Thank you! Merci! Asante!
Christophe & Michael



1673 meals were provided to our children from **Trinity VBS kids** this summer!



Passing out French/Swahili Bibles to mudslide survivors

Thanks!

Dear People of Trinity,

A note of thanks and appreciation to you all for being by my side during my recent hip replacement surgery. Your faithful prayers, cheerful cards, just-what-I-needed visits and delicious meals were exactly what the doctor ordered for my recovery. Looking forward to once again worshipping with you all very soon.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Karen Niemeyer

Trinity Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, emails, visits, meals, and gifts. Having a heart attack, the death of my nephew, and our house fire were overwhelming.

I've been thankful I don't live in Ukraine. I can't imagine anything worse than what they are enduring. Please pray for the brave people in Ukraine.

Most importantly, having a loving family like Trinity has been lifesaving.

Your sister in Christ,
Jo Murphy

Congress Elementary Supplies Collection Update

Thank you for the overwhelming response to Trinity's Congress Elementary appeal! Principal Ms. Williams was overwhelmed by the carts and carts of supplies. Your donations resulted in: 1,700 pencils, 403 glue sticks, 128 boxes of crayons, 111 boxes of Kleenex, 42 Clorox wipes, 54 bottles of hand sanitizer, 18 notebooks and 5 packets of paper! ...But you didn't stop there! We collected travel size soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, and sanitary products for them as well. Lutheran World Relief member Ruth Ann Evans then volunteered to make 120 cloth pouches, 60 each for boys and girls, that will be passed out to students that need extra help with hygiene care.



God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday Update

The basketball pump-up for at risk youth was a huge success. During the planning stage we asked each group what their wish list number for basketballs would be. That number came to 130 which is EXACTLY what we purchased with your donations. We will be delivering 50 balls to Kent County Detention Center, 30 balls to The Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids, and 50 balls to the Grand Rapid Police Department Patrol Units! Your generosity has made an impact on our Grand Rapid Community. Praise God!

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. –Proverbs 31:9

To the Staff and Members of Trinity

August was an incredible month for us. In honor of our 70th wedding anniversary, our children rented a place on Lake Macatawa that would accommodate all 13 of us. The whole family was there including the 2 grandchildren who came from the Netherlands. It was fantastic!

Our daughter thought there should be a local celebration so she called church to see if the family might host a reception there. Trinity not only said "yes" but proceeded to put on the whole thing with the help of Tess and volunteers. It was the "icing on the cake". We consider the people of Trinity to be a most important circle of friends and family.

Our thanks and blessings to you all!

Bob and Barb Crossman

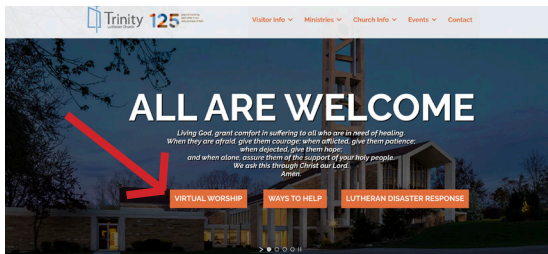


Technology @ Trinity

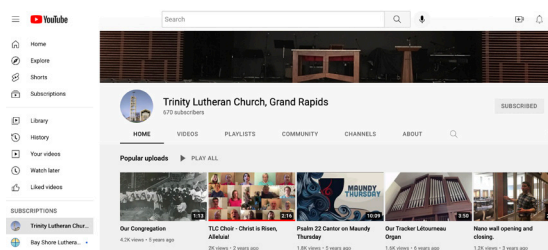
Trinity is Live Streaming Services!

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

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

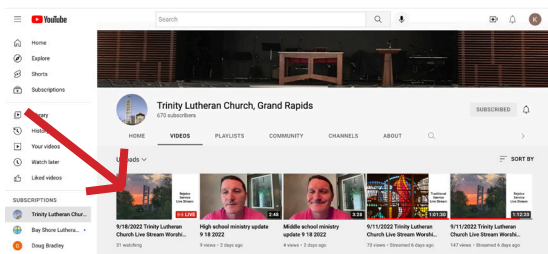


(2) Clicking the Virtual Worship button will take you to our YouTube page:



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

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



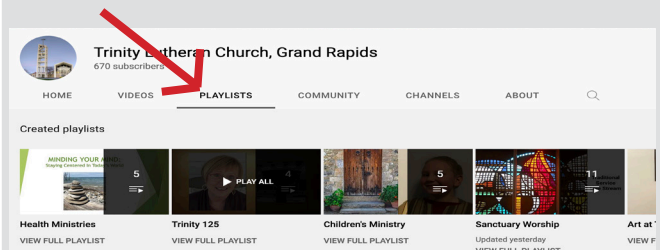
You can also go directly to www.youtube.com and search **Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids** to find our YouTube page.

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



Miss a Live-Streamed Service?

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



We are on GRTV!

Our Sunday services are being broadcast on GRTV channel 25!

Our services air on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon. The broadcast is a week behind, so this Sunday's service will air next week. Find us wherever you find GRTV!

Please Note:

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

October Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

October 1

Stephanie Bonjour
Adam Laakko
Lee Schomberg
Emma Skalandis
Julie Williams
Nick Zientarski
Brian & Jennifer Braaten
Derek & Brooke Fredericks
Jim & Cheryl Reeve

October 2

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

October 3

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

October 4

Lilah King
Mary Mochel-Jackson
Austin Quinn

October 5

Judy Cisler
Sue Coates
Liliana Feutz
Morrie Fongers
Brett Kulas
Jeremy Lynn
Rod Stanard
Stella Tyrrell
Vicki VanZalen
Kate & Tyler Wolfe

October 6

Mollie Brandstadt
Anna Bryce
Leo Ditchcreek
Jonathan Mukendi
Laurel Sykes
Joan Walls
Ryan & Lolly Hatkowski
Dean Juth & Tina Porcelli
Matt & Brittney Mencarelli
Jack & Sandra Reichert

October 7

Evelyn Gingras
Curtis Hahn
Scott McDowell
Benjamin Rodammer
Esther Sellman
Bill Stouten

October 8

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

October 9

David Beckett
Kristy Bennett
Jim Boles
Joanne Brouse
Pam Burkle
Sharon Hoebeke
Wendy Kroll
Michael Leeser
Michael Soule
Jude Westra
Chad & Rachel Zollman

October 10

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

October 11

Dennis Diener
Jordan Knoll
Dan Olson
Logan Price
Liam Selleck
Sandra Sudak
Shad & Kristen Selleck

October 12

Makenna Beckett
Holly Myers
Nora Robach
Tommy Tyrrell

October 13

Tom Mannisto
Ann Morin
Karen Palaszek
Joyce Schlenderer
Doug & Dawn Brackmann
Bob & Rebecca Linstrom
Richard & Mary Beth Mencarelli
Kim & Kathy Meuser

October 14

Fran Anderson
Corbin Bennett
Jackie Moglia
Lisa Wiseman
Nicco Yoder
Patrick & Jacquie Murray

October 15

Sydney Fisher
Marcy Larson
Norm Palm
Bridget Rieth

October 16

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

October 17

Marcia McClimans
Curtis & Jill Hahn

October 18

Aaron Breaugh
Brendan Cargill
Grace Greiner
Andy Heaford
Dwayne Ide
Rebecca Marquardt
Nate Taylor
Dan & Karen Legault

October 19

Angela Davis
Scott Proux
Marie Sarnacki
Amiee Swanson
John & Vicki VanZalen

October 20

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

October 21

Krista Flack
Spencer Hutchinson
Charlotte Kroll
Maya Law
David & Judy DeStefano
Mike & Biruta Fessenden

October 22

Acadia Platt
Rachel Dahlgren & Matt Lemaitre
Steve & Joni Korb

October 23

Katelyn Breaugh
Joan Perham
Suzy Schlenderer
Brandon Schultz
Jack Sommers
Tom & Judy Cisler
Dick & Joyce McKenzie

October 24

Don Bushman
Kim Meuser
Linda Taffs
Joanna Waite

October 25

Alexis Schewe

October 26

Isaac McKinney
William McLeod
James Rodammer
Andy & Kathie Bekker
Phil & Kelly Wittry

October 27

Jenn Becker
Nick Brandstadt
Audrey Coles

October 28

Carol Eriksen

October 29

Bob Heine
Bill Stroh
Dale & Lisa Barkema
Jim & Sharon Hoebeke

October 30

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

October 31

Rob Ferguson
Grant Packard
John VanZalen
Chad Zollman

If you have a special milestone birthday or anniversary, please contact the main office at [Trinity](mailto:Trinity@tlcgr.org) to let us know!

Please 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. We like to know about it, so we can pray for and support your family. Our ministry to your baby/child begins even before they arrive! Contact [Kris Baker](#) in the church office with your 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



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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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/tlc.gr)
[facebook.com/tlcgr](https://www.facebook.com/tlcgr)



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

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